

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP MISSOURI.

The steam-ship *Missouri*, which left Havana on Saturday, June 4, reached this port on Wednesday night. By the courtesy of Purser HEMPSTEAD, our mail packages were forwarded without delay.

Capture of a Son of Cespedes—A Correction—The Slavery Question—Casanova's Execution—"Fire and Sword"—Posthumous Denunciation.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, June 4, 1870.

Following are the particulars given by Spaniards of the capture of OSCAR CESPEDES, a son of the President, who was executed at Puerto Principe on the 29th of May. On the night of the 14th, Col. BENEGARRI arranged a party from the counter guerrillas, with orders to surprise the La Caridad rancho. The counter guerrillas reached that place on the morning of the 15th, and stationed themselves about five hundred meters from the building, twenty-five men remaining behind to guard the horses. Lieut. ORTIZ advanced from the left, and Lieut. MEDINA from the right, both reaching the immediate vicinity of the buildings simultaneously. The Cubans fired on the guerrillas, who, however, attacked the Cubans at once, being far superior to them in numbers, and took the seven men by whom the building was defended prisoners. It appears that only two of the seven were armed, or at least were caught with arms in their hands. These two men were executed on the spot. OSCAR CESPEDES, the reputed leader of the party, was captured by Lieut. ORTIZ. Among the other persons captured was the wife of OSCAR CESPEDES and fifteen women and children, who were brought to Puerto Principe. It is generally understood that CESPEDES was betrayed.

It appears that by some unfortunate accident a line of my manuscript was misprinted, and in my letter of May 18, published on the 23d, referring to the surrender of SARDUY and his offer to serve as a guide to the Spanish troops, a printed sentence read "how little honor or shame exists among the Cuban population," The sentence ought to run "how little honor or shame exists in a Cuban population, who thus forgets his country, nationality and family, and presents such a contrast to the majority of his countrymen, to the AGUEROS, VARONAS and others. In justice to the mass of the Cuban population, and to the brave men battling for freedom in the field, I cheerfully make this correction, and hope that no similar accident will occur in future, the sentence itself being entirely out of place in a letter which gave an account of the behavior of the noble AGUEROS on the scaffold.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

The Slavery question is now beginning to assume a tangible shape, and the wealthy slave-owners quake in their shoes. A telegram was received from the Colonial Minister in Spain announcing that the problem of the future of Cuba will have to be solved, and that the Cortes will take the matter under consideration. The authorities, as usually in such cases, quietly suppressed the telegram, and the general public is not yet aware of the fact, but the information was privately communicated to the leaders of the Spanish party at the Casino, who have since held several meetings with closed doors. Several propositions were made, and the result was the formation of three distinct parties, each of which has gotten up a report and sent it by the steamer to Spain. The first and most numerous party presented the following suggestion:

"That every child hereafter born, and every male or female over sixty years of age, be free unconditionally. That all slaves between one and twenty years of age work a sufficient length of time, at the rate of two and a half dollars per month from their tenth until their twentieth year, until they have earned the sum of three hundred dollars, remaining meanwhile in possession of their owners, or so much longer until the amount has been paid, the owners of the slaves to maintain them, as well as those under ten years of age, as hitherto. All the slaves between twenty and forty years of age to remain on their respective places, under the same conditions, except that they are to remain at the rate of four dollars per month, until they have earned the sum of five hundred dollars, these amounts always to belong to the owners of the slaves as a recompense for granting them their freedom."

The second and most enlightened party presents a somewhat similar plan, but one more favorable plan to the slaves:

"All under twenty and over sixty years of age, to be free unconditionally, the owner of the slave to maintain those over sixty, and to receive a suitable recompense for the maintenance of those under ten, from their parents. Those between twenty and sixty years of age to receive \$10 per month, and to pay their owners an indemnity of \$400."

The third party, or as it ought to be termed that of the unconditional brutes, merely intends to grant liberty to those born after the year 1871, all the others to remain as they are until death. The latter party is not strong. The question of abolition has thus been put at last, and the parties most interested—the negroes, who are well informed of all that is going on, and in many instances better so than the whites, remain quiet and await events. I can do no better than to give the remarks of an old Cuban negro in conversation with your correspondent on the subject, explaining their ideas, views, and intentions:

