THE CUBAN VOLCANO.

A DESCENT INTO THE CRATER, AND WHAT WAS SEEN.

A well Organized Government, with a Large Army well Equipped—A Full Treasury—The Patriots Casting their own Cannon—Suffering for Want of Clothing—The Feeling for the United States—A Splendid Chance for the Cabinet To-Day—Interview with the Brother of General Quesada.

The arrival of Colonel Rafael Quesada, brother of the illustrious Cuban who is at the head of the liberating army, direct from the the seat of the republican government of the island, has caused a greater sensation than anything known of Cuban affairs since the stoppage and frittering away of the Ryan expedition. The Colonel arrived on the Arizona from Aspinwall last Saturday. He was met at the wharf by a member of the Cuban Junta, and conducted to the Junta rooms at No. 71 Broadway. In the course of the day Colonel Quesada had a conversation with a reporter of the New York Sun. From the printed report we make these extracts:

THE CUBAN CAPITAL.

Reporter. When did you leave President Cespedes?

Colonel Quesada. On the 18th of July I took leave of our President and his Cabinet at Savanilla, the present seat of government.

Reporter. How long has the seat of government been located at Savanilla, and why was that town selected as temporary capital?

Colonel Quesada. President Cespedes and Cabinet have been there since the 12th of June. The place was selected for its convenience of location, and because it is considered impregnable. A small army could defend it against a large force.

THE CUBANS CASTING THEIR OWN CANNON.

Reporter. What was the situation of affairs in the immediate neighborhood of the seat of government when you left?

Colonel Quesada. The government has a foundry in the Sierras, near by, which is now turning out first-class cannon of six, ten, sixteen, and twenty-four pounds calibre. There is a well-appointed printing establishment there, at which are printed the Boletin official of the government and a political paper called the Cubano Libre. There are from 9000 to 10,000 troops in the town and the immediate neghborhood. The number of the command is sometimes varied according to the operations going on at surrounding points.

THE PATRIOTS WELL ARMED AND EQUIPPED.

Reporter. What is the condition of the command and their discipline?

Colonel Quesada. I must tell you frankly that our troops are well armed and disciplined, these of that department I mean who are under my brother's command. Of them only can I speak from personal observation. The men have good arms, abundance of ammunition, but are much in need of clothing and shoes.

SCARCITY OF CLOTHING.

Reporter. You do not mean to say that General Quesada's command is in absolute need of clothing and shoes, do you, Colonel?

Colonel Quesada. I must say that no people ever needed those articles more. What I can tell you is that there are camps of our brave troops which ladies cannot visit because the men are so scantily dressed, and also there are near Savanilla full twenty-five hundred Cuban ladies who are as naked as some of our men. They are there with their children, preferring to share every privation in the field to remaining in their elegant town homes away from their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers and be subjected to the insults and oppressions of the officers and men of the army of Spain. They have plenty to eat, and money also, but there is a great want of clothing since our men, as well as their families, have in most instances had to flee their homes with the single suit on their backs.

Reporter. Is the same scarcity prevalent in General Quesada's and General Jordan's department?

Colonel Quesada. No, it is not. It was expected that Holguin would fall into our possession by the 25th ultimo, from where supplies of clothing and shoes could be obtained. [Holguin has since been taken.—ED.] The men bear it cheerfully, and are ever on the alert and anxious to meet their Spanish foes.

THE PATRIOT FORCE.

Reporter. About what number of patriots are now under arms?

Colonel Quesada. There are from 40,000 to 45,000 men who are regularly supplied with modern arms, mostly from the United States. These belong to our regular army. Then there are about 8000 men in separate commands of various sizes, who are but indifferently armed with shot guns, revolvers, and *machetes*, a sort of knife between a butcher's meat axe and a huge bowie knife.

ARMS LANDED IN SAFETY.

Reporter. Have any arms been landed on the island recently?

Colonel Quesada. Two schooners made a landing near Tuna River, on or about the 16th ult. They brought the arms now in the hands of General Cavada's force near Villa Clara. They also brought twelve pieces of artillery. A vessel was daily expected when I left with a dozen siege pieces, which were more needed than any other arm.

