

## CUBAN AFFAIRS.

**Departure of Rodas—Aspect of Military Affairs—A Heavy Engagement—Future Movements—Wholesale Slaughter—The Cinco Villas.**

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, March 26, 1870.

Another change has taken place in the political aspect of affairs caused by the departure of Gen. RODAS for Puerto Principe on Sunday, the 20th inst. Gen. RODAS was accompanied by his usual staff, Secretary FERNANDEZ, and the well-known editor of the New-York *Cronista*, Mr. FERRER DE COUTO, who acted as the General of ordinance. The company of guides (volunteers) also accompanied the General. But the most remarkable person among all was Gen. NAPOLEON ARRANGO alias NAPOLEON IV., ex-insurgent and primo mover of the revolution in the Camaguey district, who had arrived the same morning from Puerto Principe and returned again with RODAS in the afternoon, in order, to use his own expression, "to see if his assistance and influence would be of any service in bringing peace back to the inhabitants of this island, and in enabling the well-thinking and honest Cubans to regenerate the country and destroy the immense number of bandits, who, under the guise of revolutionists, joined the Cuban forces, but were only plying their avocation of thieves and robbers." Whether RODAS will be successful in carrying out his intentions remains to be seen. It is stated that several of the principal leaders of the rebellion have signified their intention of surrendering to RODAS in person. This is probable, although not certain. It is positive, however, that no fighting man will surrender to VALMASEDA, whose reputation is too firmly established for even the most gullible negro to trust his promises.

### THE WAR.

The last engagement of any consequence in the field, and one which appears to have been of more than usual importance, took place on the 11th inst. at Rio Abajo, on the road between Canto del Embaradero and Las Tunas, the scene of so many conflicts, and the only place where the Spaniards always acknowledge losses in killed and wounded. The Cubans were commanded by MODESTO DIAZ, a Dominican, aided by VIENTE GARCIA and Gen. FIGUENDO, and numbered about 1,200 men. The action lasted over four hours, the Cubans remaining masters of the field, owing to their great superiority in numbers, the Spanish force consisting of the remnants of the Matanzas battalion, with between 450 and 500 men; these were commanded by Col. QUESADA. On the 12th the action recommenced, the Spaniards merely acting on the defensive. On the 13th the Spaniards attempted to advance, but were rudely met by the Cuban forces, and compelled to take up their old camping-ground. On the morning of the 14th the Cubans, having been slightly reinforced, resolved to attack the Spaniards, and, if possible, exterminate them completely. The charge was made solid and compact; shot followed shot, and steel met steel. A hand to hand combat ensued, enduring over half an hour, some of the Spanish soldiers and also some Cubans performing feats of great valor. The voices of QUESADA, the Spanish commander and those of the Cuban leader could be heard plainly cheering their men, the leaders themselves at one time finding themselves face to face. The ammunition of the Spaniards was giving out, when QUESADA ordered his field-piece to be loaded with grapnel to the mouth and to be discharged into the thickest of the fight. He then charged the Cubans on the flank with about fifty men, when these, who supposed them to be the battalion of San Quintin, known to be on the way to relieve the Matanzas battalion retired, slowly and in good order, leaving their dead behind. An hour later the San Quintin battalion arrived with a supply of provisions and with horses to transport the wounded, the combined battalions reaching Canto del Embaradero on the morning of the 15th, being harassed along the entire route unto the very outposts at the Canto by the Cubans. The relative losses of both parties are estimated at ninety-five Spaniards killed and wounded and 193 Cubans killed and wounded. The Cubans took eleven and the Spaniards eight prisoners. This engagement, which may be considered a victory for the Spanish troops, owing to the great difference in numbers, has already been credited to VALMASEDA as another of his victories.

### FUTURE MOVEMENTS.

The forces of VALMASEDA, from the Eastern Department will soon act in connection with the forces in the Camaguey region, commanded by GOYENECHÉ, holding the road from Neuvas to Puerto Principe, and from Neuvas to Guaimaro, leaving a distance of about thirty miles from Guaimaro to Las Tunas to be garrisoned by Spanish troops, it being intended to erect forts if the rainy season will allow it to be done. The Spanish troops in the Camaguey region appear to be at present about equal in numbers to those of the Cubans. The line from Bayamo to Guantanamo is free from rebel forces, but the spirit of revenge remains there, and many a Spaniard will yet pay with his life for the massacres and assassinations committed by VALMASEDA'S orders, or with his consent.

### WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER.

A wholesale slaughter has been effected by the Cubans in the Eastern Department, by executing every officer, non-commissioned officer and private of the Spanish army then in their hands as a prisoner. A trial was had, and it was fully proven that these prisoners had tried to seduce away the Cuban soldiers and, in concert with some of them, to capture the leaders and deliver them up to PUELLO. The plot was discovered, the bearer of a dispatch to PUELLO having been captured on the road with a letter in his possession giving full particulars. The Cubans implicated in this attempt of counter-revolution were executed at the same time with the Spaniards. All this in revenge for the cruelties of BOET'S contra-guerrillas.

QUASIMODO.