

consultation with said owners or a resolution adopted by this Government in conformity with the dispositions of the foregoing decree.
Country and Liberty.

CARLOS MANUEL DE CESPEDES.

BAYAMO, Dec. 27, 1868.

To form the commission referred to in the above decree, the following citizens are appointed: Francisco V. Aguilera, Jorge Tolles; Jorge (A) Milanes; Rafael Ros; José Félix Estéban Estrada; Juan Jagó; Manuel Grau; Bernardo Fegueredo, and Juan A. Telles.

This Commission must be constituted the 5th of January coming, and elect from their body at their first session a President and Secretary. The Commission will at once frame the necessary measures.

Said regulations will embrace the means of providing employment for and securing the distribution and maintenance of the freedmen who may be confided to the Commission.

The presence of six members will suffice to give effect to their acts, and constitute a quorum.

Country and Liberty.

CARLOS MANUEL DE CESPEDES.

BAYAMO, Dec. 27, 1868.

MEETING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY JUNTA.

The Revolutionary Junta in session in this city last Wednesday held a general consultation to take into consideration the steps to be pursued in view of the new liberties and privileges granted by the Captain-General. After a considerable debate it was resolved to accept nothing whatever until CESPEDES was heard from. Should the latter consent—a thing by the way very improbable—to agree to terms of compromise, then all will be well; if not, the plan to be adopted by the revolutionary party here is to totally abstain from all participation in the political affairs of the country as existing under Spanish auspices, and to continue a desperate struggle for independence uncompromised and absolute. In reviewing the situation as it now presents itself, the Revolutionists certainly possess more real hopes of success than ever before, but the very extraordinary tactics displayed by them in confining themselves to the Eastern Department instead of generalizing the revolution from Cape Maisi to Cape San Antonio, seems to be a policy of very questionable wisdom. Whether their plan of campaign is to draw all the available forces of the Spaniards far away from their real base of operations at Havana, and then march up through the centre of the island unopposed by the defenders of Spanish honor and the heroes of Cadiz and Alcolea, is yet only a matter of conjecture. That the revolutionary leaders are possessed of considerable talent, nobody will for a moment attempt to deny, even if they are unable to understand the singular conduct of the Revolutionary Government at Bayamo, displayed in the military movements lately inaugurated under its auspices. To time only, however, shall we be indebted for any unfolding of the schemes of the leaders of the revolution for the successful attainment of Cuban independence.

SHIPWRECK.

The schooner *C. W. Dyer* collided with the steamer *Missouri* on the night of the 9th inst. off Abscom, during a dense fog and strong southerly winds. Boats were lowered and the crew—except one man whom it was impossible to find, and who drowned immediately after the disaster took place—were taken safe aboard and brought here. The *Missouri* stood for more than two hours near the *C. W. Dyer*, which is supposed to have sunk soon after the crew abandoned her. The crew consists of the Captain, pilot and three men.

QUASSIMODO.

AFFAIRS IN CUBA.

Revolutionary Proclamation in Regard to the Abolition of Slavery—Meeting of the Revolutionary Junta—Future Policy of the Liberals—Maritime Disaster.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Jan. 16, 1869.

From its curiosity as a State paper, the general interest attached to it as affecting the great social question now agitating all circles in Cuba, and the many apparent contradictions and inconsistencies contained in it, I give below, in full, the late proclamation of CESPEDES, issued at Bayamo, abolishing slavery. As regards the question treated of, the only judgment that can be formed is that it is very unsatisfactory in its general outline and details. Perhaps there are a great many who understand well and thoroughly the real object of this curious production of the revolutionary leader; but, as far as your correspondent is concerned, its solution or analysis is as difficult as the celebrated riddle of the Sphinx;

Carlos Manuel Céspedes, Captain-General of the Liberal Army of Cuba and in charge of its Provisional Government:

The revolution of Cuba, in proclaiming the independence of the country, has proclaimed with it the existence of every liberty, and illy could it accept the grand inconsistency of limiting those liberties to solely one part of the population of the country. Free Cuba is incompatible with enslaved Cuba, and the abolition of Spanish institutions should comprehend and does comprehend necessarily, and for reasons of the highest justice, that of slavery as the most iniquitous of all. As such, its abolition is declared among the principles proclaimed in the first manifesto of the revolution. The question resolved in the minds of all truly liberal Cubans, its absolute realization must be the first of those acts in the execution of which the country makes use of its conquered rights.

Its realization as a general measure can be effected only by the country, when, in ample exercise of those rights, it may, by means of free suffrage, decide as to the best means of accomplishing it with real advantage to the old as well as to the new citizens.

In the exercise of the faculties with which I am invested, I have resolved that, for the present, and until other measures are decided on by the country, the following articles shall be observed:

1. Those slaves are declared free whose owners present them at once with this object to the military chiefs, the proprietors reserving to themselves, should they desire it, the right of receiving the indemnity that the nation may decree and fixed at a higher figure than that paid for those who may emancipate their slaves later. To this end certificates will be furnished to the proprietors.

2. These freedmen will, for the present, be utilized in the service of the country, in the manner that may be resolved on.

3. To this effect, a commission will be appointed who will see to furnishing them with convenient employment, in conformity with a regulation to be made out hereafter.

4. In other cases than those provided for above, they will continue working the slaves of loyal Cubans, and those of the Spaniards and other neutral foreigners, in accordance with the respect due the rights of property, proclaimed by the revolution.

5. The slaves of those persons convicted of being enemies to the country, and openly hostile to the revolution, will be confiscated like their other property, and declared free—their owners having no right to indemnity—the freedmen to be used in the service of the country, in the manner already prescribed.

6. Those proprietors who furnish their slaves for the service of the revolution without giving them their liberty at present, will retain their property until action is taken with respect to slavery in general.

7. The slaves of the *palengues* who present themselves to the Cuban authorities will at once be declared free, with the right to live among us or to continue in their mountain villages, recognizing and respecting the Government of the revolution.

8. Those isolated runaways that may be captured, or those who without the consent of their owners shall present themselves to the authorities or military chiefs, will not be accepted without previous