

and afterwards separated as peaceably as they came. An immense number of respectfully attired negroes attended the funeral, and many contended for the honor of carrying the coffin. Strange to say, the newspapers have made no reference to this imposing funeral and the opportunity seized by the Cubans to give expression to their sympathy with the cause of Cuban independence.

THE SITUATION.

The military situation in the insurrectionary districts has undergone very little change since my last, and if I may except an engagement between the revolutionists and Spaniards, some seven leagues from Puerto Principe, in which the former were, according to Government accounts, badly defeated and routed, with a loss of 150 killed and wounded and a considerable quantity of war material, nothing has occurred of sufficient importance to warrant its narration here.

QUASIMODO.

Affairs in Matanzas—Speculations as to Revolutionary Plans—Rumors of Important Operations.

From Our Own Correspondent.

MATANZAS, Friday, Jan. 1, 1869.

Ever since the departure of VALMASEDA from San Miguel on the 20th December, there has been a comparative lull in military matters. The interest of the insurrection now hinges on his movement. If he succeeds, and enters Boyamo, the rebellion, though by no means crushed, will have lost that balance and moral power which the possession of a fixed seat of Government gives. Your readers are no doubt aware that in the latter part of November Gen. VALMASEDA, at the head of a comparatively small column, started on his first "On to Boyamo" trip. Simultaneously with his movement, other bodies, under Col. BENEGASI and Cols. LONA and QUINOZ, took up a line of march for the same objective point. Each column was driven back, or at least met with such formidable obstacles in the way that they were compelled to return, fagged, worn and with heavy loss, to their points of departure. The main body reached the coast at Nuevitas, having sustained a severe check at Alta Gracias. After the failure of this combined movement operations were limited to desultory fights at Morou, Cobre, Leopiche, and other points, which, though they kept the spirit of either party alive, resulted in nothing decisive. The rebels kept and keep Santiago de Cuba, Manzanilla, and Puerto Principe in a state of siege, and seem to be scouring the country, more to pick up stray parties of Government troops than to gather recruits, provisions, or to accomplish anything which might have a powerful bearing on the end in view. We are, of course, totally in the dark as to the plans of the insurgents. Their movements are wrapped in mystery, and as all news from them comes through the Spanish lines, and is filtered through an official censorship, no special reliability can be placed on them. The underground railway, though at work daily, is entitled to little more credence. Rumors are plentiful and "reliable men"—black as well as white—are numerous enough to satisfy a sensation editor. I was told by a Cuban the other day, with an air of great mystery, that the rebels numbered about 24,000 armed men, besides a multitude of camp followers and unarmed braves waiting for the first fight to don the armor of their dead enemies; that CESPEDAS had lately held a grand review at Boyamo, at which 15,000 men were under arms; that a body of 300 Cubans from the Western Department had landed at Guanaja; that 100 Americans, with a large number of guns and munitions, had disembarked at some unknown point on the north side, and so on *ad infinitum*. Reports are as numerous, contradictory and impossible as our grapevine dispatches of Virginia memory. If it be true, however, that CESPEDAS did hold a review, no matter what number of men composed it, it shows that the rebels have made at least one important step forward, in recognizing the necessity of having the semblance of an organized force. Their late operations have been of the most ultra guerrilla character, and have resulted in nothing more than a continual harassing and annoying of the Spanish columns. It is true that they caused the combined November movement to come to grief, but they can never succeed except by annihilating the Government troops in pitched battles. Roving parties, acting under irresponsible leaders, and not directing their efforts to the accomplishment of some defined object, are as great a burden to the country over which they move as they can be a terror to the enemy. With the Government, the objective point is clear—it must be Boyamo, the capital; whereas with the rebels, the necessities of the case point to the enemy's army in the field as the prize for which they are to struggle. That they need a port for the introduction of the munitions of war is evident, but it is equally clear that they cannot hold a port against the navy, even after having taken it. They have few pieces of artillery and cannot be very rich in either powder or ball. In a recent rally of the Spanish garrison at Manzanilla, they drove the advance of the besieging force back and captured from them two pieces of cannon, one of which is a curiosity and reflects no small credit on the ingenuity of the rebels. It is of the size and shape of a 12-pounder howitzer, but made of wood and secured by broad bands of iron. In the interior it is lined with copper, and apparently had stood several discharges. Before the Spaniards took it, however, it had been burst, probably by an over charge. The other piece was of antique mould, which had probably seen service in older wars. They were both carried off to the city by the Spaniards, when they withdrew, and have been sent to Havana as trophies.

