

CUBA.

Dulce's Proclamation—Its Effect—His Reception—New Rights and Liberties—Lersundi's Views of the Situation—The Bishop of Havana—Fatal Affrays—Removal of a Statue of Isabella—Movements of Lono, Balmaseda and Acosta.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Jan. 9, 1863.

The anxiously-expected proclamation of Gen. DULCE has at last made its appearance, and owing to the general interest displayed with regard to it, here and elsewhere, I translate it entire for the benefit of your readers:

CUBANS: The Provisional Government of the nation, in the exercise of its legitimate faculties, has ordered that I should take charge, for the second time, of the superior political command of this isle of the Antilles, an integral portion of the Spanish nationality. Zealous in the fulfillment of my duties, I have obeyed without considering even that, owing to my broken health, the sacrifice required of me was a great one. You already know me. No danger can intimidate me—no obstacle can terrify me when your well-being is concerned; there is no responsibility I do not accept, however weighty it may be, if, by this means, I can establish the principle of authority upon the firm base of equity and justice.

CUBANS: The revolution has swept away a dynasty and tearing up by the root the venomous plant which poisoned the very air we breathe, has restored to man his dignity and to the citizen his rights. The revolution, in the exercise of its indisputable sovereignty, did not wish that the imaginary prerogatives, hereditary and traditional, should prevail over the will of the people, and it declares that the legality, political and administrative, which has to determine the future destinies of the country, should spring from the profoundest depths of society, with the aid of the electoral suffrage. You will soon gather into your places of assembly and will elect the deputies who are to represent you in the Constitutional Cortes. There they will obtain by entreaty from the supreme and national Government, the reforms that your legislation requires; the ameliorations your administration claims, and the rights in respect of morals and politics conquered by civilization. Islanders and peninsulars, we are all brothers; we recognize one God and are united by the bond of the same religion; we speak the same language and the same flag waves over us. From this day the Island of Cuba is included in the number of Spanish provinces. However, this radical change in your political organization would be sterile and even dangerous in its practical results were it not preceded by a public but tranquil examination of all plans which may prove a remedy for present ills, and a hope of greater aggrandizement at a not distant future. Hence there exists a necessity for those grand electoral reunions, advised by good sense and sanctioned by custom; for this reason, also, exists the expediency for men of imagination and knowledge to devote themselves to the prudent reasoning and cool discussion which has made of the Press one of the elements of life of modern societies. It is a pity that your mode of existence and the respect of the interests created thereby do not permit the examination of certain systems and doctrines in which progress and humanity are so largely interested. Do not wonder that I should thus vaguely tell you what my feelings are—these are words that soil the paper on which they are written and scald the tongue that gives utterance to them.

The possession of those three rights, the only ones which the prudence and wisdom of the Provisional Government can grant you, constitute in themselves the true political liberty of a country; if evil arts should convert the noble aspiration of our century into a banner of insurrection or a cry of independence, I shall be compelled to be inflexible and severe in punishment. There is no liberty without order and respect for the laws. He who voluntarily abandons the legal ground upon which, for the first time, he has been offered a foothold, is a wretch who must be arraigned before the tribunals of justice.

Islanders and peninsulars, I speak to you in the name of Spain, in the name of our mother. Union and fraternity. Forgetfulness of the past and hope in the future. *Viva España*, with honor.

DOMINGO DULCE.

This proclamation has given satisfaction. The extremists of both parties, Spaniards and Cubans, are, as was to be expected, dissatisfied with it as a public document, but the general feeling prevalent here is that it will be attended with the most beneficial results, and will result in the almost complete dismemberment of the revolutionary party in this city. Mr. MORALES LEMUS, one of the great guns of the party, attended by some other gentlemen of the same political views, are about to start for the seat of war in the east, for the purpose of inducing the revolutionary leaders to give up the contest and accept the terms offered by the Captain-General. It is hoped by many here that their mission will be attended with the success it deserves.

