

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE HAVANA STEAMER MORRO CASTLE.

The steam-ship *Morro Castle*, which left Havana on Nov. 26, reached this port yesterday. The promptness of Purser R. W. ALBERT, for which we hereby express our thanks, placed us in the immediate receipt of the interesting correspondence printed below.

The News of the Choice of a King—Press Views of the Matter—Executive Clemency—The Elections to the Cortes—Operation of Bands—Miscellaneous Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Nov. 26, 1870.

"The King is dead! Long live the King!" is almost applicable to the present state of affairs in Cuba, so far as the election of the Duke of AOSTRA to the throne of the BOURBONS is concerned. The Island of Cuba and its Spaniards merely reflect events in the old country; and I can hardly describe the peculiar satisfaction expressed at his election, and reconcile this fact with the complete apathy manifested and the little stir it has caused. That the Spaniards here are glad that a King has been elected, cannot be doubted. They must have a monarch—somebody to order them around, and if he occasionally puts their great spectacle in sight, namely, the execution of a few dozen rebellious soldiers or citizens, he may even become a general favorite. Ask a Spaniard (and I refer to the intelligent classes as well as to the lower orders) what a King ought to do under certain circumstances, and the answer will invariably be, "*Palo macho palo*," which, translated, means plenty of thrashing. Republicanism being but sparsely cultivated among the Spaniards in Cuba at the present day, they are very naturally inclined to favor the new monarch. That Prince AMADEO would have been their choice if they had been allowed to vote, is not certain, by any means; the Prince of HONZOLERN would have received fifty votes to his one; but they would have taken an Arab and been satisfied, because the present régime looked too much like a republic, and by a republic they understand something akin to filibusterism or socialism. They believe that a King will consolidate the nation at home, and consequently raise the reputation of Spain abroad, and, above all, be the main lever of suppressing that exotic of Cuban growth—the insurrection. Only time, however, can tell whether the name of a King and ruler will be potent enough to finish the civil war on the island; until now bayonets have failed to do it.

PRESS VIEWS.

The Havana Press has received the announcement of the election in a manner at once dignified and noncommittal. The *Diario* and *Voz de Cuba* are strong monarchists, but they are stronger Bourbonists, the *Voz* especially. The *Diario*, instead of recounting a history of the old Kings of Spain, (like the *Voz*), gives an article on the different factions who did and did not vote for him; has not a word to say about the probable change in the country, and like a well-bred courtier, remarks simply: "The high honor of seating himself on the throne of St. FERDINAND and CHARLES V. (I.V) has fallen to the lot of Prince AMADEO. We salute respectfully the elect of the nation as King of Spain, and only hope to heaven that he will crown himself with glory, and insure the felicity of the nation." This is the *Diario's* view of a change of ruler, and any other man excepting Prince ALFONSO would have been welcomed by both journals in the same manner. The peculiar satire of the Spanish people has already shown itself, and it is more likely that Prince AMADEO will be laughed than driven out of Spain. The Spaniards do not love Italy or Italians; they say that the latter are the only people who never learn their language, and also accuse them of indulging in certain practices to which, however, a great many Spaniards are also addicted. When the word macaroni was mentioned during the performance on Thursday at the Tacon Theatre, a broad grin appeared on the features of each person in the audience, and one of the people sung out clearly from the upper tier, "Stop that—there is no new King in this establishment," which sally produced shouts of laughter. But it is too early yet to see in what manner the internal affairs of the island will be affected by the election.

EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.

If the election of a King will never be of any benefit to Spain, it will not have been without some advantage. When Gen. RODAS received the information of the election he immediately ordered the list of prisoners sentenced to death to be brought to him, and he pardoned twelve of them, selected from all, leaving but few under that sentence now. Nearly all those pardoned were political offenders, and some person of the General's acquaintance requested him to include the name of the famous Spanish Captain SARTRE among the number, but RODAS indignantly refused to grant the request, saying that a man who had disgraced himself, the army and country in such a shameful and criminal manner, was not fit to live. The General has also ordered that three thousand negroes (*emancipados*) be liberated, and he is already signing their freedom papers as fast as they can be made out. Only about three thousand more of this class exist in the island, and the General has made up his mind to have all of them free before or about Christmas, caring little or nothing for the mutterings of those who owned them hitherto or for the complaints of slave-owners, who see a dangerous element introduced among their slaves. When the last lot has been liberated Spain will have ceased to own an interest in negroes, and only then the Government can proceed with energy to abolish slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico, either gradually or at once.

