

# THE WAR IN CUBA.

## Mail News by the Steamship Morro Castle.

### The Story of the Surrender of General Jordan.

#### THE SPANISH FLEET IN OUR HARBOR.

#### One of the Gunboats Preparing for Sea.

#### Preparations of the Government to Prevent Her Departure.

The steamship *Morro Castle*, which left Havana Oct. 2, reached this port yesterday. By the courtesy of the Purser, we are in prompt receipt of our Cuban letters and papers.

**Story of the Surrender of General Jordan—Progress of the Revolution—Patriotism and Liberty Irreconcilable—De Rodas on Passports—Freshest Edicts.**

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Oct. 2, 1869.

The most important sensational news has been actively circulated in this city for the past few days in regard to the surrender of JORDAN with his whole force. It has constituted the main topic of interest. The telegram informing you of the fact was authorized by the Captain-General, who sent for the Agent of the New-York Associated Press, and through his telegraphic Censor gave him the news that General JORDAN had submitted proposals of surrender, not of himself alone, but of the whole force under his command. The terms said to have been proposed by JORDAN were substantially that a large sum of money (amount not stated) was to be paid to him on the completion of the surrender, and that his personal safety was to be assured by the Government until his safe arrival in the United States. The reply of General DE RODAS was that, considering existing circumstances, his duty compelled him to refuse any proposals of this nature, and that he hoped within the short space of three months to mete out to him (JORDAN) the punishment which his piratical conduct merited. This is, in a few words, the version given by the Captain-General of the affair which has caused such intense excitement here among all classes—Cuban and Spanish. The former scout indignantly as a glaring falsehood the assertion made by DE RODAS, and declare it to be only one more of the wiles and subterfuges. It certainly does look exceedingly strange that an officer so high in the confidence of the Cuban Government, and occupying so exalted a position (second in command) in the command of its armies, should possess the temerity to make proposals which would render (on they becoming known to the Cubans) his life not worth a minute's purchase. This being the fact, it would probably be as well to receive with extreme caution the story, made public at the request and with the authority of Captain-General DE RODAS, respecting the proposed surrender of General JORDAN.

#### PRESENT SITUATION OF AFFAIRS.

Judging from the signs of the times we are now passing through in Cuba, no prophetic foresight is needed to see that, saving only by some miraculous interposition, the military occupation of the country will be effected in a short time by the Spaniards and the cause of Cuban independence will, as a natural consequence, be forced to await the advent of more propitious times. There is, however, one remedy that could be applied with marked success to the young Cuban invalid, but which seems as distant and difficult of attainment as PONCE DE LEON'S "fountain of youth." I need hardly state that this miraculous remedy consists in the speedy accordance of belligerent rights by the American Government to that established by CESPEDES and AQUILERA in Guaimaro. This question of American recognition has been largely discussed and considered in all its bearings by the prominent sympathizers with the cause of Cuba within and without the limits of the *soi-disant* Republic, and the query has been made quite pertinently as to whether the cause of justice and humanity does not largely justify, if not recognition, at least some sort of intervention in the affairs of this island, tending to compel on the part of the Spaniards some regard for the ordinary requirements of civilization, and making their outrages on humanity of less terrible frequency?

Assured, as the Spaniards undoubtedly are that the immense majority of Cuba's population regard them and all their belongings, with the deepest aversion, their only hope of perpetrating their iron-handed rule over their much coveted possession, is by pursuing the policy of annihilation and banishment—military executions and wholesale confiscations. Finding themselves unable to cajole, they fain would inculcate lessons of loyalty by the grim and terrible figure of the scaffold.

