

# CUBAN AFFAIRS.

## ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP DE SOTO.

The steamship *De Soto*, which left Havana Jan. 25, reached this port yesterday. By the courtesy of Purser McMANUS, our special correspondence and our exchanges were promptly at hand.

## Parade in Honor of Mr. Seward—Comments of the Press—Direct Taxes Abolished—Increase of the Revenue—War News—Miscellaneous Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 1870.

Sunday was the appointed day for the grand review of the Havana volunteers, to be held in honor of our distinguished countryman, Hon. W. H. SEWARD. At 4 in the afternoon the lines were formed, and over 12,000 men were on the ground, when a copious shower began, and continued at intervals until the end. Mr. SEWARD and family drove up and down the entire line, and were cheered by the volunteers, and received later a marching salute. Conspicuous among the different corps were the German volunteers, composed principally of Germans, with a sprinkling of Americans, Englishmen and Scandinavians.

Whether the parade will be given any further significance than that of a display of a body of citizen soldiery to a man of note, is extremely doubtful; it will, however, materially increase the good feeling of the ignorant classes among the Spaniards towards the American nation and Americans in Cuba, and after a while Americans will no longer be looked on as filibusters or as enemies.

The appearance of the foreign legion is also very significant; it has overturned the barrier hitherto existing between Spaniards and foreigners, and raised by traditional hatred and the exclusion of former Governments. The fact that foreigners have paraded in a Spanish city with arms in their hands, is a proof that old prejudices are fast disappearing, and that modern ideas are making slow but sure headway.

### TRIBUTARY SYSTEM.

The most important event, however, is the decree of the Spanish Government abolishing all direct taxes on real estate or industry, and of raising the required revenue entirely from the import and export duties. This will facilitate matters greatly and allow the small land owners and trades people, on whom the burden of the taxes rested, to breathe more freely and regain their former degree of prosperity. The change which has taken place in the collection of the revenue is prodigious. The old systems of fraud on the revenue, exercised by the merchants and officers, exist no longer, and as a sample of the change, a comparison between December, 1868, and December, 1869, will suffice. In December, 1868, 134 vessels, of 26,594 tons, entered, they producing the sum of \$255,000 as import duties; in the same month of the past year only 112 vessels, with 21,319 tons, entered, and notwithstanding the enormous difference between the number of ships and tonnage, the import duties produced \$765,000, or nearly three times the amount gotten in 1868. Comment is unnecessary, and the charges of the Cubans against the rascality and rapaciousness of former Governments are fully substantiated.

### WAR NEWS.

The *Diario* publishes a doubtful and unconfirmed report that QUESADA and MARMOL had been dismissed from their posts, arraigned before a Court Martial, and replaced by JORDAN as commander-in-chief of the Cuban forces. This information appears to be of the same kind as that of the *Voz de Cuba* with its 1,500 insurgents surrendering to BENEGASI. Telegrams received today announce the capture of the Cuban Generals MARIANO and LEIRA, another version announcing the capture of General PEDRO FIGUEREDO, whilst the official telegram only speaks of that gentleman's family. MARIANO has been the most successful leader among the Cubans in the extreme Eastern Department, and his loss will be severely felt by them. This capture was effected by Major BOET, a Cuban, the commander of Boet's Counter Guerrillas. The prisoners have arrived at Santiago de Cuba. The usual number of skirmishes which are not of sufficient importance to relate in detail are reported.

### MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

The *Stern* and monitors *Dictator* and *Sawgus* are at Matanzas, where they will remain a few days and then proceed to Samana.... The Spanish ships of war *Victoria* and *Lealtad* have delayed their departure until to-morrow in order to collect enough money to invite the Spaniards and prominent Americans in New-York to a grand banquet.

QUASIMODO.