

THE WAR IN CUBA.

The Revolution Spreading—Alarm of the Spaniards—The Cuban Policy—Burning of Sugar Plantations—War News—Rebel Assault on Baire—Landing of a Filibustering Expedition—De Rodas and Herrera—Executions by the Spaniards.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Aug. 28, 1869.

The revolution is slowly but steadily spreading westward, and to those jurisdictions west of the Ciego Villas which are now known as the revolutionary districts, are added Cardenas, Colon, Guinness, and Matanzas, where quite frequent incendiarisms have occurred. The alarm created among the ever-faithful legions by these surprises is great, and a spontaneous cry goes up to save the sugar district. The Cubans are jubilant over the matter, and consider the days of Spanish possession as numbered, while the ultras pretend to be equally confident, and busy themselves in predicting the speedy suppression of the new movements.

The Government of CESPEDES, recognizing, doubtless, the folly of continuing a policy suicidal in itself and opposed to the best and truest interests of the country, has decided to abandon it in part; and so it has forbidden the use of the flambeau by its adherents, and while forbidding them to destroy the various sugar plantations, has ordered them to break important pieces of the machinery, perforate the steam boilers, and unroof the sugar-houses. The cane fields are to be left uninjured as well, and everything else not necessary to the grinding of cane and the making of sugar; all else calculated to facilitate the conversion of the yield of the cane fields into marketable produce, is to be remorselessly destroyed. Care will be taken that nothing be given to the flames that may hereafter prove to be of real service to private or public interests, unless such property may prove of importance to the enemy or of detriment to the Cuban cause by its preservation from destruction.

This order, I must say, is not strictly complied with, by the Maniqueros. Their westward advance has been as usual signalized by the bare chimneys and smouldering ruins of various sugar estates. ZULUETA and friends are alarmed at the close proximity of what the Havana Press calls "bandolerismo," (banditism,) and midnight *camarillas* of select clubs of the true blue are being held to consider what is to be done in view of the grave nature of the situation. Much anxiety, too, is manifested by the Spanish element as to what the course of General GRANT will be with regard to the question of Cuba, and fears are entertained by many that the Maniqueros will be recognized as belligerents before they can succeed in crushing the rebellion, or the promised twenty thousand arrive.

PUERTO PRINCIPE—NUEVITAS.

Advice received here from Principe, bearing date 15th inst., state that on the 11th inst. the *estancia*, or farm, San Jose de las Palmillas, the property of JOSE MASIA, was burnt by the rebels. This *sitio* was only distant half a league from Puerto Principe, and, as will readily be seen, was destroyed under the very nose of PUEBLO. On the same day four estates, the property of CARLOS DE VARELA Y DE LA TORRE, were reduced to ashes. Three other estates belonging to the same individual, and known as the Fe, Altargracia and Penon, on which latter the insurgents have established a camp, had been destroyed some time previously. Another very valuable sugar plantation, Los Descanzanos, the property of PEDRO SANCHEZ DOLZ, and situated in Nuevitas, was also destroyed on the 12th inst.

An expedition consisting of 150 infantry, forty cavalry and two pieces of artillery, under command of the military commander of Las Minas, left the latter place on the 17th inst., and arriving at Hicotea, encountered a force of 400 insurgents, who were immediately attacked and routed with a loss of twenty killed and a large number wounded. Among the spoils of this victory are counted JOSE DE JESUS GARCIA, (whose age—upward of 70—made it a shame to shoot him, and preserved his life for the present,) a large number of cases of ammunition, cartridge boxes and equipments and fourteen stand of arms.

Parties of foragers composed of volunteers make continued raids out of Puerto Principe for the purpose of procuring cattle, &c., for the supply of the city and garrison. They are generally successful, and the country for a large circuit round Puerto Principe is fast becoming stripped of all means of subsistence, presenting the appearance of a very wilderness. What the Spaniards fail to eat up the rebels will drive off or destroy, thus leaving the city dependant on the preservation of railroad communication to Nuevitas. Cholera was abating rapidly in the city and the mortality sensibly on the decrease. All kinds of provisions were extremely high—eggs command fifteen cents apiece, and are not procurable at that.

HOLGUIN—TUNAS.

News received here through Spanish sources state that Colonel BENEGLASI with a portion of his forces had surprised and defeated a large party of insurgents between Maniabon and Puerto del Padre, causing them considerable loss in killed and wounded; capturing fifty-seven horses, three prisoners, and the sword, hat and trappings of the rebel leader, PEPILLO GONZALEZ. Cuban accounts claim a victory for their arms, and state that BENEGLASI was forced to retire in a manner more rapid than dignified. On the 18th, or three days later, BENEGLASI, with the whole of his column, 800 strong, left Maniabon with a convoy of fifty mules, laden with provisions and war material for Tunas. The account (Spanish) states that the belief was general that he would successfully accomplish the object of the expedition, although numerous parties of insurgents were stationing themselves on his route of march, to intercept, capture or destroy him. The distance between the point of departure, Velasco, and Tunas, is something over sixty miles, and news from this section is looked for by the Spaniards with keen anxiety. The Cubans predict with great confidence the rout and destruction of BENEGLASI and forces.

