

CUBA.

ARRIVAL OF TROOPS FROM SPAIN.

Anxiety Concerning the Privateer Cuba.

Dreadful State of Affairs in the Island.

A War of Extermination Feared.

The steamship *Columbia*, from Havana October 9, arrived at this port yesterday. She brings the latest mail despatches. The purser of the *Columbia* will please accept our thanks for favors received.

Arrival of Troops—Passage of the Convoy Under Valmaseda from Bayamo to Las Tunas—Rumored Delect and Wounding of Valmaseda—Anxiety Concerning the Hornet—The Recent Snubbing of the United States—Consecutions—Examining the Mail.

HAVANA, Oct. 9, 1893.

The week opened by the arrival of a small part of those reinforcements promised in order to put an end to the insurrection existing in this island. On Sunday entered the harbor the steamship *Comillas*, from Barcelona, having on board eight officers and 1,004 men of the battalion "Cazadores de Pizarro." It was embarked with so much precipitancy—doubtless following the telegram of Prim, after his interview with the French Emperor—that it is entirely without organization. This promises, however, to be quickly remedied and the men prepared for the field. On Monday arrived the mail steamer *Espana*, bringing the new *Segundo Cabo*, Buenaventura Carbo, and 500 men. No demonstrations followed the arrival of either steamer.

From the insurrection the main point of interest for some time past has been the passage of a convoy from Bayamo to Las Tunas, under Valmaseda, heretofore referred to in these despatches. There have been evidences of a concentration of the insurgent forces under Jordan, who is in command of that section, through which the convoy would have to pass, and an engagement of importance was anticipated. The road is very rough, passing over high mountains, necessitating the loading of munitions and supplies on the backs of mules. There were 200 of these, escorted by 800 men, and it would certainly seem that, with any energy or pluck, the Cubans should succeed in capturing a great part of them. Through Spanish sources, however, we learn that the convoy has safely arrived at Las Tunas, having, indeed, been scarcely harassed at all. In view of this the *Prensa* persistently asks, "Where are the forces of the Cuban republic? What are Jordan and Quesada doing and all the other heroes? Why did they not interfere with the march of the convoy through those rough roads in the mountains, which ought to be the theatre of the glories of the republic?" As is usual, indeed as one might say is inevitable, there is another side to this story, and the statement is current throughout the city that Valmaseda has been disastrously beaten and wounded. There are no details given, only this bold statement; but it is whispered about that the Cubans are jubilant and the Spaniards correspondingly depressed, and when the truth comes to be known it will be found that a heavy blow has been struck at Spanish rule. The papers give reports of the engagement of the 27th September between the Spaniards under Major Izquierdo and the Cubans under Marmol, mentioned by your correspondence from Santiago de Cuba. They state that the engagement lasted from seven o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon, and that the enemy was dislodged from all his positions for the space of five leagues. Eighty of the insurgents were killed and many wounded, while on the Spanish side four officers and seven soldiers were wounded, two officers and two soldiers captured and six horses killed, which is very like all Spanish stories.

From the Cinco Villas General Lesca telegraphs that Captain Viscaino had succeeded in meeting the party which fled from Alvarez to San Pedro Mayabo, killed five, took some arms and a small quantity of powder. He further says, "The forces from the Gomez camp had an encounter with the enemy, killing one and capturing food, medicines and important papers. A Cuban of much influence in the *partido* of Alcazaz, named Jose Rogers, had applied for pardon, which had been granted. Other unimportant encounters are reported. Rumors of expeditions have been current here of late. There are said to have landed, among them, one of 1,500 men, which disembarked in the Vuelta Abajo. The keenest anxiety is felt concerning the movements of the Hornet, as the Spaniards here are all engaged in commercial enterprises likely to be greatly damaged by the operations of a privateer. News that she was detained in Wilmington caused much satisfaction; but following this came the statement that she had escaped, and the worryment recommenced. The opinion is entertained here that the Hornet carries the Peruvian flag, and that arrangements to this end preceded the late entertainment to the Peruvian Minister given by the Cubans in New York. The papers of the morning, in their editorial columns, devote much attention to the announcement made in the Associated Press despatch of the 7th that the republican deputies have withdrawn from the Cortes. Their action is strongly condemned, but its gravity and importance are not ignored. They are regarded as the accomplices of those in the field against the government. The impression is very generally rife here that in the late negotiations between the United States and Spain, touching the Island of Cuba, the former power has been snubbed and the satirical papers of this city, of which there are several, are filled with caricatures expressive of this fact.

