

## CUBAN AFFAIRS.

### Concerning Chinamen in Cuba—Public and Press Opinion of the Situation and its Prospects—Newspaper Views of Possible Events—Cuban Transportees and Their Doings in Spain.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, May 7, 1870.

All crimes generally meet with their proper castigation, the present revolution having afforded many instances where the wrongs of the injured have been righted or else placed in their true light before the public. That portion of the Cuban population which has received worse treatment and is nearly always unjustly dealt with, the Chinese element, has played a conspicuous figure during the war, although not so conspicuous a one as their fellow-sufferers, the blacks. Blacks and Chinese form in many parts of the island a majority of the Cuban forces, and are beginning to lose that dread of the whites which has been so common with them hitherto. But the case of the blacks and Chinese is distinct, although nominally both are held in the same bonds of servitude and slavery, and, at the same time, sacrifice their health and lives in order to fill the purse of the already wealthy Cuban or Spanish planter. The blacks, when brought from Africa, were but little removed from the beast, and many of them, even after a lapse of many years, could barely explain their wants in the Spanish language; but the Chinese, as a rule, are very intelligent, and in a short time acquire the use of the Castilian tongue. When leaving China, they are contracted with under false pretenses, or more properly speaking, they are fooled into coming here, without being made aware that a miserable salary of \$4 per month is a large amount in China, but only a mite here. They are never informed either that in most cases insufficient food, an overdose of work and the slave-driver's whip awaits them. But all this they would submit to if justice were dealt out to them, and if, after the expiration of their contract, they could enjoy equality before the law and be treated as Spaniards. But such is not the case; they are abused, and are but rarely treated kindly, a very strong feeling of animosity existing against them. Such animosity, however, is not entirely without cause, as hundreds of Chinese are of the most criminal stamp, and have no hesitation in robbing or murdering, while gambling and opium-smoking is common to all. These causes of dissatisfaction arise principally out of the want of proper treatment on the part of the whites. On all plantations where they have been kindly used, they behave well, but applying the lash to them converts them into demons. They may not have the opportunity to revenge themselves at the moment, but revenged they will be whenever a chance presents itself. The revolution, therefore, has been a godsend to them, and has enabled them not only to pay off old grievances, but also to indulge in their naturally sanguinary instincts, and it is therefore not surprising that they should join an armed force, in order to kill or rob, especially when it is known that many of these Chinamen were of the lowest class in their own country, and sold there owing to the commission of some crime. The *Voz de Cuba* has begun to preach a crusade against the Celestials, and says:

"Crime in Cuba has materially increased since the Chinese have come here, and they now consider labor only as an imperious necessity, and not as a duty. Many Chinamen have also afforded immense aid to the revolution without taking up arms, by acting as spies—a very easy thing for them to do, as they can inform their companions without being understood and in the very midst of the Police."

The *Voz de Cuba* further advises against any further Asiatic emigration, and reminds its readers that such emigration has always been advocated by the Cubans as one of the means by which to obtain their independence. The *Voz* is partly right. There are many very bad Chinamen here, and, as a class, they ought not to be brought to a country where they see so much rascality to imitate and where there are so many opportunities to commit crimes with impunity; but it is equally certain that the Chinamen would behave better if they were treated in a different manner. If the Government would immediately take steps to compel all companies bringing Chinamen here to take such of them back as had committed any offense to the laws of the country, or else banish the Chinamen to one of the many keys or little islands on the coast, which they would cultivate under Police surveillance.

#### PRESS OPINION OF POSSIBLE EVENTS.

The *Voz de Cuba* published a telegram from New-York which reads as follows:

"Telegrams from Washington, received here today, announce that the Cuban agents have indicated to the Spanish Minister to arrange the question, the latter showing himself willing to do so, in view of the nature of the propositions."

