

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE CORTES AND VICTOR.

The steam-ships *Cortes* and *Victor*, from Havana March 17, reached this port last night. By the courtesy of the pursers of both vessels our special correspondence, printed below, came promptly to hand.

General Review of the Military Situation in the Island—Causes, Effects and Future Chances of Military Movements—Spanish and Cuban Ships—Trouble of an American Consul.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, March 16, 1870.

We are at present in a state of comparative uncertainty regarding the probable course of events, or the turn affairs may take. Sympathizers with the Cuban cause are quiet, and appear to be satisfied with the news they receive from home and abroad. The Spaniards continue to believe that the revolution is over, and that only isolated and powerless bands of insurgents remain in the field.

GEN. JOURDAN.

Gen. JOURDAN's head-quarters were at Maganbomba last week, and he is now in the Caunao region. JOURDAN is undoubtedly a very able man, but if rumor is to be believed he is thoroughly disgusted with the so-called civil administration, or House of Representatives. CESPEDES gives no sign of life, and certainly has not shown any talent as a military leader. It is the old story of JEFF. DAVIS and some of his Generals over again. JOURDAN appears to be hampered in his movements by the orders of the President or other executive bodies, that is to say, if the intercepted correspondence of different Cuban leaders give a correct view of the matter. That some of this intercepted correspondence has been of great use to the Spaniards is abundantly proven by the failure of JOURDAN's well-contrived and carefully-worked-out plan to prevent the Spanish troops from leaving the Cinco Villas or advancing from Puerto Principe to the very center of the Cuban strongholds.

PROSPECTS.

Both parties will be compelled to undergo much privation and many sufferings before either will be enabled to say that the day is theirs. The idea of many Spaniards that the revolution will be over before May is simply preposterous. There is no proof to warrant such a foolish idea. The war will remain in a state of abeyance from May until November. Spain will be compelled to send about 10,000 or more soldiers to replenish the losses caused by sickness, bullet or because the time of the soldiers has expired. The Cubans must make strenuous efforts to bring arms and ammunition, and if possible some good leaders into the country, and then the rest of the world will simply be in the same state of uncertainty as hitherto, and, Macawber-like, will wait for something to turn up. The insurgents appear to find little difficulty in maintaining themselves nearly all over the Island, which the Spaniards cannot do. There is an immense difference between a regular army and bodies of men who have scanned every inch of the country, are thoroughly acclimatized and know where to look for something to eat. In some parts of the Camaguez the Cubans have been raising different kinds of fruits and vegetables, and beef being a plentiful article, there is little fear of their starving. The whole war is reduced to nothing but a grand hunt, where superior powers of endurance and cunning will decide.

TROUBLES OF AN AMERICAN CONSUL.

A matter of the utmost importance to Congress and to the people of the United States, and one which will bring up a lengthy controversy in the Senate and House of Representatives, has just taken place. On the 22d of February of the present year, a letter from the then Consul at Santiago de Cuba, Mr. A. E. PHILLIPS, and dated Santiago de Cuba, Jan. 3, 1870, was read before Congress, having been sent to that body by Secretary FISH. This letter was published in the TIMES of the following day. The tenor of the communication was to demonstrate the great insecurity of life in the Eastern Department, the cruelties committed by Spaniards, and especially the loyal Catalonian volunteers, against inoffensive and peaceable citizens, and the utter disregard of law. The New-York correspondents of the Havana journals seized on this item with avidity, and the Havana Press commented on the information of Consul PHILLIPS in a very severe and forcible manner, qualifying him as an insurgent and liar. Whether everything occurred exactly as Consul PHILLIPS has narrated in his communication remains to be investigated, but the probability is that he has not exaggerated in the least, the same statements and charges having been made by the English and French Consuls of the same city. The steamer had hardly carried the papers containing Mr. PHILLIPS' letter to Santiago de Cuba when a fearful commotion was produced among the Spaniards in general, and the Catalonian volunteers in particular. Threats of lynching Mr. PHILLIPS were made, and for a moment it seemed as if the Catalan volunteers, accompanied by a mob, would carry their threat into execution. In the meantime Mr. PHILLIPS had hoisted the American flag and placed a number of sailors from American merchant vessels to act as sentries. The present American Consul, Mr. PARSONS, who arrived at Santiago a few weeks ago, called immediately on the Governor to demand the necessary protection for Vice-Consul PHILLIPS, who expressed a desire to have his passport furnished him so as to leave the following day by the French steamer *Darien* for Jamaica. It was generally asserted that groups of armed volunteers were posted at different places along the street to shoot Mr. PHILLIPS on his way to the steamer, but if such bands really had been formed, they were dissuaded from taking any action, by the President and members of the *Circulo Español*, the leading political Club. The President and Secretary of this Club, with a copy of the letter read before Congress in their possession, called on Mr. PHILLIPS in order to demand of him the reasons for writing such a letter, which they declared to be calumnious in its character and untrue in its statements, they expressing their wonder that Dr. PHILLIPS, whom they had known for several years, should have written such a document. Thereupon Consul PHILLIPS denied under his signature having written or signed any such letter as the one produced and read before Congress, the following communication appearing in the Santiago journals:

CUBA, March 8, 1870.

To the Director of the *Circulo Español*:
MY DEAR SIR: I have read with disgust in the *Havana Diario* and *Voz de Cuba* certain indecent phrases and unmerited insults, directed against Catalonian volunteers and the dignified chiefs who command them, and also those against the natives of Catalonia, residing in this city, with many of whom I am acquainted, and whom I esteem as they merit. These phrases referring to the American Consul are attributed to me. This is a very annoying matter to me, it is a calumny, as I did not and could not have written such expressions. And as I am about to leave today for the United States in order to demand an explanation about this, to me, so injurious correspondence, and not having time for further explanation, I hope that you will persuade all the gentlemen belong to the *Circulo* or your friends of my most sincere esteem and appreciation, making such public use of these lines as you may deem convenient. Adieu to my friends.

Your most obedient servant.

A. E. PHILLIPS.

The following day Mr. PHILLIPS left town without being molested. There is a report afloat that Mr. PHILLIPS merely wrote the above letter in order to appease popular fury and embark in safety, and if it really expresses the sentiments of Mr. PHILLIPS, how will he reconcile the communication to his Government with the published letter?

QUASIMODO.