

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP MORRO CASTLE.

The steam-ship *Morro Castle*, from Havana March 19, reached this port yesterday. Purser R. W. ALBERT has our thanks for the prompt delivery of the interesting letter printed below.

The Cession of Cuba—The War—Severe Orders—Death of Arredondo and Cueto—Dying Declarations of an Insurgent Chieftain.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, March 19, 1870.

The receipt of yesterday's Madrid telegram, announcing the discussion in the Press of that city, as to the advisability of ceding the Island of Cuba to the United States, has again awakened the dormant fears of many Spaniards, and caused considerable stir and excitement among them. The Havana Spaniards, with very few exceptions, are all bitterly opposed to any such measure, not so much out of dislike to a change of nationality without their will, as to the hatred they entertain toward the Cubans. In the event of the cession or sale of the island to the United States, Spaniards and Americans would agree excellently and live peaceably together; but the Spaniards here are fully determined to fight on their own hook, even if the mother country should sell or give them away. That they would be unable to maintain themselves more than a few weeks is a foregone conclusion. But as this matter has again been broached, and as many Americans may delude themselves into the belief that the cession of Cuba might be consummated at some early day, it may be well to mention that such an event is neither probable nor possible at present. PRIM's precarious existence at the helm of state would be of but short duration if he dared to openly countenance such a project, and any man in the island who should express himself in favor of the plan would stand but little chance of escaping with his life. In order to allay the excitement caused by the telegram, another, received by the Captain-General from the Colonial Minister in Madrid, was published in the evening papers, reading as follows:

"The discussion in the journals about the cession of the Island of Cuba to the United States is of no importance, and there are no motives to have caused it."

Whether the Minister is correct in his version remains to be seen; but that the Island of Cuba will belong to the United States sooner or later is apparent to everybody in Spain and Cuba, and the annexation will be consummated without expenditure of life or money to the United States, provided they let events take their natural course.

THE WAR

is the same old hunt; no regular fights, no battles, and no peace. Plenty of scrimmages, numerous murders, and hatred unlimited. One party is afraid and the other don't dare. The insurrection is producing such a plentiful supply of bandits that after a while the Spanish and Cuban armies may have work enough to exterminate them to protect themselves. As a specimen of confidence, the law which prevented any salt or provisions (except in small quantities and with the permission of the authorities) from being carried into the interior from the towns has been abolished in the jurisdictions of the *Vuelta Abajo*, Havana, Matanzas and Cardenas. Plantation burning has again been inaugurated, the last destroyed being that of Mrs. EMERSON, near Sagua; the lady is an American residing at Wilmington, in Delaware. Six other plantations were burned in the immediate vicinity of Sancti Spiritus. It has been fully demonstrated to the satisfaction of the military officers that the Cubans receive aid from the citizens in the towns and on the farms. In consequence, the Commander of Sancti Spiritus, Col. O'DALY, has issued the following order, which proves that the most severe measures must be resorted to, to prevent the Cubans from fighting for their country or helping their fighting countrymen. The document issued by the Irish Spaniard O'DALY is a better proof of the power of the insurgents than all the lying denials of the Havana Press, or the equally exaggerated and untrue accounts published by journals in the Cuban interest. If both would stick close to the truth it would aid their respective causes more. But the order of Col. O'DALY is of paramount importance, showing conclusively the condition of the country and the animus of the Spanish chiefs. Here it is:

HEAD-QUARTERS SANCTI SPIRITUS

AND MORON.

To the Commanders of the Military Force and Detachments:

In view of the aid insurrection receives from the people who still reside in the open country, I have resolved that they remove to the places where detachments are placed, constructing their houses within gun-shot distance of the same, without excuses or distinctions of any kind, within the next eight days.

After daybreak they may be permitted to go to their farms, but before nightfall they must return to the settlement.

Those who do not own any farms will be compelled to cultivate the lands in the immediate vicinity of the forts and settlements, within half a league's distance, and in the outskirts of the City of Sancti Spiritus.

The persons coming from the insurrectionary districts will be provided with a cedula stating this fact. All those who may be found at a greater distance from the settlements than half a league without a pass from the commander of the post or settlement where they reside, and which accredits the fact that they are going to work on their farms, said pass being only valid for eight days, will be treated as insurgents.

It is positively prohibited to take anything out of the towns, but everything may be brought from farms. Those taking anything out of the settlements will be treated as insurgents.

The plantations and farms having an armed force will be considered as garrisoned by troops, and to such places the articles needed may be carried by the consent of the military commands. Every individual found in the country after nightfall or previous to the hour fixed for leaving the settlements in the morning will be treated as an insurgent.

The chiefs of the Zone and military detachments will be held responsible by me for strict compliance with this order.

O'DALY,

General-in-Chief, *ad interim*.

SANCTI SPIRITUS, March 8, 1870.

If any further explanation is needed as to the threatened punishment of being treated as an insurgent, it may be summed up in the following short account of a trial on such a charge:

QUESTION—What is your name?

ANSWER—My name is N. N.

COMMANDER—You are an insurgent. Take him out and shoot him.

GEN. ARREDONDO,

the leader of the Guinos insurgents, who was captured and shot on Wednesday, was a man of superior education and undoubted valor. Before the execution of the sentence he made a dying declaration in writing, portions of which are anything but favorable to the Cubans. His adjutant, RAFAEL FERNANDEZ CUSTO, a young man of twenty-two years of age, declared that ARREDONDO never fired on anybody, owing to his humane sentiments; that the fear of being molested and his enthusiasm caused him to join the insurrection at first, and that he came with ARREDONDO's band, having first abandoned his father, because said band was moving toward Havana, merely for the purpose of coming to Havana to see his father.

QUASIMODO.