

## CUBAN AFFAIRS.

### The Position of the Spanish Government—A Significant Letter—The New Tariff and an Anticipated Loan—Valmaseda and Rodas—Another Execution—A Horrible Story—Miscellaneous War News.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, May 21, 1870.

The Havana journals publish the following letter of the Colonial Minister at Madrid, addressed to Mr. JOSE OLANO, Havana, and dated April 28:

MY DEAR SIR: I have received your telegram from Puerto Principe, which you have sent me in the name of Spaniards and Cubans. I would have answered per cable, thanking you and the rest of the persons who assisted at the meeting, had I not been aware that you were returning to Havana. I, therefore, do it today, by letter, and you will please make known to your friends that during the time I remain in office I shall use every endeavor not only to obtain the pacification of Cuba, but to heal the wounds caused by the war. I will also do my utmost to prevent the financial crisis which threatens the island, and to re-establish commerce and agriculture. My programme to effect this will be the pursuing of a plan to grant liberal and prudent reforms. The Government and I will consult your opinions, and not only hope that you will not oppose any obstacle, but that you will be our staunchest aid in demonstrating to the world that the Spanish race is not only a model of strength and energy in war, but also of moderation, prudence and reason in peace. I embrace the opportunity of offering to you my affectionate friendship,  
S. MORET Y PRENDERGAST.

It will be seen that Señor MORET did not lay any particular stress on the motive which caused the sending of OLANO'S telegram, namely, to protest against the sale of the Island of Cuba. Mr. MORET, however, uses the opportunity to give Mr. Volunteer Capt. OLANO and companions a rap over the knuckles in advising OLANO and company to be prudent, moderate and reasonable in peace; and, in addition, Señor MORET admits that he expects to receive the aid of OLANO and company, and thus proves that the Spanish Government is powerless in the Island of Cuba unless it receives the aid and sanction of the volunteers, *i. e.*, of the ultra Spanish party. His assertion that he, the once all-powerful Minister of the colonies and the Government, will consult the opinion of OLANO and company, proves the weakness of the Home Government, and the strength of the volunteers or Casmos. A prominent Spaniard once informed your correspondent, "We are fighting for Spain and ourselves; should Spain act contrary to the interest of the Spaniards in Cuba, we shall continue the war and hold the island on our account," and, in my opinion, the man expressed the secret determination of every Spaniard in Cuba.

The new tariff, now being arranged, will not go into operation until it has been fully discussed, sent to Madrid, and approved there. The Intendente has gone to Puerto Principe to consult with the Captain-General about this and other financial matters, it being rumored that the Intendente advocates the placing of a loan of fifty millions of dollars in the United States, if possible, giving the island and its revenues as security. This, however, is merely a rumor. If true, it would give the Spaniards plenty of money, and form a party of bondholders for them in the United States.

#### VALMASEDA AND RODAS.

VALMASEDA has written to the *Diario de la Marina*, requesting that journal to deny the current report that he and RODAS are on bad terms. The truth of the whole story I have already communicated to the readers of the TIMES. The Cubans work with might and main to divide the Spaniards and make them hated abroad, and in this they are only doing what every other nation has done during war times. Consequently, they are excusable and in the right, although some of the *canards* are a little overdone at times. The row between VALMASEDA and RODAS was pure fiction, but that these Generals don't love each other desperately is a fact. Whatever difference there may exist between them arises simply from the fact that each pursues a different plan, and that each and his partisans think themselves smartest. VALMASEDA'S reputation has suffered, however, since he allowed MODESTO DIAZ to cross and recross the Cauto, and operate in his rear.

#### PRIVATEERS AND BLOCKADERS.

Blockade running from the United States and the British West Indies is still actively carried on, and if the Cubans were only better provided with available funds they would have no difficulty in supplying themselves with everything they need. The news of the departure of a privateer from an English port on the 16th inst. has caused excitement and speculation. The majority of our people are of opinion that it is a Cuban privateer and intended to prey on Spanish commerce, while a few think that English capitalists have fitted her out for Cabral with a view to defeating the annexation of San Domingo to the United States.