The municipalities of Regia, Guanabacoa, Jaruco, Nueva Paz and Trinidad have adopted the warlike revolution of the Havana Ayuntamiento and sent formal notice of the same to the Captain General.

On the 6th inst. D. Juan Barriel y Lynch took possession, with the usual formalities, of the Governorship and Military Commandancy of Matanzas. He issues the usual style of address, in which the glories of Spain, the national integrity, justice and morality figure prominently.

The properties of the following persons, resident in Santa Clara, have been confiscated:—Joaquin Jaramillo, José Maria Fernandez, Manuel Boch, Angel Mayo, Joaquin Casanova, Juan Tomás Vades, Carlos Machado Ramos, Andrés Piriu. Also the following, residing in Noron:—Manuel Recio y Borrero, José Angustin del Castillo, Felix Medrano, Ramon Puerta, Ricardo Puerta, Francisco Puerta, Venicio Puerta, Miguel Puerta, Luis Puerta, Pedro Pablo Valdivia.

Some little interest is felt here concerning the arrival of the *Eagle*, now on her way. As she was about leaving the port the last time Purser Hierstedt refused to permit the mail to be examined and drew a pistol to defend it. Threats are made that the mail will be examined next time at all hazards. The captains of the mail steamers are unanimous against permitting any interference with the mail when once on board, and if such a thing is attempted trouble will result.

The flagship *Powhatan*, Rear Admiral Poor, appeared off this harbor on Thursday morning. A boat was sent to communicate with the Consul General and obtain papers, but the vessel did not come in.

The authorities have decided to issue clean bills of health from this port hereafter, it being considered that the yellow fever is at an end for the season. The late northerly breezes have had a very beneficial effect, and the city is regarded as healthy.

A War of Extermination Waged—Pardoned Insurgents Murdered, Others Fleeing to the Mountains—The Country Abandoned—Estates Burned—Suffering of Poor Females in the Towns—Jordan's Forces—The Massacre of Jiguani.

MANZANILLO, Oct. 3, 1893.

As to the matter of encounters between the combatants in the field, the insurrection would seem to be pretty nearly dead in this vicinity; but, unfortunately, through the bullet and the sword, the number of country people, such as are able to cultivate the soil, is becoming daily less. All military operations are kept extremely secret, but it is well known that a war of extermination is being waged by men ignorant of all laws of civilization and cruel as bloodhounds. We have daily accounts of pardoned insurgents being taken out by foraging parties and shot or cut to pieces with knives. Many who had been permitted to return to their homes on condition of reporting to the *Capitan del Partido* at stated intervals, frightened at these massacres, have fled and joined their compatriots in the mountains, where, for want of proper nourishment, many perish. I learn from reliable sources that not a fifth part of the laboring population remains in this jurisdiction, in Jiguani and Bayamo. The only estate left in this is the "Esperanza," belonging to the House of Venecia, Rodriguez y Co., and the cane fields on that one have been burned, so no crop was raised this season. In the other two the destruction has been equally great. There are but few houses left standing except in the towns, which are crowded with poor and desolate females whose sufferings cannot be portrayed.

It is reported that several bands of rebels are yet in the mountains near La Sierra. They belong to Jordan's force, the main body of which is between Jiguani, Santiago de Cuba and Mayari.

