At this moment the people of Madrid are occupying the greater part of the Town, the streets being covered with barricades. Some groups of the populace who on the night of the 17 had taken possession of the Plaza Mayor, and other similar groups who had gone to queen Christina’s Palace with the object of burning it to the ground, being driven back for some hours tranquillity (which however was more apparent than real) was restored, for at day break on the 18th some barricades in the streets adjoining that palace were constructed. The soldiers who defended it now and then exchanged shots with the populace, who persisted in sustaining themselves entrenched behind the parapets thrown up. The new government endeavoured to restore tranquillity and to quiet people’s minds by a programme offering to respect the Constitution and to govern parliamentarily and they caused general garrigó, named chief of the cavalry of Madrid to address the armed groups, assuring them that their desires should be accomplished, as general O’Donnell had been sent for by the Queen. Thanks to the popularity and influence of this officer the people in possession of the barricades near the Queen Mother’s residence withdrew, but for a short time only. It soon becoming known that several of the people had been shot by the municipal guards, a general burst of indignation arose which was much increased by a proclamation of the new governor of Madrid, teh Marquis of Perales, in which the excesses of the preceding evening were severely censured, while at the same time Count Yumury, well known for his absolutist principles, had been named captain general of Madrid. Thus it is that in the same evening of the 18th an active and incessant firing between the troops and the people took place in different quarters of the town, and lasted nearly throughout the night. The People attacked the soldiery with the greatest courage and animosity, and succeeded in disarming several small corps of troops and especially of the municipal guard, against whom the irritation is extreme. At day break yesterday, the 19th the number of armed citizens was immense, they commenced operations by erecting barricades, by 10 o’clock they were masters of the town, the military remaining purely on the defensive. Although the artillery kept up incessant discharges of cannon and musketry against the barricades their efforts were useless, as the officers and men perished from shots fired and from stones thrown down from the roofs and windows of the houses in possession of the people. With the object of putting an end to the horrible and bloody scenes being enacted, general Don Evaristo San Miguel endeavoured to find some means of mediating between the two contending parties, and putting himself in communication with señor sevillano, a wealthy banker, and other respectable liberal of Madrid, a Junta was formed whose object is to try to devise some means of arrangement. These individuals are under the presidency of teneral san Miguel, and it was resolved that he should proceed to the Palace to lay before the Queen the absolute and imperative necessity of conceding to the people the rights which they are defending with so much heroism and constancy. Her majesty replied that she was ready to do whatever was required of Her general san miguel, in name of the junta, stated that the summoning to Madrid of the duque de la victoria to form a new cabinet was the only guarantee which would satisfy the citizens of this capital. General san miguel then requested that orders should be givern by the government to the troops to cease firing, to which the queen at once assented. On this order being issued general san miguel through his delegates, obtained that the people should suspend hostilities unless attacked. In virtue of these measures hostilities are now suspended, but the people declared to the junta that they would remain at their posts until the National Guard was armed, and until the garrison of Madrid should leave the capital. For this reason fresh barricades are being erected, and various publick establishmient and private buildings are occupied by the people. The troops remain in their quarters, and the palace is surrounded with artillery. San
sebastian, with the progresista general zavala at it’s head, has pronounced, as have also Leon and Asturias, indeed the movement is now general throughout Spain.