

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE HAVANA STEAM-SHIP MORRO CASTLE.

The steam-ship *Morro Castle*, from Havana April 30, via Nassau, N. P., reached this port yesterday. Our Cuban correspondence printed, below, reached us with all promptness, thanks to the courtesy of Purser R. W. ALBERT.

The Case of the Lloyd Aspinwall—The Situation and the Prospects—Important Proclamation by De Rodas—The War—American Intelligence.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, April 30, 1870.

The particulars of the capture of the American steamer *Lloyd Aspinwall* are too recent to necessitate an extended recapitulation. The steamer had been in the Haytien service under the Salnave régime as a mail-boat and transport. After SALNAVE'S fall she left Port-au-Prince, and on the 21st of January, the third or fourth day out, she was captured by a Spanish man-of-war off the Cuban coast and brought to Nuevitas, whence she was towed to Havana by another man-of-war. The steamer had all her papers in order and was regularly dispatched for Havana, in ballast, being at the same time a bearer of dispatches from the American Minister and American Admiral, announcing the then recent success in Hayti of the American Government. Since then the case has been tried by the Spanish authorities, and on demand made for her release by the United States an order for her release has been received from Madrid. Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock was set apart for the formal delivery up of the steamer by the Spanish authorities, who were prompt to the minute, Consul BIDDLE and Capt. FRANKLIN, of the *Saugus*, made their appearance a little later. The Captain, who has been permitted to come ashore freely, and, in fact, has hardly been treated as a prisoner, was also present. The gentlemen saluted each other cordially, and proceeded to business immediately. The Judge and Fiscal of the Marine Court, who were accompanied by some other Spanish naval officers, approached Capt. MCCARTHY and said, through the interpreter:

"Captain, I am instructed to make a formal delivery of this steamer to you in presence of the American Consul." Capt. MCCARTHY asked the Judge:

"On what conditions is the steamer to be released?"

The Judge replied:

"I have no conditions but simply instructions to deliver the vessel to you."

Capt. MCCARTHY then said:

"I refuse to accept the steamer unless I have a guarantee that all damages and charges caused since the detention of the steamer on the 21st of January, by the Spanish authorities, and for any injury which she may have sustained while lying in port, will be paid."

The Consul then approached Capt. MCCARTHY and advised him to receive the steamer, when the Captain again peremptorily refused, stating that he was still a prisoner, and consequently a disinterested party, and that he would not jeopardize the interests of his owners by accepting the vessel. The Judge of the Marine Court then handed Capt. MCCARTHY a document, with a request to sign it, sail document stating that the Captain was willing that the vessel be delivered to the Consul. Capt. MCCARTHY judiciously refused to sign this paper, which would have been equivalent to accepting the steamer himself. The Consul then stepped aside to confer with Capt. FRANKLIN, of the monitor *Saugus*, and after a short conversation, announced his intention of accepting the vessel from the Spanish authorities on behalf of the United States Government. The delivery was then made in due form, and the Consul signed a receipt for the steamer, and, proceeding on deck, ordered the American flag to be hoisted at the mast-head, where it now flies. Yesterday Capt. MCCARTHY entered his protest, and as the matter now stands the United States is the party to whom the owners must look for indemnity, they having accepted the vessel through the Consul. But another protest was forwarded at the same time, namely that of MALCAMPO, the Spanish Admiral, who states that he only delivers the vessel owing to the strict orders from his Government; that he considers said delivery illegal, the Marine Court not having yet concluded the trial of the case, and, what is stranger still, the marine authorities not only pretending that the steamer was a legal prize, but that she had landed an expedition, and that some of the papers which were taken when she was captured are missing. Perhaps the accusers took them if they are, for nobody else had access to them.

THE WAR.

