

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP COLUMBIA.

The steam-ship *Columbia*, from Havana July 9, arrived here yesterday. We acknowledge our obligations to the Purser, Mr. MAGNA, for the prompt delivery of our mail parcels.

Return of De Rodas—Plots of the Bourbonists for a King—The Explosion in the Estello Coffee-House—Important Letters and Other Documents Captured by the Spaniards—Miscellaneous.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, July 9, 1870.

Gen. RODAS has returned to Havana and quietly reassumed the functions of his office, his reception having been of the most cordial and friendly character by all classes of the population, the Colonels of the volunteer regiments being among the number who went on board of the *Ysabella Catalica* to felicitate CABALLERO DE RODAS on his return. Things remain unchanged. The mutterings of disappointed officials are heard, and the working of the adherents of the Ysabellinos is still actively carried on. The latter party is determined to oust Gen. RODAS, and will not scruple to use peculiar and unworthy means to accomplish this object. The plan of these Ysabellinos, or Bourbonists, is simply to get full control of the Government of the island, obtain the aid of the volunteers and Casinos, and by these means influence the election of a Bourbonist King. RODAS has been serenaded by the bands of the volunteer battalions, and received the congratulatory visits of their officials.

A SCARE.

At 7 o'clock yesterday evening a sharp and loud detonation, as of an explosion, was heard in the vicinity of the Plaza de Armas, and in a few moments the streets were thronged with people to investigate the cause. Rumors of an attempt to blow up the palace were circulating, and the action of the volunteer guards at the palace in not permitting anybody to approach the door, was very significant. In a few moments, however, this order was withdrawn, the crowds dispersed, and only small parties of curiosity-seekers, your correspondent among the number, went to the Estello Coffee-house on Obispo-street, fronting the palace, where a scene of destruction met his view. The rear wall of the building, and the marble slabs in front of the bar were shattered to pieces, and the floor in front of the bar sunk several inches. The explosion was caused by the stoppage of a sewer running from several coffee-houses, through the palace to the sea. Not having been cleaned since its construction, according to the customs of Cuba, the foul gases accumulated caused an explosion by spontaneous combustion. A stone slab covering this sewer in the yard of the palace was thrown about three feet from its bed, but no other damage was done in the palace. As was natural, the wildest rumors of plots were in circulation, but the only conspiracy existing was that of native filth and uncleanness against their natural protectors and friends, the people of this City.

THE WAR.

In some portions of the island, especially the Eastern department, the Cubans have gained some advantage by managing to hold their own, and VALMASEDA has left Bayamo for Santiago de Cuba, to look after matters there. No encounters to speak of have taken place. Gen. RODAS says that not a band of one hundred insurgents exists in the Central department, and that most of the bands number no more than forty men. In the Cinco Villas, BEMBETA gives the troops a great deal of trouble, but nothing to change the aspect of affairs materially has been accomplished by him. Perhaps the best accounts of affairs and matters in the interior of the island are taken from the captured correspondence and other documents issued and written by prominent leaders of the insurrection. First in importance, if the rank of the writer is taken into consideration, is a message of President CESPEDES to the Cuban House of Representatives, which, with other documents, I translate literally and without comment:

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President to the House of Representatives:
The Republic has reached a trying moment. The enemy has invaded this State, one strong column taking possession of Guamaro, another of Sirbanion, and I am informed that a third has left the town and is marching in the direction of Camaguey. The consequences of such operations will prove lamentable if they are not immediately and energetically opposed. The Executive is already engaged in dictating necessary measures to repel the invasion, and invites the House, also, to adopt, promptly, resolutions leading to the same object. The House has proved too often its patriotism to look with indifference and coldness upon events which affect to such a degree the final success of our cause. And on this account the Executive expects to be energetically sustained by the House; and that no other interpretation will be given to this message than the warm and patriotic intentions that have always inspired the undersigned.

C. M. DE CESPEDES.

82 DIEGO DEL CHORRILLO, Jan. 1, 1870.

CAVADA ON SURRENDER.

A report that a few unfaithful citizens, through cowardice or some other unaccountable motive, have ceded the Spanish troops to their houses, in order to bring the country under their protection, has come to the knowledge of the Government: therefore, you will please direct that energetic disposition be made to prevent this in future, and proceed to the punishment of those who have made themselves guilty of such shameful treason.

C. M. DE CESPEDES.

TEVERICO CAVADA.

CAMAGUEY, March 17, 1870.

TRIAL OF BEMBETA.

