

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP BIENVILLE.

The steam-ship *Bienville*, from Havana Aug. 9, arrived at this port yesterday. We are indebted to the courtesy of the Purser, Mr. A. T. ALEXANDER, for the prompt delivery of our files and letters.

Machinations Among the Hostile Leaders—Probable Departure of De Rodas, and Trouble with the Mother Country—The War News—Miscellaneous Matters.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 1870.

The *exposé* of the machinations and treaties which were carried on by RODAS and several of the insurgent leaders in the Camaguey, which was published in the *TIMES* of the 30th ultimo, has produced great excitement among all classes, Spaniards and Cubans asking each other whether such proceedings had gone on for such a length of time without having been mentioned here. A letter received by your correspondent from Matanzas, and signed by a relative of Mr. or Gen. FEDERICO CASTELLANOS, says: "You have been misled by the Spaniards, Mr. Correspondent. I have positive and late news from the seat of war, and if all others should surrender, I swear to you that FEDERICO will not do so, but remain in the field and fight the Spaniards, even if he has to do it by himself, and be hunted like a wild beast by these Spanish liars, who have told you such infernal stories as can only be invented by them. To satisfy the gentleman's scruples on that score, I sent him a copy of CASTELLANO'S letter, written to his companions, requesting them to come forward and surrender as he had done. But the best joke is that the New-York correspondent of the *Voz de Cuba* treats this matter as an invention, and speaks of "Quasimodo, the truthful and infallible correspondent of the *TIMES*," in a very ironical manner, in fact, accusing him of being a Munchausen on a small scale, and of pluming himself on his activity and accuracy. As I have no documents on hand to send to this correspondent, I can only refer him for the truth of my assertions to Gen. RODAS, Secretary FERNANDEZ, VERGER, the sub-editor of the *Voz de Cuba*, FERRER DE CONTO, and other Spaniards who know, because I am aware that as a loyal Spaniard Mr. FRAY MERIDES would not place any reliance in the reports of the most respectable and truthful Cubans, although "Quasimodo" does.

Since the *TIMES* reached here, the parties are speculating on the probable result of new negotiations, and notwithstanding the fact that an understanding of any kind would be violently opposed by the ultra portion of the Cubans and Spaniards, it would not pass beyond a conflict of words. Though they will not acknowledge it, the majority of both factions are anxious, and in their hearts feel, that the war cannot be brought to a close for a long time by the mere force of arms, and that diplomacy is the only agent which can prevent the gradual but sure destruction of the Island of Cuba.

The Cubans have more elements of power and greater means of damaging the Spaniards than is apparent at a superficial glance. They have still a great deal of power in old Spain, and exercise a large influence in framing the laws and orders which are sent from there, and these will produce discord and division among the Spaniards. The *Voz de Cuba* of this morning has an editorial on the subject, which is intended to prepare the public mind for the probable departure of RODAS and the impending row with the mother country. It says: "Is it possible to believe that RODAS will order such disastrous laws to be put in force here as the re-establishment of direct taxes, the return of embargoed property, the suppression of the Vigilance Committee, (financial,) and other measures, which laws have been advised by our most implacable enemies. If on that account the rumor that RODAS intends to resign should prove well founded, because he cannot conciliate in any other manner his duty as a subordinate and his ideas as a Spaniard, it will be the duty of everybody to recognize the noble conduct of a man who does not abandon us on any frivolous pretext, but we must deplore the painful conflict to which his delicacy and legitimate ambition are submitted." The *Voz* further states that it hopes that the row will not take place, and that the Government have confidence in the people and its Chief Magistrate. The gist of the matter is that if the Government persists in inaugurating the measures it has proposed, it will produce the division among the Spaniards so much desired by the Cubans, and, as a natural consequence, strengthen the cause of the latter and proportionately weaken the cause of the former. But they know their own business and can fight it out among themselves.

A SENSATION.

A telegram was received last evening by the consignees of the South Coast steamers, announcing that the battalion of San Quintin, which accompanied VALMASEDA to Palma Soriano, on his way to Cuba, had taken the insurgent camps at Sierra del Hondon, Florida Blanca and Lama, burning eight hundred houses (most probably huts) and killing two hundred insurgents, the largest portion of them whites. If this is true, it is a convincing proof that the number of insurgents near Mayari must be very great; if we only count three men to each house destroyed, and make no reference to the houses not destroyed, or to the insurgents in other parts of the same district, the Cubans must necessarily have a force of 2,400 men at those points alone.

WAR NEWS.

War news is very scarce. The Spanish reports from the Cinco Villas announce not only the cessation of hostilities on a large scale, but add that convoys go and come unaccompanied by troops and unmolested by the Cubans. If any report of an engagement is received it is of small importance, and the revolution in that portion of the island is considered over by the Spaniards. From Sancti Spiritus similar reports are received. Not the slightest mention is made of BEMBETA or CAVADA and their forces, and if the silence of the Press and of official reports could be relied on, one would be led to believe that these leaders and their men no longer existed. We shall hear of them again, however, when we least expect it, and be informed that the pacified districts have again become lively with the presence of numerous bands of Cubans. Puerto Principe and its commanding General exist no longer; not a word has been heard from those regions for a week. The Cubans want to know what's the matter?

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. LEOPOLD A. PRICE, United States Consular Agent at Nuevitas, who has just returned from the North, has won \$40,000 in the Havana lottery.

The Germans of Matanzas, have felicitated the King of Prussia on his first victory over the French.

The city is very unhealthy and the ratio of mortality 125 per cent. heavier than during January or February.

A shark, twenty-two feet long, having a small junk-shop and a newly born baby in his capacious stomach, has been captured off the port. A post-mortem examination revealed, also, that this huge gentleman had never been troubled with toothache.

QUASIMODO.