

Extract from a letter dated Cienfuegos, March 17.]

We know that the Spanish troops have had several encounters with the insurgents, but the results are not published. From this it is inferred that the advantage has been on the insurgent side, for, were it otherwise, the *Sabellon Nacional* (a Spanish newspaper printed here, and the organ of the government) would not fail to boast of victory. The Spaniards conceal, as much as possible, their losses in the field, but they must be considerable, as nearly every day wagons arrive from the country with Spanish soldiers, some wounded and others sick with the vomito.

Among the Spanish troops recently arrived, many are conscripts, and many of them look like children, so young and small are they. Those troops who have been in the field confess they had no idea of the serious dangers they have had to encounter. Of the last company which was sent, one-half deserted to the insurgents.

We are worse off than ever. The Spanish volunteers are constantly clamoring for the blood of the Cubans. A few days since, Don Juan Castellanos, a man over sixty years of age, was executed for no other reason than two of his sons had joined the insurgents. The insurgents have sent word that they will revenge the assassination of inoffensive men.

The political prisoners here are closely confined, and no communication is allowed with them. Many of them are poor men, and their families are suffering for want of the necessaries of life.

Day before yesterday the prisoners for Fernando Po embarked at Havana; a friend who was there writes: It was a sad and deplorable spectacle to see so many mothers, sisters, and wives take what was thought to be a final farewell of their loved ones. The Spanish volunteers, who guarded the prisoners with diabolical refinement of cruelty, would allow no embrace but only a shaking of hands. Each prisoner was allowed to take with him only fifty cents in money, the volunteers saying that if they were allowed more money they might procure more comforts; whereas they intended that they should be treated as convicts, work hard, and suffer privations. One hundred volunteers, armed to the teeth, accompanied the prisoners (about 300) as a guard, and many doubt whether they will ever allow the prisoners to reach the miserable place of their destination alive. General Dulce objected to the guard, but he was overruled by the volunteers (15,000 strong in Havana,) who terrorize him, and govern the city.