#### ANOTHER EXECUTION.

RICARDO CASANOVA, a planter of Villa Clara, and formerly a school-teacher of that city, was executed at Fort Cabanas on Thursday morning. CASANOVA joined the insurgents of the Cinco Villas at an early day, and soon rose to the rank of a leader. Becoming tired of the war he surrendered under the promise of the Government, and received a pardon, but a few days after a number of Spaniards presented themselves who testified that CASANOVA during his stay with the insurgents had burnt the Sipiabo settlement, destroying over twenty houses, robbing the stores of their contents and causing the assassination of eighteen men. CASANOVA was therefore arrested, tried as an assassin, incendiary and robber, and executed. The Government pardoned and then executed him. Funny country, this. The *Prensa* says that it appears that the unfortunate man had enjoyed the clemency of the Government and did not know how to appreciate it. Horrid sarcasm; the man was not even allowed to behave himself. The *Diario* understands that he was not tried for being an insurgent, but for having ordered the destruction and sacking of Sipiabo. Queer logic. *Cosas de España.*

#### HORRIBLE STORY.

The Madrid journal *El Imparcial*, states that EDUARDO MOLINERO PERILLAN, a relative of one of the editors of that paper, was captured by the insurgents, who, after insulting and ill-treating him, liberated him, but not without having first plucked out his eyes. If such a thing is true, the name of Cuban ought to become a by-word for cowardice and cruelty, and if not the same, shame ought to fall on those who invent such a horrible story. Your correspondent has not heard of this alleged outrage, and hardly believes its occurrence. Not even the most debased among the Cubans, white or black, could be guilty of such an inhuman act. The *Voz de Cuba*, which copied this extract, is in honor bound to investigate this matter; its editor, although a rank Spaniard, is also a gentleman. Will he do it, and let the world know the result?

#### WAR NEWS.

Brig.-Gen. MERELO arrived from Spain by the last steamer. He will proceed to Santiago de Cuba and assume charge of the Eastern Department....The steamer *Barcelona*, which left here on the 18th, took three hundred soldiers for Puerto Principe, eighty-three for ALVEAR'S command, and about 150 for Santiago de Cuba. Four hundred of these arrived from Spain by the last steamer....A telegram from Sancti Spiritus announces the capture of 500 (?) arrobas (12,500 pounds) salt, by the guards of the Mapos plantation, and the killing of two insurgents....Two blockade-runners who were carrying matches and other effects from Trinidad to the insurgents were captured and executed....Brig.-Gen. MORALES DE LOS RIOS has again taken the field....The Havana and other firemen have already finished building the forts at Charco Azul, Aguacate, Los Puriales, Guayama, Yagunabo, Buenos

Aires, Sierra and Macagua. The construction of these forts continues, and they are proving of immense service to the Spanish detachments stationed there, allowing them to make daily excursions about the country, and enabling them to move about with rapidity and ease....Detachments from the Covadonga battalion, united with the Counter guerrillas Del Orden, have burnt a large number of huts near Sancti Spiritus and compelled the insurgents to move toward Moron....The column of BAZA, in a march through the mountains of Jibacoa and Calabazas, killed three insurgents, among them the sub-prefect of Jibacoa, Mr. RAFAEL GONZALES, destroying also a powder-mill with a quantity of saltpeter and sulphur, two unfinished cannon and a carpenter-shop. This proves beyond a doubt, that the insurgents are neither stupid nor idle, and that the presence of the Spanish troops is not very dangerous, else the insurgents could never arrange powder-mills and even foundries to cast cannon....The news from Puerto Principe is unimportant....From the Eastern Department we learn that the insurgents have been very active of late and that VALMASEDA had recalled some of his troops from the interior and send them to Tarquino and other points of the coast, where respectable bands of insurgents were organizing and where several expeditions from the English Colonies had been safely landed and more men were expected. QUASIMODO.