

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Restoration of an Obnoxious System of Taxation Threatened—Possible Resignation of Rodas in Consequence—A War Joke—Absolutism of the Volunteers—Mode of Carrying on the War—Surrender of Castellanos—Miscellaneous.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 1870.

Questions which will prove difficult to solve have sprung up between the authorities of Spain and those of the island relative to the direct tax, which the home Government insists on re-establishing, and which is exceedingly obnoxious to the people of the island. When the measure had been broached first it met with opposition, and being but superficially studied by those who inaugurated it, a failure to meet the wants of the public and at the same time satisfy the national treasury [was the natural result. It was first inaugurated about two and a half years ago, when the country was just recovering from the effects of a partial commercial crisis, and although no war then existed, it nevertheless was more disastrous in its effects on industry and commerce than the present state of affairs. The entire population of the island, without exception, headed by all the prominent Crown officers, is a unit against the odious measure, but the Home Government insists on restoring it, although RODAS, advised by the principal merchants and planters, had abolished it. Everybody here prefers indirect taxation through export and import duties, which, under the present régime, are collected with great care and honesty. In July, 1868, the import and export duties at the port of Havana amounted to \$352,000; in July, 1869, to \$400,000, and the same month, just passed, shows, that with decreased exports and imports, somewhat over \$900,000 have been collected. This proves that in former years the united thriving society of honorable merchants and patriotic employes robbed the treasury of over half a million of dollars monthly, and in addition compelled the people to pay this amount over again in the shape of taxes, in order to raise the amount required to govern and misgovern the island and fee a select party of Ministers and their friends in Spain. People here are very much incensed against MORET, the Colonial Minister, whom they accuse of connivance with the Cuban party, and who, they say, is either bought or influenced by Mr. AZCARATE, a Cuban by birth, who published a journal in Madrid some time ago. This AZCARATE is considered an emissary of the Cuban revolutionists, but such is not the case, although AZCARATE, to judge from his past life and writings, would not be over sorry to have Spanish rule cease in Cuba. It has been rumored in select circles that RODAS sent a telegram to the Colonial Minister in Spain, tendering his resignation as Captain-General, if the system of direct taxation should be persisted in. If RODAS leaves, the Intendente, Mr. SANTOS, and Secretary FERNANDEZ will accompany him, and, perhaps, LOPEZ ROBERTS, the political Governor, also.

ONE OF THE HUMORS OF THE WAR.

A good joke, for as such I consider it, has been in circulation for some days, namely, that President OSMEDES had issued a proclamation, in view of the war in Europe, announcing that the Republic of Cuba, its army and navy, would remain strictly neutral; forbidding all its citizens abroad to interfere or take part on either side.

VOLUNTEER DEFIANCE OF LAW.

DIAZ QUINTERO, the Spanish Deputy, will open his eyes when he sees the numerous indignant protests written by volunteers against his attack on them. But the same steamer, also, took out hundreds of letters, containing sufficient authentic information to enable Mr. QUINTERO to make another fierce attack on the volunteers. Many acts have been committed by volunteers, which, by them, are undoubtedly considered very laudable and praiseworthy, but which appear in a very different light when viewed at a distance of three thousand miles, with eyes not yet blinded by bigotry and brutal party spirit. The most prominent document perhaps is that written by Don ESTEBAN PARODI, the companion of MORA in imprisonment in the Cardenas Jail, whose case has caused so much excitement and comment. Both of the accused were discharged by the Supreme Court of the island, but the volunteers retained them in spite of the order of the Court, and a military court-martial was called, which sentenced them to death. The Captain-General declined to approve the sentence, and referred the case to Spain, where, I understand, the Supreme Court has also absolved the accused. The volunteers again refusing to obey the orders of the tribunal, Brig.-Gen. ZEA, the Chief of Staff, went to Cardenas on Saturday, but failed to convince the volunteers that they ought to release their captives. The following extracts from PARODI's letter are very significant:

"I have read with surprise that myself and MORA had been assassinated by the volunteers. * * I have not even received an unkind look from the volunteers, but on the contrary they have made me shed tears of satisfaction when listening to their consoling speeches. And let no one believe that I write this with the intention of obtaining my liberty from these calumniated volunteers, as I am perfectly aware that they will have to execute the sentence of the Supreme Court, whatever it may be."

The point is obvious that PARODI remains a prisoner of the volunteers, and no power in the land can save him, unless the volunteers are willing.

A VILE SYSTEM OF WARFARE.

The following will illustrate how the war is carried on in Cuba, and I may limit myself to a single case among many: A detachment of colored soldiers operating in the Cinco Villas captured an insurgent named CLEMENTE SILVERIO, and was taking the necessary steps to send him to the commander of the troops that if he would spare his life, he would lead him to a camp where five insurgents were bivouacking. The offer was accepted. The detachment marched from the Loma de Cruz to Santa Fé, where the five men were found and immediately executed. SILVERIO must now remain with the Spaniards, who of late have begun to publish the names of their guides and spies, thus compelling them to remain with the troops. SILVERIO says that the Spaniards gained by sparing his life, having been enabled to kill five instead of one. This is only one of many cases of a similar nature occurring all over the island, and if the system should continue, the war will end, as I have stated before, from want of combatants—both factions decreasing daily in numbers.

