

Sir Charles Hunt

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Irish Office

Gibraltar the 21st May 1820.

My dear Sir Charles - I am too happy in the information that the scraps of Voltaire I have been able to pick up here interested you. I had long since laid them aside, and as one is so very apt to calculate the opinions of others by the standard of one's own, that I had taken it for granted you cared as little about them as myself. Were I ever so much inclined to make up a story at this moment, I really could not find materials for doing so, every thing is at a dead stand in Spain, as far as the eye can penetrate, and although I imagine the Jacobin party are not idle, I am inclined to think their strength, when concentrated, will not be sufficient to overthrow the present order of things; an attempt will however be made to set aside the King and regular Clergy, which is their main object, and this will be followed up by all the slender means in their power. Perhaps you

may in England, be impressed with the belief
that the wishes of the predominant Party did
not extend beyond the Establishment of the present
Constitution, it may be so, but I cannot bring myself
to believe it, I think on the contrary that the King's
obstinacy was very deeply calculated on, and con-
sequently the Certainty of his refusing to acknowledge
or sanction the new order of Things, this would
have laid the road open to republicanism, without
difficulty, whereas the acceptance of the Constitution
has completely disarmed his enemies, by depriving
them of the only weapon with which they could
opail the throne - Other and indirect means
will no doubt be resorted to, but I think and
hope will not succeed. You may understand
that the King of Spain stands on very different
ground from the other Sovereigns of Europe; in
other countries, if revolutions are brought about,
they are not occasioned by personal animosity
against the rulers, but emanate from interested
views in the Authors of them, whereas King
Ferdinand is the contrary by having been more

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severe than the laws and Courts of his own
 creation, ever has made personal enemies of all
 the leaders of the present Revolution, and among
 them there is not one but has some grievous and
 personal injury to revenge; to be explicit, I will
 select 3 instances out of perhaps as many thousands.
 The King on his return from France established
 Tribunals for the trial of such promoters of the
 new system as by their Deal or influence had
 rendered themselves more particularly dangerous
 to him - Admiral Valdes, Arqueville the Minister,
 and a man of the people (meaning a person perhaps
 of the class of Watson in London) were tried by
 these Tribunals, and acquitted, their report being
 in substance, that there did not appear any
 grounds for heavy punishment, tho' the conduct
 of the parties had in some instances been
 pushed in their attacks on the King's prerogative
 beyond what might have been justifiable, making
 all due allowances for circumstances - The King
 on receiving the reports wrote on the margin of
 each his sentence, the first for Valdes, was 4
 years confinement in the Castle of Oliva,

Bequelles 10 years transportation to Cuba, then
to serve as a private Soldier, and the third to
be hang; the two former sentences were immediately
executed, and the third would have been so, but
for the strong interposition of certain Clergymen
who succeeded in obtaining the King's pardon on
the morning of the day fixed for his Execution.
Of all this the King is quite aware and is endeav-
-ouring to make himself a party among the
very lower classes, much I think as our West-
-minster Candidate previous to an Election. He
dresses himself in a dandy Coat, round hat, &
peacocks, and goes every morning to the Puerta
del Sol, the general resort of all the idle people
in Madrid, and there talks promiscuously with
the Blackguards about the new order of things,
promises to support them, asks their opinions on
on certain laws and proposals, more immediately
affecting them. Amoresa Segar, distributes his thin
&c. - and as the work in Spain is exclusively carried
on by that class of persons; I think his Majesty
may stand a chance to keep his ground; in

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that he pretends to have new constitutions made,
 & thinks the best proof he can give of his sincerity
 in his new pursuits, is to betray all such of his
 friends, as venture to advance contrary opinions -
 The other day an officer was sent from the Regiment
 of Guinas to propose a counter revolution, & to submit
 a plan for effecting it; the King instantly denounced
 the officer to the Provisional Council, & told them where he
 was to be found; the police was dispatched for his
 apprehension & arrested him in the act of sealing a
 letter to his Colonel, stating in substance that his
 Majesty so far from feeling obliged had done every
 thing but insult him, & recommended their abandoning
 all idea of attempting any thing in the way of change.
 There appeared something in this trait so closely
 bordering on perfidy, that it was determined to keep
 the thing secret and release the officer. The Cortes
 met on the 11th of July, a period to which every one
 looks forward with much anxiety, but with the
 same sort of feeling as in England would be
 occasioned by an approaching coronation, or the
 great national festival; 'tis the feeling of curiosity
 not of patriotism, and I firmly believe that with
 some very few exceptions the great Body of the
 Nation is perfectly indifferent to the results provided
 this