Information furnished to Palacios by a renegade priest from the insurgent headquarters at Guaimaro. The memory of this most horrible affair should not be allowed to die out. The night preceding the assassination Palacios, who was drunk, called in each of the prisoners separately, and as they claimed to be guilty of no offence, barbarously beat them with a club. Other and similar barbarities were perpetrated in this vicinity by this monster, and that he should be allowed to go unpunished surpasses belief. One of Valmaseda's officers states that there was a foreigner among the seventeen shot, and his last words were that his Consul would make the Colonel responsible for his murder. I have not been able to learn his nationality.

Operations of the Spaniards—A Hot Engagement—They Are Obligated to Retire—Spanish Justice—A Man of Eighty Arrested for Not Giving Information—Expected Arrival of Valmaseda at St. Jago de Cuba.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Oct. 2, 1893.

The column whose departure I mentioned in my last returned again yesterday and has furnished us with the usual budget of important victories, claiming to have killed eighty insurgents. It is known, however, that the troops were badly handled in Canto Abajo by strong and well armed bands of insurgents, commanded by one of the Marmols.

The following details have been furnished me:—The Spanish column numbered 300 men, with two mountain howitzers. These are carried on the backs of mules, are generally well worked and very effective. Major Izquierdo was in command. The route was to Palo Picado, and the intention was to form a junction with the forces of Valmaseda. The troops reached the Cruz without interruption, but thenceforward were continually fired upon from ambushes. They succeeded in clearing the insurgents out of their positions, until they arrived at a pass of a branch of the Canto river. Here, as say the soldiers, the insurgents were in great force and posted in an excellent position, from which the artillery was powerless to dislodge them, while a galling rifle fire, particularly directed towards the officers, was kept up by the insurgents. Four snipers were speedily placed *hors de combat*, three being dangerously and one slightly wounded. The insurgents showed great pluck, running out into the open field to fire at the troops and abusing them in their creole style. The Spaniards were finally obliged to retreat, having lost some thirty men, in killed, wounded and missing. The insurgents are much elated with their success, and it is probable that any fresh visits of the troops to those localities may result disastrously.

This immediate neighborhood affords little to chronicle. The contra-guerrillas are down towards Guantanamo. Their commander recently sent in a Spaniard named Aguirre, accused of not giving notice that the insurgents had passed near his farm. He lived alone on his place, is about eighty years of age and not wishing, in his defenceless position, to draw down upon him the vengeance of the insurgents, he said nothing about them. The Spanish commander was desirous of shooting him, but finally concluded to send him here, where he is now in prison. The Governor of Guantanamo lately returned from an excursion to Mayari-Sorriba, which was quite barren of results. The volunteers of the former place, under command of Miguel Perez, have had several encounters with insurgents recently under Policarpo Rustan, in which they have suffered considerably.

Count Valmaseda is expected here soon on the steamer *Gorillon*, formerly the *Comandante*. The ten cent subscription for his benefit drags on but slowly, notwithstanding the earnest advocacy of the *Bandera Española*. Meanwhile no word or explanation has been tendered the families and friends of the Jiguani victims, while they are looking on the preparations for all sorts of festivities in honor of the man who has reduced them to misery.

The paper mentioned recently published an article on the possibility of communications with the United States. It was full of braggadoche, and closed by challenging that Power to come on, even at the rate of three to one. It is worthy of remark that the violent Spaniard who wrote the article has a son in the insurgent ranks, showing that it needs but one generation to make a Cuban from a Spaniard. The *Bandera*, in speaking of the Peruvian monitors, says it is a pity that the commander of the *Andalusa* did not know of the recognition by the Peruvians of the Cubans, as it might have covered itself with glory by capturing both monitors. As the *Andalusa* is a small wooden gunboat, this remark will give your readers an appreciation of Spanish ideas of naval armament.

The government is evidently very much cramped for funds, and it is doing its best to raise some by the iniquitous fines on shipmasters. Such of that class as come here would do well to obtain from the Spanish Consul in the port from whence they sail a note in writing of the documents necessary to prevent fine, as many of these functionaries, either through ignorance or design, despatch all vessels without the requisite papers.