

ARRIVAL OF THE HAVANA STEAM-SHIP COLUMBIA.

The steam-ship *Columbia*, from Havana April 16, reached this port yesterday. By the courtesy of Purser MAGNA our highly interesting Cuban correspondence, printed below, was promptly at hand.

**The Situation—Matters at Puerto Principe—“The Truth, and Nothing but the Truth”—A Gloomy Picture—The Cholera’s First Visit.**

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, April 16, 1870.

Holy week has come and gone, accompanied by the usual religious processions and temporary lull in business circles. The streets were crowded with the entire population of Havana, which on these days comes out to visit the different churches. The change between last and the present year was noteworthy, the people moving about unconcerned and without the least care; while last year the city was so disturbed as to frighten almost everybody into staying at home. The war, however, continues, and it appears as if the Spaniards were beginning to learn the fact that it is far more advantageous for them to let out the truth and state facts as they really are, instead of sugar-coating them. I have now especial reference to a document just published in the *Havana Diario* and signed by Mr. JOSE OLANO, a Cuban, the Captain of the *Guías*, who accompanied the Captain-General to Puerto Principe, and who has returned from that city. The document in question is entirely Spanish, but, nevertheless, bears the imprint of frankness and veracity, although some of the paragraphs appear to have originated either from personal feelings or a misunderstanding. The document is edited in the shape of a review, the most striking paragraph being the following:

“When Gen. RODAS arrived at Puerto Principe on the 23d ult., that City was merely a vast-cenary, enclosing a disorganized camp. Counting the sick, fighting-men, stragglers and officers, servants, the town contained about 3,000 men. The battalions went into the field with a great abundance of horses, even the sub-lieutenants and their servants being mounted, some having even relays.”

Here Capt. OLANO proves what was asserted so many times by your correspondent, that the rose-colored accounts published from the City of Puerto Principe were very much exaggerated, and that the regulation puffs of the Spanish commanders amounted to the paper they were printed on, OLANO stating:

“So grave was the situation, that we found the Spanish residents very down-hearted, I not knowing whether this arose from the sterility of such a prolonged war, or fearful that sound judgment was not always prevalent in the official regions, thus making their efforts fruitless. At 8 in the evening there were no lights in the city excepting the few lamps around the Plaza de Armas, and between 8 and 9, while the military band performed, only a few soldiers were seen lolling in its vicinity. (The local journal of Puerto Principe often mentioned crowds of ladies, not counting the men.) All was desolate and sad. Everybody remained at home and distrustful, and if the present appeared clouded, the future looked dark and forbidding to every heart. The streets solitary, entire wards unoccupied—tears, mourning, misery, and a multitude of poor people, who, instead of money, asked only for bread—this was the picture which Puerto Principe, the once flourishing capital of the Camaguey, presented. Military operations were carried out with great leniency and like effect. The warfare of columns of small size, sufficiently strong to meet those of the enemy, had converted themselves into the movements of grand divisions which went out and returned without obtaining any decisive results, and nearly always with a great many sick. The insurgents emboldened, had their camps all over the department, pillaged at the very gates of the town, skirmishing daily with the small parties who went out to forage, of whom they killed a few. The spies and mail-carriers came into town at all hours of the night to bring and carry away correspondence and to find out the plans of the Government. This news was acquired with great ease, as three days previous to the departure of a column, it appears even the street boys know where it was going to and how, who commanded it, and all other particulars important for the enemy to know.”

So far Capt. OLANO seems to lay the blame on Gen. PUELLO, and it was reported yesterday that a duel would take place between these personages; this I doubt, however, as the Spanish element would hardly permit it. Capt. OLANO in his article tries to smooth matters over a little; but the praise of Gen. PUELLO, and the intended apology, is worse than the attack, as will be seen from the following paragraph:

“Gen. PUELLO, a valiant man and true to the flag of Spain, did not possess the military knowledge such a campaign required. We ought not to be astonished at this, considering the honorable motives which made him a General among us, without the practice or necessary studies.”

The honorable motives which Capt. OLANO mentions are simply that PUELLO was a traitor to his native country, and notwithstanding the fact that he turned over to the Spanish cause, this will not be considered proof that such a course was honorable, except perhaps among Spaniards, who seem to have such a holy horror of traitors. Nevertheless it must be confessed that PUELLO has the reputation of being an honest man; at least he was such a one in St. Domingo, and he may perhaps have changed since he joined the Spaniards.

Therefore OLANO confesses, or rather reads a severe lecture, to the effect that the many items of news and predictions, or the fulsome war bulletins have been mere “bosh,” and that the officers must do something else besides writing proclamations and dispatches glorifying themselves at the expense of the private soldier. Confirmation to leave no doubt of JORDAN’s leaving the island is still wanting; surrendered insurgents report it, but that does not prove it. There is a report current that JORDAN was wounded near Sancti Spiritus, and that he cannot be moved. Another report states that he was near Holguin organizing an army corps of three thousand in order to attack some of the Spanish columns, move on the Nuevitas Railroad and destroy communication with Puerto Principe, while a third report states that he was drowned crossing the bay at La Guanaja during a heavy norther. But all there are merely unconfirmed statements, and I give them for what they are worth. Regarding the duel between O’RYAN and SANGUILI, nothing further has been reported, and your correspondent is inclined to doubt the truth of the report, originating, probably, in the story current about a week ago that SANGUILI and BEAUVILLIERS had quarreled and would fight a duel. There is also a statement published in the *Prensa* that the insurgent Gen. PORRO had left the country; later advices than those of the *Prensa* announce PORRO in the neighborhood of Nuevitas with about seven hundred men. PORRO is one of the most notable and gentlemanly officers in the Cuban army, not possessing any of those sanguinary instincts so common to many leaders on the Spanish or Cuban side; he is, besides, a disinterested and brave soldier. He is not a great military genius, but he is honest and enthusiastic, and a gentleman.

THE CHOLERA

makes its trips from camp to camp with the utmost security and regularity. For several days the troops at Cascorro had been living on vegetables, bread and meat having given out. The yuca yam and sweet potato, and these not plentiful, were the only food of officers and soldiers, when on the 19th the visitor from the Ganges made its appearance. Three officers and nineteen men died that day, and a number more on the succeeding days. The troops were divided into small detachments and scattered along the line, when the cholera began to decrease immediately, and disappeared altogether from that portion of the army on the 1st inst. But other corps have not been equally fortunate. Reports have been current stating that in some localities the cholera took off fully one-half of the people, the insurgents in the mountains having also suffered terribly from it. Generally the cholera appears where provisions are scarce. A letter from Los Perros gives a very lugubrious account of affairs there.

QUASIMODO.