A report of charges against BEMBETA was handed in some time ago, of which the following is a copy:

To the House of Representatives in Cuba:
As, unhappily, the House of Representatives constitutes today the only tribunal in Cuba before which a citizen rudely and despotically dealt with can by his claims with the hope of being heard, I am compelled to present to your consideration certain facts that will make every honest man doubt whether some of our military leaders are fighting for liberty or merely to impose on the country a brutal despotism which only tends to destroy property and annihilate our individual rights. On the evening of the 12th inst. the Cuban Gen. BERNABE DE VARONA, alias BEMBETA, came to my farm with his column of about 1,000 men, and as he stated to me that his intention was to pass the night on the premises, he and his troops were profusely provided with food and sheltered as well as circumstances allowed. I complained several times in vain to BEMBETA, requesting him to prevent his soldiers from tearing down and upsetting the fences, shooting the cattle and burning the hives, making him observe that his men had been provided with all needed. As I requested him not to allow his soldiers to kill a bull that had just entered my yard, he answered that "he liked to eat the very best," and when I observed to him that the three horses he was taking away were not mine, he answered "he could not help it." I am sorry to say that the behavior and conversation of BEMBETA and his officers while at supper in the parlor were not in the least respectful to my family, who occupied the next room. On their leaving the next morning, I was arrested, with my eldest son, by Col. TORRES, on BEMBETA'S order, for having had the boldness of complaining to a chief of column of the mischief committed by his troops. They ravaged my estate to such an extent that all those who have seen it lately inquire if the Spaniards had honored us with a visit. Some of our leaders seem to exert themselves in provoking hatred and aversion, and my opinion is that the state of our affairs is not so bright as to allow arousing of such sentiments among the population. In consideration of all I have represented above, I beg the House of Representatives to have the matter investigated, in order that the guilty parties may be punished. This is the only barrier that can be opposed to the anarchy and disorder prevailing in the ranks of our army, which will soon, if not timely redressed, make license, theft and military despotism the ruling laws of our young republic.

DIEGO NAVARRO.

SEBASTOPOL, 14th February, 1870.

Lieut.-Col. FERNANDO AGUERO, who was executed in Havana two months ago, with his brother DIEGO, was commissioned by the Commander-in-Chief, YGNACIO AGRAMONTE, in accordance with orders received from the House, to investigate this matter, but no result was ever announced.

LEMUS TO CESPEDES—LETTERS OF MARQUE.

Next comes a letter of MORALES LEMUS to CESPEDES, written a year ago, announcing the presentation of a sword of honor. Although rather old, it is nevertheless of interest, as it proves the good understanding existing between the Junta and CESPEDES:

CUBAN REPUBLICAN LEGATION, }

NEW-YORK, May 12, 1869.

HONORABLE CITIZEN: I amplify my communication to tell you that the Central Cuban Junta have agreed to present you with a sword of honor as a small testimony of the esteem in which they hold you. It will be handed to you at the same time the sentiments of respect, consideration and affection in which you are held by your fellow-citizens. Receive it, honorable citizen, as the first token of gratitude from your country. It is most important you should issue at once letters of marque; and in order to save time, and considering the difficulties you may meet in getting them printed in Cuba, we send you a certain number of them in blank, which you will only have to sign, should they meet with your approval. According to a motion I made, the Junta intends to protest energetically against the embargo of properties belonging to loyal Cubans, declaring also that any contract made with the Spanish Government for their purchase will be considered void the day we become, as shall undoubtedly happen, the rulers of the island, and hold the purchasers responsible for damages and losses suffered by the former owners. This step is taken with the idea of preventing people buying the seized properties in case the Spanish Government attempted to sell them. A decree issued by you to the same effect, and officially communicated to us, to be published in the

papers, would strengthen our protest and make it much more efficient.

MORALES LEMUS.

To the President of the Cuban Republic.

These letters of marque were issued and brought to the United States by Messrs. CIBNEROS and TINKER, but so far no privateers have made their appearance. A Cuban sloop with only two guns aboard would raise an awful row in Cuban waters.

JORDAN ACCUSED OF IGNORANCE.

The last document of interest is a charge of ignorance, or whatever it may be called, against Gen. JORDAN:

To the House of Representatives:

A day of glory, carefully prepared and anxiously waited for by the country, has been shamefully lost at the Asiento, through the unaccountable behavior of Gen. JORDAN and AGRAMONTE, and more especially of the Commander-in-Chief. The undersigned solemnly declares that hereafter he will recognize neither one as his superior, and as he renounces public offices, he intends to serve his country only as his patriotism and honor will inspire him. If there were in Cuba any Court powerful enough to have its sentence respected, he would summon the Major-General before it to explain his unpatriotic and criminal conduct at the Asiento; but as there is no such a thing known among us, I only can deplore the evils that have fallen on my unfortunate country, and struggle to the last with her enemies or her friends that do not fulfil their duty.

JOSE RUIZ BETANCOURT.

BARRACO GORDO, Jan. 22, 1870.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The exodus of wealthy families continues, but not to such an extent as was expected. Very few go to the United States, fearing to compromise themselves or their properties. . . . HORACIO SIMONI, of Puerto Principe, who married the only daughter of Mr. E. H. FAIRCHILD, of New-York, is not dead as was reported, but commands a division of insurgents in the Camaguey. . . . The Havana merchants hope that the line of steamers which has just received a subsidy of \$58,000 yearly from the United States, will be composed of steamers which take somewhat less time than twelve days to come from New-Orleans to Havana via the Florida ports. . . . The idea of establishing a line of German or French steamers from Europe to Havana via New-York is greatly retarded by commerce. QUASIMODO.