

CUBA.

Agitation of the Slavery Question—Plans of the Slave-Holders—Celebration of the Fourth by Americans—Men of the North and South in Unity—Cuban Successes—Death of Col. LONO.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Tuesday, July 5, 1870.

The slavery question continues to absorb public attention, so much so that the war is as completely forgotten and ignored as if it did not exist. The slavery discussion will do more than the reigning epidemics or bullets of the enemies to end the war; and as it was the stumbling block of the South, it will be the gallows of Spanish supremacy in Cuba. Meetings are held almost daily, and the same results are arrived at. The leading men of the Spanish party such as ZULUETA, POLIDO, and others, are willing to co-operate with the Cortes; while such Cubans as the Marquis of SAN MIGUEL and Mr. POEY are more pro-slavery and less willing to make concessions or grant any privileges to the slaves. On Saturday evening a very stormy meeting of slave-owners from different parts of the island was held at the palace. It was presided over by Gen. CARRO. Discussion followed discussion, and that very loyal body of ultra Spanish citizens there assembled resolved to take the action of their Government and the Cortes into consideration, but not to co-operate effectively unless they were consulted and the law approved by them, so as to prevent the blacks from becoming vagabonds, and the island to present the picture of utter ruin and misery, as experienced by the people of the South today. Some of these mendacious slave-traders received a whack from Gen. CARRO, who informed them that the meeting was not held for the purpose of censuring or approving the acts of the Cortes; the laws must be obeyed without argument, and they could only request as a favor to be heard by the Cortes on this question. A motion was then adopted by a portion of the assemblage to request the Cortes not to be too hasty in applying the law, and they would furnish valuable information and arguments in favor of a partial abolition,—the organization of a system of labor, compelling all slaves to remain with their present owners for a term not less than ten years, but that said slaves should receive \$4 a month each, the same as the Chinese. Another meeting was held at the Casino last night, when it was proposed and carried that no journal published in the Island shall make the slightest allusion to the slavery question, but remain obedient, servile and quiet as hitherto. These people had at least talent enough to see that the discussion of the subject by the Press would bring it squarely before the public. The newspapers, of course, will obey orders. The Captain-General, who is expected to-morrow, from Puerto Principe, will be immediately besieged by an army of slaveholders, in order to prevent him from taking any steps in the matter, and if possible to aid them in obtaining a respite from the Cortes. Unless I am very much mistaken, Gen. RODAS will do nothing of the kind, but with polite promises, will put his abolition doctrines into practice, unless he gets frightened and succumbs to the slave-trading element.

FOURTH OF JULY.

The Fourth of July in Havana, of late years, has become a thing unheard of. The civil war and the homogenous elements of which American society in Havana is composed has been a bar to any reunion. Some of our go-ahead and enterprising American citizens, such as Messrs. DOWNS, BURGESS and SHOOKS, this year consulted with the Consul, Mr. BIDDLE, as to the advisability of celebrating the Fourth of July in some appropriate manner; and the result was a dinner at Mariano, and, for the first time since 1860, Americans from the North and Americans from the South were seen together in the City of Havana. The dinner was a great success, and will long be remembered by those who attended it. Mr. BIDDLE, our Consul-General, responded in a very able and at the same time humorous speech to the toast, "The President of the United States." He was followed by Dr. WILSON, with an appropriate speech, or lecture it might be termed, on the "land we reside in." The Doctor was listened to with a great deal of attention, and the applause when he got through, demonstrated fully that all those present coincided in his opinion, that as Americans it was our duty to be magnanimous and just, and not to meddle or interfere with the internal affairs of this Island in any manner whatsoever. "The Day we Celebrate" was the next toast, and the assemblage was astonished and electrified by the high oratorical powers displayed by Mr. STARKS, of the *Herald*. Himself a direct descendant of the revolutionary hero, Gen. STARKS, he was enabled to interlard his discourse with personal anecdotes and reminiscences, until then unknown to some of those present. The speech of Mr. STARKS was undoubtedly the feature of the occasion, and he was warmly applauded. Mr. GUTZMAN, of the *World*, spoke on "Ocean Cables and their Importance," explaining his subject in a very succinct and lucid manner, and Mr. STRAUS, of the Associated Press, responded on behalf of the Press. Instead of referring to its power or importance, he spoke of Americans in Havana, their disunion and non-intercourse, and of the shameful fact that while every other foreign nation had its national clubs and charitable societies, the Americans had none. He hoped that those present would unite and form themselves into a society having for its object, not only social intercourse, but the furnishing of charity to our sick and needy countrymen, who might find themselves in distressed circumstances. Mr. BLAGDEN responded for the Army and Navy of the United States, stating in his happiest vein that, either North or South, they had never committed any action, either individually or collectively, which they had to blush for. Mr. BIDDLE then spoke on our internal improvements, and Mr. SHOOKS on industry and agriculture. Mr. JOSEPH RAFAEL spoke about the subject nearest his heart—the ladies—and acquitted himself well. Between each toast the band of the volunteers played operatic and other airs, and the party parted with regret, at a late hour in the evening, to take the last train for Havana.

WAR NEWS.

BEMBETA has once more shown that he has more pluck and talent than the majority of Cuban Commanders. As I informed you in my last, he had invaded the jurisdiction of Puerto Principe with only six hundred men, having to contend with the column sent after him by RODAS and the troops in front, the Spaniards numbering not less than four thousand men, all veterans. By rapid marches and feints he avoided a general engagement, and had retired to the vicinity of Palmira near Sancti Spiritus. The troops were led to his camp by a prisoner.

the Spanish contra guerrillas in the van. When BEMBETA's advance guards noticed the approach of the enemy, he was already charging on the camp; but they reckoned with-out effect a rout by a surprise. BEMBETA formed in line and the engagement became general, the contra guerrillas being repulsed everywhere and surrounded three times by BEMBETA; but suddenly the bugles of the infantry were heard at a short distance, coming to the aid of the contra guerrillas at a double-quick, and thus the aspect of affairs was changed. Nevertheless, BEMBETA stubbornly maintained his ground, and returned to the attack time and again, when a body of 200 infantry which had just arrived attacked him on the flank. By that time night had fallen and stronger reinforcements were arriving for the Spaniards. During the night BEMBETA withdrew to the mountains, leaving fifty-nine dead and carrying about 150 wounded with him. The Spaniards buried ninety-one dead and sent nearly one hundred wounded to Sancti Spiritus, the slightly wounded remaining with the army. The Spaniards state that BEMBETA recrossed the Puerto Principe line, but private letters announce that such is not the fact by any means, BEMBETA having made his appearance at Quemado de Iobosi on the 1st inst., and having been joined by several bands from Remedios and Mayaguez.

LONO'S DEATH.

The second Upton expedition has been extremely disastrous to the Cubans. All the arms and ammunition have fallen into the hands of the Spaniards, and now we have official and private advices announcing that the remaining seven men of the expedition have been captured by the volunteers, (principally Cubans and some ex-insurgents,) and are now being tried by Court-martial at Holguin. Col. LONO was met by a corporal of the Naples battalion whom he disarmed and wounded defending himself against the corporal's musket, with the sword-bayonet. The corporal was fast giving out, when, on his shouts, two soldiers came up, one of whom was put *hors de combat* in a moment; the third soldier ran behind a tree, took deliberate aim and fired at LONO, the ball passing through his breast. He staggered, when the soldier ran up to him and run his bayonet twice through his body. And thus died one of the bravest men in Cuba. QUASIMODO.