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*King Carlos pardons his son*

1807

'The voice of nature sheathes the avenging sword, and when an oversight calls out for mercy, a loving father cannot refuse the plea. Our son has already given the names of the perpetrators of the horrible plot who persuaded him to accept the idea; he has put his name to this in the form of a legal document, and all this has been done with the scrupulousness which the law demands in such trials; his repentance and dread have guided his hand in the following statement which he has written to us:

Sir,

My Father; I have erred, I have failed in my duty to Your Majesty both as King and as father; but I am filled with contrition, and offer Your Majesty my humble obedience. Nothing should have been done without Your Majesty's knowledge, but I was taken unawares. I have given evidence against the guilty parties and I beg Your Majesty's forgiveness for having lied the other night and that you will give your grateful son leave to kiss your royal feet. Fernando.

Madam,

My Mother; I am filled with remorse for the enormity of the offence I have committed against my parents and my monarchs, and I therefore most humbly beg that you will deign to intercede for me with father and persuade him to give his grateful son leave to kiss his royal feet. Fernando.

Because of these letters and the entreaties of our beloved wife, the Queen, we grant pardon to our son and restore him to our grace provided that his behaviour furnishes proof of a real reform in the frail vessel of his self-government.' San Lorenzo, 5th November, 1807.

(Lafuente, *Historia general de España...*, vol. IV, pp. 428-9.)