

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Secret History of a Counter-Revolutionary Movement.

A Scheme to Elect a Rival Insurgent President.

Negotiations with Cuban Leaders for a General Surrender.

How the Plot was Spoiled, and Probable Fate of the Traitors.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP MORRO CASTLE.

The steam-ship *Morro Castle*, from Havana July 23, arrived at this port yesterday. We are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. R. W. ALBERT, Purser of the *Morro Castle*, for the prompt delivery of our mail packages.

The Reported Assassination of Cuban Generals by the Insurgents—Secret History of a Conspiracy in which they were Engaged—An Attempt to Organize a Counter-Revolution and a Rival Government—Gen. Napoleon Arrango's Agency in the Plot—How it Failed.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, July 23, 1870.

The Havana journals published a few days ago an item announcing that the Captain of a coasting schooner had brought the report that the insurgent Generals, CORNELIO PORRA, ARTEAGA, ARTEAGA's son and his son-in-law had been assassinated. The *Diario* does not vouch for the report, and at head-quarters nothing in relation to it has become known. The public at large, both Cubans and Spaniards, indulge in conjectures why the Cubans should have killed their own Generals. Your correspondent, who is in possession of many facts connected with the above-named Generals, and every incident in affairs about Puerto Principe, and before, during and since the trip of Gen. RODAS, will now, for the first time, make public one of the most important events in the history of the war.

SECRET HISTORY OF A STRANGE PLOT.

This narrative will undoubtedly create excitement among Cubans and Spaniards, to a large majority of whom it will be the first truthful information they have received of affairs here. In order to make the subject plain, it is necessary to recur to the trip of Gen. RODAS to Puerto Principe, accompanied from Havana by the Cuban Gen. NAPOLEON ARRANGO, who had arrived there but a few hours previous. Speculation was rife as to the object of ARRANGO'S visit, and the few in the secret became aware immediately after RODAS' arrival at Puerto Principe, that ARRANGO would act as a Commissioner between the insurgent leaders, who wished to come to an understanding with Spain, and the Spanish Captain-General. These Cuban Generals were Gen. ARTEAGA, father and son; Gen. FREDERICO CASTELLANOS, Gen. CORNELIO PORRO, Gen. GABRIEL FORTUN, and a son-in-law of ARTEAGA, together with a number of less prominent rebel leaders.

THE MEETINGS.

One of the first interviews which took place was that between ARRANGO and CASTELLANOS, and a few days afterward an interview was arranged between ARRANGO and PORRO, through a relative of the latter, ARTEAGA also making his appearance periodically. At several of these interviews Mr. CESAREO FERNANDEZ, the Secretary of Gen. RODAS, was present. In the meantime Gen. GABRIEL FORTUN had held several interviews with the Spanish Gen. GOYENECHÉ, Col. BENEGLASSI and other officials, all being unmolested in their journeys from the interior to these camps.

THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY PLOT.

Gen. GABRIEL FORTUN, who plays an important part in this history, is a native of Spain, and was an officer of artillery, but becoming enamored of a Miss VARONA, of Puerto Principe, he married her and left the army, and thus became the proprietor of two large estates near Puerto Principe, and is now rapidly attaining to the position of one of the wealthiest men in that region. He espoused the Cuban cause on the outbreak of the rebellion, and was appointed a General, but has never rendered any active service. FORTUN is reported to be exceedingly avaricious and ambitious, and though not very talented, is possessed of a great deal of shrewdness. From the fact of his being a native Spaniard, and of being related to the principal families of the Camaguey, it was arranged that FORTUN should be the leader of the counter-revolution, and be elected opposition President of the Republic of Cuba, and afterward that he should make overtures to the Spanish Government to surrender.

WHY THE PLOT FAILED.

This plan was not carried out, the immense ambition of FORTUN being a bar to its realization, and day after day passing away without his coming to any decision.

A VIRTUAL TRUCE.

These Cuban Generals were at the time residing in the Maraguan district, and it will be remembered that, during the whole of RODAS' stay in Puerto Principe, a few Spanish soldiers could march through the entire district without opposition, although 1,500 armed insurgents were in the district. The Cubans were also unmolested by the Spaniards, and not a shot was fired, a tacit understanding paramount to a truce and cessation of hostilities existing between the Spanish and Cuban Generals.

CESPEDES DEFIED.

At that time the Cespedes Government issued an order for the arrest of Gen. FREDERICO CASTELLANOS, but the parties sent to arrest him were ordered by the Maraguan party to return and report that Gen. CASTELLANOS could not be arrested where he was, and that, if the order was insisted upon, it was much nearer to the Spanish ports than to the whereabouts of the titular President.

TERMS ASKED BY THE WHITE FEATHER REBELS.

