

The steamship *Eagle*, Captain Green, from Havana, the 27th ult., arrived at this port last night. The purser will please accept our acknowledgments for favors received.

Another War Cloud—The Demand for the Spanish Gunboats—Probable Result of a Possible Conflict—Review of Insurrectionary News—Proclamation of Valmaseda—Conspiracy Among the Negroes.

HAVANA, Nov. 27, 1893.

Again a little speck is seen on the distant political horizon, and all are contemplating it, eager to know if it shall result in a little wind gust or the "clash of resounding arms." The Spanish man-of-war *Pizarro* has arrived in New York, and simultaneously with this announcement comes another that Minister Roberts has demanded of the United States government the release of the gunboats. Will the famed bird of freedom succumb, and if not will Spain consider a refusal a *casus belli*? These are the questions, and they are discussed among the Spaniards with that calmness and dignity which belongs to conscious strength. The *Voz de Cuba* in, a leading article which I translate and forward, considers the result of a war, and retires from the consideration content, closing with a dignified reminder of how Spain vanquished a great conqueror (meaning Napoleon I.) not more than half a century ago, and the remark, "Surely, the American Union is not more powerful now than was then Napoleon I." Doubtless the boats will be surrendered, and so the American Union escape the fate of him of Ansterlitz.

A review of the news from the insurrection for the week shows little of interest. Commencing in the extreme east of the island we find that Valmaseda has issued another proclamation. A thing not unusual with Spanish military commanders to cover want of success in operations. He refers to his past proclamations, calling on those in the field to abandon the insurrection, and informing them of what he proposed to do in case they did not. He now claims to have done it. He says:—"Between the rivers Cauto and Contramaestre there are more than 200 dead bodies, killed by my troops; in Las Yaguas more than eighty, and in Baire, la Venta de Casanova, Jiguani, Palma Soriana, Aserradero and El Cobre more than 400 persons have joined the detachments with whom my soldiers have divided their medicines and rations." He neglects to mention that a far greater number of soldiers than the insurgents he mentions have been placed *hors du combat* meanwhile by disease and the bullet; yet, with this omission, but small result is shown from a campaign so vauntingly inaugurated. He concludes with the usual promise to the repentant and threat to the incorrigible, neither of which are likely to do much harm. Though the news of operations under his command have been extremely meagre and mostly through Spanish sources it is evident nothing has been done which could cause a Cuban sympathizer much uneasiness.

From Camaguary, dates to the 20th report a complete cessation of all military operations and much sickness among the troops and people. From the Cinco Villas we have reports of the usual number of encounters, in the face of which comes a statement from General Lesca in effect that he has restored order to Villa Clara and Cienfuegos and that he was about proceeding to Trinidad for like purpose. In pursuit of the incendiaries of Taguayabon he had visited the ashes of that place and ordered a fort erected, though whether in defence or commemoration, the report saith not.

On Monday, the 23d, alarming rumors were afloat in reference to affairs near Sagua la Grande. The steamer from Sagua and Caibarien arrived on the following day, bringing news of the discovery, among the negroes on the estates near there, of a formidable conspiracy. The Spanish reports say their intention was to kill all the white men on the estates and declare themselves free. Their real object, however, was to join the insurgents and burn estates. They were bound by oath to rise on the 24th of December next. Those engaged in the conspiracy were known by a small stone worn around the neck and called "Santa Barbara." The affair came to the knowledge of the Governor of Sagua, Don Enrique Trillo, who went in among the estates, arrested a considerable number, and, without any form of trial, shot down twelve of the alleged chiefs in the presence of the others as follows:—Three on the San Isidro, three on Santa Teresa, three on Esperanza, two on San Francisco and one on Margarita. Some free negroes are mixed up in the conspiracy and will be tried by court-martial. Private accounts report that real or fancied confessions from the negroes were extorted under the lash, that they were doubtless made in many instances to avoid further punishment and involved innocent people. There is, however, no doubt that a wide-spread conspiracy exists among the negroes, originated by the insurgents, who rely upon them to carry out the programme for the destruction of estates. Much praise is awarded to Governor Trillo for his prompt action in the affair. As predicted by the city papers and your correspondent the expedition to the Cienega de Zapata has proved a total failure. Says the government, "because we found no one there to fight." A number of families in great distress were met with, and nothing more. Simply the truth is the insurgents learned of the expedition and secreted themselves. With its withdrawal they will reappear as before. One of the city papers announced that 1,000 armed Chinamen had been encountered; but this is authoritatively denied.

