

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

The Slavery Agitation and its Probable Fruits — Drum-head Courts-Martial Abolished—Families from Insurgent Districts—Funeral of the Wife of the American Consul-General — Military Operations — Shooting of Captives—Valmaseda's Report.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, July 20, 1870.

The apparent destiny of the Island is at present undergoing a remarkable change. The Cubans have great expectations on the fact that the slavery question will bring them the aid of the Abolition Party in the United States and Europe, and that of the negroes themselves. But that is, to say the least, very problematical, as the Spaniards are fully alive to the necessities of the situation, and are now inaugurating measures to render the efforts of the Cubans futile, and to turn to themselves all the political advantages and benefits which the slavery agitation may bring in its train, and at the same time to earn the gratitude of the blacks. The election for Deputies to the Cortes is now a fixed fact, and the necessary orders have already been received from Spain to form the lists of those entitled to vote. All voters are eligible to office, irrespective of color. That is to say, all free colored people and Chinese who pay twenty-five dollars annually in municipal or other taxes and who are of age, may be elected to seats in the Cortes. This will naturally exalt the lower classes, as there is hardly a person in the Island who does not pay twenty-five dollars in taxes annually, and they are beginning not only to feel their importance but also to realize the effects of the revolution in Spain in September, 1868, and of the present war in Cuba. Properly represented, with justice evenly awarded, and the country once more enjoying peace, we may count on a great era of prosperity.

DRUM-HEAD COURTS-MARTIAL.

Important orders have just been given by Gen. RODAS, although not yet communicated to the public in general. All Drum-head Courts-martial are abolished, except in extreme and urgent cases. The General says that a Drum-head Court-martial does not afford the culprit any chance to summon witnesses and defend himself properly, while the ordinary course of trial will afford such opportunities and at the same time allow the heat and passion of the moment to subside. RODAS is exercising the pardoning power very frequently, having, since his return, commuted the sentence of twelve prisoners sentenced to death. The last instance occurred this morning, in the case of a certain JESUS MARIA MARTINEZ, of the town of Jumento. These acts of clemency are more productive of converts to the Spanish cause than Minie bullets or pompous proclamations.

REMOVAL OF INHABITANTS TO CAMPS AND CITIES.

A change has also been effected in the bringing of persons from the insurgent districts to the camps or towns. In future only such as are willing to come and have the means of supporting themselves will be brought to the settlements by the troops, and none are to be brought forcibly. This measure has been necessitated by the accumulation of families in the towns, all of whom receive rations from the Government, and are consequently a heavy burden on the exchequer.

FUNERAL OF MRS. BIDDLE.

Mrs. BIDDLE, the wife of our Consul, died on Monday morning. Her funeral took place at 4 the same afternoon. A very large number was present, including a representative of the Captain-General, Gov. ROBERTS, the General's Secretary, the Intendant, all foreign Consuls, with the exception of those from Holland, Belgium and Portugal, nearly every English merchant, several German merchants, and, strange to say, only three American merchants, a fact which caused a great deal of comment. Mr. DUNLAP, the English Consul-General, read the service for the dead of the Church of England, and some young gentlemen carried the coffin to the hearse and the funeral procession moved to the general cemetery, where the body was deposited. Mrs. BIDDLE was a native of Philadelphia, and was about twenty-seven years of age. She leaves five children, the youngest only six months, and the oldest seven years of age. Since the illness of Mr. and Mrs. BIDDLE the children have been taken care of by Mr. JOHN C. CRAWFORD, the British Vice-Consul. Mr. BIDDLE has very much improved, and is out of danger. The State Department has granted him a furlough, and it is expected that he will be able to leave, with his children, on Saturday, by the *Morro Castle*, for New-York. Mr. HALL is in charge of the Consulate.

THE REBELLION AGAIN AT THE LAST STAGE.

According to Spanish reports from the Eastern Department, the rebellion has reached its last stage. Lieut.-Col. JOAQUIN MARIN, commander of the column operating between Vasquez and Las Tunas, states that throughout the whole territory he commands, there are but few parties of armed Cubans, none of which numbers over twenty men. One small band of eighteen men, command by OCTAVIO GONZALEZ and VALENTIN MEZADO, fell into an ambuscade, prepared near St. Gertrude's; sixteen of them, including both of their chiefs, were killed, and the balance wounded and captured. Thirty-two more were killed near Malagueta, the greatest part of them being spies, mail-carriers, and foragers. There have been a few more *Presentados*, woman and children principally.

VALMASEDA'S OPERATIONS.

In his official report to Captain-General RODAS, Gen. VALMASEDA states that two Cubans were captured and shot near Manzanillo. They defended themselves and refused to surrender their arms as requested. The pursuit against MAXIMO GOMEZ continues very active between Jiguani and Bayamo. The greatest disorder is reported to prevail among his troops, and it is said that several of his armed men have presented themselves, together with a large number of Cuban families. Major PELLISIER, with his battalion, assaulted and took some strong entrenchments held by three hundred Cubans, near Chareo Redondo. The column of LOMA GALLARDA took some other fortifications near La Bruja, Censero, Foldon y Pansho Fonscy. Gen. VALMASEDA says he is very much pleased with the behavior of the Spanish troops, and the intelligence displayed by the commanders and officers of the columns.

VOLUNTEER SPORT—SHOOTING CAPTIVES.

The volunteers of Baire and La Guisa have also had their full share of capturing and shooting insurrectionists in their respective districts. The Cubans were repulsed in their attack on St. Domingo. Col. BERGES, who commanded the place, followed them closely with 150 men, and on reaching them in a strong position near River Mayaguabo, drove them off with a loss of nineteen killed. The Cubans were, however, enabled to remove their wounded. Col. WAYLER made several excursions on the Holguin and Guiamaro roads, during which he killed several Cubans, including a General, MONGO ORTUNO, who was captured and shot. Col. WAYLER, at the head of 150 men, crossed River Caimito and assaulted, under a heavy fire, the positions held by eight hundred Cubans, who were compelled to abandon them after losing sixteen of their men. The death of DONATO MARMOL is again reported and confirmed, and may be true this time.

QUASIMODO.