

PORTO RICO.

**Affairs in the Island—Elections to the Cortes—
Order of General Sanz—The Volunteers—
Disappointment at the Coldness of the United
States.**

ARROYO, May 23, 1869.

Matters in this island are by no means better than they were during the unfortunate Lares revolution. Both Spaniards and natives hate each other heartily. The former, confident in the government's protection, insult the latter and harass them in every possible way. The natives, on their side, suffer in silence their many wrongs, and secretly prepare to avenge them. The hatred is so intense on either side that if a sudden insurrection broke out it would be the most sanguinary and destructive one in history's records.†

The Captain General has at last issued a decree naming the last two days of May and the first two of June for the elections. The natives, disgusted with the difference existing between their electoral rights and those of the Spaniards, and convinced besides of the futility of sending their representatives to Spain, the Constituent Cortes' task being over, have received the General's decree with the greatest coldness. All the natives are determined upon abstaining from voting, unwilling to sanction such injustice with their intervention. The Spaniards are jubilant with this, foreseeing the triumph of their candidates.

General Sanz has sent a circular to every corregidor in the island ordering them on the slightest symptoms of revolt to be merciless, and to shoot and destroy all those who should be found in the streets, without any regard to age, condition or sex. This brutal order has produced the greatest indignation through the whole island. Even the most pacific men manifest their disgust openly.

The volunteers are an object of contempt and hatred to the natives, who say they are a set of cowards and butchers. They are hissed and insulted every day by the rabble, who go so far as to throw stones at them. The volunteers have now been authorized to punish their offenders in the future as they may think proper. This imprudent measure will give rise some day or other to a fatal collision, when much blood will be spilt. With these and other similar blunders peace runs a great risk of being broken. General Sanz seems bent on exasperating the Porto Ricans.

The government observes the closest vigilance over all letters and newspapers coming from abroad, particularly over those proceeding from the United States. As soon as a ship arrives in one of these ports it is minutely searched by an official, and all printed or written papers found on board are immediately taken to the Post Office, where they are examined, and those containing any information on Cuban affairs are put aside and never delivered to their owners.

Sympathy towards the United States has always been very warm among the Porto Ricans, who, in general, desire annexation; but this feeling begins somewhat to subside, owing to the present administration's conduct towards Cuba. The dominant idea is that the United States, having been the apostles of liberty in America, are bound to give not only moral but material aid to the Cubans. Their disappointment has been very great at this unexpected coldness of the American government, while Mexico, Peru and Chile have recognized the belligerent rights of the Cuban insurgents.