

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

The Arrival of Valmaseda and the Departure of Rodas—Cuban Finance—Local Crime—Tragedy.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Dec. 10, 1870.

The ultra Spaniards are overjoyed because their pet idol, the Count of VALMASEDA has come to Havana and will be Captain-General of Cuba, at least for some time. On Tuesday, the Spanish frigate *Ysabel la Católica* brought the famous General to the city, and the vessel had not anchored when the following poster was seen at almost every street-corner:

"The revolution is finished. The worthy Count VALMASEDA, appointed by the Government of the nation Captain-General of the Island of Cuba, will arrive today in the steamer *Ysabel la Católica*. It is hoped that all good Spaniards will adorn their houses to receive, as he ought to be received, the true pacifier of the Island of Cuba."

This document created much excitement, Police officers began to tear the paper down, but they were quickly informed by partisans of the Count to leave them, and they were left. Every sensible man was indignant that insult should have been offered to Gen. RODAS and every other Spanish officer by calling VALMASEDA the true pacifier of Cuba. Nothing unpleasant, however, has taken place, and RODAS will leave here on the 15th, accompanied by his family, and by several high officials, most prominent among them being the Secretary, Don CESAREO FERNANDEZ, and the Intendente of the Treasury, Don EMILIO SANTOS. On Thursday all the streets where Spaniards resided were gaily decorated with the Spanish colors, and at night the houses were illuminated. As the day accidentally was also the anniversary of Spain's patron saint, all business was suspended. The bands of the different volunteer corps serenaded VALMASEDA in the evening, the street in front of his residence being crowded. Since then a multitude of old and new acquaintances have called on him, but he is too wily a person to allow any expressions as to his future policy to escape him.

CUBAN FINANCE.

The Financial Department will be thrown into a state of confusion by the departure of Intendente SANTOS, and as another man must be appointed in his place, we may also expect a new tariff. Every successive Intendente thinks he knows more than his predecessor, and generally inaugurates his reign by changing the existing Revenue laws and import or export duties. Every Havana merchant must be somewhat of a lawyer, else he could never keep the run of the different changes. The Government intends to issue interest-bearing bonds for the amount due to the Spanish Bank, and will withdraw the bank notes placed in circulation. The public in general disapproves of the measure for divers reasons, but the Government at Madrid wills, and the thing will be done.

LOCAL CRIME.

For years past the City of Havana has been infested by gangs of negroes, who formed themselves into secret societies, with grips, signs and pass words, for the purpose of self protection, mutual aid against the whites, and especially the Police, and also for the purposes of robbery and murder. Until within very lately it was customary here to hire an assassin for a given amount, for the purpose of getting rid of an enemy. Of late years this bravo system has fallen somewhat in misuse, but the bands of negroes still exist, and they stop persons either by day or by night and rob them of the valuables about them. Their mode of procedure is nearly always the same; a negro or mulatto jumps suddenly on the unwary passer-by, places a dagger to his breast, orders the surprised party to keep silent under penalty of instant death, while a confederate or confederates rifle the pockets of the victim. About ten days ago, an Irish woman, of loose morals, was robbed in her house by two negroes, who gagged and abused her, and decamped afterward with whatever valuables could be found. The negroes were arrested, and will be garroted. But a most horrible deed was committed, on Thursday afternoon, on the person of Mr. GUSTAV OBERBAUER.

TRAGEDY.

Mr. OBERBAUER left his house on Trocadero-street at about 5½ in the afternoon and was leisurely sauntering down the street and just turning into the Prado, when he was suddenly set upon by five men, four negroes and a mulatto, one of whom placed a knife to his breast, while the others began to rob him. If Mr. OBERBAUER had not been a foreigner he might have allowed himself to have been robbed quietly, knowing that in this city he would at the moment not receive any assistance either from citizens or Police, but instead he struck at the man who held the knife and knocked him down. At the same moment, however, another of the gang plunged a long Scilla knife into his abdomen. The thieves then relieved him of his watch and chain, and after a short squabble over the booty, fled. Mr. OBERBAUER gave the alarm, as did also a negro who had witnessed the whole transaction from the roof of an adjoining house. Mr. OBERBAUER was taken to his residence close by, medical assistance was had, but the wound proved too severe for the physician's skill, and the victim breathed his last, amid indescribable sufferings, on Friday at noon. Mr. OBERBAUER enjoyed perhaps the best reputation of any young man here, and was universally beloved for his kindness of heart, talent and urbanity. Before dying he made his will, leaving all his property to the German Aid Society, for the poor society of Havana. Mr. OBERBAUER was a native of the town of Schwetzingen, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, and but thirty-three years of age. He was connected with the houses of THIERMANN & KUCHERER, New-York, and AX & GAIL, of Baltimore, for whom he was making purchases of leaf tobacco. As soon as the foul deed became known, Mr. CHARLES BECK, in the name of the house of NIESE FUENTES & Co., offered a reward of \$500 for the discovery of the perpetrators of the deed, through the German Consul, and this morning the other German houses increased this amount, by voluntary subscription, to over \$3,000. The perpetrators of the deed have not been discovered yet, but the Police arrested over fifty suspicious characters last night, all of them armed with knives. It is possible that the execution of the two other negroes who robbed the woman may deal a temporary terror to these hordes of bandits, and VALMASEDA, as a stroke of policy, may send a ship load to Fernando Po. Gen. Rodas intended to send all these vagrant negroes to the Spanish possessions in Africa, near Ceuta, but the home Government, as usual, when anything really useful is proposed, would not listen to him. Such acts as that I have just narrated are the fruits of undue tolerance, a miserable Police, and general corruption. QUASIMODO.