

cipal road to the Sierra. El Horno has a garrison of forty-seven Cuban volunteers, twenty-three Spanish volunteers and nineteen soldiers. The Cubans attacked fiercely, and in less than an hour had captured the place, killing the garrison, with the exception of eleven volunteers, who escaped, and seven who were taken prisoners. The insurgent loss was fifty-one killed and twice that number wounded. If they win a few more battles like this, they will cease to exist. The Cuban losses between the 13th and 17th amount to over three hundred men killed out of a total of about fourteen hundred, not including the wounded. The Spaniards have also about two hundred killed and a large number of wounded. The Spanish battalions of Bailen, San Quintin, España, Matanzas and Valmaseda, inclusive of about three hundred counter guerrillas and about four hundred volunteers, are pursuing the insurgents actively, and minor skirmishes, and perhaps a regular engagement will be the event of the next few days. The Spaniards outnumber their opponents, who are the flower of the insurgent army in the Eastern Department, and are commanded by the most noted leaders, such as MODESTO DIAZ, MARIANO, (who has been killed twenty-seven times by the Spaniards,) FIGUEROA, AGUILERA and GOMEZ.

THE PHILLIPS AFFAIR.

Mr. PHILLIPS, the former United States Vice-Consul at Santiago de Cuba, and of whose case and escape I furnished you full particulars at the time, arrived at Santiago de Cuba from San Domingo on the afternoon of the 8th inst. Admiral POOR will at once inquire into the motives which caused Mr. PHILLIPS' flight, and to demand satisfaction if it is found that the life of Mr. PHILLIPS had really been in danger. Mr. PHILLIPS is on board of the *Severn*, and will therefore be enabled to give Admiral POOR such information as may enable that gentleman to elicit full and complete particulars regarding the whole affair. Admiral POOR is a very prudent and intelligent gentleman, and therefore no fear is entertained that he will act either hastily or unwisely. Should the citizens of Santiago de Cuba have committed the outrage with the alleged threats of murder, it will be necessary to demand full and complete satisfaction. QUASIMODO.

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP BIENVILLE.

The steam-ship *Bienville*, from Havana April 20, reached this port yesterday. Purser A. T. ALEXANDER has our thanks for courtesies.

Further News from Puerto Principe—Unreliable Stories—Battle at Canto Bajo—The Phillips Affair.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, April 20, 1870.

The Secretary of the Captain-General publishes in the *Gaceta*, dated Puerto Principe, 14th inst., a résumé of the operations which have taken place in the Cinco Villas. The news is naturally from Spanish sources, and fails to give the Cuban account, but at present it is almost impossible to acquire even the most insignificant item of information from Cuban sources; nothing but rumors, and those of an exceeding unreliable nature, are circulating. The Secretary says that Col. VERGEL met two hundred insurgents near Las Minas, and that he fired two shells at them, killing two men. This indicates that VERGEL did not attack the insurgents, but the Secretary forgets to say so. The same column destroyed several outcrops, and burnt some huts during the following four days, and found some saints' pictures in the mountains, but saw no insurgents. Col. FAJARDO has strengthened Fort Parra, families from the insurgent districts settling under its shelter. Mr. Secretary adds that thirty-two negro slaves also presented themselves, stating that they "preferred the slavery of their masters to the cruel treatment they had received from the insurgents." Some private letters announce the same fact, and if it is true, it proves that these negroes only deserve cruel treatment for being so stupid and cowardly as to allow themselves to be ill-treated. The negroes are sufficiently strong to defend themselves against Cubans and Spaniards, and if they only unite and work together, will be enabled to dictate terms to either party, and be the casting vote and power of the revolution, which can only be productive of beneficial results to them. The Secretary also states, according to the information obtained from those who surrender at different places, that the insurgents appeal to extreme measures to prolong the war, and that they oblige everybody, without distinction, to take up arms; but that, at the same time, they distrust each other, and when the men go out of sight of their leaders, their arms are taken away from them. The hard work they have to undergo, and the cruel punishment they have to suffer, have caused many families to take refuge in the mountains, and increase the hatred which they entertain toward those who prevent them from returning to their homes. The disagreements and accusations among said leaders increase with every defeat. But the next information which the very positive and able Secretary communicates is the most startling of any. It may be true and it may not be. The Secretary himself would not tell an untruth, but he may be the willing instrument of the propagation of a report which, if founded, is of the utmost importance. The insurgents, he says, do not heed or obey CESPEDES any longer, and act as if he was not in existence, having offered the Presidency to Mr. FORTUN, a new man in the history of the revolution. The Secretary says it appears that Mr. FORTUN has declined the honor, which the persecution of the troops makes very unenviable. Perhaps Mr. FORTUN was offered the position by a few dozen of disaffected patriots of that stamp so peculiar to all Spanish-American countries, where every party, no matter how united at the outset, soon splinters—perhaps all having the same end in view, but being internally divided, owing to personal likes and dislikes. But if this notice is not considered sufficient for the partisans of Spain, the next undoubtedly will be, even if only half or quarter of it turns out to be true.

A BATTLE AT CANTO BAJO.

The Spanish gun-boat *Echo* arrived at Nuevitas on the evening of the 13th, bringing the important information of a battle having been fought between the forces of MAXIMO GOMEZ and MODESTO DIAZ and the Spanish battalions of SAN QUINTIN and BAILEN at the crossing of Canto Bajo. Full particulars of the engagement are yet wanting, the Spanish report stating that the Cubans intended to cross VALMASEDA'S line at Canto Abajo, proposing to invade the jurisdiction of Bayamo and to attack the Spaniards in the rear, but that the two Spanish battalions not only stood their ground firmly but had gained a very decisive victory over the insurgents, killing 170, and the remainder running away in utter confusion, the troops driving them into the river, where the larger portion was drowned. Perhaps when full particulars arrive, even from Spanish sources, the aspect of the above affair, however, may change. If the account is true, however, the Spaniards can concentrate all their forces toward the Camaguey, and even relieve the garrisons in portions of the Eastern Department. A correspondent of the *Voz* gives the number of Cubans killed as 180, and the wounded at the same figure, stating also that the Cubans, possessed of a terrible panic, ran away, disbanded, and that the larger portion were drowned in the river. The steamer *Montezuma*, I should add, has arrived, and the news she brings only corroborates, in some particulars, the account of this battle, but in the main affirms entirely the contrary. MODESTO DIAZ having massed the different corps under his orders, marched to Canto Abajo, where a portion of his command engaged the Spanish battalions, the engagement lasting several hours, while the largest part of his army crossed the Canto River, cutting VALMASEDA'S lines. That portion of the insurgent army which attempted to pass at Canto Abajo was badly defeated and dispersed for the time being, the troops having the advantage of intrenchments. The insurgents, however, crossed later in the day, closely pursued by the troops. VALMASEDA finding his stronghold (Bayamo) threatened, arrived there by forced marches, and advancing his lines from Manati to Las Tunas, in a westerly direction. After the retreat of the insurgents from Corralillo, at Canto Abajo, they united with the other forces and made a flank movement toward the Sierra in order to attack the Capitania del Horno. This they effected on the 15th.

HORNO,

the seat of a *Capitania de Partido*, is a point of some strategical importance defending the prin-