

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP CITY OF MEXICO.

The steam-ship *City of Mexico*, from Sisal and Vera Cruz, via Havana, reached this port yesterday. By the courtesy of Purser ALLEN, our Havana correspondence, printed below, was promptly delivered at this office.

The Change of Administration—The Hornet Expedition—War Notes—Miscellaneous Gossip—The Opera.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Thursday, Dec. 22, 1870.

A different air seems to pervade all official regions since the advent of RODAS, and but few of the faces of the old hangers-on about the palace are now met with near its confines. The ante-rooms are crowded with visitors and military men, all of them, or at least nearly all, anxious to find out for themselves whether the change of chief may also lead to a change among the subordinates, and allow them to fatten a little in the cribs whence they have been driven since the downfall of Madam ISABEL of Bourbon. Up to the present, however, but few, and those very unimportant, changes have taken place, though as much cannot be said about military movements. VALMASEDA has gone to work in real earnest, and if he is not a brilliant genius, he has at least sufficient talent to send hundreds of regulars to the interior who were idly garrisoning some towns in the Vuelta Abajo, or were stationed in and about Havana. Three companies of engineers and the second battalion of the Regiment España have already gone forward, and those who arrive from Spain are equipped and armed with the greatest possible dispatch, and shipped for the Central and Eastern Departments. A detachment will be landed at Savannah la Mar and another at the mouth of the Cauto River. These detachments will move in easterly and westerly directions toward Guaimarillo and Las Tunas, while the troops at Embarcadero and Pass del Cauto will move southerly, so as to have those at Las Tunas guard the cross-line. VALMASEDA expects to free the entire jurisdiction of Las Tunas in this manner. The celebrated guerrilla leader, MONTANER, was in town on Tuesday, and left again on the following day. It is understood that VALMASEDA has curtailed the powers which RODAS conferred, and has ordered MONTANER to act in strict consonance with the movements of the other parties, taking the contra-guerrillas from Santa Cruz to Gualcanamar, and thence striking a line to Las Tunas, crossing between Guaimarillo and Berrocal. Col. MARIN, commanding the artillery battalion now operating in the Central Department, has also arrived, and after consulting with the Captain-General, will return to his post. All officers of any importance have received instructions through trusty emissaries of VALMASEDA, and after the next two or three weeks we may expect to hear of some concerted movements. The Spaniards must necessarily obtain some success, as the increased activity of the troops, and the reinforcements daily going forward to swell the Spanish ranks, must necessarily produce some result. The twenty-five hundred men which arrived from Spain within the present week will serve admirably to guard forts and detachments, while the present acclimatized garrisons will take the field. But all these grand movements and preparations, no matter how well they may be planned or carried out, will be but transitory unless the navy can prevent the landing of the expeditions known to be on the way. The mere numerical strength of the so-called filibusters amounts to very little, but the moral effect produced cannot be over-estimated. The landing of but fifty men produces a deep impression among all classes; the Cubans in the field acquire more confidence, and the lukewarm remain in the ranks, instead of deserting and surrendering to the Spaniards, as they have been doing of late. The non-fighting portion of the Cubans and sympathizers are galvanized into new life, and run great risks in sending ammunition and clothing to their countrymen in the field, provided they can see that the chances of ultimate triumph are not diminishing. If by some streak of luck the Spaniards could get the only two Generals of the Cubans out of the way, the revolution would receive a severe blow. I refer, of course, to Gens. DIAZ and MARCNO, the Dominicans. Of the original leaders of the revolution we hear very little; BEMBETTA is sick; IGNACIO AGRAMONTE is rarely mentioned, and CAVADA has not fulfilled any of his promises. New men, whose deeds have not been heralded with so many flourishes, have taken their places, and are doing more work with a less number of men, lessened resources and a stronger enemy. The chaff has been discovered and separated from the wheat.

THE "HORNET" EXPEDITION.

Everybody is, of course, on the alert to learn of the whereabouts and doings of the *Hornet*. It will be a very easy matter for her or any other vessel to land when and wherever she wishes to. It took three days to get a man-of-war ready to go to Nassau, and three days more for another to coal, and go in her persecution along the Keys. The Spanish Navy is composed of fine ships, with excellent crews, but as a whole is undoubtedly entitled to being called a splendidly mismanaged institution. The *Hornet* arrived at Nassau on the 16th, with about seventy men aboard, and, after entering the harbor, made a request to be allowed to coal, which request was refused by the English authorities. The Spanish Consul then called on the Governor and demanded the seizure of the ship as a pirate, and the Governor was agreeing, when the matter "leaked out," and the *Hornet* weighed her anchor and steamed out to sea. A British gun-boat was sent after her, but did not even get a sight of her, the *Hornet* making over eleven knots easily. It is understood here that the *Hornet* will go to Venezuela and take the arms and ammunition of the *Billy Butts* on board and then bring them to Cuba.

WAR NOTES.

When Gen. AMECOCHA was captured near Holguin, another Cuban officer, Don FACUNDO CABLES was also captured and thirteen killed. . . . The captured Cuban officer, JOSE CAYETANO SANTOS, was tried by a Court-martial at Cienfuegos, as an incendiary, and found guilty and executed. . . . From information received, the troops went to a place near Guanansi, where they found a rifled Parrot gun, which the Cubans had been unable to carry away. The cannon was easily captured, as there was nobody to defend it. . . . It is reported that the Cuban General POLICARPO RUSTAN died from the effects of the wound he received in the attack on Mayari.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

The Government is establishing seven new telegraph lines with all possible dispatch. Some of them had been destroyed by the insurgents. . . . One of the supposed assassins of Mr. GUSTAV OBERLANER, the German who was killed by robbers, has been arrested. . . . The rumor that Vice-President AGUILERA had been captured by a gun-boat turned out a mere invention. . . . A number of Mexican and Central American Bishops are returning from Rome to their dioceses, and passed through Havana.

THE OPERA.

The opera has proved to be a partial failure, and the old saying of "shoemaker stick to your last" is again applicable. A man may sell poor whisky and yet retain his customers, but those who partake of intellectual food are not so easily satisfied as those who merely satisfy a depraved appetite. The management of the opera in other hands would have been successful. It is intended to bring some singers from New-York, but, if present appearances and the general impression can be relied on, the opera will have been played off or out before reinforcements can arrive.

QUASIMODO.