

# CUBAN AFFAIRS.

## ARRIVAL OF THE MORRO CASTLE.

The steamship *Morro Castle*, which left Havana on Jan. 15, reached this port yesterday. Purser R. W. ALBERT has our thanks for courtesies.

## The Situation—New Plan of Campaign—The Crops—Puerto Principe—A Petition to the Cortes.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Jan. 15, 1870.

About a month ago nearly everybody was of opinion that the troops would clear the Cinco Villas immediately, and drive the insurgents towards Puerto Principe, but such a consummation has not been effected, and although the insurgents in that region are not so bold as they were formerly, they nevertheless remain in the field, and manage to avoid encounters with their valiant and well-disciplined adversaries. Fifteen thousand Spanish soldiers, fighting, or rather willing to fight, the 7,000 insurgents in the Cinco Villas, have not been able to have more than a few insignificant skirmishes since the first of January, and not over twenty-five lives have been lost on both sides. At that rate the war will never end, and the Spaniards will be compelled to make superhuman efforts in order to secure fully the line from Cleya de Arila to Moron, and drive the Cinco Villas insurgents beyond it towards the Camaguey. The Government claims to hold the line, but of what avail is it while an enemy, numbering over 7,000 men, remains in the rear, and while the enemy, in front, crosses with impunity, to effect some sudden *coup de main*, and retires again to their mountain fastnesses?

### NEW PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

The plan of campaign as inaugurated by the Spaniards is a good one, but I doubt after all whether it will be effective. The idea of General RODAS is to construct a road through the centre of the island so as to be enabled to transport troops and provisions with dispatch, and to construct telegraphic towers every few miles with which to signal the nearest detachment, so that succor may be had and combinations be made in the shortest possible time; said towns to be constructed in such a manner as to answer the purposes of a fort, and to be occupied by about thirty men and a piece of artillery. If the idea of, building the road had been taken hold of and had it been attempted to carry it out months ago, the Spaniards would now be in possession of the island, and the revolution probably squelched. Whether at this late day it will prove practicable remains to be seen.

### THE CROP.

The wholesale destruction of plantations in the Cinco Villas appears to have been stopped, and we hear but little of the burning of cane-fields and sugar houses. This is probably due to the continuous marches of the numerous detachments of troops in every direction, and the vigilance exercised by the stationary guards on every plantation. Nearly every plantation in the vicinity of Trinidad is grinding and all from Cienfuegos westward, the crop proving splendid. This will enable the Spanish Government to carry on the war for another year, as the taxes and duties raised in the tranquil portions of the island are almost sufficient to pay the expenses of the strife and maintain the credit of the Spanish Bank, which, in case of necessity, will issue a few millions more of paper money.

### PUERTO PRINCIPE.

Nothing has been heard since General PUELLO left Nuevitas. A letter from your Puerto Principe correspondent, writing under date of the 10th inst. says: "I presume that many persons continue to present themselves to General PUELLO, and that he is fully occupied in providing means of transit and safety for the hundreds of families who are tired of living in the fields and mountains, where the bare necessities of life are hard to obtain. Here we are entirely unmolested, and several detachments sent by General FERRER (a Cuban) into the country have returned with hundreds of cattle, seeing the insurgents only at a distance, and without being fired at—quite a change from last month. "Another correspondent states that many families have returned to Puerto Principe, and appear to repent, having taken part in the revolution. It is certain, beyond all doubt, that the situation has changed in that neighborhood, and in favor of the Spaniards. This may be owing to the fact that the Cubans are massing to defend Cascano and Guaimaro, thus leaving the Principe region bare of troops, or else to that they may have been weakened to such an extent as to make them abandon an offensive for a defensive attitude.

### RODAS ON CONFISCATION.

The journals and volunteers are anxious that General RODAS should confiscate and sell, for the benefit of the public treasury, the estates of all Cubans connected with the revolutionary movement, and at present embargoed. RODAS refuses to accede to their wishes, and disregards the public clamor, and explains his views, for the accuracy of this reproduction of which I can vouch: No confiscation will take place, the mere embargo is sufficient; but these estates will be held for the benefit of the island until the proceeds arising therefrom shall have paid unto the last dollar all the expenses of the war and indemnified the owners of all property destroyed because of the rebellion. It would be unfair that the loyal Spaniard or Cuban should not be indemnified for the burning of his house or plantation because he remained loyal to the Government while the property of his neighbor, who, in addition to being an enemy to the Spanish cause, supplied the insurgents with the means of carrying on the war, and, consequently, remained unmolested by the torch of the revolutionists, is protected and does not aid in restoring, with the produce of his place, the fallen fortunes of those who remained loyal. There is a great deal of reason in these remarks, and if the embargoed estates of these sympathizers and aiders of the rebellion are (always providing the Spaniards are successful) to pay the damages and expenses of the war, the present Cuban generation will not derive much benefit from them.

### PETITION TO THE CORTES.

To-day's Spanish mail steamer takes a very important document to Madrid in the shape of a petition signed by all the Spaniards (over 7,000) belonging to the Carlist, Jesuit and Isabel parties in Havana, and requesting the Cortes not to grant any liberties, privileges or self-governing laws to the Island of Porto Rico. The reasons for such a strange course are stated by the signers to be principally that the introduction of reforms into Porto Rico would weaken the cause of Spain in Cuba; that the Spaniards in Cuba are divided regarding their politics and the manner of enforcing them; that the inauguration of these reforms will produce a revolution in Porto Rico, which, even if suppressed immediately, will not efface the causes which produced it, or the ideas under which it was organized, the spark producing the flame always remaining. Also, that the enjoyment of these liberties and free speech will lessen the vigor and prestige of the pure Spanish element and debilitate the power of the authorities. Nothing ought to be done until Cuba is represented, and Porto Rico ought to be considered a province of Cuba. The intention of the Cortes to grant liberties and reforms to Porto Rico, it adds, has painfully astonished the petitioner. It is a question of decorum, of interest and elevated patriotism, to await the Cuban representatives in the Cortes.

QUASIMODO.

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