

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE HAVANA STEAM-SHIP MISSOURI.

The steam-ship *Missouri*, which left Havana on April 23, reached this port yesterday. By the courtesy of Purser HEMPSTEAD, our Havana correspondent, printed below, was promptly at hand.

Financial Features of the Revolution— The Future—Matters at Puerto Principe— The Phillips Difficulty—Jordan at Nassau—Miscellaneous Intelligence.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, April 23, 1870.

One of the peculiar features of the revolution in Cuba, and one which has astonished alike its friends and foes, has been the treasury, and the continual influx and collection of the necessary means to carry on the war. The treasury of the island, at the beginning of the revolution, was exhausted and empty; taxes innumerable ground the people; employes connected with every branch of the Government grew wealthy, and, nevertheless, the Government could not pay its most important expenses. The imports from Europe and the United States increased steadily; the sugar crops were larger every year—the price of the article itself being fully forty per cent. higher since 1860—and yet no perceptible increase of wealth could be noted. The wealthy, or reputedly wealthy, owners of plantations were merely the agents of the Havana commission merchants, and but few of them could afford to defy commerce. Among those few were the Aldamas, Delmontes, Torrins, Zulustas, Pulidos and Baros, while others, such as the Count * * * the Marquis * * * and the well-known * * * could not obtain the cheapest article on credit, although they were the possessors of several hundred slaves and two or three plantations. The leaders of the revolution abroad, and some few in the field, are all wealthy men, while the principals of the Spanish party also reckon their wealth by the hundred thousand or million. The *Prensa* refers to the fact that several outbreaks in Spain were caused by Cuban gold. This is very doubtful, and it is far more likely that Cuban diplomacy, or as they call it here, *laborantism*, was at the bottom of it. Therefore the *Prensa* and *Diario* desire that the estates of all persons now in Spain or other countries, and which have not been embargoed already, be subjected to a certain supervising law; that is, they would allow the owners of said places a sufficient sum out of the proceeds of their property to live upon comfortably, and appropriate the rest either as a temporary loan to the Government or else as a special tax. Immense amounts of specie and other valuables are leaving the country—far greater sums than during the early part of the revolution. Then only compromised Cubans attempted to secure their wealth by sending it out of the country, but at present the most ultra Spaniard is doing the same thing. Of course they do it slyly, for it would be rather unpleasant to have it known among the middle or rather the lower classes. But to recur to the financial condition of the Island Treasury, and witness the phenomenon of an exchequer increased, with the expenses augmented nearly 700 per cent. on account of the war, and which is due to the honest course pursued by Gen. RODAS and Intendente PANTOS. The difference of the increase in import duties of the last quarter of 1869, as compared with 1868, is 279 per cent. and of other taxes for the past six months against the six previous months of 109 per cent. It would naturally be supposed that the taxes had been increased, but such is not the fact; they only found their way into the national Treasury instead of the pockets of the employes. The indirect taxes have been diminished, and direct taxes abolished altogether. The Cubans never told a truer word than when they accused all Spanish office holders of being a set of rogues. Today this accusation would not stand valid.

THE FUTURE.

Notwithstanding this favorable exhibit of the Treasury, and the encouraging reports from Spanish commanders, there is, however, a general fear of the future. But few express it, but all feel it. A sense of insecurity oppresses all classes; it is not a dread of personal violence, but of something unknown to come. It is a feeling of doubt and uncertainty, and noticeable in the tone of even the most hopeful Spaniard. Unimportant scrimmages don't end the war, and proclamations have no effect on the insurgents. The latter are just as determined today as they were a year ago, and neither threats nor promises of pardon seem to have the slightest influence over them, which proves that the Cubans, no matter what their other faults may be, are at least possessed of endurance, consistency and determination. In addition, they have to the highest degree that peculiar kind of courage which changes the most timid to a hero, when the danger appears and when there is no chance of escape. This has been demonstrated time and again: whenever a Cuban was sentenced to death, from the moment the sentence had become known to them, they changed, their behavior being such as to cause the admiration of their executioners or judges, and all marched to the scaffold with a firm step. Throughout the island arrests of so-called *laborantes* are made, by the dozen; some are sentenced to change their domicile within the island, and placed under the special surveillance of the Police; others are sentenced to imprisonment, and even the ladies do not escape, a number of them at Villa Clara having been compelled to change their residence. Court-martials are daily held at different points, and many Cubans are sent to the penitentiary, and a few doomed to be executed.

