

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE HAVANA STEAMSHIP RAPIDAN.

The steamship *Rapidan*, which left Havana Feb. 15, reached this port yesterday. Purser OSCAR CROCHERON has our thanks for the prompt delivery of our Cuban files and correspondence.

The Situation—Affairs at Puerto Principe, Cinco Villas and Holguin—Blockade Running—The Murder of Greenwaldth—Movements of Santa Anna.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1870.

It is almost an impossibility to announce any change in the military condition, or of the suppression of the rebellion. Every steamer from the Eastern and Central Departments announces, however, a number of skirmishes and encounters. The character of the war has changed, and the concentration of troops and movements in large masses towards the strongholds of the rebellion has turned out to be a grand failure. The only mode of warfare which promises success to the Spaniards is that adopted by their enemies, namely, the division of all their regiments and battalions into small detachments of fifty to two hundred men, such detachments being enabled to enter the woods with less noise and greater ease, and at the same time to cover more exposed territory. The war in Cuba does not bear the slightest resemblance to a war in any other country; it can only be likened to a grand hunt or battue. The enemy must first be discovered, and after that the utmost care must be employed to get him to face the music—a very difficult thing to do as a general rule. Every time the Cubans can manage to get out of the way of the troops without an interchange of leaden courtesies, it is a comparative victory for them, as every forced march leaves the troops weaker and with many of their number sacrificed.

Five hundred colored firemen from this city will depart on Friday for the Cinco Villas. The men are not overpleased at the prospect of leaving their homes and families, and the very pertinent question is asked, why the very ultra patriotic Spanish volunteers, who appear so anxious to measure their strength with the Cubans, are not sent there instead of the blacks, who are nowise desirous of being heroes.

PUERTO PRINCIPE.

From Puerto Principe we learn that PUELLO is there yet and in a sickly condition, and that his late army has somewhat recovered from the effects of the big battle, which they did not win quite as much as the Havana journals would like us to believe. GOYENECKE, whose departure on the 5th from that city was heralded with such a grand flourish of trumpets, and who was expected to come back crowned with laurels, returned to Principe on the 8th after an absence of only three days, having taken part only in one or two insignificant skirmishes with small rebel bodies. The Cubans continue to burn and destroy every house and hut, and all forage, and to destroy every animal in the immediate vicinity of Puerto Principe. Their object, in addition to the natural and inherent tendency of the Spanish race to destroy, appears to be to deprive the Spaniards of the means of subsisting on their horses and cattle. Every load of fodder will in future have to be brought from a longer distance, and to be fought for at the point of the bayonet. This will necessarily compel a large number of troops to remain in the vicinity, who otherwise might be useful against the enemy.

HOLGUIN.

In Holguin the different bands of insurgents appear to have things almost their own way. When the troops march against them, they make themselves scarce, and the moment the troops return to their encampments, the insurgents burn, rob, or fight, as suits them best.

CINCO VILLAS.

The Cinco Villas are apparently tranquil. On the morning of the 3d a party of insurgents was surprised at the Aragu, in the Roquete Mountains; six insurgents were killed, but their leader, a negro named DOROTEO, escaped with the remainder, the party losing all their arms. The Baire Volunteers, all natives of Cuba, have distinguished themselves lately by capturing an insurgent encampment near Baire, where they found several cases containing arms and clothing, the loss of which will be severely felt by the insurgents. The Havana journals publish a number of documents captured among the luggage of the Marquis of SANTA LUCIA, the President of the Cuban House of Representatives, wherever that body may be located. The letters give a very disheartening account of the condition of the revolutionists, but are not of sufficient importance to Americans to merit a translation.

BLOCKADE RUNNING.

On the morning of Feb. 8 a schooner was discovered on the rocks, about three miles from Gibarra. It proved to be the schooner *Herald*, of Nassau, laden with arms for the insurgents. The sea ran so high that the men-of-war boats could not go near the vessel, and the Gibarra volunteers went to the wreck by land. Many cases of ammunition and arms were discovered, and have since been brought to Gibarra. The crew of the vessel and the passengers, if she brought any, which is very probable, made their way to the interior. In connection with the story of this vessel, it is stated that General QUESADA, the former leader of the Cubans, attempted to escape from the island with \$40,000, and several followers, in a boat, and that the boat was discovered by a Spanish cruiser and pursued. QUESADA consequently had to turn back, and finally to jump into the water and swim or wade ashore. This story is fishy, and is undoubtedly an invention, especially as the origin, the Havana *Diario*, is very poor authority, where the telling of the truth is concerned.

THE GREENWALDTH MURDER.

Several accomplices of the murderer of GREENWALDTH, and also some other criminals, have been arrested and are lodged in the Cabana fort. RODAS is determined to do justice, but has a very hard time trying to. No witnesses can be found to testify against the assassin ZAMORA, threats and means of persuasion having been employed to prevent the witnesses from appearing. Prominent among these opponents of justice was an old associate of ZAMORA, who was discovered at his tricks and arrested last night. But if common rogues go to work thus, what excuse is there for a man like RAMON HERRERA, the owner of several steamers, and Colonel of the Fifth Volunteer Battalion, who went to the house where the wounded Americans lie, and offered them money if they testified that they could not identify the assassin? Colonel HERRERA desires to screen a member of his battalion from a certain death, and although that member is a cowardly assassin, this may be alleged as a partial excuse. RODAS heard of the attempt, sent for Colonel HERRERA, and upbraided him severely. The wounded men are progressing finely, and if RODAS and his efforts are crowned with the success they merit, and his aims are carried out, not one but half a dozen assassins will be shot within a few days.

MOVEMENTS OF SANTA ANNA.

On Sunday morning, General SANTA ANNA, the old agitator, of whom nothing had been heard for some time, arrived from Puerto Plata in the Spanish mail steamer. For such a keen man as he is reported to be, he committed several very stupid blunders, the principal one being his coming back to Cuba, whence he had been banished by LERSUNDI, the decree still remaining in force, and the Spanish Government very anxious to maintain amiable relations with the Mexican Government. Then he came without a passport, and finally he disembarked clandestinely without having obtained permission from the Government. The Captain-General, hearing of his arrival, sent the Civil Governor to him with the order for him to re-embark and leave the island immediately, as RODAS would not permit any violation of international law or the organization of any filibustering expedition against Mexico or any other country. SANTA ANNA bored the Governor a great deal with stories of what he had been, and he said that his intention was to proceed straightway to Mexico on the English steamer of the 22d, when he would make a rapid and triumphant entry into the capital, the Mexican people *en masse* awaiting for his arrival. On

Monday morning (14th) he called on the Captain-General in person, repeating his story, alleging also ill health as a reason for not taking the first steamer to the United States, and begging for permission to remain, but RODAS was inflexible, and peremptorily refused it. SANTA ANNA now requests to be allowed to go to Nassau, but it is doubtful whether RODAS will allow him to remain here long enough to take the steamer which leaves for that island on the 26th inst. The personal appearance of SANTA ANNA has not changed since I saw him eighteen months ago, but his spirits are more broken, and his manner inspires a certain feeling of compassion to the beholder. It is certain, however, that he will not go to Vera Cruz from Havana.

QUASIMODO.