



## *King Ryan Ramon Reymundo*



It was a beautiful day as always. Life was nothing but what I thought it would be. Today was to be a special day, it is the day that I turned 46 years old. My wife and I, even though I don't really like her but I am still married to her, were going to go out sailing on our boat. I waited and waited for her. I was sitting on my throne being fed grapes when a filthy peasant slammed open the doors screaming out some breaking news about the New World. I first hushed him silently like a real nobleman would. I then asked him to speak in a royal tone. The peasant started talking, "today, September 23 of the year 1868, Puerto Rico has been attacked by its people. There was a peasant revolt, I asked what has been done against the revolt? The peasant replied by saying that it was immediately ceased by the Guardia Civil. As the peasant talked, I was thinking to myself that Ramón Emeterio Betances had something to do with the revolt. Argh, those liberals are driving me crazy, Ramón had been publishing books against my Crown. Yes, I am Ryan Francis Reymundo de la familia Bourbona, king and husband of Isabella II. Liberals completely oppose me in every single aspect. They believe in freedom of press, I believe in censorship. Liberals believe in the abolition of freedom, democracies and constitutional monarchies. They are wealthy middle class men and all of them are educated. As you can see, I am the complete opposite. Well, the only thing different from each other is that I am too wealthy to be part of the middle class. I'm a conservative, an aristocrat! I believe in absolute monarchies, the denial of human rights such as slavery and la regimen de la libreta, creating peace through repression and dissension and most importantly, I believe in keeping a status quo. They believe in equality for all, yuck! Maybe I should have listened to Betances and his list of grievances. I mean he did complain about the government, I am guessing that those writings were warnings to what the rebels would call a "revolution". The Puerto Ricans complained about the lack of support of education, our supposed neglect and ignorance, the charging of immense taxes (taxation without representation), neglect of infrastructure (railroads, telegraphs, universities, roads, public transportation, steamship) and absent support of capital. They complain about everything.



## *King Ryan Ramon Reymundo*



I have noticed that not all liberals are the same, some are worst than others. Some liberals are autonomists (they want their own self government but still want to keep ties with their colonists) and then there are the other liberals who are separatists. The other liberals are the real pain in my royal a....anyway, us conservatives don't like them. We don't want them to try to change anything because we like things the way they are now. Think about it, Puerto Rico is our colony; they keep a close watch on my territory throughout the Caribbean and they guard the entrance to the Atlantic. Very well peasant, you are to snatch me Betances and bring him to me immediately. It is to be Done sir, Good Morrow'.

One month had passed, I had been receiving threats from the Puerto Rican Revolutionists to please grant Puerto Rico it's Independence or else they would revolt again. Several of these letters I received were from Betances and his followers. I waited desperately to hear the news that the rebel had been captured and that the revolution had come to a complete halt. Suddenly the servant slammed the doors again. I asked him: Why are you to slam the doors everytime you come into my royal palace? Exhaling roughly, I am sorry my highness, I got bad news and good news. The good news is that the Revolution has been completely ceased. Bad news is that Betances has been killed. He was killed during the second day of the revolt by a Guardia Civil. A terrible death; he was shot 15 times, three were blows to the head. The rest had pierced his stomach, his guts were coming out. His brain... I have heard enough, you are dismissed.

I thought to myself that this is not a good thing at all. I thought and kept on thinking, if Betances had died or supposedly had been "killed", whos writing all these letters? Who is leading the Revolt against my Empire? I now start to doubt if Betances and his people were the rebels. At this point, anybody could be the enemy to the state, including myself.

