

## CUBAN AFFAIRS.

### ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP MORRO CASTLE.

The steam-ship *Morro Castle*, which left Havana on the 13th, arrived at this port yesterday. We are indebted to the courtesy of the Purser, Mr. R. W. ALBERT, for the prompt delivery of our files and correspondence.

### Interview with Gen. Castellanos—His Opinion of the Insurgent Commanders—Gen. Rodas and the Volunteers—Desultory War News—Miscellaneous Matters.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Aug. 13, 1870.

The City of Havana has at present among its inhabitants a person who has figured very prominently in the insurrection, namely, Gen. FEDERICO CASTELLANOS, whose voluntary surrender to the Spanish troops at Puerto Principe I announced to you a few days ago. Gen. CASTELLANOS is a young man, of a fine and soldier-like appearance, looking every inch a gentleman. Your correspondent had the pleasure of an interview with him, and his statements on matters and things in insurrection land are very interesting, some of the information communicated by him being of the most recent date. The following is a résumé of the interview:

#### INTERVIEW.

Correspondent—You are Gen. FEDERICO CASTELLANOS of the Cuban Army?

Castellanos—Ex-General, if you please. Having surrendered, and no longer exercising any functions, I cannot admit of any title, nor do I wish to be considered as anything more than a man who has thrown off certain aims and ideas, and who retires from the country of his birth.

Correspondent—How was you treated by the Spaniards after your surrender?

Castellanos—I was treated uniformly well.

Correspondent—What truth is there in the report of Gens. FORTUN, ARTEAGA and PORRO having been assassinated?

Castellanos—FORTUN, the ARTEGAS and RODRIGUEZ were arrested by IGNACIO AGRAMONTE, and are now held as prisoners. An order for PORRO's arrest was also issued, but up to the latest date, say about the 16th of July, he had managed to avoid an arrest, but is hiding and fleeing from AGRAMONTE.

Correspondent—Gen. JORDAN has published a card in the New-York journals referring to a letter which he claims to have received from PORRO, wherein the latter assures him of his unwavering loyalty to the Cuban cause. What is your opinion of it, or what knowledge have you of this proposed surrender of PORRO's?

Castellanos—I firmly believe that PORRO acted in good faith whilst treating with the Spanish Government about his surrender, and I think he will carry out his agreement at the first opportunity. I don't know what he may have written to JORDAN.

Correspondent—Who commands the Cuban Army at present?

Castellanos—That is very hard to tell. AGRAMONTE is the head-figure, arrests persons, and don't care for anybody.

Correspondent—Is not Gen. CAVADA Commander-in-Chief, and where is he?

Castellanos—My latest information from CAVADA is that, after being escorted to Sancti Spiritus by BEMBETA, he made his way into the Cinco Villas.

Correspondent—Is CAVADA a good General?

Castellanos—I've never heard of him as being in any flight; wherever you hear of houses and plantations burning, there CAVADA commands.

Correspondent—Who are the fighting Generals?

Castellanos—We have had but one good fighting General; that was JORDAN; and he was, also the only real honest one in that capacity. I like him very much, but you know the objection to foreigners, and especially to those to whom the term military adventurer may be applied. AGRAMONTE'S trickery made JORDAN leave; had he remained, affairs would present a very different aspect for the Cubans now. The other fighters are MAGIN DIAS and BEMBETA, and both are very honest men.

Correspondent—But where do you leave AGRAMONTE?

Castellanos—There is no danger of him; AGRAMONTE don't like to hear bullets whistle.

Correspondent—Was QUESADA a fighter?

Castellanos—In the beginning, yes; but after he had formed a strong party for himself he was no longer, but commanded the troops at a distance of seven leagues.

Correspondent—How would the return of QUESADA and JORDAN affect the insurrection?

Castellanos—If they send the men and arms, it will be as well, and perhaps better, if they remain away, although JORDAN would at least fight, and set the rest an example of honesty.

Correspondent—You seem to be very fond of JORDAN?

Castellanos—He made me a General; after he left, AGRAMONTE wanted me to resign and go into the ranks, treating me somewhat as QUESADA used to treat the negroes—a Captain today and a private to-morrow.

Correspondent—Speaking of negroes, how do they behave?

Castellanos—When the war broke out a battalion of colored troops was organized, and they behaved exceedingly well. QUESADA, with his guerrilla warfare, split them up into parties of twenty-five to fifty each, with its commander, whom he would transfer from the ranks to the command, and vice versa. This broke down all discipline among them, and since then no regularly organized band of blacks has existed.

Correspondent—That's not what I meant; are the blacks in the Cuban army or living within the Cuban lines on good terms with the whites, and are they brave and patriotic?