THE ELECTIONS TO THE CORTES.

The *Gaceta* has at last published the decree regulating elections for Deputies to the Cortes in Cuba, and giving full explanations as to who are voters. A peculiar feature is contained in the law: "All foreigners who have been domiciled in the island for three years, and pay annually \$25 for taxes have a right to vote." I understand that some of our foreign merchants intend to avail themselves of this privilege. The elections will not be held, however, until January, as it will be necessary to go through a great many formalities before the lists of electors are made out, and afterward revised and approved. The island is divided into three election districts. The first comprises the District of Havana and the country lying westward, which in 1862 had a population of 362,131, and which will elect seven Representatives. The Second District consists of Matanzas, Villa Clara, Trinidad, and centre of the island, with 325,745 population and six Representatives. The Third District elects five members, and is composed of Puerto Principe, Santiago de Cuba, and the whole of the eastern portion of 258,679. Thus a total of eighteen members for the Island of Cuba is reached. Quite a large number of Spaniards, and even one or two of the so-called loyal Cubans, are spoken of as candidates, but changes will undoubtedly occur before the election is held. Among the native Cubans mentioned as probable candidates are: Mr. JUAN JOY, of Havana; the brother-in-law of ALDASA, Marquis of Montolo; Mr. JOSE OLANO, the Count CANOGO, Mr. COLOME, Mr. ALFONSO, Mr. MANUEL DE ARMAS and Mr. FORRIN; but the mention of all these names is based on reports only. The Spaniards, however, are now assuming a very different tone when speaking of the Cubans, and they no longer say "Every Cuban is an insurgent," but they remark very frequently now, "If it had not been for the loyal and neutral Cubans, we would have been done for long ago." And they are quite right in thinking so. If the Cubans had been united to a man, Spanish rule in Cuba would now be a matter of history. Hundreds of wealthy and influential Cubans have been, and are still siding with the Spaniards, while the native Cuban troops, such as the Guines militia, Havana militia, firemen, and thousands of volunteers throughout the island, have done as much and

more effective service than the regular troops from Spain.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

As the train of the Matanzas Railroad was passing over the embankment at Coiba Mocha, one of the axles of the baggage-car broke, and the car fell across the track, covering the track of the Guines Railroad, which runs on the same road bed. The Guines train was close behind, and could not be stopped in time to avoid an accident, by which it was thrown off the track, killing five persons, and wounding over twenty severely. Among the passengers was a young man who got so terribly frightened at the danger to which he had been exposed as to lose completely the power of speech. In six days he has not been able to articulate a word, notwithstanding his efforts to that effect. An operation was performed yesterday, and it is hoped that he will recover the use of speech ere long.

BANDITS' DEEDS.

Within a few leagues of Havana is the pleasant village of Santiago de las Vegas. But the town and its surroundings are beset by a band of very daring robbers, who enter the village in broad daylight and rob houses or else waylay those who travel to and fro on the roads. All efforts to capture the outlaws have been futile, and the Havana journals are filled with complaints from their section of the country. About 200 volunteers and mounted police hunted the robbers last week, but on the following day these robbed a billiard-saloon and barroom within gunshot of the Governor's house. Large sums of money have been offered for the discovery of the guilty, but the country people fear the bandits and their revenge more than they do the Government, and they keep silent accordingly.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

The Spanish gun-boat *Victoria de las Tunas*, formerly the blockade-runner *Lillian*, is now ashore at the entrance of the Mariel Harbor, and will probably prove a total loss. Assistance has gone to her from here....The Prussian gun-boat *Meteor* went to sea on Tuesday morning, but returned shortly after on account of the heavy sea running....The United States frigate *Congress* is now in the Harbor of Havana, officers and crew well....The insurgents have burnt several plantations and threaten to burn many more....Cane-grinding has begun near Trinidad and Remedios....Consul-General BIDDLE has returned from the north....The Bazaar for the benefit of the Orphan Asylum is now in operation, but it does not produce any favorable result, as compared with former years....The weather is pleasant and the city healthy.

QUASIMODO.