

TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD

THE WAR IN CUBA.

THE INSURGENT VICTORY AT LAS MINAS.

LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE PATRIOT FORCES.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE BOSTON HERALD.

NEW YORK, May 19.

LAS MINAS, May 8, 1869. *My Dear Commodore Levy:*—Excuse these few hasty lines from the field of battle. I have had a sanguinary fight with our bitter enemies. They were almost three to our one, but thanks to the Supreme Providence who has sustained the weak arm of liberty against the tyrannical power of Spain, we are conquerors. The brave hearts of the Cubans have proved themselves stronger than the disciplined Spanish legions, although the latter were three times more numerous.

Let the world know that Cuba will be free. Let the people of the United States also understand that Cuba is by nature a part of the sisterhood of America and will ask and give all national rights. Let us have that assistance which is so lavishly furnished to Spain, and the flag of the Cuban Republic will soon float over the whole island. We ask as a republican government that our belligerent rights be recognized by the United States. Then you, my friend, will be able to place yourself in command of a Cuban fleet with which you will doubtless soon sweep the broad Atlantic of the savage foe with whom we are now contending. Get our privateers ready and before many days have elapsed, with the favor of the Almighty power, we will swarm the seas with them.

Yours, as ever,

(Signed)

M. C. QUESADA.

[TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

NEW YORK, May 19. The World's Havana correspondent says that when a government vessel lately arrived there from Nuevitas, with a load of wounded, the press were prohibited from publishing any facts in connection with the event. It transpired, however, that Gen. Lesca had a fight with the insurgents, nine miles from Puerto Principe, with a terrible result for them. Although the column suffered the loss of a lieutenant-colonel, a captain and six men killed, and thirty wounded, a witness of the fight places the insurgent loss at 2000 men. Better information, however, shows that the result was far more terrible to the Spaniards than to the insurgents, and that the Spaniards suffered the worst defeat they have experienced since the revolution began.

It appears that Quesada and Castello gathered 4,000 of their best troops just beyond Las Minas and entrenched. Generals Getowa and Lesca, with a large body of Spaniards assaulted the position and would have carried it but for the timely arrival of Marquis Santa Lucia, who unexpectedly attacked one of the flanks of the Spaniards. Still the Spaniards might have carried the day but for a battalion of colored volunteers turning upon their officers and passing over to the insurgents, thus aiding them effectually in their struggle.

The Spanish troops then gave way. This was the first attempt to use colored troops. The Catalonia volunteers covered the retreat of the Spaniards, but they were very frequently thrown into confusion and lost quite heavily. Many of the best and bravest of the Spanish officers are reported killed or wounded.

This correspondent also says there is no truth in the reported convention of revolutionists at Sibanco, at which resolutions favoring annexation to the United States were adopted.

It is questionable whether a majority of the revolutionists favor annexation.

A later despatch says that the Spaniards, in the engagement noted above, lost nearly all their provisions, wagons, baggage train, &c., and part of their artillery. The insurgents had over 7000 men and the Spaniards 3500. The fight lasted near seven hours.