Castellanos—They are brave, if cruelty and bravado can be called bravery, and as to living on good terms, I am sure that before long Cubans and Spaniards will be compelled to unite in order to exterminate them. These blacks obey nobody's orders unless they feel so disposed, and it is too late and they are too far gone to try to bring them within the bounds of subordination.

Correspondent—How about CESPEDES?

Castellanos—He is somewhere about Bayamo, I hardly ever heard of him, and nobody cared for him; he was, or paid much attention to his doings. CESPEDES is played out, and has been powerless for some time.

Correspondent—Do you know Col. RYAN?

Castellanos—Somewhat. Col. RYAN'S brigade consists of 180 men, well-mounted and well-armed.

Correspondent—Is this the largest single army which the Cubans have in the field?

Castellanos—No, Sir. Both BEMBETA and MAGIN DIAS have larger forces.

Correspondent—What do you consider the entire strength of the Cuban forces, both black and white, in the Central and Eastern Departments?

Castellanos—In the Central Department, about 2,500, and in the Eastern Department about 1,500. But these are matters I do not like to speak about. I have left the whole business, and although I no longer belong to the Cuban Army, I nevertheless have many friends and relatives among them. I have made up my mind not to say anything, and had you not been accompanied by my friend—, I should not have answered any questions.

#### RODAS AND THE VOLUNTEERS.

On Thursday evening the streets leading to the palace were thronged with thousands of people, making locomotion almost impossible, which was to come from the Tacon Theatre, with the uniform and equipments of a volunteer, which were to be presented to Gen. RODAS. The different bands belonging to the Volunteer Corps, were united into one monster band, and when the procession passed in front of the palace it presented a grand appearance. The band and file of the volunteers did not turn out, only the sappers and miners, band and officers. The band, composed of 275 instrumental performers, 20 buglers, and about 50 drummers, flanked by the sappers, who bore lighted torches, and the officers in the centre, formed in the Plaza, filling it to repletion. A hat, Winchester rifle, and uniform, were then presented by the commission to RODAS. A splendid table was spread in the saloons. Speeches were made by prominent Spaniards and the commanders of the French

and German Volunteer Legions, the band meanwhile playing in the Plaza.

Frequent reference was made to DIAZ QUINTERO, the member of the Spanish Cortes, and

bugbear of the volunteers, and particular stress was laid on the fact that RODAS had identified himself with the people, that is to say, according to their idea, with the volunteers. But this is no proof that RODAS is altogether trusted by them. RODAS managed to get the volunteers out of the forts, and as a volunteer gravely remarked, while the celebration was going on, "RODAS is an old fox; he don't trust us, and we don't trust him. He is either trying to use us for purposes of his own, or else he is trying to disband us." There is something in this, but as regards disbandment at present, it is altogether out of the question. If peace should be restored, the volunteers will disband by themselves, as the respectable portion prefer selling cloth and sugar for carrying the musket, and the disreputable portion will give up in disgust when they see that the volunteer uniform is no longer a protection and a cloak under which they can strut and insult peaceable or inoffensive citizens. A body of men composed of such homogenous elements cannot last any length of time, without some very powerful motive to hold them together.

#### WAR NEWS.

The official news from the Eastern Department is of but little interest, the military operations being reduced to engagements of small importance in the jurisdictions of Bayamo, Giguani, Manzanillo and Cuba, which have resulted in the killing of a number of insurgents, taking of some prisoners, and the destruction of a few entrenched camps. Telegraphic communication has been re-established between Santiago de Cuba and Bayamo.

On the 23d Lieut. J. NINO, stationed at Nimanima, marched about the neighboring districts, and having been attacked by a large force of the enemy, was compelled to retire after three hours' fighting, the Lieutenant and two soldiers being killed.

On the 17th, 26th and 28th the insurgents attacked and burned the plantations of San Agustin, San Rafael and San Diego, garrisoned by mobilized troops. The losses on both sides were insignificant.

During a heavy shower on the 29th, the column of SAN QUINTIN, near the Majaguago River, at a place known as Hondon, took an entrenchment after an hour's fighting, killing seventeen insurgents, destroying 600 huts, and capturing two prisoners. The column had one killed and two wounded. The column under Commander MAESTRE surprised the insurgent chief BALDOQUIN and his party, killing them all. On the 2d inst., three columns, commanded by Col. CAMPILLO, took possession of the important position of Florida Blanca. No details are given of this feat of arms. The means of communication are improving, and tranquillity is being partially restored in the Eastern Department. A drove of cattle from Bayamo reached Santiago de Cuba under the protection of only fifteen armed men.

