

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP DE SOTO.

The steam-ship *De Soto* which left Havana on April 6 reached this port late last night. By the courtesy of Purser H. B. McMANUS our Cuban correspondence printed below was promptly at hand.

A Cruel War—Removal of Puello—Rodas at Puerto Principe—Lersundi's Loyalty—Interesting Correspondence—The Ruling Passion.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, April 6, 1870.

War to the knife—a war without mercy or humanity. By bits and scraps the true state of affairs in the interior is leaking out, and months after the deeds have been committed we learn of the inhumanity and sanguinary brutality exercised in the field. Today it is an execution of a few dozen Spaniards by Cubans; to-morrow it may be a larger number of Cubans shot by the Spaniards. Sympathizers with one or the other side will only relate the butcheries committed by their opponents, and carefully cover up and deny their own. The Havana journals will tell of the cruelties committed by the Cubans, and at times, those by their own people, when they consider them praiseworthy. The recognition of belligerency for the Cubans is demanded in the United States; grant it, provided it will at the same time cause the Governments of all nations to interfere and stop this wholesale butchery business. A VALMASEDA has twenty-five men shot before breakfast, and a QUESADA, over his own signature, declares that he had over six hundred Spaniards executed on the tenth of October, 1869, and both await the applause of an admiring multitude for such heroic deeds! Can this disgraceful war be treated in an impartial manner by any writer in a foreign country, while such horrible acts are consummated by both parties? One faction accuses the other of having inaugurated this mode of warfare, but what difference is it who inaugurated it, while they both continue it. Let all foreign nations interfere and compel both sides to conduct the war on different principles; this shooting of prisoners and the numerous executions are heart-rending. Of course, if Cubans are asked whether their side is guilty of such deeds, they will indignantly repel the charge; the Spaniard will do the same thing, and yet both parties are guilty and call these barbarities by the mild name of retaliation. But aside from these cruelties in the field, what excuse is there to sentence a man to death for the mere shouting of "Viva Cuba Libre," after said man has been almost a year in prison. This punishment might have been merited at the time, and even then only according to Spanish ideas of justice, but after such a length of time, it was simply an act of butchery. I refer to the case of Mr. EDUARDO NATTES, a young Cuban, who resided at one time in New-Orleans and St. Louis, Mo., but who returned here and accepted employment on *Spencer's Bulletin*. Although a Cuban, and favorable to the Cubans, he joined the most ultra Spaniards in starting an opposition journal, entirely devoted to the Spanish interest, injuring not only his former employer, but also the Cuban cause. NATTES was possessed of a very uneven temper, and when excited would be imprudent in his speech. Having one night shouted "Viva Cuba Libre!" and "Viva CESPEDES!" For this offence, committed months ago, he was tried by Court-martial and executed this morning in the Cabña. Mr. NATTES having formerly resided in the United States, it was stated that he was an American citizen, but no proof was produced of this fact, notwithstanding the inquiries made. During the rebellion he was incarcerated for some time in Fort Lafayette, having been arrested in New-York as a Confederate spy, he holding then a commission from the Confederate Quartermaster's Department.

PUERTO PRINCIPE.

Gen. GOYENECHÉ arrived at Puerto Principe on the 2d. The Spaniards had completed their forts at Guaimaro, Sibanicu, Cascoro and other points on the line, which, until a few weeks ago, was the great stronghold of the Cuban forces. A depot of artillery and ammunition was found by the troops, and carried to Sibanicu. Ten columns had left Puerto Principe in different directions, under sealed orders, which are only to be opened by the commanders after finding themselves at certain points a good distance from the city. RODAS has thus shown his great knowledge of the talkative character of the men whom he commands, and thus prevents his plans from becoming known to the enemy. These columns will divide into small detachments and keep on the move continually, securing the country in every direction, reuniting, perhaps, if the force of the enemy should warrant it, and then again beginning their hunt in the bush. A column of only two hundred men marched from Santa Cruz del Sur to Puerto Principe and met but little resistance on the way. Three months ago two thousand men could not have accomplished the same feat. This column reports several minor skirmishes, and declared having killed the insurgent Colonels RECIO, GANCIO and MEDINA, a Mexican, together with some seventeen others. The outskirts and surroundings of Puerto Principe are now being tilled to plant plantains, potatoes and other articles. Gen. RODAS visited the prisons and liberated all confined for minor offences, lessening the terms of imprisonment of the remainder by one-fifth. The number of persons returning from the insurrectionary districts continues undiminished, and the state of misery they present themselves in beggars description. An American gentleman writes that he saw some ladies belonging to a wealthy family, and well known by him, come into town mounted on the most miserable looking horses he had ever seen, the ladies having as an only garment a piece of bed sacking with holes on the sides to let the arms through; they were otherwise entirely devoid of clothing, and rode their horses *en hommes*.