Gen. VALMASEDA, as I have said, set out from San Miguel on the 20th, with the head of his column turned toward Boyamo. San Miguel is a small place a few miles from Nuevitas, and is the point where he has been resting since the battle of Alta Gracias. It is distant from Boyamo, by the road, 71 leagues, or 213 miles. His journey lies through the town of Las Tunas, where he will probably be joined by the garrison. A supporting column is to start, also, from Holquin, and possibly a demonstration in force from Manzanilla. It is difficult, in fact impossible, to arrive at a correct estimate of his force; but, in view of the garrisons that must be left at Havana, Matanzas, Manzanilla, St. Jago de Cuba, Cardenas and the other ports, he cannot have more than 5,000 troops of the line. There may, perhaps, be also 2,000 or 3,000 volunteers, so that his entire column cannot number more than 7,500 men, of whom three-fourths are effective. Three days ago he was reported to be at Las Aunas, about fifty miles from Boyamo. Although he has gotten thus far, the worst part of his journey is yet to be passed over. Before him, crossing his path, is the river Jalado, and, five miles farther, the main river Canto, of which the Jalado is a branch. These rivers are not very deep, and may be forded in certain places, but they could be made a formidable obstacle, if the rebels appreciate fully the advantages which they give. A small expedition was recently sent from St. Jago de Cuba up the Canto River, with orders to penetrate as far into the interior as possible. The expedition consisted solely of the light draft steamer *Damuzi*, carrying on board a company armed with needle guns, besides her usual complement of artillerymen. The object was, no doubt, to explore the way up to the neighborhood of where VALMASEDA would be compelled to cross, as well as to put themselves in communication with him, and to give him the protection of her heavy guns in transferring his army to the south bank. If such was the object, however, it was not accomplished.

After ascending the river for a short distance they discovered a redoubt of the rebels, manned by about sixty men and armed with an iron piece and a small mortar. Fire was opened at once on it, and the insurgents were prevented from using the cannon. From the mortar they threw a stone weighing about twenty-five pounds, striking the vessel and starting one or more of her planks. The volleys from the needle guns, however, soon stopped all firing on the part of the Cubans, and they were forced to lie close under cover of the work. The Spanish commander states that he would have landed and occupied the redoubt, but "his ammunition happening to give out," he was compelled to drop down the river. The whole story reads like one of your myriad gunboat encounters during the late war, especially the failure in the supply of ammunition.

This is the last movement, of which we are informed, which bears upon the Valmaseda expedition. The next news which reaches us will announce either its failure or success. The rebels seem to have desisted from their ubiquitous raids. And for their own good it is to be hoped that they are concentrating so as to present a bold and organized front to the invader. The roads leading to Boyamo, from all directions, are reported to be obstructed by felled trees, wide and deep ditches and upturned bridges. It is a splendid country for guerrilla fighting. The roads are narrow and the forests dense, and the underbrush impenetrable, except to a practiced woodsman. Wherever the obstructions referred to above are thickest and most difficult to be avoided, the rebels locate their ambuscades and pour

a heavy well-directed fire upon the enemy while they are entangled in the meshes which they have laid.

In the immediate vicinity of this place there have been no uprisings of any importance. A faint effort was made at Jaguey Grande, but resulted in nothing. The people are all in a ferment, but it expends itself in devout prayers that the rebellion will succeed. The stalwart men of the East, the small planters, the herdsmen, and the *guajeros* of the mountains must bear the brunt of the war. In this rich cane-growing portion of the island where the slave-wealth is almost entirely concentrated, there are too many conflicting interests at work to permit men to embark fully in a movement which may result in the imposition of utter poverty on those who are now wealthy. All Cubans sympathize, more or less, with the effort for freedom which their brothers are making, but they are slow to move, and there is now no probability of an outbreak in the West.

This morning placards appeared posted on various houses in the city bearing expressions in favor of a free Cuba annexed to Spain. Little notice has been taken, however, of this demonstration. There is scarcely wonder expressed to know who did it.

Commercial matters very dull. Weather unfavorable and receipts short. Quotations nominal, 7½¢. No. 12 clayed, and 7¢. to 7½¢. for fair to good refining.

YUMUI.

WEST INDIES.

ARRIVAL OF THE MORRO CASTLE FROM HAVANA.

The steamship *Morro Castle*, which left Havana Jan. 2, reached this port yesterday. Purser ALBERT has our thanks for courtesies.

