

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

The Death of Agramonte—A Mystery— Matters in Santiago and Manzanillo —Miscellaneous Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, May 17, 1873.

The death of Gen. Ignacio Agramonte, announced on the 12th inst., continues to be the absorbing topic, the Spaniards, and even many Cubans, believing that the revolution will now decline rapidly. But few particulars of his end have reached us, except the information that the fatal bullet entered his skull, back of the ear. As nobody could possibly suspect that the famous revolutionist ever thought of turning his face from his hated enemies, the following extract from a letter of a Cuban in Puerto Principe to a Cuban here, merits more attention than a mere item of gossip. The extract says:

You are aware that two attempts to assassinate Agramonte were frustrated, and that on discovery of the plot against his life, Ignacio had the culprits hung. Agramonte had undoubtedly some enemies among his own people, but none sufficient bitter as to assassinate him, and yet I am certain from private information received, that Agramonte was shot treacherously from behind, and not by the Spaniards in front. The body was brought here on the 13th, and laid out in the San Juan de Dios Hospital, where I saw it. Some people here say that Agramonte shot himself with his revolver when he saw that the Spanish guerrillas had cut off his junction with the main body of his men, but the nature and spot of the mortal wound causes me to doubt this story.

The foregoing may be true, other letters from Puerto Principe giving similar accounts; and some Havana Cubans think that the Spanish Government paid heavily to have him killed. This is doubtful, and not at all certain, as it would have been somewhat difficult to find anybody daring enough to undertake such a difficult job; besides, the policy has been abandoned since the departure of Valmaseda, who was very fond of buying up Cuban chiefs. One of these renegades, Capt. José Urquiza, who abandoned his cause and joined the Spaniards, was killed a few days ago near Holquin, the rebels having killed the other brother about a month ago. A subscription at 20 cents a head was started about two years ago to make up a purse for the man who would kill Cespedes, but Cespedes is still alive. The fight with Agramonte was brought about by an engagement occurring on the 7th of this month, where Agramonte attacked the destroyed Molina plantation near Puerto Principe, killing the Spanish commander, Col. Abril, Capt. Larumbe and Torres, and seventy-six soldiers out of the ninety-three, who garrisoned the place. The fight at Jimaguayú, wherein Agramonte lost his life, lasted but a short time, the troops, numbering about 700 men, attacking the Cubans, who were in about equal force, with the greatest fury. The contra guerrillas managed to get the right wing of the Cubans between two fires, by attacking them from the flank and rear, cutting the right wing off from the main body, and causing a loss of over sixty killed on the Cuban side; among the dead was their celebrated leader. The Cubans got into disorder on seeing their chieftain fall, but subsequently rallied and drove the Spaniards from the battle-field, and carried off their wounded. Three ineffectual attempts were made to recover Agramonte's body, but the troops beat the assailants off, and returned leisurely to Puerto Principe. The body of Agramonte, according to a private letter, was buried in the cemetery. A rumor was set afloat that the body had been burned, but this is hardly likely. In order to congratulate the Captain General on Agramonte's death, Mr. Julian Zulueta, the President of the Havana Casino, and several other gentlemen, all innocent of any intention to go in person and fight the insurgents, called at the Palace. The country is safe.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

The drouth in Santiago de Cuba is excessive, good drinking water selling at ten cents a bucket. Some charitable people who have a surplus divide it among the poor.... Referring to the affair of the bark Union, it is desired by all Americans residing in the island that the question should be definitely settled, as, although the men were given up, the principle of allowing the Consul to be present when any declaration or testimony is to be taken has not been assented to. On the contrary, the Spanish Government opposes the proceeding, and similar cases will be attended with like trouble.

MANZANILLO.

The vicinity of Manzanillo is infested by insurgent bands, and an attack on the town is expected. Cespedes and Modesto Diaz rule in the open country, and only lately made a regular clearing raid from Manzanillo eastward. Two men-of-war are generally stationed broad side to the town, so as to shell it at a moment's notice. The prison is full of country people, principally from Vicana, where it is said a conspiracy was discovered to sell the encampment and the Spaniards therein to the insurgents.... The authorities never denied the passing over of 300 Cuban volunteers to the insurgents, with arms and equipments, but this example does not seem to have been followed, as the sympathizers with the rebellion confidently asserted. A very large extension of ground, embracing the communications with Bayamo, the Canto and other military centres, is protested at times by these volunteers; their services were mostly gratuitous, and they are in all respects equally efficient and in some more efficient, than the regulars, so that anything like wholesale desertion, or even permanent dissatisfaction, would oblige the Government to have at least from 4,000 to 5,000 regulars in addition to those it now maintains in the district.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

The editors of the *Tribuno* on one side, and those of the *Voz*, *Constancia*, and several interior journals on the other, keep up a fearful racket, proving that the darts of the *Tribuno* go home. The *Constancia* continues to criticise and dissect editorially the Quasimodo letters in a truly journalistic spirit, and its editor only errs when he attributes partiality to your correspondent.

QUASIMODO.