THE DISAFFECTED LEADERS.

Gen. FEDERICO CASTELLANOS, of the Cuban Army, operating in the Camaguey, surrendered voluntarily to the Spanish Gen. CARO, and is now retained as a prisoner. The report that Gen. CORNELIO POBLO was assassinated by the

Cubans when he attempted to surrender is repeated, with the addition that his companions, Gens. FORTUN and FREIRE, had also been killed. I gave you full particulars in a recent letter regarding the interviews which had been held with these Generals by NAPOLEON ARRANGO and Secretary FERNANDEZ on the part of the Government. The report of the killing of these Generals by their own partisans needs as yet fuller confirmation, but it appears as if there must be some truth in it, owing to the fact that CASTELLANOS came in by himself, unaccompanied by any of his soldiers, although it was reported that he would bring five hundred men with him. This leads me to suppose that the plan of surrender became fully known to the war party among the Cubans, and that they were successful in frustrating the plans of their recreant countryman, and produced a reaction favorable to a continuance of the war. The engagements reported from different sections of the Central Department are of slight importance.

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

Gen. VALMASEDA arrived at Santiago de Cuba on the 24th, and was received with great joy by the Spanish-thinking part of the population. The report given of his trip from Bayamo, overland, shows that he was enabled to travel from Bayamo to Tiguani with an escort of twenty-five men, but that the insurgents were so plentiful between Palmo Soriano and Tiguani as to compel him to take an entire battalion as an escort. This does not look much as if the rebellion was decreasing, much as the journals announced repeatedly a few months ago that the transit between those places was entirely safe and free from insurgents. The Cubans are also very thick in the immediate vicinity of Bayamo, having lately killed several Spaniards within gunshot of the town. The Spanish journals call these casualties of war "assassinations," when perpetrated by Cubans; when a Cuban gets killed, it is simply "a traitor less." All depends on how you feel.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The wife of the Cuban General, YONACIO AGRAMONTE, and several other Cuban ladies, will leave on Saturday for New-York. They are stopping with Col. CALDERON, of the Sixth Volunteer Battalion.... A number of cholera cases are daily reported.

QUASIMODO.

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Cuban Press on the European Situation—The Diario and the Pope—What the People Think—Letter from Castellanos to his Friends—He Urges them to Surrender—Forty Thousand Spanish Soldiers in Cuba—Miscellaneous.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Aug. 6, 1870.

The Havana Press is divided on the European question. The *Diario* is intensely French, much more French than Spanish, and the *Voz de Cuba* leans to the Prussian side, as far as its mild articles permit it to do so. The *Diario*, however, does not always express its views with the same impartiality as the *Voz*, and if the latter would only make an effort and not be so careful to exclude early and interesting news from its columns, it would soon prove a formidable opponent to the *Diario*. The *Diario* of Wednesday contains a very peculiar article on the European question, and makes special reference to Rome. Coming from the *Diario*, it looks very much like a charity sermon from a miser. Referring to the withdrawal of the French troops from Rome, the probable departure of the Pope, and the garrisoning of the new capital of Italy by VICTOR EMANUEL's soldiers, the *Diario* says:

"What has occurred in the past twenty-two years (since 1848) to produce such a complete, radical and surprising change? It has happened that the impious revolution has marched with giant strides, and that this revolution has penetrated the palace of the sovereign and the hut of the laborer, the dwelling palaces of magnates, artisans and merchants. This revolution has blighted noble feelings and degraded them to the place formerly occupied by a total denial of conscience. This revolution had to kill all religious sentiments in order to move on its way without obstruction, and has accomplished its purpose. The sovereigns do not understand the evil which they allow to be committed; they will understand it when they have to abandon their palaces, as the elevated Pope is leaving the Vatican. This is the truth, told in an American island, lost in immensity of the seas. Will not this truth cross the seas and find an echo with the Great Powers, and may it not be heard amid the din of strife? But we don't vacillate in saying that NAPOLEON has fought his first battle on the banks of the Tiber, and has lost it. He will have to gain a great many in Germany to neutralize the effects of this rout. The French Republic sustained the Pope in 1848 with extraordinary firmness; the Empire abandoned him in 1870. The Republic had a more extended view, and acted with more foresight than the Empire. The poet LAMARTINE saw clearer, in our opinion, than the Emperor NAPOLEON."