#### WILL IT PAY.

Accepting as a foregone conclusion that the occupation by Spanish military detachments of the various strategical points throughout the whole extent of the island will prove the inevitable result of the present struggle, the next question that arises is, will it prove a profitable speculation for Spain? Let the question come up before the Spanish people to-morrow of raising a loan of fifteen or twenty millions of dollars for the suppression of the Cuban insurrection, and they will suddenly begin to consider whether the speculation of retaining Cuba is a paying one or not. Their patriotism can well afford to be demonstrative, considering that so far the task of suppressing the Cuban revolution has cost them little or nothing. The bills have all been footed by voluntary subscriptions, loans guaranteed by the forthcoming sugar crop and the proceeds of the sale of rebel confiscated property. Patriotism is a very commendable quality, but it will not, without the aid of money, accomplish any great feats of military science. The statement made recently that the merchants of Havana would be called on to respond to the cost of sending out reinforcements for Cuba proves that Spain can afford to be much more liberal with her men than with her money, and everybody is aware that Spanish finances do not present the most flattering picture imaginable. Even in Cuba the Spaniards are fast becoming tired of the constant drain upon their purses and the large amounts swallowed up in the suppression of the rebellion. In substantiation of this statement, your correspondent writing from Matanzas says:

"The town is excited over a forced loan. The National Conservative Committee desire to raise \$50,000 to arm the volunteers with Remington rifles. They held several meetings, and among themselves formed a list of what each individual in the city should contribute. This done, they addressed a circular praising up the known patriotism of so and so, and desiring him to pay to the collector, when he appears, a certain specified sum. The tax varies from \$25 to \$600 for each individual. The local paper stated that the people were enthusiastic in their willingness to meet the wishes of the Committee, but this is the reverse of the truth. Both Spaniards and Cubans are refusing point blank to pay the quotas assessed. Some are willing to give, but not as much as is called for, and in every case when payment of the full amount is declined, the party is requested to endorse his refusal and reasons therefor on the receipt. This Committee is a self-formed and self-styled hybrid affair, not a

governing power, but claiming to be something else besides a collection of private individuals."

So you see by the above that the kind of patriotism which possesses a money value is fast dying out in Matanzas, and very nearly the same story can be told of many other places throughout the island.

#### DE RODAS ON PASSPORTS.

The recent slipping away of various individuals whom the pressure of circumstances induced to leave the island without the necessary Spanish permits, has mortified the Government, which views with extreme disgust the surreptitious departure of any one suspected of Cuban proclivities, and on account of these informalities, his Excellency DE RODAS has been induced to issue the following decree:

Taking into consideration the abuses being committed by various Captains of steamers and sailing vessels, leaving the ports of the island daily, in admitting aboard individuals not provided with the necessary passport, I have thought it well to decree the following:

1. In future all vessels, whether steam or sailing, that may leave any port in the island and take passengers, will be searched after having heaved anchor by the Police officer detailed for that purpose, who will confront the passengers with the passports delivered to them by the Captain. Should any discrepancies be noticed in the documents, he will remove the individual from on board.

All persons in the latter predicament will pay a fine of \$100, or will be subject to imprisonment for one hundred days.

The Captain of the vessel will be fined \$200 for each individual so discovered, and will pay the fine before leaving unless the consignee of the vessel becomes responsible for it.

2. The consignees who sell tickets without the presentation on the part of the passenger of his passport, will be fined \$200.

Captains of the port are charged to see to a compliance with the contents of this decree.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.

HAVANA, Sept. 28, 1869.

The editor of the *Voz de Cuba* has published a promiscuous challenge in the columns of his paper, first to CONSTANTINO NUNEZ, secondly to the editors of the *New-York Revolution*, and lastly to all who credit the assertion of NUNEZ, in which it is stated that some party gave CASTARION a box on the ear some time ago in Puerto Principe. He closes by saying: "The writer of this will proceed to any place he may be called to, to make good his words." Should any of the famed Cuban Junta take up the gauntlet thrown down so brusquely by the editor of the *Voz*, we may then expect to hear of another Conto-Porto affair. *Nous verrons.* QUASIMODO.