NEW RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

Gen. DULCE has called together the representatives of the Havana Press and informed them that the censorship of the Press heretofore existing was abolished, and the most perfect liberty of discussion would be granted on all questions, with only two exceptions—that of slavery and the dogmas of the Catholic religion. A decree conceding a general pardon to all engaged in the insurrection, including its chiefs and leaders, will, it is confidently expected, be promulgated to-morrow. A censorship of theatrical representations and writings will be established, having for its object the prevention of everything detrimental to the public morals. The abuses of the liberty conceded to the Press will be taken cognizance of and punished by the Courts of justice.

DULCE'S RECEPTION.

The great event of the past week has of course been the arrival and reception of the new Captain-General. Last Monday toward 7 o'clock in the morning, the Spanish mail steamer *Comillas* entered the harbor, and the news rapidly circulated throughout the city that DULCE was among the passengers. Shortly after his arrival Gen. LERSUNDI went on board and held a private interview with him, after which he returned to arrange, doubtless, the usual preparations for his successor's official reception. Immense crowds of citizens streamed from all directions toward the great centre of attraction—the Governor's palace. At 11:45 all the necessary arrangements having been made, Gen. LERSUNDI, accompanied by the dignitaries, military and civil, governmental and municipal, the Consuls of different nationalities, and some private individuals who brought up the rear, left the palace and proceeded at a slow pace to the wharf, the various military bands stationed at intervals along the line playing the Royal March. Arriving at the landing place, the music ceased, a salute was fired from *Cabanas*, Gen. DULCE landed, and was received in an apparently cordial manner by LERSUNDI, after which the party, swelled by the addition of the new Captain-General and his officers, returned to the palace, some of the bands playing the Riego Hymn and others the Royal March. Not a viva nor a shout was heard throughout the whole ceremony, and the silence was only broken by the music of the military bands—no display of gladness or enthusiasm from thousands of people who thronged the scene and who looked on the whole thing with seemingly the most apathetic indifference from tree top, house top, balcony, and over the shoulders of the military.

Gen. DULCE appeared pale and careworn, and was in powerful contrast with the stout figure who walked beside him in the enjoyment of the most robust health, and characterized by that vigorous demeanor which has made itself so often apparent in the course of his eventful administration of the affairs of this island.

SPEECH OF LERSUNDI.

In surrendering the command of the island to DULCE in the course of his speech on the occasion, LERSUNDI, among other things, said:

"The insurrection in the island, confined in the commencement within narrow limits, has this day assumed a character of the gravest import. Its speedy suppression is a matter difficult of accomplishment, owing to the lack of means placed at my disposal. I am sorry that I am unable to deliver the island to you as I received it, for nearly one-half of its territory is now occupied by the insurgents, but, should the Supreme Government continue to send the resources necessary, (part of which are already on the way,) I have no doubt that my worthy successor with the military talent possessed by him, and which has shed such brilliant glory on the nation, will know how to utilize them in destroying the nucleus of the insurrection now firmly established in Bayamo."

DEPARTURE OF LERSUNDI.

After ceasing to exercise the functions of the Captain-Generalcy, LERSUNDI paid a visit to the *Conto-cook*, and was warmly received by Admiral HOFF, and treated with the kind courtesy which so distinguishes that officer. This is the first time in the history of Captain-Generals in Cuba that one of them has ever paid a visit to any American war vessel; in fact, they are prohibited from paying such visits to any war vessel whatever in their official capacity; and in this case LERSUNDI waited until his resumption of the character of a private individual before going to bid adieu to the American Admiral and officers, for whom he professes to entertain the most sincere esteem.

On the departure of the *Antonio Lopez*, with LERSUNDI on board, she was escorted to the entrance of the harbor by three steamers and a number of small boats, filled with friends and admirers of LERSUNDI, who thus testified their regard for the man who until so lately controlled their destinies.

ARRIVAL OF THE BISHOP.

The Bishop of Havana, who had formerly been ex-

pelled from the island by LERSUNDI, returned in the same steamer with DULCE, and after the departure of the former, came ashore and was received by a number of the "faithful," who escorted him in triumph to the Cathedral of Havana, and thence, after having received his blessing, to the other principal churches, amid the ringing of bells and general rejoicing on the part of the clerical party, who consider the triumph of their Bishop complete. More recently, at the banquet given by DULCE on the "Day of the Kings," the Bishop occupied a seat at the right of the Captain-General. A number of citizens here strongly disapprove of the display made by the Bishop on his arrival, and consider the whole thing in exceedingly bad taste.

