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EDITORIAL

SOME MORE STRAWS AND BEAMS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

COULD such a dispatch as the following be imagined to have appeared a hundred years ago in the press of America:

“Paris, April 6.—Ex-Queen Isabella of Spain is suffering from a severe attack of influenza. Her condition has greatly alarmed the Spaniards, who entertain a warm devotion for the ex-Queen. She was born in 1830.”

Impossible! A hundred years ago such a directly false and insinuatively false color would not have been given to a dispatch of that nature.

Here we have a being who as woman, as wife, as mother and as Queen set such an example of immorality that her name alone became a stench in the nostrils of civilization, and her people rose en masse and drove her and her smut out of the country in 1866. So disreputable a being was the ex-Queen, and such was the “devotion” of her people for her, that more than seven years later, when they found that no royal house of Europe cared to allow any of its members to occupy the throne made vacant by the revolution which threw her out, and when they found that they would have to return to Isabella’s dynasty, they invited her son to reign, and expressly provided that she was to stay away! Such is the being referred to in the dispatch, which slurs over her despicable antecedents, and even seeks to dignify her!

Impossible, a hundred years ago for such a dispatch to have appeared in the American press—but a hundred years ago the “delusion of popular sovereignty” was still bowed to here; whereas, now our ruling class seeks to mesmerize the people with respect for royalty.

These be something stronger than straws—they are beams.

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