

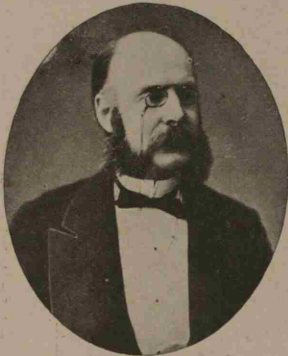
LEADERS OF SPANISH OPINION.

Now that the Spanish-American crisis may, it is to be feared, without exaggeration be described as "The Coming War," it is interesting to consider the careers of some of the more notable leaders of political thought in Spain to-day. Foremost among Spanish statesmen stands, of course, the veteran Premier, brought back to office in the autumn of last year by the assassination of Señor Canovas.

Señor Don Praxedes Mateo Sagasta was born in the province of Old Castille in 1827. After a period of study at the School of Engineers, Madrid, he practised in this profession at Zamora, the town which sent him into Parliament in the early 'fifties. Two years after his entry upon political life, the young Sagasta took a prominent part in a Republican insurrection, and was obliged to fly into France, where he remained until

obliged to resign within a month or so. Long looked upon as a politician without a party, too advanced in his views to throw in his lot with Sagasta and not far enough advanced to please the Zorrillists, Señor Emilio Castelar has yet a strong hold on the minds of many of his countrymen as a leader of democratic and socialistic thought. Born in 1832, in early manhood he became Professor of History and Philosophy at the University of Madrid. The revolutionary movement of 1866 found in him a strong champion, and, after its suppression by Serrano, Señor Castelar was one of those condemned to death for their part in that drama. He succeeded, however, in making his escape, and for two years he waited his opportunity in exile, but at the end of that period it came. The autumn of 1868 brought revolution for Spain, and Castelar returned to his country to become famous as one of the most daring and far-

before the year 1873 was many months older, two other Ministries went the way of the soon-fallen Figueras, and in September of the same year Castelar was nominated President of the Executive Power by the Cortes. From that office to the Dictatorship was but a step, and one which was promptly taken. But the Carlist insurrection, the general state of disquiet throughout the country, and the trouble in Cuba combined to stultify Castelar's powers of government, and when the Cortes assembled at the new year they refused to pass a vote of confidence in him, and he resigned. The Cortes was dissolved by General Pavia, and a provisional Government was established under the presidency of Marshal Serrano. When Alfonso XII. was proclaimed King in 1875, Señor Castelar went into voluntary exile, and devoted himself for a time to literary work. His nine volumes "History of the Republican Movement in



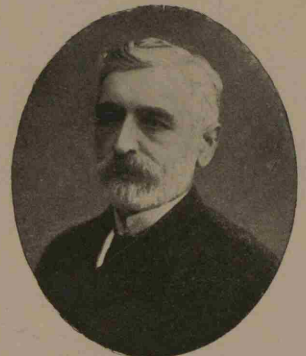
SEÑOR ALEJANDRO GROIZARD,  
Minister of Justice.



SEÑOR PRIMO DE RIVERA,  
Governor of the Philippine Islands.



GENERAL BORBON Y CASTELAR.



SEÑOR EGESIO MONTEIRO RIOS,  
President of Senate.



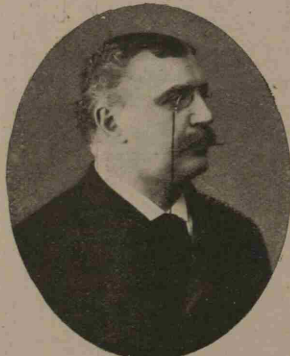
SEÑOR SEGISMUNDO MORET,  
Minister of Colonies.



SEÑOR PRAXEDES MATEO SAGASTA,  
Prime Minister.



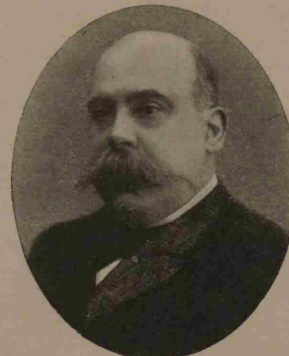
SEÑOR ANTONIO MAURA,  
Leader of Reform in Cuba.



COUNT XIQUENA,  
Minister of Public Works.



SEÑOR ALBERTO AGUILERA,  
Civil Governor of Madrid.



SEÑOR EMILIO CASTELAR,  
Republican Leader.



SEÑOR PIO GULLÓN,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN CRISIS: THE LEADERS OF SPANISH OPINION TO-DAY.

From Photographs by F. Debas, Madrid.

a general amnesty allowed him to return. Once more in his native land, he entered the ranks of journalism, and eventually became editor in chief of the *Iberia*, the organ of the Progressive party in Spain. Sagasta accepted office under Prim as Minister of Home Affairs. In the Republican régime of 1874, he was in office as Foreign and Home Secretary and as Premier. The "coup" which restored the Bourbons to the throne sent Sagasta into a brief retirement. Upon the death of the late King in 1885, and the retirement of the entire Conservative Government, Sagasta found himself at the head of affairs, and successfully combated the clamours of the Republicans, who shrieked for universal suffrage till the birth of the little King, when Sagasta, confident in the strength of the Liberals, dissolved the Cortes, and won by a small majority. It was in this period that he invested his party with that democratic character which is now more marked than ever. In 1891, Sagasta was asked to form a party, but was

sighted leaders of the revolutionary party. His strenuous labours for the establishment of a Republic availed not, however, to realise his strongly democratic ideal. The Republicans obtained the return of but an insufficient proportion of their candidates at the General Election for the new Cortes. Castelar himself was, of course, one of those returned, and he made a very strong and eloquent fight for the Republican principles at stake in the forming of a new Constitution. He denounced the proposed Regency, and in a series of splendid oratorical achievements, subsequently published in volume form, upheld the principles of a Federal as distinguished from a Unitary Republic. But not all his eloquence availed substantially to serve the cause for which he fought, and Amadeo of Savoy was crowned King of Spain. But Castelar's hour was yet to come, and in February 1873 he had the supreme satisfaction of seeing King Amadeo's formal abdication. In the Figueras Government, then appointed by the Cortes, Señor Castelar became Minister of Foreign Affairs, but

Europe," first published in America, was part of his amazingly large literary output at this period. A year after the restoration of the monarchy he returned to Spain, and eventually gained a seat in the Cortes, as Deputy for Madrid. He made no compromise with his political opponents, however, and remained true to his principles in his subsequent speeches and writings; but when the death of Alfonso reopened the political question he realised that the Republican cause was not powerful enough to make any effort that could strongly avail it, and he therefore elected to remain what he is still to-day, a picturesque and striking personality with a far-reaching though not official influence upon the political thought of his countrymen.

Our other portraits represent a number of notable men, who, though their names are not yet writ so large in the history of their country as those of Señor Sagasta and Señor Castelar, are taking prominent part in the present grave crisis.