

CUBA.

Suppression of Political News—Excitement Over the Price of Gold—The Municipality of Havana Cry Out for War—The Press and Public Sentiment Support It—Demonstration Against Americans Feared—Jordan Concentrating His Forces—Sequestrations—Political Prisoners.

HAYANA, Sept. 25, 1892.

Havana has been in the greatest state of excitement for the past thirty-six hours. The political news from the United States, if any, was suppressed, while the market reports told of gold at 65, and the wildest conjectures were indulged in, amid them all the one prominent idea "war with Spain." Late last evening it was announced that the panic in New York was ended, and gold had fallen to 36. This has allayed the excitement somewhat, and many Americans have temporarily suspended their preparations to leave. Strange to say, a war with the United States is looked forward to with the most pleasing anticipations by the people here. The idea is immensely popular. With the mass this is the result of ignorance of the relative strength of the two Powers; with it the idea is actually entertained that the few iron-clad ships of Spain—there are three, I believe—could sink the whole American navy and destroy one after another every city on the Atlantic coast, while the formidable old hulks that are floating around these waters, to the imminent danger of all on board of them, would sweep American commerce from the seas. With the more intelligent this idea of war is popular, as it would furnish a pretext for accepting the inevitable with dignity. Nor is this feeling indefinite and undefined. It has taken shape and expression in the municipal body of this city, which, it may be said, has already declared war. Yesterday it had a meeting and presented, as the result of its consultations on the present grave state of affairs, the following to the Superior Political Governor:—

YOUR EXCELLENCY—Those who subscribe their names and have the honor to belong to this Assembly, considering that they interpret its sentiments and those of all Spaniards in this province, make this solemn declaration, so that your Excellency approve, speaking once more for themselves and in the name of all lovers of the national integrity, first, that they are disposed, as they always have been, to sacrifice their lives and estates to sustain against all odds the dignity of the nation. Second, if by any chance any foreign Power should show, by direct or indirect acts of hostility, that they forget the rights of Spain, and make any attempt against the honor due to her sovereignty, the supreme government can work with perfect freedom and decided energy, without stopping to fear that we, in this island, may experience injurious accidents; for we place before our personal interests the honor of our national flag, which must always appear clear and glorious before all the world. And lastly, they propose that this action, in all of its integrity, be sent to all the illustrious Ayuntamientos of this province, asking them to join in this manifestation of most injured patriotism, which we do not for a moment doubt will be agreed to by your Excellency.

AFOLINAR DE RATO,
JUAN A. COLOMI,
FRANCISCO F. IBANEZ,
MAMERTO FULIDO,
JULIAN DE ZULUEGA,
ANSELMO G. DEL VALLE.

HAYANA, Sept. 24, 1892.

The *Diario de la Marina* publishes this in its column of last evening, and as further indicative of the popular sentiment I translate its comments:—

We are informed that to-day the most excellent Ayuntamiento has approved, by acclamation, of the resolution which we publish and which was presented by the gentlemen whose signatures are attached. The Ayuntamiento has, in a short period, given great proofs of patriotism and integrity, and to-day has the enviable glory to appear, in the face of the world, as the authorized and noble interpreter of the sentiments indulged in by all Spaniards who have the fortune to defend the national integrity in this province. We wish for neither life nor property without honor. Not and all we ask of the national government is to preserve our honor clear, though we love our property and the sword takes our lives. When a people petitions in this way, it is worthy the concessions which it asks, and of victory also, because it possesses as much abnegation as valor. The Ayuntamiento of Havana has placed itself with dignity at the head of the city which it represents, and has prepared a beautiful path for all other municipalities in which they will gallantly follow. We all unite with the Ayuntamiento of Havana to sustain that which they have so proudly proclaimed, with the profound faith that God is on our side, because our cause is just and holy.

For the past two or three days it has been suspected that some demonstration touching America or Americans was about to be made here, expressing the popular sentiment, and some little fear was felt as to the character which it would take. Fortunately it has thus far taken no other shape than this bombastic resolution. I have reason to believe that this is not the work of the government, as represented by Rodas, nor is it approved by him. It is but another exhibition of the sentiment which found vent in the remarkable editorial which lately appeared in the *Diario*, and a translation of which was sent to the *HERALD*. The Captain General is powerless to restrain its expression, while appreciating the fact that it is likely to prove injurious to the interests of Spain. On the other hand, the Political Governor is said to be in perfect harmony with this feeling; and, owing to this, no great cordiality exists between him and his chief. It is certainly to be hoped that no very grave complications may arise with Spain until the United States has sufficient force in these waters to look after the lives, if not the interests, of her citizens.

The feeling of insecurity and alarm is constantly on the increase here, as are the vigilance and activity of the authorities. Arrests and one's liability to it form one unending subject of conversation, and no foreigner or native feels secure. The Captain General finds himself with as little power for good as General Dulce; for the volunteers interfere in everything, even to the action of the ordinary tribunals of justice, as the following statement will show:—A justice of the peace recently ordered that the goods of a certain person, who was a volunteer, should be embargoed for rent due; when the officers arrived with the process the defendant, with a number of his comrades, met them with arms in their hands and threatened to shoot them if they attempted to execute it. The officers departed, and the Captain General, upon being applied to for assistance by the judge, in order to carry out the law, stated that he could not help him, and believed it to be most prudent to let the matter drop. The family of Dr. Nicholas Mendive, whose assassination by volunteers I mentioned in my last, recently applied to the Captain General for justice upon the murderers; and, though he promised it should be done, nothing has been heard of it. Much uneasiness is felt at this condition of affairs, and though great difficulties are placed in the way of getting passports, a steady stream of immigration to Spain and Mexico has set in, the fear of confiscation of property preventing people from going to the United States.