It is impossible to tell what caused the *Diario* to publish such a forcible and very ultra article, and it almost reads like the *Pensamiento Español* in Madrid. It is plain, however, that as NAPOLEON has abandoned the *Diario's* great apostle, the *Diario* in turn abandons NAPOLEON. The latter, however, will hardly prove so injurious to NAPOLEON as his action to the Pope. But another question arises, namely, whether the *Diario*, like a veteran in political matters, does not also foresee an important change in Cuban affairs, to be brought about by European complications, which all petitions, protests and patriotic speeches will be unable to avoid? The downfall of the Pope indicates to the *Diario* the downfall of its pet and favorite system, the destruction of human slavery. When nations refuse any longer to be governed by a priest, human beings will refuse to be held in bondage, merely because their color is different.

INDIFFERENCE OF THE PEOPLE.

The public in general has received the news about the Pope with the utmost indifference. The majority of Cubans and Spaniards, the latter especially, hate the Pope and the priests, ascribing to the latter all the troubles and civil wars which have taken place in Spain. Here the people are dissatisfied with the priests, owing to the excessive charges made for the performance of religious functions. But the priests are compelled to charge high, because the number of their customers is very limited, and entirely confined to the fair sex on the shady side of forty-five.

CASTELLANOS' ADVICE.

The Cuban General, FEDERICO CASTELLANOS, who has just surrendered to the Spaniards, has written the following letter to a late companion, which has been reproduced by the *Gaceta*:

PUERTO PRINCIPLE, July 28, 1870.

MY DEAR FRIEND: Liable as we are to err, we have committed a mistake which has brought us into misfortune. We can avoid this misfortune if we surrender to the Government, which, with all possible generosity, extends to us its protecting hand, throwing a veil over what has passed. As I appreciate you truly, and see the disastrous end which awaits all in the field, I hasten to advise you that without the loss of a moment you should come, and, at the same time, show this letter to every friend possible, inviting them to come with their horses and arms, and they may be sure that they will be glad afterward of having done so. I may inform you, at the same time, that I remain in absolute liberty. Do not allow yourselves to be taken in any longer. Understand that you are only used as instruments of the iniquities which they (OSMEDES & Co.) are committing, and that in the end you will be the victims, experiencing only contempt as a recompense. The bearer of this (a woman) will tell you how I have been received and how matters stand.

Your friend, FEDERICO CASTELLANOS.

This is Spanish-American all over; the insurgent today, a loyalist to-morrow; the promises of one hour and the oaths of a minute ago forgotten the next. Gen. CASTELLANOS has, undoubtedly, a perfect right to surrender or continue fighting with his countrymen, but to American or English eyes the recital of such changes looks extremely queer.

THE LILLIAN.

The famous blockade runner *Lillian* has at last been captured by the Spaniards, not by any Spanish man-of-war but by Spanish double-deckers. The *Lillian* after having been seized at Nassau, was put up at auction, and purchased by the agent of the Spanish Government at that place. She was escorted by the gun-boat *Yenadito* to Nuevitas, as a report had been spread that the Cubans at Nassau would make an attempt to seize her after leaving port. The *Lillian* will be probably transformed into a dispatch boat.

THE SPANISH ARMY IN CUBA.

All reports made as to the present strength of the Spanish Army in Cuba have been more guesses, and the telegraphic announcement that thirteen thousand men were coming from Spain to reinforce the army has again excited curiosity as to the number of men really in the field, not

and where they operate and whether they are employed as garrisons or in moving about on field service. Your correspondent is enabled to furnish you with an exact and accurate report regarding the number of troops in each jurisdiction, which includes all men belonging to the regular army, counter guerrillas and mobilized volunteers, but does not include the different volunteer corps in every section of the island. The forces are distributed as follows:

Departments.	No. of men.
Cinco Villas.....	8,011
Sancti Spiritus and Moron.....	6,405
Havana.....	2,167
Vuelta Abajo.....	077
Matamoros.....	1,550
Puerto Principe.....	0,380
Eastern Tunas.....	11,920
Total.....	40,770

To illustrate the manner of their distribution, I take the Cinco Villas, where 2,375 men are continually moving about the country, while 6,236 do duty in garrisons and on plantations to prevent them from being destroyed. The number of such posts or detachments in the Cinco Villas alone is 150. Even if the 18,000 men come from Spain, the strength of the army will not be materially increased, as at present the army already contains 4,000 men whose time has expired, and who will return to Spain as soon as they can. Fully 2,000 more will also be exempt from further service by that time or pay the customary tribute which the climate of Cuba exacts of foreigners.

HEALTH OF HAVANA.

Although Havana does not record any cases of sun-stroke, the vomito, small-pox and cholera are amply making up for any deficiencies in that respect. The average daily number of deaths from yellow fever is about thirty-five, from small-pox fifteen, and from cholera about forty; this, of course, does not include deaths from other sickness. The wife of Gen. CARBO and the daughter of Gov. ROBERTS are ill with fever, but the latter is out of danger. It is probable that all the high officials will leave Havana for Marianao during the next two months.

QUASIMODO.