FATAL RENCONTRE.

An incident happened here this week of a most lamentable nature. Tirso VASQUES, a young Cuban of this city, walking along Virhides-street, met a Spanish officer, and an altercation ensued between them as to who had the best right to the sidewalk, each meanwhile refusing to make way for the other. VASQUES, becoming excited, struck the officer, who at once commenced drawing his sword, upon which VASQUES drew his revolver. Before he could level the weapon at the officer, however, the latter plunged his sword into his body and VASQUES fell mortally wounded. He died soon afterward. The officer has been arrested and will be tried by court-martial, and Gen. DULCE has stated that no interference with the course of justice would take place. Another account of the affair states that the Spanish Sub-Lieutenant, JOSE GONZALES, ran VASQUES through the body after the latter was disarmed, and stigmatizes the affair as of the most cowardly nature. The body was taken possession of by the Police authorities, who interred it very privately at 6 o'clock on the following morning. A large concourse of people gathered in the neighborhood of the cemetery, however, and became somewhat enthusiastic in their demonstrations, shouting "Viva Cuba," "Viva la Republica," and some other equally revolutionary cries. It was reported that a battery of artillery was held in readiness to smother any popular outbreak likely to spring out of the affair, but the matter passed off quietly enough. The number of Cubans present at the demonstration is estimated at 4,000.

REMOVAL OF ISABELLA'S STATUE.

The statue of ISABELLA II., which had so long ornamented or disgraced the park of Havana, has been removed, and the inscriptions on the pedestal on which it stood have been defaced. The act was performed by a number of *presidarios*, (penitentiary birds,) under the direction of an artillery officer, at midnight, and so secretly that many actually passed in close proximity to the site of the statue next morning without noticing its removal. It has been thought that the fear of exciting any popular commotion in the feverish state of public sentiment in this city caused DULCE to have the obnoxious figure removed under cover of night. On the day following several squads paraded through the streets, crying "Viva la libertad," and viva a great many times.

MOVEMENTS OF ACOSTA, LONO AND BALMASEDA.

Gen. ACOSTA recently left Sancti Spiritus with 1,200 men for Puerto Principe, at which point he had arrived after maintaining a constant running fight with the revolutionists, losing, it is stated, about 500 men in killed, wounded and prisoners, 30,000 cartridges and a considerable portion of his baggage. The encounter which took place between his forces and those of the revolutionists under BEMBETA and VALDES, resulting in his defeat, had greatly demoralized his troops, who had refused to leave Puerto Principe; many had deserted and joined the insurrectionists. LONO had been compelled to fall back on Tunas, and was held in check by 2,000 insurgents. The road from Puerto Principe to Neuvitas is now occupied by 2,000 revolutionists, and that from the former place to Guaimaro by 3,000. This latter place is about half way between Puerto Principe and Tunas, and as it is held by the insurrectionists, they cut off communication between the forces of ACOSTA and LONO. The former is threatened by 8,000 insurgents, and even if the road were unobstructed he would have enough to do to attend to the large force now, in a manner, besieging him. BALMASEDA had left his position with 2,000 men, but in eight days had not succeeded in reaching Libanney, and in his first encounter with the enemy lost thirty men. He had been compelled to retreat and change his route, and he will surely have to fall back on his old base at San Miguel de Neuvitas. The town of Moron had been taken by a force of insurgents and the garrison captured. Moron is situated in the district of San Juan de los Remedios and close to the line of Puerto Principe.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

The following proclamation has been sent to the owners of slaves working in the mines of Cobre:

Army of Freedom of Cuba:

I beg to inform you that our illustrious Government has accepted and is now putting into execution the resolve of abolishing slavery; and as it is my duty, being fully authorized to carry out such a wise and humane disposition in the department where I command, I inform you of this in order that you may no longer pay to the owners the monthly hire of slaves or those who are working in the mines; said black citizens will be made useful in other works of the utmost importance, to enable us to carry out our enterprise of regeneration and true liberty. Our land and liberty!

(Signed)

FELIX FIGUEROA,

Military Governor.

VILLA DEL Cobre, Dec. 31, 1863.

QUASIMODO.