This telegram very naturally caused intense excitement among Spaniards and Cubans, and was the theme of universal conversation, numerous opinions being given, and all of them differing. But the comments of the Havana Press, which I give below, are a clear expression of what the different parties among the Spaniards expect and would do in case the revolution were to be ended. These opinions are very remarkable, unusually succinct and clear, and they will undoubtedly form the basis of such arrangements as may be made. They demonstrate also the aims and spirit of the Spaniards in Cuba, and the confidence they have of the ultimate triumph of their cause. The *Voz de Cuba*, (Liberal, Free Church, anti-Masonic and anti-Republican,) referring to the above telegram, says:

"For the second time the cable speaks about propositions made by the Cuban agents to effect an arrangement with the nation they have insulted, which they renounced and against which they committed the blackest treason; only this second time the cable goes a little further and says that the Spanish Minister was willing in view of the nature of the propositions. We are thoroughly acquainted with the patriotism and high abilities of our Minister in Washington, that we are convinced, that if such an arrangement has been broached, and, if he has listened to said agents, it is because the propositions submitted to him are of such a character as to satisfy the most exacting among whom we place ourselves. We have already stated before—between Spain and the insurgents of Yara no other arrangement can be had than to lay down the arms and submit to the decision of the legally-constituted Courts. Spanish clemency can then do a great deal, but on no account will it admit of conditions. The mails will bring us particulars of these admissible propositions. Let us be on guard, as we cannot expect a sincere repentance from these people, and perhaps their plan is to regain today what they have lost under cover of a pretended friendship, and to conspire again to-morrow."

The *Diario*, (pro-slavery and changeable,) referring to this telegram, says:

"The dispatch speaks of indications and concludes with the word propositions. Indications only are vague, and can only signify a desire to enter into negotiations, while propositions announce a determination to carry them out. The national aspirations of those who have taken up arms against the nation could not extend any further than to a confession of their error and an unconditional submission to the Government. Between the insurgents and the legitimate authorities no negotiations as between nation and nation can be understood; because on the one side is all sovereignty, all justice and all right. A great many thoughts arise in our imagination which we suppress because we have to be very cautious until we receive positive information. When that time comes we shall comply with our duties, and say what we consider most suited to the general welfare of the nation and to this province particularly. It is necessary to re-establish tranquility here at the earliest moment, but in an honorable manner, and to lay for it a

solid foundation, so that it may last a long time."

The *Prensa* (pro-slavery, able and opposed to reforms) sings a different tune, and pertly says:

"We have heard that the *laborantes* in the United States are trying to enter into negotiations with our Minister in Washington. Even if that functionary could listen to them, we don't know what they could tell him. In free Cuba nobody knows them or would obey them, and if an order of the Cuban Junta should be sent to the robber bands in the Eastern Department, it would be of no more value than a theater advertisement. Therefore, let the *laborantes* let these tricks and nonsense 'slide.' After the war we shall have peace; the surrendered insurgents can then rebuild their houses and go to work; the immigrants, who have not taken any active part in the conspiracies, can return to their homes, although they may have committed acts of hostility against Spain; but the traitors who abused the confidence of the Government and inaugurated the civil war, which has cost so much blood, will have to remain its perpetual enemies."

These extracts, from the three principal journals, show conclusively the spirit of the people, and need no comments, the *Voz de Cuba* only advising that in order to find the leaders of the revolution, it is only necessary to inaugurate an old system and imitate the United States, which country is always held up by the Cubans as a model, and offer a reward for their persons, and in the same manner as the Government at Washington offered a reward of one hundred thousand dollars for the capture of JEFF. DAVIS, offer a reward for the capture of CESPEDES, AGUILERA, and other leaders. The *Voz* says that in such a case they would fall, one by one, into the hands of the Spaniards; the few partisans who yet remain to them would deliver them up, if only a sufficiently high amount be offered, because among the insurgents are men who would cut their heads off for very little. The paper even hopes that in a short time they would do it gratis. This is the opinion of the *Voz de Cuba*, but the Cubans think the reverse.

#### CUBANS IN SPAIN.

The three Havana dailies have published letters from Barcelona giving descriptions of the late revolution and of the arrest of several Cubans who had fired on the troops indiscriminately with air-guns. The names of these Cubans are not printed, although it is stated that they were part of the Fernando Po prisoners sent away from here by DULCE by order of the volunteers. The publication of this item has increased the bitter feeling already existing, and it is doubtful whether another expedition would be sent from here, as the members of the Court-martial would sentence them to such punishment as would effectually prevent them from shooting any more Spaniards in future.

QUASIMODO.