

CUBA.

Text of the Bogus Cuban Proclamation.

What is Thought of It by Leading Spaniards.

The Campaign in the Eastern Department.

Astonishing Rumors in Cuba—Reported Dissolution of the Cuban Junta in New York—Text of the Alleged Proclamation—Not Credited by the Government—News of the Insurrection—Slow Progress of Troops—Burning of Estates—Executions—Dismissal and Punishment of Officials.

HAVANA, Jan. 5, 1870.

Immediately following the departure of the steamer Columbia, on Saturday, the 1st, astonishing rumors were rife here, and so well authenticated that even the most unbelieving were staggered and Spanish Havana glowed all over with pleasurable excitement. Primarily, the insurrection was again ended; the national integrity, the honor of Spain remained preserved, and peace, sceptred with an olive branch, reigned over the Queen of the Antilles. This most desirable consummation was brought about, first, by the surrender of Cespedes, President of the Cuban republic, and Aguilera, his Minister of War; second, by the surrender of 5,000 insurgents, which, by the time the evening papers were issued, dwindled to 1,500, announced in the *Foz de Cuba* as follows:—

In Las Tunas 1,500 rebels have presented themselves to Benegas, the gallant and brave Benegas imploring clemency and acknowledging their faults worthy of punishment. This notice is official and we can respond for its authenticity.

But what was regarded as the best authenticated and of most importance, as confirming the truth of the announcement that the insurrection was over, was the statement that the Cuban Junta of New York had dissolved and advised those in arms on this island to submit to the Spanish authority. The *Foz de Cuba*, more sensational in its character than its staid contemporaries, made a grand parade and juror over the statement, interlarding it with much interesting writing on the subject of the *nacional integridad*, *et cetera*. The *Prensa* and *Diario* published it in the same words, indicating that it was furnished by the government. It is as follows:—

We are assured that one of the insurgents, who recently presented himself to Brigadier Goyensche (in banal Espiritu-CORRESPONDENT), placed in the hands of that commander, with other things, a certain number of proclamations, of which there are some in this city signed by Aidama and the other members of the Junta Cubana in New York, in which they counsel the insurgents to lay down their arms immediately and so prevent the further effusion of blood. In said proclamations a treason is given of the continued misfortunes which the Laborants have suffered in their concerted enterprises in the United States, and, as we understand, a violent attack on the administration of General Grant. We are assured that the contents of this proclamation have been transmitted particularly by telegraph to Pinar del Rio and to other points in the Cinco Villas.

The *Foz de Cuba* promised the document in full at an early date, and on the 3d it appeared as follows:—

CENTRAL JUNTA OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND PORTO RICO:—

CUBANS—Not cowardly dismay, which cannot find place in manly breasts, but an uninterrupted series of misfortunes with which it has pleased Providence to afflict us, the complete draining of our resources, the culpable indifference of some, the disunion, the vile intrigues and the barefaced ambition which have influenced many others, the great reinforcements which at this moment Spain is sending to Cuba, and the consequent desire to avoid the useless shedding of blood and to free our adored land from complete ruin—all these causes united oblige us to direct our voice to you that you may cease, without loss of time, to make those noble sacrifices which are useless for the present. Cubans, do not attribute to infamous treason or cowardice this language. If you doubt bring to your mind one after the other the misfortunes which we have experienced. The brigantine *Mary Lowell*, taken in April, with a very valuable cargo of arms, munitions and other materials of war; the schooner *La Have*, with another costly cargo, confiscated afterwards in Jamaica; the imprisonment of a greater part of the members of our first Junta, which took place in June—who will believe it?—by the authorities of this country, instigated by Spanish agents and under the frivolous pretext of our disturbing peace; afterwards the seizure by this government of the expedition which was intended to sail in the steamer *Catharine* sailing; the treason committed by the North American commodore under whose care we had placed our first ship-of-war, the *Cuba*, and the following seizure by the authorities of Nassau of the *Lillian*, which took from us, with two valiant battalions of men, 8,000 rifles, eight cannon, ten tons of powder, 1,500,000 cartridges, &c.—that is to say, our last resources; and finally, the deceitful conduct of the President of the United States, who, in his recent message, has not only given to the Cuban revolution a mortal blow, fatal in its consequences, but has inaugurated the incredible depreciation with which both houses of Congress have refused our just pretensions of belligerency, and added to these the subsequent delivery of the Spanish gunboats, which will totally impede us from sending any more assistance—all constituting facts more than sufficient to justify before the world this action.