The request made by the wife of ARTEAGA was that her husband be permitted to surrender at Puerto Principe and remain unmolested thereafter, receiving an unconditional pardon. RODAS replied that this was impossible, but that ARTEAGA and all others could surrender at some Spanish post, and from there ask in writing for a pardon; that he (RODAS) would refuse to grant it, but he pledged his word of honor to issue the necessary orders that all persons applying for a pardon be conducted to the coast and thence be embarked on any foreign vessel and sent to any country they might choose to reside in. The Cuban Generals refused to admit this proposition, and insisted on receiving a written pardon before presenting themselves, and also a written guarantee to be permitted to reside in the country unmolested, or to be allowed to embark for any foreign country, and that they would surrender to RODAS only. Over six weeks were spent in negotiations, affairs remaining *in statu quo*, when RODAS became tired of waiting so long and returned to Havana, leaving matters in a fair way of settlement, the plan of making FORTUN President being again broached and in active progress.

CESPEDES POWERLESS.

The few ultra Cubans who suspected the above conspiracy went to look for CESPEDES and lay the matter before him. CESPEDES, being powerless to proceed with an armed force against the Maraguan district, or to attack FORTUN at his farm, near Gualmaro, to which FORTUN the latter had retired, was compelled to let matters take their course and to remain inactive, availing himself, however, of such persons as he could count on to sow the seeds of disunion among the Fortun party, which had already sent several agents to the United States to invoke the aid of President GRANT, in case their plan should be consummated. CESPEDES, on discovering this,

also sent an emissary to New-York, who reached there safely about two weeks ago.

BLUNDER OF A STUPID OFFICER.

And now everybody is in a state of suspense and anxiety. The report that ARTEAGA and others had been assassinated, may be true; and if so, it is a sure sign that the plan of the Fortun party has failed. What makes matters still more complicated, and in itself would be sufficient to destroy altogether this plan of restoring peace to Cuba, has been the action of the most stupid man in the Spanish Army, Gen. CARO, the Commander-in-Chief of the Central Department.

ONE OF PRIM'S PROTEGES SPOILS THE PLOT.

Gen. CARO, an intimate friend of Gen. PRIM, shows plainly in his stolid face that talent or intelligence are qualities entirely lacking in his composition. Stupidity and stubbornness are plainly marked in his personal appearance, and his acts before and since his arrival prove nothing to the contrary. The object in sending CARO to this island, holding as he does the rank of a Mariscal de Campo in the Spanish Army, was simply to afford him an opportunity to earn promotion, and his friend PRIM a pretext to advance him another step in his military career by appointing him a Lieutenant-General. This fact being understood, it will therefore not be astonishing to learn that RODAS had barely left Puerto Principe, when CARO inaugurated a campaign entirely contrary to the projects of the Captain-General, and one possessing but little danger, but all the elements of success, and which would afford the best chance for writing a pompous report and obtaining the coveted grade of Lieutenant-General. CARO called together the different battalions guarding the lines leading from Puerto Principe in every direction, forming a corps of no less than 6,000 men, with which to operate against the Maraguan district, which has hitherto been occupied by but two skeleton companies of Spaniards. As several hundred non-combatant families reside in that district, and the Cubans in arms exist only in small parties, it will be very easy to concoct a flaming report of victory. No news from CARO or his movements has been received as yet, but one result is certain and that is, that the opposition to the Spanish Government will break out stronger than ever, and if the Spaniards are unsuccessful, they must ascribe it to the blind stupidity of their own commanders. Of course, the truce which made negotiations possible is broken by this blundering fool, and it is not improbable that the parties to it, on the Cuban side, have received the reward of their treachery, perhaps at the hands of assassins.

FALSE REPORTS.

Some New-York journals of the 3d inst. published a cruel hoax, intended to excite sympathy for the Cubans, by announcing that the Remedios volunteers had executed forty-two citizens of that place, by clubbing them to death with their muskets, and that ladies of Remedios were working with culprits in the chain gang in the public streets. A number of American merchants and others, indignant at such shameless lying, have, in the absence of an American Consul, certified to the falsity of these reports, which do not contain a word of truth. The signers of the document are very numerous, and include over twenty Americans, who have never been molested or troubled either by volunteers or the authorities.

MURDERS IN CARDENAS.

On Tuesday evening, a Chinaman got into a difficulty with a white man and killed him. The Chinese have managed to secure a large portion of the retail and provision trade, and great jealousy has consequently sprung up between the Spaniards and Canary Islanders, who prefer to make a living by peddling than by working. The excitement produced among the population, when the deed was known, became intense; threats were made to assassinate all the Chinese, and in order to avoid further difficulties the Governor called out the volunteers, who began to patrol the streets. With all the vigilance of the volunteers two Chinamen were found assassinated in the streets in the morning, and the desire for vengeance being satisfied matters again resumed a tranquil aspect.

THE WAR.

Skirmishes of minor importance are daily reported, and from 100 to 150 deaths are reported monthly. BEMBETA remains inactive in the jurisdiction of Puerto Principe, and no military movements in the Cinco Villas of any note are reported. Military movements may be considered at a stand-still until the beginning of October.

QUASIMODO.