

SPAIN.

540

The latter years of Spanish history have covered pages and chapters of unbelieved catastrophe. Riots --- unrest --- culminated in July 1936 in the unofficial commencement of Civil War. General Franco marched on Madrid, his early successes on the way to the capital resulted in a stream of refugees seeking sanctuary in Gibraltar. From then till now that stream of homeless human beings has never ceased to flow. Madrid prepared defence; Men women and boys armed themselves to defend the Government under the command of General Miaja, whom both sides and the whole world have acclaimed a soldier of genius. In Burgos, the Nationalist headquarters, General Franco was filmed for the first time. The insurgent armies advanced; they captured Irun. The story of the siege of the Alcazar is one of deathless glory. After terrific resistance, Toledo fell to Franco's troops.

Parliament in London was gravely beset by ~~the~~ concern, lest this foreign flame might kindle the fires of war outside the boundaries of Spain, and destroy all Europe. General conflict was avoided. Then more key cities fell to Franco -- Bilbao --- Gijon --- and the latest and greatest, Barcelona, bombarded from land sea and air.

SPAIN (2)

540

In Barcelona, the Government army cracked and countless thousands of military and civil refugees swarmed through the gates of hospitality, into neutral France. ~~M~~ The President of the Spanish Republic, Senor Azana, fled also to France. And he resigned. ~~That momentous decision was taken,~~ <sup>then</sup> acting in accord, France and Britain decided to recognize General Franco, hoping thereby to stem the tide of killing and destruction. In London, the Ambassador of Republican Spain left the Embassy and the Duke of Alba took his place. "This is the fate of Spain. We cannot do better than quote the words of Britain's Prime Minister, who hoped that once the fighting ended, Spain would unite to repair the destruction --- to build up a happy country worthy of the glorious past of Spain."