The Commander-in-Chief of the jurisdiction of Holguin, under date of the 30th ult., informs the Captain-General of the surrender of twenty-one insurgents, belonging to the bands of ANTOLIN AGUILERA and CORNELIO ROJAS, who lately had made their submission. Their arms were taken from them by other insurgent chiefs, who mistrusted them since their leaders had presented themselves to the authorities. On the 26th Lieut. LOPEZ with sixty-five men of the Madrid battalion and some volunteers, attacked an entrenchment defended by three hundred insurgents, and, after half an hour's fighting, Lieut. LOPEZ retired for want of ammunition, having two wounded, which means that the troops were driven off. On the 3d two columns combined at El Ciego Hill, attacked and took possession, after an hour's fighting, of an entrenched camp defended by three hundred insurgents, who were dispersed and pursued for a long time with twenty-four killed—two Spaniards killed and four wounded.

The ex-insurgent chief ANTOLIN AGUILERA, with ten men who had lately surrendered, was commissioned to capture the insurgent chief PEDRO ARIAS, who almost every evening came into the city by stealth, and on the 6th captured ARIAS near the city. Being tried by Court-martial, ARIAS was executed on the 8th. ARIAS had a great reputation as a criminal, and his execution has produced a good effect. On the 1st, Col. MARIN, of the artillery, at Palmarto, killed fifteen insurgents and their leader, GRAU. The Spaniards had one wounded. On the 19th, Col. LAPUYA escorted a convoy from Baga to Gualmaro, and at the Guira and Tana Hills had three engagements with the insurgents, driving them off from three entrenched camps, and killing three. On the 24th, the Union Battalion destroyed, in the Consuegra Mountain and at Palo Quemado, many huts and a number of plantations. It is reported that the Cuban General JULIO PERALTA has been imprisoned by his own men for his lack of courage, as some say, and as others say for trying to leave the island with his acquired booty. This report, coming from Spanish sources, needs confirmation, the only reason for believing it being that nothing has been heard from PERALTA for some time.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The sanitary condition of the city remains unchanged; a large number of deaths from cholera, yellow-fever and small-pox are daily reported. The mortality among the shipping is not so great as in former years, owing to the small number of foreign vessels in port. The so-called aristocracy of the city has joined in the protest against the language of DIAZ QUINTERO. The Havana aristocracy is famous for its profligacy, ignorance and embarrassments, its condition as a general rule, forming a strong contrast to the middle and poorer classes. Every steamer from the central and eastern department brings numbers of sick and wounded soldiers and officers. Mr. ORTEGA has been appointed Chief of Police. QUASIMODO.

### State of Things at Cardenas—Indignation of the Volunteers—Miscellaneous Matters.

From Our Special Correspondent.

CARDENAS, Thursday, Aug. 11, 1870.

From a second-rate town in the Island of Cuba, the readers of the TIMES must not expect that anything of much importance can proceed. At this season of the year, every branch of business—particularly the sugar trade—is extremely dull, and the number of ships in port is small. Freights are low, and many of the shipmasters are leaving in ballast for the United States—hoping that the war in Europe may have brought American vessels into demand.

#### THE VOLUNTEERS INDIGNANT.

The volunteers throughout the whole island, but those of this place in particular, have lately been wrought up to a very high pitch of patriotic indignation by the statement of a Deputy in the Cortes that the volunteers of Cuba had disgraced the Spanish name, and that those in Cardenas had shot two Cubans who had been legally pardoned. As this latter statement was untrue, the volunteers lost no time in improvising discourses full of patriotic fire to convince the Spanish people of the honorable and disinterested services they have given to their country, and launching furious philippics and bitter anathemas against the unfortunate diputado—who merely asserted what he had read in a Madrid paper. The two young Cubans, alluded to as having been shot, are still in prison here. A short time ago an envoy of DE RODAS came here for the purpose of releasing them, but the threats of the volunteers deterred that official from executing the orders of the Captain-General.

#### STATUS OF THE INSURRECTION.

The Spanish troops, according to a correspondence from Trinidad of 30th July, had burned eight hundred houses, killing and capturing two hundred persons. The insurrection in this part of the island is pretty much as it was a year ago. The elections for representatives to the Spanish Cortes are to take place this month. I learn from good authority that FERRER DE CONTO, of the New-York *Cronista*, is to represent this jurisdiction. The rainy season is now half over; but little rain has fallen as yet. This city is very healthy just now. Cholera is raging at Sagua and Remedios, and a great many negroes and Chinamen have been carried off. Our American Consular Agent sailed for New-York in the latter part of July. Here we want a man who is not afraid to represent the dignity of the United States. At present this is the chief desideratum.

QUESSEVADOR.