#### THE SPANISH GUNBOATS.

#### Suspicious Circumstances—Gunboat No. 1 Preparing for Sea—Preparations to Prevent Her Departure.

Rumor has it that gunboat No. 1, of the Spanish fleet, intends to slip away to sea, if possible, within a few hours hence, unless prevented by the interference of the United States officials. Those connected with the vessel are very reticent, however, and so nothing definite could be learned regarding the intentions of those who direct her movements. One thing is certain, however, and that is that her movements are strongly suspected by the officers of the United States steamer *Maria*, as that vessel, evidently anticipating a crisis, suddenly changed her position yesterday, mooring more closely to the Spanish boat, and bringing her gun to bear directly upon the mouth of the basin through which she must pass in an attempt to escape. These suspicions were doubtless created by the fact that early in the afternoon of yesterday a coal barge was towed alongside of the Spanish vessel, and with the evident purpose of supplying her with the needed fuel. The No. 1 is taut and trim, having her boats hanging from the davits, and is apparently waiting for nothing but the order to proceed. It may be, however, that these apprehensions are not borne out by the facts of the case, and that nothing of the exciting character mentioned is worthy of credit. It is possible that the gunboat is receiving her fuel for the second trial trip, which, it is given out, will take place this week. So that, after all, the officers of the guardian vessel may have been misled by what certainly appear to be highly-suspicious occurrences.

#### THE HORNET.

#### Circumstances Attending Her Seizure at Wilmington.

From the Wilmington (N. C.) Star, Oct. 5.

On Saturday afternoon last, about 5 o'clock, a suspicious-looking craft was seen making her way into the harbor of Smithville, and on nearing that place it was discovered that she had the Cuban flag flying at her maintop. When she landed at the wharf it was ascertained that the vessel was the Cuban privateer, formerly known as the *Lady Sterling*, more recently as the *Hornet*, but now sailing under the name of the *Cuba*; that she had on board two hundred men, and that her armament consisted of eight guns. On Sunday morning two of the officers—the engineer and purser—were dispatched to this city to secure a quantity of soft coal, that on board being of a quality too hard to burn as rapidly as was required to make her attain the necessary speed. After remaining in the city a short time, the two officers returned to Smithville; but subsequently one of them came up again, and, having procured the necessary coal, chartered a steamer to take it to Smithville. It happened, however, that Mr. RUMLEY, the Collector of Customs in this city, had chartered the same steamer, with the purpose of going to Smithville to detain the privateer, and the officer, getting an inkling of the state of affairs, and finding himself strictly watched, got alarmed and made a precipitate retreat, escaping in a small rowboat to his vessel at Smithville, having previously countermanded his order for the coal.

As soon as possible after ascertaining that the privateer was at Smithville, Collector RUMLEY dispatched a steamer, with the Marshal and part of the Customs force of this district on board, with instructions to detain the *Cuba*, if overhauled, until matters could be investigated. It was supposed that Colonel FRANKS' command at Smithville would also render any assistance that might be required in carrying out the instructions of the Collector.

Since the arrival of the *Cuba* at Smithville, we understand she has kept the Cuban flag continually flying at her masthead.

Since the above was written the *Cuba* has been brought to this port and now lies at anchor in the river nearly opposite Messrs. KIDDER & MARTIN'S mill. A number of officers were in the city last night, and seem to entertain no fears of the ultimate detention of their vessel. They declare that they have a commission from the Cuban Government; in fact, some of our United States officials have examined her papers, and state that they bear the appearance of being all right. The general impression among the knowing ones of the community seems to be that an investigation into the matter will result in her being allowed to proceed on her voyage. It may take several days, however, to go through the formality of an investigation, and in the meantime she will be detained in our waters.

A large number of the officers of the *Cuba* are Ex-Confederates; several of them Virginians and some Mississippians. Two of them, Commander HIGGINS and Lieutenant-Commander DORNIN, are, we learn, from Norfolk, Va.