A PRIEST CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

FRANCISCO ESQEMBRE, the parish priest of Yaguaramas, was tried at Cienfuegos on the 19th inst. and sentenced to death. The Padre had been preaching sermons in favor of the insurrection, and had baptized a Cuban flag. Several other priests have preferred to aid their country and disobey the Pope and slavery laws. It is very doubtful, however, if the authorities dare execute the priest. It would shock the people terribly, and destroy the great influence of the priesthood, which at present aids the Government in so many ways to carry on the war. The priest will undoubtedly be delivered up to the acting Bishop and sent to Spain, which is equivalent to an execution only more cruel. No priest sent to Spain as a prisoner has ever appeared again. The walls of Spanish seminaries and convents are very silent.

THE WAR.

The Captain-General telegraphs from Puerto Principe that affairs progress well, that the health of the troops is good and that the weather is favorable. This, translated into English, means: The insurgents are still in the field, the soldiers are marching and fighting, and nothing of any importance has taken place, because the insurgents are smart enough to keep out of the way of strong bodies of troops. The Cubans under MODESTO DIAZ, and most probably under JORDAN, whose flight is not so certain as the Cuban deserters would like to make us believe, have, beyond a doubt, cut through VALMASEDA's line, and are now holding their carnivals in their former camping grounds. VALMASEDA will have to begin over again and see if he will succeed better next time in penning the insurgents. It appears that VALMASEDA was over-confident, did not listen to the battalion-chiefs, who do the fighting, and, consequently, was out-generaled. There is a great difference between hemming in a wary enemy and writing a proclamation on patient paper. MODESTO DIAZ is now between Bayamo and Santiago de Cuba, his forces being estimated at 1,600 men.

THE PHILLIPS AFFAIR.

The Phillips affair has not assumed any tangible shape, the *Serena* having again left Santiago de Cuba. Admiral POOR had an interview with

the Governor, and took testimony in relation to the case, asking the Governor if Mr. PHILLIPS' life would be safe in case that gentleman would come ashore? The Governor answered yes, and granted PHILLIPS permission to come ashore, although RODAS had issued an order expelling PHILLIPS from the island; but PHILLIPS was, undoubtedly, afraid to do so, and he remained on board. The Governor informed the Admiral that it might be true, and in fact he did not doubt, that PHILLIPS left his interests compromised and affairs unsettled, and that several persons in the city would be glad to have PHILLIPS come, or arrange matters in such a shape as to pay his debts. Nothing more natural than that a business man should have debts, but report places Mr. PHILLIPS in a very wealthy position.

NEW EPIDEMIC.

All the Vistas and other high officers of the Havana Custom-house have resigned their positions, alleging that the state of their precious health does not permit them to exercise their functions any longer. Such at least is the tenor of the official account published in the *Gaceta*. Your correspondent, alarmed for his own health, made inquiries as to the particular epidemic prevailing among the employes, and was informed that the malady was a new one in this Island and had only lately made its appearance among the Government employes, the disease having received the euphonious title of "Not to be able to steal-ism."

JORDAN AT NASSAU.

A gun-boat which arrived this morning brings the news of JORDAN'S arrival at Nassau in a small boat, accompanied by six men, among them Mr. ARRONDO, formerly of the Havana Savings Bank, who had gone to Cuba with a commission from the Junta to CESPEDES. According to the version laid before your correspondent, JORDAN is stated to have declared that after defeating PUELO he intended to march on and attack GOYENCHE and take Puerto Principe, but that the Cuban Congress and prominent military leaders objected, pronouncing the plan dangerous. So he informed them that he did not wish to command cowards, and therefore was no longer wanted, and carried his resolution of leaving Cuba into immediate execution. This may be JORDAN'S words or not. I give them as they were told to me.

LATEST FROM PRINCIPE.

The steamer *Barcelona* arrived this forenoon. From a communication of Secretary FERNANDEZ I extract the following facts: About 200 insurgents had been killed in the minor skirmishes. JOSE FERNANDEZ VARELA, formerly a notary in Puerto Principe, and one of the principal fomenters of the revolution, and acting as Sub-Prefect of the Department, had been captured, tried and executed on Good Friday. Gen. RODAS pardoned six men who had been sentenced to death on the previous day at Nuevitas. Insurgents had ceased to attack the railroad line, such undertaking having become difficult owing to the cutting down of the trees along the entire road. All the forts along the line communicated with each other by signals. Deserters reported the regiment of SANGUILI reduced to fifty men, and guarding a number of pack horses laden with arms. Formerly the cry among the insurgents was for more arms; now it is for more men.

QUASIMODO.