From Manzanillo and Santi Espirita come reports of operations, but of no interest in detail and of but small result.

The Facts Regarding the Spanish Victories—Arrival of Troops—Rumored Expedition at Mayari—Executions in the Country—Disregard of De Rodas' Orders—Tampering With Correspondence—The Case of Mr. King.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Nov. 19, 1893.

The two official despatches referring to the "Spanish victories" at Santa Rita and Jaraguca, mentioned in a previous despatch, were rendered necessary to cover checks received by the government troops, and account for the arrival of wounded men. The former affair was simply a successful ambush laid by the insurgents in and around a narrow road when the Spanish advance was marching by twos. It suddenly came upon obstructions, and was fired into with such effect that it lost nine men killed and a number of wounded, including Captain Villegas, while the insurgents remained the whole time invisible.

At Jaraguca the insurgents had a strongly entrenched position on the slope of a hill, whither the Spaniards were allured by bugle calls. When fired upon they charged the intrenchments, but in so much disorder that they were repulsed with some loss, including Colonel Corchado, who was severely wounded. It would appear that General Valmaseda's policy has had the effect of exasperating the insurgents to a pitch of fighting such as they had not hitherto arrived at.

Six hundred men of marine infantry arrived here on Monday, the 15th inst., and already the bulk of them has been hurried out to the field to fill up the gaps which fever and bullets are making. The new comers are fine looking, robust soldiers, but will, no doubt, be all the more susceptible to yellow fever, which is very prevalent here at present.

Something of moment is going on about Mayari or Baracoa, but it is not known what. The steamer from Guantanamo due on Thursday morning, having been held by the Governor of that place to carry important despatches received from Colonel Camara with respect to some anticipated expedition, did not arrive until Wednesday evening and speculation is very rife.

At Aserradero all is quiet, though fifty additional soldiers have been sent there. The estate Pilon de Cauto was burned yesterday, doubtless by the soldiers, as there are no insurgents in that vicinity.

Executions are numerous in the country at present and on the flimsiest pretexts. It is generally believed here that General de Rodas has sent secret orders to the commanders to disregard entirely his orders concerning justice and morality published in the *Gazette*. Certainly the most flagrant violations of the latter are constantly occurring and no notice is taken of them.

The French steamship *Darien* arrived here on the 17th inst from Jamaica, but thus far none of her correspondence has been delivered, although it is known that a mail bag was landed, and, as is stated, was taken immediately to the palace. The mercantile community are, of course, furious that their correspondence, remittances, advices, &c., are thus tampered with, though no complaints are made, fearing the "hero of Jiguani" may send them to the country to confront witnesses or on some other pretext, and that irresponsible soldiers will there assassinate them. It would appear that Valmaseda, puffed up with vanity by the continued isolation of the Catalans, has come to regard himself as an irresponsible power, as his complete disregard for even common decency is patent to all. His insult to Great Britain in the wanton detention of Mr. King, for the purpose of extorting money from him as a bond for good behaviour, which, of course, would be forfeited immediately on the information of some spy, is a proceeding worthy of an Italian bandit.

There are no American vessels in port. The sugar is now all shipped and the grinding of the new crop has not yet commenced in this district. Near Guantanamo, however, some estates are already at work.

The Underground Railroad Closed—Unparalleled Sickness Among the Troops—Nothing Heard of Insurgents.

NUEVITAS, Nov. 20, 1893.

Nothing of interest has occurred here of late, and the monotony still continues. The underground railroad has not been in running order for some time, and there are no opportunities, therefore, for obtaining information direct from the bushes where congregate the insurgents. There are no military operations going on about Puerto Principe at present. The hospitals both here and there are filled with sick, an epidemic fever raging among the troops and people. Over 1,400 soldiers were in the hospital at