On the other hand, the Spanish government having recently decreed the suppression of the direct contribution in Cuba has done wisely in taking from the country the principal motive which actuated many of our soldiers in taking up arms. There is, therefore, no other way open but to lay them down. Cubans, return to your labor! Recover the great losses which you have suffered. Fortify yourselves, in short, and be ready for better times not far distant. To you will remain the incomparable glory of having fought for fourteen months and the benefits to our country which our enemies, for their own convenience, give us. To us the deception, the misery and almost the entire abandonment of our own party.

JOSE MORALES LEMUS.
MIGUEL A. BADA.
HILARIO CISNEROS.
ENRIQUE PINERO.
FRANCISCO FESSER.
A. ECHVARRIA.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21, 1869.

Only among those with whom "the wish is father to the thought" is any credit given to this document here, as, aside from the fact that there is no cause of discouragement to the Cubans, it is not thought the Junta would, under any circumstances, issue such an address, betraying as it does only the most superficial knowledge of what it speaks. The official *Gazette* has up to this day made no mention of it, and the Captain General is understood as placing no confidence in it, as the first news of the dissolution of the Junta would, of course, come from New York. Evidently, the government has permitted the papers to publish it, perhaps has furnished it to them for what it was worth, but has not chosen to commit itself to the public. Again, the date, the 21st of December, implants the impress of falsity upon it, as in the course of ten days it would be impossible for it to reach the seat of insurrection from New York and thence be returned to Havana, even if the way was entirely open. As to the other statements and rumors they have proved the merest canards in the world, even the announced surrender of 1,500 men to Benegas, as the arrival of the steamer *Pelayo* from Nuevitas and Gibara brings no word of that officer whatever, concerning whom nothing has been received for more than two months. Last evening the *Foz de Cuba* finds it necessary to defend itself from the charges of being sensational and untruthful, and half intimates that it has been deceived.

Amid all the excitement caused by the various statements and rumors thus described, and at about four P. M. on the 1st, arrived gunboat No. 4 from New York, under command of Ensign Manuel Guzman. She proceeded to the Muelle de la Maquina, where she shipped one of the heavy guns which have been there awaiting the arrival of these vessels for some time. This gunboat became separated from her companions during a dark night and continued her voyage to Havana without incident. After the usual religious ceremony of blessing and christening her she will proceed to her duties along the coast.

In speaking of the peculiarities and difficulties of campaigning in this island, upon which the insurgents have principally based their hopes of success from the first, the *Foz de Cuba* says that Santi Espiritu and Trinidad are the most mountainous jurisdictions of the island. There are in them the sierras of Escambray, of La Gloria, of Yaguajay, of San Juan de Letran, of Gaivez, the peak of Poirevillo and many others, which diversify the land and furnish natural defences to the rebels; but there is not within them both an area of land equal to that of Puerto Principe, which has 605 square leagues, while the others have combined but 311. Puerto Principe is, however, but little mountainous, but has immense forests and is traversed by very considerable rivers. It is sufficiently accessible to troops, but the immense distances required to pass render horses necessary and the providing of supplies difficult. In the two localities thus specified the insurgents have been in largest numbers and the most active, and the operations against them have met with but little success.

By the arrival of steamers yesterday at this port and at Batabano, we have later dates from both sides of the island. Journals from Puerto Principe to the 1st furnish those of this city with an account of the opening campaign in Camaguey which appeared in the *HERALD* a week since. Don Felix Ferrer remains in command in Principe during the absence of General Puello. The military Intendente of the island had arrived there to take personal cognizance of what was required for the successful prosecution of the campaign. The sanitary condition of the place had somewhat improved. Letters from Nuevitas, dated the 1st, state that nothing particular has occurred there since the departure of Puello to the field. Fevers which had been of a mild character were assuming a malignant type. In speaking of the news from that section *La Prensa* says:—"Neither in letters from Gibara nor in those from Nuevitas have we encountered anything relative to Colonel Benegas nor the garrison of Las Tunas." It adds:—"Without doubt the provisions from the southern coast have arrived there." The *Diario* has correspondence from Gibara under date of the 31st, which says there are reasons for believing that some of the rebels of that jurisdiction, fearing the campaign which is going on, have endeavored to save themselves by taking small boats to Nassau, Ragged Island and other keys of the Bahama Bank, taking advantage of the present dark nights for that purpose.