"You see, Master, when the North triumphed we all knew that the hour for our liberty would soon come; we could afford to wait a little, and we have waited. We could at any time have created a riot, but that would only have resulted in our defeat, because Spaniards and Cubans would have united against us. We remain quiet and let them fight; after that our day comes, and whoever wins must give us our liberty. This is positive, and should they dare to refuse it, then we would show them what the blacks of Cuba could and would do. But we don't desire any war or bloodshed; we only want our liberty and equal rights. A few months earlier or later cannot make much difference, and in the meantime we are working quietly and secretly to instill some ideas of reason among the rural blacks, so that they may be at an early day not only the equals but the superiors of their white neighbors. Our people have been brought up as beasts of burden and brutes; it will be necessary to change them into human beings. You ask me whether we are favorable to the Cuban or to the Spanish cause, as both sides claim to have our sympathies? We are simply favoring our own side, and although many blacks are fighting with the Cubans, they are not fighting for the Cubans against the Spaniards, but for universal liberty. If the Cubans represent that so much the better, but you will also notice that the truest and bravest soldiers in the Spanish army is the battalion of Ligeros, recruited from among the free colored people of Havana. When the time comes we will make the best possible terms with any party that may be in power, and I hope it will be the Cuban party, but above all we want to be free men."

The opinion of this negro may be taken as the opinion of the entire colored population of Cuba, excepting the brutal slaves on some plantations, who don't know how to think of anything.

CASANOVA'S EXECUTION.

The execution of CASANOVA has brought a singular incident to light, as related to me by the executed man's brother, who lately left for Philadelphia on the steamer *Yazoo*. After CASANOVA, to whom the Spanish authorities had solemnly given a guarantee for the preservation of his life, was sentenced to death, his brother called on the Acting Captain-General and interceded for the condemned man. Gen. CARBO told him that he could do nothing in the premises, and referred him to Gen. RODAS, at Puerto Principe, stating that he would defer the execution for eight days. The brother, anxious to save RICARDO'S life, hired a tug-boat and went to Puerto Principe, being immediately admitted to an interview with RODAS, who said that CARBO might have solved the question and granted a pardon. Full of gladness the brother returned to Havana, but on arrival found out that RICARDO had been executed four days previously, the Acting Captain-General giving as a reason that the public feeling had compelled him to have the man executed. This is the brother's story, and I send it without comments as told by him.

"FIRE AND SWORD."

The war is still straggling on, but the occurrences behind the scenes are hidden to the public. Perhaps the actors and the stage managers may see or hear by accident as to what is going on, but to the audience it is a hidden secret. Although the truth leaks out very frequently, it generally does after the particular event has

long been forgotten and new occurrences taken the place of the old. To satisfy the popular demand, news of Spanish victories and triumphs are continually published, either as official documents or as correspondence, by the journals. Cuban news, or at least the Cuban account of an engagement, is very difficult to obtain, and we are consequently compelled to rely on the bulletins with which Mr. Secretary FERNANDEZ pleases to treat us, and which are evidently gotten up with a great basis of truth, as far as the Spanish account is concerned, but which fail to communicate even the slightest information as to any movements of the Cubans or advantages obtained by them. It is altogether *al gusto del consumidor*.

Mr. FERNANDEZ gives a very lengthy account of affairs in the Camaguey, which I only extract for the benefit of the public. Secretary FERNANDEZ begins by telling us that it is fully confirmed that F. CAVADA, the new chief of the Cuban rebellion, has ordered that every country place, house, farm, &c., should be destroyed by fire. CAVADA'S advisers say that if all the property in "Cinco Villas" has been destroyed, it is but right that the same system should be followed in the Camaguey. On the other hand, those who have been compelled to join the insurrection without benefit to themselves, pretend that it is also right to set on fire the farms of the wealthy people after burning the dwellings of the poor. According to Secretary FERNANDEZ, CAVADA has turned to be an auxiliary to the Spanish army and policy, by carrying out such a plan, which has already caused to be reduced to ashes the following farms: "Los Caciques," "Corral de Agua," "Ojos de Piedra," "Guayabo," "Caimito," "Horno y Escudo," and many others belonging generally to rebels, and which, by their position, are useless to the troops who respected them.

POSTHUMOUS DENUNCIATION.

In the attack on the Congs between the forces of Col. VILLARES and the Cubans, in which, by the way, the latter came out best, a young American, named EDWARD H. RUND, was wounded and taken prisoner by the Spaniards. The Spanish report has it that he died from the effect of the wound received, while the Cuban report states that he was shot. Public opinion takes it that the Spanish story is the true one. Shortly before his death, and immediately after the engagement, knowing that his end was nigh, he wrote the following letter in English:

"We were taken to Cuba by JORDAN and his officers under false pretences, they telling us that the war was to last only six months, that the Cubans had the best of the struggle, and were in possession of the greatest part of the island, excepting a few cities; that we were to serve as cavalry. I solemnly declare that the whole of this is false; we have been miserably deceived and treated like dogs; the negroes were better treated than us; they had horses to ride, while we were compelled to walk over stones, and bear during the whole way insults from the negroes. I speak the truth in this moment that I am to appear before God and be judged by men. I hope God will take mercy on a poor fool, and receive my soul in His glory, because I am innocent."

QUASIMODO.