

## CUBAN AFFAIRS,

### The Castañon Murder—An Abrupt Conclusion to the Trial—Important Engagements—Capture of Cuban Artillery—Additional Executions.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, May 14, 1870.

The city has been kept alive with several sensational items, of which the first was extremely disgusting to the Spaniards, and the last equally agreeable. Key West furnished the first sensation, and if the account published in the *Diario* is correct in every particular, and there is no reason to doubt its accuracy, we must come to the conclusion that to a certain extent the Spaniards have a right to grumble. The examination of the Castañon murder case was fixed by the Grand Jury at Key West for the 10th inst., and a telegram was sent to Havana a few days previous announcing this fact, in order to advise the principal witnesses, who reside here, to present themselves in Key West. These witnesses feared meeting with violence at the hands of the Cubans residing in Key West, and the acting Captain-General sent a telegram to Washington asking the Government to afford protection to the witnesses. This action of the authorities appears over-cautious, and perhaps foolish to persons in the United States, who undoubtedly would inquire what business the Government at Washington had to meddle in the affair; but such is not the true view to be taken of the case, the Spaniards being accustomed to have their superior Government do and order everything for them. In Cuba the Captain-General is autocratic, and can at any time annul the action of the Courts in criminal cases, and even many civil cases have to be submitted to him, while he can at any time take a case, even then undergoing investigation, away from the Judicial Courts and try it himself. Recurring to the subject proper, the Castañon trial, as no answer had been received from Washington, and as the Key West Grand Jury made no inquiries and refused to wait, they simply discharged the prisoners connected with the Castañon murder for want of proof. Leaving all political feelings or sympathies aside, it appears very strange that no testimony was forthcoming to implicate the prisoners, and we must come to the conclusion that the real culprits were those who escaped, (?) and that the rest were mere lookers on. At any rate, the Key West Grand Jury might have deferred action until they had been informed whether the Havana witnesses were coming or not. Assassination is always a crime, and never a political offense.