

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Preparations for a Fresh Expedition— The Cuban Capital—Its Position, Advantages and Fortifications—Latest Achievements of the Revolutionists.

From an Occasional Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, Nov. 3, 1869.

Lieutenant WILMER HAWLEY, now of General THOMAS JORDAN's staff of military instructors, but formerly of Company B, Seventeenth Regiment New-York State Volunteers, Colonel LANSING, has reached this city, and is bound for Macon, Ga., but expects to return with an expedition. He left Guaimaro, the Cuban capital, on the 11th of October, and traveled overland as far as Bomba, on the Cardenas and Matanzas Railroad. From thence he took cars to Cardenas and the steamer *Juagas* to this port, arriving here day before yesterday. He is *incognito*, of course, as far as rank and business are concerned, but will have left here before this can reach New-York by the *De Soto*, which sails to-day.

THE CUBAN CAPITAL.

Lieutenant HAWLEY expresses surprise at the prevailing ignorance of the people here of affairs in the Central Department, and gives an account of the capital. Guaimaro has been the capital of the Republic since the 3d of last March. It was there that Congress met and still meets. A foundry is located within six miles of the town, where some Pittsburg workmen have been engaged in casting shot and cannon. They made many unsuccessful attempts at cannon making, and not until the first of last month did they succeed in perfecting a mould which gave them satisfaction. They had cast twelve 24-pounder howitzers when he left, which were being drilled out and mounted. The wisdom of the Cubans in selecting Guaimaro as a capital, and fortifying it, is seen from the following reasons given by Lieutenant HAWLEY:

The town is of no value particularly, and is not considered defensible; that is, the town proper. It is, however, situated on a plain, through which, like a network, flow, in winding and crooked courses, seven small rivers. They are the Sol, Serilla, Canario, Tana, Guanya, Guaimaro, Arroyo Noranjo. The latter two unite to form the seventh, the Jobedo. There are no roads by which the town can be reached without crossing two or three of these rivers, and the Tana has to be crossed three times if the National Road—the *Camino Real*—is followed. Earthen forts have been thrown up and improved during the Summer. The Cubans have in and around the capital forty-two pieces of cannon, most of which are small. There arrived ten rifled fieldpieces from New-York in September. CESPEDES, the President, is there. They print an official newspaper there, on a press formerly at Puerto Principe. The surrounding district is much of it covered with a dense wood, relieved only by the course of the various rivers. There are but two plantations in the district where sugar cane is grown. Grazing lands surround the district. There is a triple row of hills just west of the town where the foundry is located. Between these hills are savannas into which the entire Cuban army could retreat in case it was followed and had given up Guaimaro. It would be a difficult battle field for the Spaniards. They would have fearful odds to encounter in plunging into a plain upon which grow dense woods and through which half a dozen rivers wind and turn so that none but a resident of the locality would know upon which side of them he was standing.

I asked the Lieutenant why VALMASEDA had allowed CESPEDES and his Congress, with QUESADA and army headquarters, to remain upon the national highway so long. He replied because it has never been convenient for the Spaniards to attack so difficult a situation surrounded by so many natural barriers of defence, which odds were all on the side of the Cubans, and that General QUESADA has kept 8,000 men there continually. At times as many as 12,000 have been there at one time. The Cubans have captured many Spanish scouts in the neighborhood of Guaimaro. They do not know the country, and are easily bewildered in their efforts to escape over such a country. If VALMASEDA and his Generals undertook to drive the Céspedes Government from Guaimaro it would have to bring twelve to twenty thousand men against the Cubans. In order to do that it would require the garrisons of Santiago de Cuba, Mazanillo, Bayamo, Puerto Principe, Nuevitas, Holguin, and even more. That would leave these places open to pillage and plunder, if not positive capture.

"Official" Account of a Recent Battle— Defeat of the Insurgents—Several Cuban Leaders Among the Killed.

HAVANA, Nov. 10.—The following is the official account of the battle lately fought in the southern part of the Eastern Department:

The Spanish troops, under the command of General MENDIGUEREN, attacked the insurgent force between the towns of Contramaestre and Ramon. One hundred and twenty of the insurgents were killed, and large numbers wounded and taken prisoners. Among the rebels killed are General TAMACO, Captain GONCHET, HARRY CLAVIVEY, Chief of STAFF, and WILLIAM CRONSTAND, General JORDAN's Quartermaster. The insurgent forces were driven beyond the town of Palo-Picado, and the Spanish troops now occupy the positions held by the rebels during the past year. The insurgent forces, under Generals YAGUAS and FILIPINAS, retreated north by way of Terabueca. ARTHUR CASAMJOR, one of the rebel leaders, was killed.

The Bayamo *Journal* says that General MASO was killed, and that the Spanish troops have captured the insurgent hospital at Ramon.