The situation has hardly undergone any change since my last, but matters will wear a different aspect within a few days, the first rains of the season having fallen; in a short while military operations on an extended scale will be suspended; roads will be made almost impassable, and sickness will thin the ranks. Nevertheless, something, and perhaps something of importance, may be done before the rainy season sets in fairly and fully, and although matters look very bright for the Spaniards, and sympathizers with the revolution here are very down-hearted and crest-fallen, the papers teeming with accounts of the changed situation, this does not prove that the Cuban forces are in such a state of dissolution and weakness as to create a belief in an early settlement of the war. Gen. RODAS telegraphs from Puerto that the insurgent forces are in dispersion and their leaders wandering about the coast, trying to find means to escape to some foreign country, and that AGRAMONTE has resigned as General-in-Chief. If this be true it looks bad for the Cubans; but Gen. RODAS does not inform us whether AGRAMONTE resigned merely as acting General-in-Chief, and still retains his former position as Major-General of the Army of the Camaguey, or whether he resigned altogether.

PROCLAMATION BY DE RODAS.

A proclamation by DE RODAS has just been issued, dated Puerto Principe, April 25, and, translated literally, runs as follows:

Superior Political Government of the Island of Cuba: During the critical times through which this city has passed, the Governor of this Department authorized all persons who solicited it permission to leave for the country, and there procure the necessary food which is difficult to obtain here. A number of these families returned when the cause of this departure ceased to exist, but others, believing the absurd rumors circulating among the rebels, or else fearful of the outrages which they commit, have taken refuge in the mountains, and are suffering the greatest injury from the bands of highwaymen, who still exist in this Department as remnants of the insurrection. In my anxiety for those who have not declared themselves enemies of the country, and to make a distinction between those who voluntarily return to their homes and those who are brought in by the troops, as I proclaimed in my proclamation of the 24th of March, it is well to understand that the families referred to who still remain in localities accessible to the criminals, (the Cubans,) and aid or supply them, make themselves their accomplices. I have also ordered, according to said proclamation, and in order to lessen these parties, that the columns ruin and destroy all that might serve to maintain them, and as this determination can and certainly will affect well-disposed persons, I have determined to publish the following:

ARTICLE 1. All permissions granted to reside in the country are annulled.

ART. 2. The property of all persons who do not present themselves at some settlement, or to some column of troops before the 1st of June will be embargoed.

ART. 3. After that date all persons found in the country, without a special permission to remain there, will be treated as enemies.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.

This order is of transcendental importance, and will make the division marked between Spaniards and Cubans still more marked. After the 1st of June it will be almost impossible for any man found in the country to pretend that he has not been connected with the revolution, and as the treatment of those who are captured is stereotyped and well known, consisting of the usual *cuatro tiros*, (four shots,) executions will be on the increase, hundreds of persons will be killed, and nobody will be the wiser. It is so much easier to catch a citizen than to catch an insurgent in arms. But the compliance with this order will also deprive the Cubans of the aid of hundreds of their countrymen, who will do their utmost to come within the Spanish line with their families. The other news from Puerto Principe are merely particulars and explanations of the telegrams which have already been forwarded. All letters confirm the news, however, that the situation in the Camaguey region has changed very much in favor of the Spaniards; Cubans returning from the insurrectionary districts

and others of prominence residing in Puerto Principe continuing to write pamphlets and manifests directed to their countrymen in the field, advising them to lay down their arms and profit by the clemency of the Spanish Government. As a proof that the Spaniards are not quite as bloodthirsty as the Spaniards, and do not shoot all their prisoners, the fact that a Lieut. MARTINEZ, who was a prisoner since October last, and escaped, may be taken as conclusive evidence.

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

The *Severn*, the flag-ship of Admiral Poor, arrived yesterday from Kingston. All on board are well. Mr. PHILLIPS, Ex-United States Vice-Consul, at Santiago de Cuba, had taken charge of the Consulate at Kingston. Mr. WHEELER, the incumbent, who was a Lieutenant on the *Keersarge* during her combat with the *Alabama*, having died suddenly. Admiral Poor advocates the stationing of receiving-ships at Key West, in which to place the crews of the monitors. The monitors would be grand charnel-houses during the Summer if the men had to stay in them.

QUASIMODO.