Your correspondent at Santiago de Cuba, writing on the 31st ult., says:—

Military operations are making little progress, and though an occasional despatch from Camara claims another complete victory over the insurgents, "caught in a pass" by the surprise strategical conceptions of Valmaseda, it is well

known that the progress which the troops make is small and their losses great. To-day it is reported that Camara has encountered a severe reverse, and been obliged to ask for reinforcements. A battalion of Catalan volunteers has arrived here, a part on the 24th and the balance on the 25th. It will probably be sent him. The reception of these Catalans was very enthusiastic, and the town was in an uproar for two days. However, no accidents happened, and yesterday the "red caps" were sent to the field.

Valmaseda has been named Lieutenant General and is consequently equal in rank to Cabellero de Rodas. The news of his promotion was celebrated by the Spaniards with serenade to which the General responded with beer and is said to have stopped up until half-past ten o'clock P. M., a very unusual thing on his part.

The Haytian steamer *Marianne*, though free as far as the authorities are concerned, is still here awaiting instructions from Port au Prince. The Spanish war steamer *Guadalquivir* was despatched from Cienfuegos to bring important despatches from the Captain General concerning this vessel, but their tenor is not known.

The *Bandera Española* has a long description of a battle at Joturo where the insurgents were fortified. It ended with the usual victory.

From Bayamo we learn that a body of volunteers had returned to that city on the 24th ult., after traversing the jurisdiction without material result. The *Imparcial* of Trinidad has a rumor that the insurgents under Cespedes had concentrated themselves in Canto Abajo, in the extreme end of San-tiago de Cuba. It adds that armed parties, of from 200 to 400 men, had been sent with orders to destroy property in the valley of Trinidad, in Cienfuegos, Sagua, Villa Clara and Remedios.

Fears are entertained for the safety of that large and rich section known as the Vuelto Abajo. The *Pubellon Nacional* of Cienfuegos announces that the Chief Arredondo has left that jurisdiction with a large band, with the object, it appears, of burning estates in the Vuelto Abajo, and seducing the laborers from the same. On the supposition that this is correct the government has already taken measures to prevent it.

The Segundo Cabo had returned to Villa Clara on the 1st, after a visit to the various jurisdictions which comprise his command. On the 30th ult. Don Victor Carrazana, a chief and recruiting agent of the insurgents, was shot in that city. He met his fate quite serenely. On the morning of the 23th was shot in Cienfuegos, Don Antonio Moreira, accused of disloyalty.

El Sagua, published in the city of that name, has a letter from Calabazar, which states that on the night of the 25th the laborers' huts attached to the estero Purio were set on fire. A force was sent there, when it was ascertained that on the 23d an attempt had been made to burn the cane. A mulatto slave named Jacob was strongly suspected, and was placed in prison.

The surprise of a party of insurrectionists in the vicinity of Remedios is telegraphed from Cinco Villas on the 1st. Three were killed and some arms captured. The so-called sub prefect of Hermoso, Don Miguel Rodriguez del Rey, and thirty-two others, some with arms, had presented themselves for pardon. The number of presentations during December was 520. The official *Gazette* publishes reports of unimportant encounters in Villa Clara and Santi Espiritu.

In consequence of the deplorable state of affairs discovered in their respective departments by the Intendente General in the Custom House of the capital and in the Collector's office of Guanabacoa the following have been dismissed from office and placed at the disposition of the tribunals of justice:—D. Joaquin Betancourt y Sastra, First Inspector of Custom House of Havana; Don Francisco Lamiguera, Chief of Ship Inspectors; Don Angel Seco de Luna, Chief Storekeeper; Don Rafael Serran, late Collector, Guanabacoa, and Don Joaquin Palomina, the present Collector.