A party of rebels who had approached Gibara were surprised recently by a detachment of volunteers and regulars and compelled to retire with a loss of fourteen killed and three prisoners, which latter were turned loose immediately, when it was discovered that they were women dressed in rebel uniform. The gallantry of the volunteers in thus liberating these Amazons "to fight them another day" is highly to be commended, as they are generally free from all imputations of merev.

BAYAMO—CUBA—MANZANILLO.

Bayamo dates of the 21st inst. state that various detachments of Spanish troops are operating vigorously throughout the jurisdiction, and VALMASEDA is represented as displaying indefatigable zeal in his attempted pacification of the country. The rebel leader, MODESTO DIAZ, was forced to retire from his position at El Macho, and retire to El Ramon. The attack which was to have taken place on the strong rebel position in

the Turquino Mountain—the highest in the island—has been deferred by the Spaniards, who seem to have had their attention drawn away from the object of their attack, owing to the diversion created by the recent rebel assault on Baire.

On the arrival of MODESTO DIAZ at Bijaual, in close proximity to El Ramon, he was met by the commands of several rebel leaders, and after a consultation had been held between them they decided to attack the Spanish post of Baire, which had been previously weakened by other exigencies and was now defended by only seventy men; these seventy, however, being part of CANIZAL's famous "160" they were looked upon by the Spaniards as being in a manner invincible, and the utmost confidence was placed in them. The rebel plan of attack being perfected they at once marched on Baire, arriving before the town at day-break. Rushing at once upon it in a disorganized mass their advance, composed mainly of negroes, succeeded in penetrating into the streets of the town, and a lively fight ensued between themselves and the Spaniards. The families and non-combatants meanwhile took refuge in the fort erected there. The negroes, who formed the great mass of the expedition, were compelled to retire with a loss of 11 killed. This retrograde movement was accomplished in great disorder, and Captain LAGREDO, the Spanish commander, taking advantage of it, charged the enemy's disordered centre at the point of the bayonet, thereby increasing the panic among them, and causing them to fly in great precipitation.

In this sally the rebels lost fifteen killed, which, added to their first loss of eleven, increases their number of killed to twenty-six. Two prisoners were taken also, both wounded. This is the Spanish account of the action. They give no statement of their own loss. The rebels acknowledge a repulse themselves, but add in extenuation that they inflicted a severe loss on LAGREDO's party, amounting to nearly one-third of his men. The force of the insurgents was estimated at from seven hundred to one thousand men.

LANDING IN CUBA—CAPTURE OF VESSEL.

A small schooner said to proceed from some of the English Bahamas by some, and by others from Florida, arrived off the southeastern coast of the island and succeeded in landing a cargo of arms and ammunition in the bay of Sevilla, situated in close proximity to a spur of the mountain range known as the Sierra Maestra. The extreme southern point of this spur is only distant a few miles from Sevilla Bay. The Spaniards claim to have captured the vessel on her way out, and to have taken her to Santiago de Cuba. Two columns of troops composed of volunteers and veterans have gone in pursuit of the party of insurgents who received the arms. The jurisdiction of Cuba is said to be remarkably free from insurgents; the cholera was abating somewhat, and business was said to be resuming its normal state again.

In one of the various skirmishes that frequently occur in the jurisdiction of Manzanillo, the son of the rebel Colonel RUFINO was captured by the Spaniards, as also a rebel courier laden with dispatches of importance to MARCANO, RUFINO and others. Colonel RUFINO narrowly escaped capture and left a portion of his equipage in the hands of his pursuers. Young RUFINO and the courier were shot on the 7th. They were both offered their lives if they would give information, but gallantly refused and met their fate with heroic resignation. A party of Spaniards passing by the scene of this tragedy a day or two after, stumbled on the corpses of these two victims half devoured by buzzards.

Captain ESTEVAN PONS, who was mainly instrumental in effecting the capture of the expedition landed by the *Grapeshot* in Batiquiri, was recently assassinated in his own house at midnight by a party of ten men who retired quietly and escaped scot-free after the commission of the act. This was doubtless done in fearful retaliation for the execution of the filibusters composing the expedition who had the misfortune to be captured and shot by the Spaniards.

DE RODAS AND HERRERA.

RAMON DE HERRERA recently had an interview with General DE RODAS, and suggested the propriety of garrisoning the Morro and Fort Cabanas with volunteers, thus allowing the regular troops to enter into active campaign. DE RODAS thanked the representative of the volunteers for his offer, but declined to profit by it. He further informed HERRERA to caution the volunteers against making any further suggestions, saying: "I am not General DULCE, recollect, and should the volunteers attempt to dictate the law to me I am capable of reducing to ashes the City of Havana. Let them, therefore, keep their propositions to themselves; I do not heed them." Such is the report current in this city with regard to the interview, and, although I cannot swear to its truth, it obtains credence in all circles.

THE BANK OF HAVANA.

The Spanish Bank of Havana has contributed another \$45,000 to the Government for the raising and equipping of two battalions of volunteers, to go into active service in the field. This makes a total of \$180,000 donated by the bank to the Government since the commencement of the revolution. The financial crash predicted by many has not yet come. The paper of the bank is discounted at 2½ per cent., and no difference is made between it and gold in any ordinary business transaction. The bank lately furnished \$600,000 gold to one of the leading merchants in this city, and its paper shows no tendency to depreciation. QUASIMODO.