

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP RAPIDAN.

The steamer *Rapidan*, which left Havana on Dec. 15 reached this port yesterday. By the courtesy of Purser OSCAR CROCHERON, our foreign correspondence, published below, was promptly delivered at this office.

Valmaseda in Power—Rodas' Farewell—The Address to the Volunteers—The New Captain's Programme—War Notes.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Thursday, Dec. 15, 1870.

VALMASEDA took hold of the reins of government yesterday afternoon, and, as but a few hours have passed since then, it is too early yet to form any opinion as to the results which his policy will produce. VALMASEDA may possibly disappoint his enemies, but enough has leaked out already to make it a certainty that he will cause many known sympathizers of the revolution to be arrested or placed under close surveillance. The friends of the Rodas administration will find little favor in his eyes, and, as the Spanish Government will positively send some new Captain-General out here, VALMASEDA will undoubtedly do all he can for his political friends and adherents during the short term he is to remain in power.

RODAS' FAREWELL.

The farewell documents of Gen. RODAS are full of spirit, and his speech to the officers of the volunteers, who gave him a big banquet at Marianao on Sunday last, was such as to change the feelings of animosity and hatred which many bore him. No matter what the faults of RODAS may have been, it is certain that the island will not see another Captain-General like him at an early day. From 1824 to 1867 the Spanish men-of-war and Police captured over 26,000 negroes from slavers; a number of them died, others, however, (and the majority,) were changed by some peculiar hocus pocus, from the status of *emancipados* to that of slaves. The twelve thousand which still remained were all liberated by RODAS, and if nobody else cherishes his memory, the twelve thousand blacks will. Among the documents unearthed, and which RODAS takes to Madrid, are some which would make one's blood run cold, and, if published, would draw the odium of every human being on the heads of those alluded to in it. The farewells I referred to above are published by the *Gaieta*. That addressed to the volunteers runs thus:

VOLUNTEERS: When my duty brought me to the Antilles, amid difficult and painful circumstances, I had a high opinion of you. During my stay I have been enabled to observe you closely in your severe duties which you perform as well as the most enthusiastic and disciplined veterans who have had the fortune to meet the enemy; you are all hard-working and honest, and the firmest aid of the Government and order. Returning to the Peninsula, I pay a just tribute to the willingness and decision with which you have aided in the compliance with my orders as Captain-General and civil chief, and to the sincere affection displayed toward me personally on many occasions. I thank you for all, assuring you that you will always be remembered and appreciated by your General and companion,
CABALLERO.

VALMASEDA'S PROGRAMME.

VALMASEDA also announced his programme today. His addresses to the people, the volunteers and the soldiers are similar to those issued on the previous day by RODAS, and I may mention simply that his motto is, "Pardon and forgetfulness to those who abandon the Cuban ranks, and war to those who continue in them."

WAR NOTES.

Military movements appear to be on the increase, and the Spaniards have been lucky enough to capture a few persons of importance among the Cubans. The most prominent among them is Col. ANRECOCHEA, Chief of Staff of MODESTO DIAZ. ANRECOCHEA had left the Eastern Department for the purpose of revolutionizing the jurisdiction of Holguin, but was betrayed, captured and executed....The Cuban Provost-Marshal, THOMAS AGRAMONTE, was killed in the Maguey Mountains, together with six others. A negro led the soldiers to the huts where the men lay concealed, four of them being sick,
QUASIMODO.

Rumored Capture of the Cuban Vice-President—Commercial Matters.

HAVANA, Dec. 19.—A rumor, which is not confirmed, has spread, that a Spanish gunboat had captured the Cuban Vice-President AGUILERA; the news is discredited. Exchange on England and the United States is declining rapidly. Speculators pay high prices for sugar. The old houses are inactive with a few exceptions. The Albisu Theatre was inaugurated Saturday evening with the Italian Opera.