The telegram about LERSUNDI being connected with a plan to erect Cuba into an independent province, and to disregard the present Government of Spain has caused excitement among the Spaniards. The *Voz de Cuba* wrote a very lengthy and bitter article against LERSUNDI, and more especially against GUTIERREZ DE LA VEGA the ex-governor, who was banished from the island two months ago. The *Voz* believes the report, and states that VEGA had come here to organize the plan and prepare the way to have LERSUNDI proclaimed Vice-King. The *Prensa*, which was on the eve of merging with the *Voz de Cuba* and forming one journal, came out bitterly against the *Voz*, saying that they could not possibly effect a fusion with a journal which published such infamous articles as that of the *Voz de Cuba* against such a good patriot as Gen. LERSUNDI. The *Diario* is also very firm in repelling the accusation against LERSUNDI, and states that during the Fall of 1868 LERSUNDI answered the Queen, when she requested him to preserve the Island of Cuba for her at all hazards, that his loyalty obliged him to preserve the island for Spain, and that this would oblige him to "sink all personal or other considerations." I informed you of this at the time, and can vouch for the accuracy of the fact. LERSUNDI refused point blank to lend himself to any machinations which might interfere with his duties toward Spain, and would not further the views of ISABELLA. About the same time a rumor was current that the pretender, DON CARLOS, had sent a commission to LERSUNDI, appointing him Vice-King of the Antilles, and another to MIGUEL ALDAMA, the present President of the Cuban Junta in New-York, making him Governor of the island. It was also reported that ALDAMA had presented himself with his appointment to LERSUNDI, but that the latter advised him to be

careful about showing the document or speaking of it, as appointments made by a Prince without authority were dangerous things to have, and of no use. Whether this is so or not I cannot say, but such was the report. From personal observations made at the time I am positive that LERSUNDI was not connected with any plot. He openly declared his animosity to the revolutionists in Spain and to their Government, recognizing the Queen as existing long after she had left Madrid. LERSUNDI has much to answer for, and with proper care and the early adhesion to the plans of PRIM and SERRANO, would in all probability have avoided the magnitude of the present revolution and saved the island thousands of lives and its prosperity; but that he acted in concert with ISABELLA or CARLOS is untrue.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

About two weeks ago, Gen. DONATO MARMOL, of the Cuban forces, commanding about a thousand men in one of VALMASEDA's pacified districts, made an attack on the plantation of Las Chivas, near Santiago de Cuba, capturing the engineer of the place, an Englishman named DAQUIN. MARMOL, contrary to established rules in this war, did not kill DAQUIN, but liberated him on condition that he carry three letters to Santiago, to which Mr. DAQUIN of course consented; these letters were directed to Mr. F. W. RAMSDEN, the British Consul, to Mrs. RAMSDEN and to Mr. THEODORE BROOKS, an American or an Englishman, but, I believe, born in Cuba. In his letter to Mr. BROOKS, MARMOL states that an agreement had been entered into with that gentleman's administrator on the Chivas plantation, in virtue of which said plantation had been respected up to the present, but the contract had not been complied with on the part of the administrator. He therefore requests Mr. BROOKS to forward immediately to the President of the Revolutionary Committee in Jamaica the sum of \$2,000 in gold, and for which Mr. BROOKS will have the satisfaction of receiving a receipt. Should Mr. BROOKS fail to do this, however, Gen. MARMOL will be obliged to ratify the order destroying said plantation, the orders from his Government being to destroy all plantations and properties of those who do not contribute with material resources toward our holy cause. This is Cuban republicanism, not differing in the least from Mexican or any other Spanish-American republicanism, forced loans, kidnapping, &c., being the base of all. In his letter to Mr. RAMSDEN, Gen. MARMOL says that "although the British Government has not yet recognized the Cubans, he, nevertheless, has considered it just not to try DAQUIN, but to set him at liberty; he would see that all British subjects be respected by the Cubans, and at least hopes that England will interfere to such an extent that ferocious Spain conduct the war on more humane principles, and not continue the present system." The letter to Mrs. RAMSDEN, a Cuban lady, states that the war is conducted by the Spaniards in a very bloodthirsty and cruel manner and that the Spaniards have converted themselves into the parents of the aged, of children and of women; also, that the correspondents which MARMOL had hitherto in St. Jago did not write now out of fear, and requests Mrs. RAMSDEN to receive his communications and see that they be forwarded to foreign countries. That Mr. or Mrs. RAMSDEN will comply with the request of Gen. MARMOL is very doubtful, the Consul having delivered the letters to the Spanish commander at St. Jago, without opening them.

"THE RULING PASSION."

The Commissions of merchants appointed to watch and investigate affairs at the Custom-houses of the island have been of great benefit to the Treasury, but have also caused great injury to the employer. Formerly an Inspector or Collector arrived from Spain about Christmas, and on a salary of two to four thousand dollars per annum managed to live handsomely, and return in about six months with a handsome fortune, some Inspectors having earned as much as three hundred thousand dollars in one year. RODAS and SANTOS, the Intendente, determined to break down this barefaced swindling of the Treasury, and organized Commissions of merchants, the result having been that, with smaller imports, the revenues have increased to the enormous extent of 145 per cent. monthly. Some three weeks ago a prominent Spanish politician and member of the Cortes, Mr. CARETERO, arrived here with the appointment as Collector of Customs of Havana. He imagined that in three months he could make a small fortune, but found that the Intendente and the Commissions were in his way. To stay here and work for an insignificant salary of \$12,000 a year did not suit Mr. CARETERO, and he tried to pick a quarrel with the Commissions. These gentlemen politely referred the matter to Mr. Intendente SANTOS, and that gentleman very coolly informed Mr. CARETERO that as he (SANTOS) had not the slightest objection to be watched and have his acts scrutinized, none of his subordinates should object to the same treatment, especially as he thought they all needed a little watching; during his command and that of Gen. RODAS, he added, the Commissions would not be abolished. Mr. CARETERO threw up his position in disgust and left on Thursday for Spain, to lay his grievances before the Government. Mr. VERGARA was thereupon ordered to take charge of the Custom-house as next in rank, but this personage claimed ill-health as an excuse for not accepting, and Mr. GIRON is now acting as Administrator.

QUASIMODO.