their personal Interests are not committed. The general
Question is, what are we to get by a Constitution? if
the advantages be not immediate, the Spaniards would
not give a farthing for them, they have so little or so
much of philosophy that they never calculate on any
thing beyond the Moment, and a better illustration
of this position cannot be offered than the history
of Riego's March as published by himself. He left
the Isla with about 1600 Men, was received in Chelva,
Aljeiras, Malaga, Huelva, Cordova, &c, on his quitting
them, Joseph P'Donnell was received in the same
manner, and after a stay of some Weeks about Andalusia
he found himself reduced to 15 Men, among whom
he divided the little Money he had, & sent them
away, when the News of the Insurrection in Galicia
having made some little impression Cadix declared
itself, & enabled Riego to get together some 300 of
his Men wherewith to enter Seville - In fact this
Country is not in a State (in my opinion) to be governed
but despotically, which I mean in contradistinction
to popularity; there is no want of Talent in the
Country but there is a great lack of information,
& an overstock of theory - Much will be to be altered
in the Constitution and luckily the period of its
existence permits such changes to be made, the

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10 years having elapsed - What think you for
 instance of the Law requiring two witnesses to the
 conviction of a malefactor? Thus, a military Officer
 was robbed in the Streets of Granada, he afterwards
 identified the man, & with the assistance of his
 Servant, seized & lodged him in a neighbouring Guard
 House, from whence he was translated to the Magistrate's
 who altho' the thief was known Robber, openly being
 as such, dismissed the complaint as there was but
 one Witness; the Robber hinted to the Officer on
 being released that he might look to himself, he
 did so, & hunted the former during the successive
 nights before he fell in with him, when he instantly
 shot him thro' the Head, & went to inform the
 Judge of what he had done, telling him at the
 same time that he defied him on his own
 decisions, that 2 Witnesses were necessary; now
 if the Thief had destroyed the true Man it would
 have been just the same - Again, during the former
 Existence of this blessed Constitution, the Authorities
 of San Roque sent for my father (in Spain) and told
 him that they wanted my Country House for the
 accomodation of a Gentleman who was expected from
 Cadix, which City being infected with yellow fever,
 all persons coming from thence were subjected to the
 performance of Quarantine - My man answered that

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He had much valuable property in the House, such as
said Wheat Potatoes, a large stock of poultry & ⁱⁿ ~~repression~~
the very great hardship of selecting my House when
there were so many in the neighbourhood, & requesting
time to apply to me; this was refused, but they
allowed him to consult in their presence with a
friend of mine who was then in the Town (We were
also infected & part of our population was in San
Rogue to avoid the effects of the Contagion) - My
Friend obeyed the summons, declared he had my full
powers, which he immediately began the exercise of
by directing the farmer not to allow any of the property
under his charge to be disturbed; he was asked if such
was his determination, & answering in the affirmative
was hurried off to prison & put in Irons; my Friend
was then asked if he would revoke his order, which
he declining was also sent to jail, but with Instructions
to the Keeper to treat him with the respect due to a
Gentleman - Next day my Friend sent me an Express
for Instructions, which were of course to give up
the House, it was immediately taken possession
of, the Farmer, his Family, & all his property (being
mine) were turned into the Highway, & after a fortnight
allowed to return with such of my effects as had

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not been stolen - I got no receipt either for my
 friend, servant or self - These people are like the
 reformers in England they fancy it is the Gov^t which
 should be new modelled, tis, he assured, themselves -

The Cadiz Story

In brief is this - Cadiz had declared itself for the
 new order of things, and a day was fixed for the
 admission of Quiroga's Troops into the City - as a hope
 was entertained that the Insurrection would not be
 general in the Country, the Amable party held a
 meeting to consult on the best means of bringing
 about a counter Revolution, at this meeting were
 present, the Bishop, the Inquisitor, the Commander
 of the Forces, and acting Governour - These with certain
 Members of the Junta de re-emplazo filled the
 Board - Stenas proposed that the Troops in Garrison
 should be brought over, and assembled the following
 Morning in the great Square (San Antonio) as if
 to celebrate the revival of the Constitution, to witness
 which ceremony it was expected that nearly the
 whole population of Cadiz would be present - The
 Soldiers were to be furnished with blank Cartridges

and as the people advanced towards the Square from
the different Streets, they were to be fired on amidst
cries of Viva el Rey & certain arrests were to take
place; this plan was opposed by the Bishop &
Inquisitor who, contended that the Cadiz people
were not to be intimidated by Blank Cartridge;
that Ball Cartridge should be issued, the firing
take place as proposed, and 48 hours of plunder
granted - Diabolical as this scheme might appear
it was literally executed, and nearly four hundred
persons were killed on the spot - about the same
number badly, and some hundreds slightly wounded
An investigation is going on, and I think justice
will be done on the authors of the mischief -
If you are determined on knowing what the Junta
de n-emprego is (or was) know - that they are a set
of Rascals employ'd to conduct the affairs of the
Transports taken up for conveying to America
the celebrated expedition, to defray the expense of
which they had $\frac{3}{4}$ of the whole revenues of the
Country placed at their disposal - so that you may
easily judge what interest they must have had
in continuing the system of abuses -