

# CUBAN AFFAIRS.

## ARRIVAL OF THE CITY OF MERIDA.

The steam-ship *City of Merida*, which left Havana on Oct. 20, reached this port yesterday. We print below our Cuba correspondence, promptly delivered at this office by the courtesy of the purser of the steamer.

### Accusations Against De Rodas—Refutation—The Late Stormy Weather—War News—The Importation of Foreign-Built Ships.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Oct. 29, 1870.

The *City of Mexico* steamer brought from New-York, this week, a circular addressed to the Consuls resident in Havana, wherein CABALLERO DE RODAS was accused of uttering counterfeit money. CABALLERO ordered a translation thereof to be published in the official journal, thereby killing the thing most effectually. The circular winds up with the statement that the New-York Press had not published it, fearing thereby to frustrate the ends of justice. What a charge must have come over the Knickerbockers! The notice which accompanied its publication here and the circular itself reads as follows:

[Official.]

SUPERIOR GOVERNMENT, PROVINCE OF CUBA.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

A printed circular having reached this city from New-York, addressed to various persons who delivered them to me, the Captain-General has ordered its publication in the *Gaceta*, in order that the public may appreciate the motives that have led to its writing, and award it the credit it deserves.

NEW-YORK, Oct. 20, 1870.

It has been bratted about in well-informed circles here that a spurious emission of the notes of the Spanish Bank of Havana has lately been made. The statement—and its disproof by the officers of the Spanish Bank should be very easy—is as follows:

It is stated that by some means Mr. PUENTE, Director of the Bank, was induced by Gen. DE RODAS to intrust to him the custody of the steel plates from which the notes of the Spanish Bank are printed; that unknown to the Bank officials, these plates were sent on to this City; that they are still here; that notes to the value of several millions of dollars have been printed from them here; and that lately an amount of \$3,000,000 of these spurious bills was forwarded by the confidential agent of Gen. DE RODAS, in this City, to his address in Havana.

The above notice is sent to you and to all your Consular colleagues in Havana, in order to afford you and them an opportunity of applying, in the interest of your countrymen in Havana, to the officers of the bank, and insisting on their disproving the libel, by the immediate production and public exhibition of the bank-note plates. The matter has not been published by the Press here, because such a course would necessarily frustrate the ends of justice.

### WAR NEWS.

On the 8th inst. 300 men of all arms left Las Tunas for the purpose of interfering with the arrangements of a party of insurgents about equal in number, who were, it was reported, stationed at a point near the north coast of the island, awaiting the arrival of a vessel with arms, &c., which the insurgent leaders were daily expecting. The Spaniards surprised their camp, and after a severe skirmish drove them from their position and dispersed them. The insurgents left nineteen dead in the camp. The troops also lost several killed and wounded. The result of this may have been the capture of the expected vessel. Telegraphic communication has again, for the third time, been established between Bayamo and Santiago de Cuba.

### THE STORMY WEATHER.

The visible effects of the hurricane are beginning to disappear. The foliage of the shade-trees that withstood the force of the winds, and which seemed to have been burnt by the strength of the gale, has all fallen, and in its place the trees are covered with young leaves all of a peculiar light green, seldom seen in tropical foliage. The uprooted trees have been replanted. These, too, show signs of life, and are being covered with leaves from the ground up. In many instances, even from the solid wood, limbs eight inches in diameter and twenty feet from the ground, eight or ten shoots may be seen springing forth, affording a forcible illustration of the vigor of vegetable life in Cuba.

### THE IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN-BUILT VESSELS.

The following is a translation of the decree allowing the importation of foreign-built vessels in Cuba and Puerto Rico:

ARTICLE 1. The importation of vessels either of wood or iron is permitted in the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico on payment of the following duties: On vessels built of wood and of a capacity not exceeding 100 tons of one cubic metro each, \$6 50 per such ton; on wooden vessels from 101 to 300 tons, \$5 per ton; on those of 301 tons and upward, \$3; on iron-built vessels of any burden, \$2 50 per ton.

ART. 2. The tonnage of the vessels, referred to above, shall be understood to be the number of tons, of one cubic metro each, which they measure absolutely, under deck, without any deduction whatever; but the duties aforesaid, for each ton, comprise and include the duties corresponding to all the instruments, machinery, tools and appurtenances referred to in the notes Nos. 21 and 22 of the tariff in force in Spain.

ART. 3. Permission is hereby granted for Spanish vessels to be careened or overhauled in any foreign place.

ART. 4. Permission is also granted to all owners of Spanish vessels to freely dispose of or mortgage them, whether to Spanish subjects or to foreigners, and the article 592 of the Commercial Code is hereby annulled in consequence.

ART. 5. Spanish vessels may be manned by the number of hands that the owner and the Captain may consider sufficient, in conformity with article 24, section 10, of the Ordinances of Matriculation now in force, and with articles 1 and 4 of the Royal Decree of the 27th November, 1867. When in a foreign port the Captain or the owner cannot find a sufficient number of Spanish subjects to form the crew, the latter may be completed with foreigners, with the consent of the Consular or naval authorities.

ART. 6. The materials of all kinds which are imported for the construction, careening or repair of iron or wooden built vessels, of whatever size, and the manufactured articles necessary for their equipment, and the articles that are imported for the construction of marine steam engines and marine steam boilers, of whatever system, or horse-power, will pay the duties marked in the tariff; but the latter shall be returned to the builders or manufacturers on their petition, and on proof being furnished by them of the importation or employment of said materials in the aforesaid building or repair of vessels, engines or boilers.

ART. 7. For the return of these duties, the weight or volume of the materials or articles shall be calculated, in accordance with the tariff, according to the weight or volume of the work done or completed, so that the duties corresponding to the waste material, or those which shall correspond to the fabric, or transformation arising from such application of said materials shall accrue to the Treasury.

FRANCISCO SERRANO.

Given at Madrid, Dec. 3, 1869.