CUBA.

Affairs in Havana—Revolutionary Demonstrations—Progress of the Insurrection.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Jan. 2, 1869.

The letter published in the TIMES of the 24th ult., in which I gave a conversation between Gen. LERSTUNDI and Mr. MORALES LEMUS, has caused quite an excitement among Cubans and Spaniards. I have not heard whether Mr. LEMUS himself denies the correctness of the conversation, but some of his friends are very loud in denouncing the conversation as an impossibility, because they claim that Mr. LEMUS has been an abolitionist for over thirty years. Very prominent and reliable Cuban gentlemen, however, sympathizers with the revolution, assure me, on the other hand, that they have known Mr. LEMUS for the same length of time and have never heard him express any opinion in regard to slavery. Another bombshell has been a pamphlet by Mr. JOSE MARIA ZAYAS, hitherto a big gun in the Cuban camp, entitled "The Future of Cuba," in which the author takes strong ground against the revolution, stating, among other things, "Shall we be able to free ourselves from the fate of St. Domingo, Hayti, Mexico, &c. ? Those who think so are dreaming." The *Diario and Prensa* find a great deal to praise in the pamphlet, because it leans toward Spain. Mr. ZAYAS is one of the co-editors of the *Siglo*, and has been always looked upon as one of the most talented of Cubans, who now give him quite a different position, and, owing to a recent illness of that gentleman, have had little difficulty in circulating the report that he is suffering from softening of the brain.

FEMALE REVOLUTIONISTS.

The burial of youth CEFEDA, which has been the grand political demonstration of the Cubans, and of which you will find a detailed account below, has convinced me that fully three-fourths of the Cubans, if not more, are earnest in their desire to shake off the privilege of being governed by Spaniards. The Cuban ladies in particular, who, as a general rule, are so mild and amiable, that a stranger considers them very indolent, are aroused and contributing funds, and inciting the men to join the Revolutionists. I should not be surprised to hear of a company of Cuban ladies taking the field; they are undoubtedly as determined, if not more so, than the majority of their male fellow citizens. Instances are known where ladies in male apparel have joined and fought in the ranks of the insurrectionists.

GRAND REPUBLICAN DEMONSTRATION.

The Cubans seem to have taken a leaf from the French political volume, and to have studied with considerable advantage the tactics of the French oppositionists as displayed over the grave of BAUDIN. The most significant demonstration that Havana has ever witnessed took place last Thursday, astonishing the demure propriety of the loyal Spaniards, and appealing with a silent eloquence to the sympathies of all whose humanity had not been dried up and withered by the fierce fires of prejudice and partisan feeling. CAMILO CEFEDA, a young man belonging to one of the first families of the District of Santo Espiritu, was arrested some time ago by the Government authorities for connivance with the revolution, and being brought to this city was lodged in the Royal Prison. Poor fellow! death shortened the time of his captivity, and a few days ago his body was taken from the prison to the Montservale Church. What shall be said of the charity of the parish priest who refused to receive his body, grounding his refusal on the fact that the deceased was a rebel, and that no rebel could profane his church. What language is strong enough to denounce the vindictiveness of a minister of religion which declares forgiveness of injuries one of its fundamental principles of belief, following even to the grave and desecrating the halo of its sanctity by conduct that would have disgraced Hottentots? The body having been refused admission by the Christian (?) pastor of Montservale was taken to the "Iglesia de la Salud," (Church of Health,) where it remained from 8 o'clock on the night of the 30th until 8:50 on the morning of the 31st. An immense crowd of people collected in the vicinity of the church, and over seventy private carriages were in readiness to accompany the body to its last resting place in the general cemetery. A splendid hearse was in waiting to receive the body as it came out of the church, but the intimate friends of the deceased refused to allow it to be born thus, and the body was carried on the shoulders of friends and sympathizers, through the streets to the burial ground, the empty hearse forming part of the vast procession. After starting, between seventy and eighty carriages fell into the ranks of the funeral cortege, followed by some 1,600 persons on foot, which number was increased to 5,000 before reaching the cemetery; for as the procession moved slowly, the Cubans joined it by hundreds. The affair electrified everybody, and the Spanish element gaped wide-mouthed in surprise at this last, grand, silent tribute to the virtues and political principles of the dead. When the funeral reached the cemetery, one of the Police Guard attempted to impede the entrance of the immense crowd, but soon he slunk off completely abashed, and the vast assembly entered the precincts of the burial ground,