DESERTIONS FROM THE SPANISH RANKS.

Reporter. Are there many desertions from the enemy's ranks?

Colonel Quesada. I assure you that at the rate deserters come into our camps and lay down their arms, we will be able to drive Spanish authority from the island within six months. They come singly, by squads, and by companies. Two colonels and several captains and lieutenants came over to us while I was at Savanilla. I refer to Spanish officers. There is not a day but what we receive deserters from the volunteer forces at Nuevitas, Puerto Principe and Trinidad. The same report is made from all other commanders.

PLENTY OF PROVISIONS—SECURITY FOR CUBAN BONDS.

Reporter. And provisions for your troops, have you abundance?

Colonel Quesada. Yes, and in great excess of all our wants.

Reporter. Have you any products of the island in store in the interior?

Colonel Quesada. There are millions of dollars' worth of sugar, tobacco and wax ready for exportation and exchange, which will be sent abroad for supplies at the first opportunity.

Reporter. Are your means of communication with General Jordan and other generals kept open?

Colonel Quesada. President Cespedes, as also my brother, have daily reports from both General Jordan and General Cavada, the two department commanders.

SUCCESS OF THE CUBAN PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

Reporter. Was there any engagement of note between your forces and the Spaniards while you were on the island?

Colonel Quesada. There were engagements without number, but the only battle of especial note was that of Guaimaro on the 11th of last month, when General Goyenche was sent from Trinidad to pursue a body of our men who were on a reconnoitering expedition. We took his whole command prisoners. He saved himself by flight and the superiority of his Arabian horse over our animals. Goyenche was four days reaching Trinidad after the defeat. Our plan has been a systematic torment of the enemy without risking any general engagement. We hold some eight hundred prisoners, or did when I left. It was proposed to begin a system of retaliation on our shameless enemy. I learn since my arrival here that President Cespedes had finally declared his intention to retaliate.

FREE CUBA.

Reporter. What about slavery?

Colonel Quesada. Slavery is dead in Cuba. There are thousands of negroes who have been voluntarily freed by our people and government, and other thousands who have escaped from Spanish masters on different parts of the island. If we had arms for them all, there would not be a vestige of Spanish authority forty-eight hours after they had the use of them.

THE PATRIOT RESERVE.

Reporter. Then, Colonel, counting your freed slaves and all, how many men could you depend upon at an early date if you had the arms?

Colonel Quesada. I think 140,000 men at least, many thousands more than we require to gain our freedom.

THE COURSE OF GENERAL GRANT.

Reporter. What did your people say over the seizure of your men by our authorities?

Colonel Quesada. Many at a time were greatly disappointed and saddened, and some were quite bitter. But it only nerved them to bolder and braver deeds. I think when they learn of the gunboat seizure all the old feeling will return.

Reporter. What would be the probable effect should these gunboats be allowed to go to sea?

Colonel Quesada. It will be looked upon as the signal for desperate fighting on our part, a prolongation of our struggle which is now speedily closing, and as a direct injury from the hands of the administration of General Grant. I do not wish to be understood that I say that it would be a blow to our cause from the administration of this government, but so it would be considered, for our people all know perfectly well that the masses in the United States are with us. The press they know are with us and our cause, and if the struggle is unnecessarily prolonged, I may safely say that the great majority of patriotic Cubans will lay at the door of your President and his administration the loss of Cuban independence from a tyrant's yoke.

CUBA NOT FOR SALE.

By this time the company had nearly all said their *adios* to their heroic countrymen. The Sun reporter, not wishing to detain him any longer, said he had but one more question, and that was whether Cespedes had offered, or authorized any second party to offer, to purchase the island from Spain.

Colonel Quesada replied, with more warmth than he had before exhibited, that Cubans were buying their rightful inheritance with the precious blood of her children, and whoever alleged that Cespedes, or his government, ministers, generals or soldiers are willing to rid the island of Spanish authority by purchase, did so either through total ignorance or malice. "The idea is absurd, ridiculous, and lunatic," said the Colonel, and we believe he knows what he says on that as upon all other subjects pertaining to Cuban affairs.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—The offer made to Spain by Mr. Forbes for the purchase of Cuba for the United States is reported to be $100,000,000, or about a ten years' purchase.

