

SPAIN'S NATIONAL ANTHEM.

"La Marcha Real" Was Composed by Frederick the Great.

Frederick the Great was the composer of the Spanish national anthem. Frederick's ambitions were varied. He performed on the flute. He desired to be thought a poet. He quoted Latin, but his quotations would have made Cleero stare and gasp. During that remarkable friendship which existed between him and Voltaire the author of the "Henriade" exclaimed with derision, "See the dirty linen I have to wash," holding up Frederick's manuscript, which had been sent him to revise. In the field the great warrior carried about his own poems in his pocket and a bottle of poison, so that he should not be taken alive. Menzel's picture depicts the king with his flute, and Bach dedicated to him one of his compositions.

The story of the composition of the Spanish national anthem is full of interest. A little while after the conclusion of the Seven Years' war Frederick at a court reception to the surprise of every one produced a march which he had composed. The Spanish ambassador, both a musician and courtier, asked for a copy to send to his royal master, Charles III. That monarch admired the piece, and it was often heard at the Escurial. After a time it was laid aside and almost forgotten. In 1803, after the deposition of Isabella, Marshal Serrano instituted a competition among composers for a national anthem. Some 500 compositions were sent in, but none of them was so inspiring as Frederick's march, which had been exhumed from the archives. This was chosen and is today known as "La Marcha Real."—London Globe.

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SCHOLARS IN CHINA.

They Rule the Country Where All Foreigners Are Called Boors.

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In contradistinction to the popular idea of dignity, however, the superior man will play battledore and shuttlecock with his feet and fly kites, while the boys, like old men, stand sedately by and look on. This he does as a method of instruction and to show the children how the superior man can relax when his high purpose is to entertain and educate the young.

To the Chinese the foreigner is a boor and a barbarian. It seems a hopeless task to teach him politeness. The Chinese wonders why the foreigner leaves his own country at all. Is it too small for him to make his living, or has he come to observe the superior people? If so he is to be commended. But, alas, what a boor he is!—National Geographic Magazine.

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