

The Cuban Revolution.

Guerrilla Parties of Cubans Secreted in Forests Awaiting the Rainy Season—Expectation and Pestilence to Destroy the Spanish Army—"A Good Time Coming, Boys! Wait a Little Longer!"

[New York Sun, 10th.]

The Eagle, from Havana, on Saturday brought news from trustworthy and well-known citizens of the United States, among them one from the American engineers, Orlando C. Smith, Newark: Alexander Crumie, of Newburg; and Virgil C. Wheaton, of Cape May. These gentlemen until recently employed on sugar estates under the jurisdiction of Puerto Principe, had uncommon opportunities for making observations. The negroes, notwithstanding the proclamation of freedom, voluntarily kept on their work as usual, until ordered by the insurgents to take the field, and then the sugar planting ceased.

Messrs. Smith, Crumie and Wheaton made their way from Puerto Principe by a circuitous route—in order to avoid the military operations on the railway—to Nuevitas, and thence shipped on a schooner to this place. During the time they were at work the estates were not deserted either by government or insurrectionary forces, though some in the vicinity were deserted, the sugar manufactured being fed to the negroes, who eat it with avidity, or scattered it on the ground. One of these estates was owned by the brothers Artcaga. One of them, in the early part of December, called his slaves and informed them that they were free, and at liberty to go wherever they pleased.

He would prefer to have them remain with him until the crop was in, and he would pay them for their labor meanwhile. They received his announcement with much enthusiasm, and unanimously decided to remain. As the negroes, when called upon to join the insurgent ranks, they manifested their enthusiasm, shouting, "*Viva Cuba Libre!*" "*Céspedes!*"

From the statements of the engineers it is evident that the numbers of the concentrated forces of insurgents, with arms for aggressive defensive warfare, have been greatly exaggerated. No such force as five thousand and a thousand men has ever been collected, nor is it probable that such number of effective men can be found in Camaguey. The truth now, as in the early part of the insurrection, is that the rebels go about in small bands, numbering fifty to seventy, very many of them poorly armed and with little or no discipline. Like the Highlanders of Scotland, as described by Burns, the fight being over each one returns to his native glen, if it so suits him, to look after his business or family interest, always ready at any moment to catch up his weapon against the enemy and fiercely determined never again to submit to Spanish domination, they seem not to appreciate the necessity of organization and discipline—all are equal, and orders are obeyed as readily with the individual will. Though thus scattered over the country, the aggregate of the insurgents is very large, and for any operation considerable force can be easily collected.

Herodotus opposed Lesca in his march from Guanajay to Puerto Principe eight hundred men thus collected; but as they were without organization and accustomed to acting together, even untrained, the advantages of position they could not avail themselves of against the disciplined troops.

In the early part of April a grand junta or congress was held at Sibanicu, where were gathered representatives from all parts of the island, from the vicinity of Savannah. Céspedes was elected Commander-in-Chief of all the forces of the island, and a resolution was passed, without dissenting voice, declaring that this country is for annexation to the United States.

At Camaguey, where lies the chief strength of the patriots, the rainy season is at hand. Once the Spanish troops will be unable to move from their encampment, or barracks in the interior, nor can they transport provisions from the coast save by railroad. Thirty thousand men on the line of the road between Principe and Camaguey cannot keep open the communication enough to supply Principe for the rainy season. The revolutionists are concentrating every available man to oppose the repairing of the road and the transportation of provisions, either by preventing the repair or by subsequently cutting the road we shall prevent the supplies from getting in. Once the rains commence and all communication ceases, the troops will soon be starved out from the interior, and the cities of Principe and other cities of importance will fall into the hands of the insurgents. All operations against us must cease, and by the time the season is over the rebels will be well armed with arms, and ready to meet the Spaniards in the open field. Again the sickly season will have in the ranks of the Spaniards, particularly with those recently arrived. Again, the Spanish army will not be able much longer to carry on its operations. She is bankrupt now, and matters are growing worse every day. Even though she could send 50,000 additional men against the revolutionists she can yet hold out for two years, and that her efforts must cease from mere exhaustion.

Due to the scarcity of provisions the women and children are being rapidly sent from Puerto Principe to the plantations in the interior, and when the troops appear they flee to the woods, where the Spaniards dare not follow them. Immense quantities of sugar and other valuables are concealed in these forests, and the soldiers, though constantly taunting the patriots for not coming out, are afraid to do so. Several cases of starvation have occurred in the city.

Twenty thousand hogsheads of sugar are raised in a section of which Nuevitas is the outlet, annually. This year not a hogshead will be raised. The insurgents are amply provided with food. They have immense herds of cattle within their reach, and bananas, sweet potatoes, yams, varieties of fruit and small stock are abundant. Corn and rice were rather scarce.

Many of the families have houses in the dense woods, where they reside in perfect safety, and are not oppressed the intensest bitterness towards the Spaniards, and the determination never again to submit to Spanish rule.

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