—Emigration on a large scale is being organized from England to Brazil, and vessels will carry emigrants from the ports of Liverpool, London and Newcastle, free of charge.

—In Brussels boxes have been put up in various parts of the city for the reception of telegraph letters, which are duly stamped and collected at frequent intervals, taken to the station, and telegraphed off.

—A thermometer which has been kept for seventy-five years in the vaults of the Paris Observatory, at a depth of ninety-one feet below the surface, has not varied more than half a degree during the entire interval.

—A vast lyrical theatre is to be constructed on one of the finest boulevards in Paris, and will contain 4000 spectators. In order to make it a success, the price of admission will be for certain parts of the house only one franc. The inauguration will take place on January 1, 1870.

—The summer drawing of the Russian Government lottery took place at St. Petersburg on the 13th ult. The fortunate winner of the £28,000 prize on this occasion is a subordinate clerk in one of the banking establishments of the capital, who became possessed almost accidentally of the successful ticket.

—The mortality in the Austrian army is greater than that of any other European force, excepting the Russian, which, on account of the immense extent of the Muscovite Empire, and the severe climes to which the soldiers are exposed, is considerable above the continental average. In the Austrian service, of every 1000 men, 280 die annually, or nearly double the number of deaths that take place among English troops within the same period, viz: 150 per 1000. The military hospital system is a very defective one, and is to undergo a thorough and searching reform.

—The students of Leipzig are agitating the question of abolishing the academic practice of duelling. For some time past the number of duels has been very large in that city, and in one week even two pistols duels were fought, in one of which young M. von Goblenz, the only son of his parents, were killed. At a general meeting of the students, which was held a short time since, it was resolved to abolish the duel, and substitute in its place a court of honor. The so-called corps students, however, are intent on maintaining the duel, which, they say, will steel the personal courage of young men.

—All the great railway companies in France have organized for their numerous employees funds for assistance in "time of sickness and superannuation," and nearly all these companies vote to those funds an amount equal to that subscribed by their servants. On several lines, depots for the sale of food and clothing have been established, where the servants of a company can supply themselves at prices from ten to fifty per cent. lower than the ordinary rates; and at the principal centres of railway traffic places of refreshment have been established, where the laborers and their families may obtain food ready for them at extremely low prices.

—In Paris five-sixths of the tailors work at home; and the men, working either by the day or piece, earn from three to six francs a day, though some of the more skilful earn from eight to ten francs. The women earn from two to three francs a day, and a few from five to six francs. The tailors and clothiers in Paris do no business to the amount of more than 150 000,000 francs per annum. The use of the sewing machine is rapidly increasing in France. In making clothing for women in Paris, men can earn five francs a day, and women an average of two francs twenty-five centimes. Why is there such a difference between the wages of men and women?

—A religious festival was recently being celebrated at Trani, Italy, and a large ornament of wool, covered with gauze and lighted with thousands of tapers, had been erected in the centre of the nave. In the middle of the service the drapery caught fire, and the flames in a moment mounted to the top of the structure. A cry "the roof is falling in!" was raised, when a general rush to the doors was made, and in the confusion a number of men, women and children were thrown down and trampled on. When order was restored, sixteen dead bodies were found on the ground, with a great number of persons seriously injured. The fire, which had been the first cause of this calamity, was eventually got under.

—The official criminal statistics of Great Britain show that for several years past crime has steadily decreased in Ireland. Thus, in 1856 the number of committals was 7099, while last year it was only 4127; the convictions in 1856 were 4024, and in 1868, 2394. The English statisticians, puzzling over this, attribute the decrease in crime to imigration; and it is a fact that the population of Ireland has decreased 429,566 in the past thirteen years. But emigration, the New York Post remarks, is hardly a sufficient cause for the decrease in crime, for, as a rule, the emigrants are not from the class who are prone to become criminals, but are industrious, thrifty persons, who have saved money enough to pay their passages, and who leave home to find a better field for their labor and better opportunities to earn the honest living which they strive for.