

**MEMOIRS OF
FERDINAND VII,
KING OF THE SPAINS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649646463

Memoirs of Ferdinand VII, King of the Spains by Don & M. J. Quin

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

DON & M. J. QUIN

**MEMOIRS OF
FERDINAND VII,
KING OF THE SPAINS**

MEMOIRS
OF
FERDINAND VII.
KING OF THE SPAINS.

BY DON * * * * *
ADVOCATE OF THE SPANISH TRIBUNALS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL SPANISH MANUSCRIPT,

BY MICHAEL J. QUIN,
AUTHOR OF "A VISIT TO SPAIN, IN 1822 AND 1823."

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HURST, ROBINSON, AND CO.
90, CHEAPSIDE, AND 8, FALL-MALL,
AND ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE AND CO. EDINBURGH.

1824.

141



P R E F A C E.

MOTIVES of prudence which, considering the present state of Spain, may be easily divined, have prevented the Author from prefixing his name to this Work. Exiled with many of his countrymen, by the late events which have taken place in the Peninsula, he has left behind him dear connexions and friends, whom he would not willingly expose to the vengeance of the new Government.

The object of these Memoirs is to give a faithful picture of the character of Ferdinand VII. From the period of his manhood to the present hour, not only the incidents of his life, but the dispositions of his heart and the qualities of his mind have had an inevitable influence on the destinies

of his dominions. In a country such as England, where the sovereign is under the controul of law, his personal character is seldom productive of material political consequences. Not so where the monarchy is absolute, as in Spain. There the vices or the virtues of the monarch are felt through all the departments of the state. Every thing emanates from his single will; and those circumstances, whether of temper or of accident, by which that will is affected, demand a leading place in the political history of the nation.

Considering that the picture of those six years which followed Ferdinand's restoration to the throne of Spain in 1814, furnishes one of the most painful subjects of contemplation that can be offered to a philosopher or an historian, it was indeed a difficult task for the Author to speak at all times in the language of impartiality and moderation. He has, however, imposed great restraint upon himself in this part of his labour: he has felt the necessity of raising himself above the passions of the moment, and of detailing all that he knew of the subject-matter of these Memoirs, as if it related to the period of Philip II.

With respect to the religious and political opinions which appear throughout these pages, the Author thinks it but fair to state, that there are very many of them, more particularly under the former head, from which his translator dissents. This difference of opinion did not, however, prevent that gentleman from executing the task which the Author had many reasons for requesting him to undertake.

The documents which will be found in the Appendix are all unquestionably authentic. They are mostly taken from the file of the *Moniteur*, and so far as they go, it will be observed that they shed great light on the earlier portion of these Memoirs. With respect to those parts of the narrative which are unsupported by official papers, they depend chiefly upon the author's personal knowledge, and information derived from his friends; and if he have committed any errors, there are numbers of his countrymen in England at this moment who can have no difficulty in correcting them.

THE AUTHOR.

London, 17th December, 1823.

MEMOIRS
OF
FERDINAND VII.
KING OF THE SPAINS.

FERDINAND of Bourbon was born in the *Escorial*, on the 14th of October, 1784. From his earliest years he was the victim of two fatal circumstances, which powerfully influenced all the events of his life: a weak and delicate temperament, and the hatred which his mother entertained towards him; a hatred which increased in violence in proportion as her passion became stronger for Don Manuel Godoy, Prince of the Peace.

The education of Ferdinand was confided exclusively to men who owed all their fortunes to the protection of the favourite: amongst them a canon of Toledo, Don Juan Escoiquiz was the only person distinguished for literary acquirements; to which he added an enterprising and a fearless character.

In regulating the course of education for the Prince of Asturias, Godoy adopted principles similar to those which had been acted upon in other countries, by a Mortimer, a Richelieu, and a Bute. The permanence of his own elevation being incompatible with those ideas which would naturally be cherished by the heir to the crown, his interests required that that personage should be rendered dependent and submissive, and reduced to a state of mere nullity. He left no means untried to carry this design into effect. Ferdinand's tutors were obliged to follow the line which was traced out for them by the Prince of the Peace. He was surrounded by spies, and a court was formed for him, consisting of the most ignorant men, whose only care was to perpetuate his infancy, and to keep him at a distance from the scene of public affairs.

Thus the situation of the Prince of Asturias, in his father's court, was one of entire dependence; it was sweetened by no enjoyment, it was redeemed by none of that political importance which his near relation to the throne ought to have given him; for every consideration of this kind yielded to the irresistible power, the oriental luxury, and the unbounded patronage of the Prince of the Peace. The Queen, who foresaw the misfortunes which might happen to her favourite, if the Prince of Asturias should ever open his eyes upon his situation, and endeavour to recover the rank and

influence which of right belonged to him, put into active operation all the means which she could derive from her intriguing character, her treasures and her uncontrolled power in the court of Charles IV, in order to persecute her first-born son, and to trouble and embitter the tenour of his life. Hence sprang a domestic war, of which the nation could not be an indifferent spectator. Although it cannot be said that the country was divided into two political parties, yet two opinions prevailed, which made themselves sufficiently apparent. One of these was favourable to the Prince of the Peace, the other to the Prince of Asturias. On the side of the former were naturally ranged the greater number of the ambitious, all the high public officers, and a few political optimists, who expected that the favourite would introduce considerable reforms and changes into the public institutions. But the great mass of the nation who, on one hand, had witnessed the disorder and the misfortunes in which the government was involved from the time that Godoy directed the helm, and on the other sympathized in the unhappy fate of a prince destined in the course of time to occupy the Spanish throne, became every day more and more attached to him, and gathered together by degrees those elements of exasperation and of hatred, which were calculated, sooner or later, to produce a decisive explosion.

It is not beside our purpose to cast a rapid