Several fires have of late occurred in the city, thought to be the work of incendiaries. A new avenue is in progress which is to connect the city proper with the more distant parts of the "Cerro" by a shorter route.

Reported Spanish Successes a Cover to Reverse—The Convoy to Tunas Obligated to Turn Back—Spanish Defeat Insisted on by Cubans—The Press Advocating Absolute Sale of Embargoed Property.

HAVANA, Jan. 6, 1870.

There is reason to believe, as suspected, that the recent "news" of Spanish successes, after much convulsion settling down into the surrender of 1,500 insurgents to Benegas, was concocted for the purpose of covering some disaster in the very locality where the surrender is said to have taken place. Following the battle of Las Tunas some months since the Spanish commander, Major Boyneche, being slightly wounded, came to Havana. At the time of his departure, or soon after, Benegas was reported at Las Tunas, having arrived there from Holguin to the relief of the garrison. From that day to this the name of Benegas has scarce been mentioned. It was generally understood that he was shut up in Las Tunas, from whence there was no communication save through a large force, though, as has been before stated in these despatches, the Cubans insisted that he had been routed and killed. In the early part of October a convoy succeeded in passing from Bayamo to the place, carrying provisions and other supplies, calculated to last for two months. Recently another convoy started from the same place, concerning the fate of which nothing has been made public. On the 4th *La Prensa*, of this city, expressed the opinion that it had arrived, but confessed to knowing nothing about it or Benegas either. Private information from Mansanillo shows good cause for the silence. A letter written by a merchant of that city on the 1st says:—A gentleman of this city, who went with forty men to the Canto river to cut palmleaf, returned last night in the steamer *Damuji*, stating that he had narrowly escaped the insurgents, who had taken twenty-seven of his men prisoners, and had shown so much fighting to the column which proceeded from there last week with a convoy for Las Tunas, that the troops had to return to Guamo.

The Cubans here insist that a great disaster has occurred to the Spaniards in that vicinity, and the fact of the failure of the convoy to carry the much needed supplies to Las Tunas gives color or truth to the assertion.

The steamer *Villa Clara* arrived at Batabano on 4th, but her correspondence did not reach here until last evening. Up to the 1st, throughout Trinidad and Santi Espiritu, the usual number of small encounters, attempts to burn estates and presentations for pardon are reported, but they afford nothing of interest or determinate.

There arrived from Santiago de Cuba last evening D. Carlos Detruere, formerly adjutant of General Prim, who goes to the Peninsula to inform that officer personally of the condition of the insurrection.

In case of Don Pedro Rivera, charged with complicity in the affair for which Señor Lamar, of Matanzas, was recently shot, the death sentence has been commuted to ten years' imprisonment in the prison of that city. The Governor of Matanzas recently issued a proclamation, calling on all those knowing of any deposit of arms to make the same known, under the severest penalties, within twenty-four hours. After forty-eight hours domiciliary visits would be made, and all those with whom arms were found would be judged in accordance with the order of the 22d October, 1877.

On night of 24th ult. was burned the cotton factory *Miraflores*, in the district of Chacao. The cloth cotton in deposit, and the buildings down to the machinery, were given to the flames. The loss is estimated at \$800,000, and very many persons are thrown out of employment.

The *Foz de Cuba* of last evening is out in an article in favor of selling outright embargoed property, and devoting the proceeds to loyal sufferers and other patriotic purposes. It is significant, in view of the fact, that such articles in the press here are apt to indicate corresponding action on the part of the authorities.

Don Juan Urien, from Valpariso, and employed in the house of Ramon Herrera, committed suicide a day or two since, by throwing himself from the window, on account of his failure to draw money in the lottery, which would have enabled him to go to his own country and marry a young lady to whom he was attached.

The statue of Christopher Columbus, heretofore standing in the court of the Government House, is to be placed on the pedestal in the park formerly occupied by the statue of Isabella Segunda.

This is known as "King's Day" in Havana, a holiday to the negroes especially. Both men and women, dressed in savage costumes, are parading the streets with tom-toms and other instruments and making the day hideous with their noises.

The gunboats are momentarily expected and preparations are being made for an enthusiastic reception of them.