The project of a reserve militia seems to have failed altogether, and it may be deemed abandoned. This has grown out of the fears of arming Cubans entertained by the Spaniards. Four battalions had been formed and the officers appointed, but when the application for arms was made, in order that the men might be exercised in them, objections were made, as some of them were more than suspected of being enemies to the national integrity, and the volunteers threatened to abandon their duties, and so the matter dropped.

From the seat of war the news is not extensive. Passengers from Sagua report that the Cuban flag is flying at Puerto Padre, the seaport, it will be remembered, of Las Tunas. The Pelayo steamer recently returned here from several ports on the north side. She is said to have started from here more than a week since with arms and munitions to be landed at Puerto Padre, but on arriving there and finding it in the hands of the rebels she was compelled to return. Rumors of a fight between Quesada and Poella, near Puerto Principe, in which the latter was routed and killed, are rife, but not credited. It is known that the government has determined to recall Poello for not having displayed the requisite capacity for his position. The colored militia on the railway between Principe and Nuevitas are not well supplied. One of them, recently brought here wounded, reports that they have nothing to eat, and that they "are marching to a graveyard filled with crosses." General Jordan is concentrating a large force of all arms and has called in all the able bodied men, so there remain in operation only enough to protect baggage trains and annoy weak detachments of the Spaniards.

General Lesca, from the Cinco Villas, reports that the Guardia Civil had surprised a camp of insurgents, under Pascual Martinez, killing sixteen and wounding many, as it was supposed from the cries in the brushwood; fifty-eight horses and some arms were captured; this on the 23d. On the 24d he reports that Colonel Trillo surprised a camp, killed three, took six prisoners, of whom four were at once shot, one of them being the flag sergeant. Farinas, brother of the chief, and some arms were captured.

Papers from Santiago de Cuba, Manzanillo and

Trinidad contain nothing of military operations whatever. A Lieutenant had dug up, near Manzanillo, twelve cedar boxes containing important papers and the arms of the family of the "citizen Francisco Aguilera." The *Diario* of this city has seen a private letter saying Valmaseda was about to send a train to Las Tunas with 60,000 rations. This confirms the statement before made in the *HERALD*, and leads to the conclusion that Jordan's concentration of troops is to oppose this convoy. The report comes from Manzanillo that Vicente Castellanos and his party had surrendered at the suggestion and entreaty of his wife.

The usual number of sequestrations are reported. Among them the property of the following:—Dons Gabriel Rodriguez, Francisco Perez Cruz, José del Carmen Martinez, Pedro Alfonso Serrano, Nicolás Chirino, Francisco Consuegra, Justo Consuegra, Emilio Corcho, Dionisio Vasquez, Rafael Fuentes, Pedro Escario Herrera, Jesus Fleites.

The following disposition has been made of political prisoners. Subjected to council of war:—Fbro. D. Pedro Yera; Donnas Victoria Valdes, Carmen Correa, Rosario Cortazar, Plácida Perez, Rosa Perez, Dolores Perez; Dons Pedro Correa, Pedro Carbonell, Juan Urdaneta, Ramon Cortazar, Mateo Alfonso, Antonio Alfonso, Rafael Alfonso, Blas Perez, José Eulogio Alfonso.

Sent to Melilla:—D. Manuel Almeyda, José Almeyda, José María Oliva, Miguel Oquendo.

To Isle of Paris:—Francisco Penz and Gervasio Perez.

Obligated to change their residence:—D. Frederico Jova, Luciano Santana, Rafael Francisco Rojas.

Placed at liberty:—D. José García Montes, Luis Hidalgo, Francisco Martinez, Felipe Guzman, Felix Valdes, Esteban Dominguez, Marcelino Bacallado, Justo Mena, Andrés Leal, José Haro Duran, Bernardino Duarte, Manuel Rodriguez Gonzalez, Pardo libre Francisco Carballo, D. Juan Trigo.

The Captain General has declared for all the negroes taken from certain slave ships named between the years 1824 and 1842, and calls upon those who have the use of them to present them within a month, so that they may receive their freedom papers. Very few of them are living and on record, as it has been a well known custom to report to government the death of the *emancipado* whenever a slave died.

The Captain General will soon make a visit to the Cinco Villas. Various causes are assigned for this, and among them a desire to be absent from Havana at the end of this month, though for what reason is not stated. He has sent a relation of his to bring out his family from Spain.

The Governor of Matanzas has been removed and D. Juan Burrill y Lucci appointed in his place.

On the evening of Thursday a young American named Frederick Richard, a native of Mobile, son of a gentleman who was a long time Consul for the United States at some point on the island, was taken from his room in the hotel, at about eleven o'clock, and hurried off to prison. Mr. Richard was a clerk in the house of Plazon, Avila & Co., of which firm Señor Avila was recently arrested. On a previous occasion his baggage had been searched and certain Masonic papers taken. Through the interposition of the American Consul General Mr. Richard was released last evening. But fearing further annoyances he sails in the Eagle to-day for New York.

A Mexican who arrived here recently from New York fell in a fit in the street, and on searching him to find out who he was despatches from parties in New York to Cespedes and others were found. He was taken to the hospital and there succeeded in getting hold of a dose of poison, which he swallowed.