

## Nothing Trustworthy Heard of General Puello's Column.

## Contradictory Reports by Spaniards and Cubans.

### The Insurgents Said to be Short of Ammunition.

#### Nothing Heard from Puello—News from Various Points of the Insurrection—Disposition of Political Prisoners—Sequestrations.

HAVANA, Jan. 11, 1870.

We have nothing as yet, positively known from Puello in Camaguey. Insurgent sympathizers, without furnishing any details and affecting a profound mystery as to their sources of information, insist that he has been worsted. The coasting steamer Cuba arrived here yesterday morning, having left Nuevitas on the 8th. The correspondence of the *Diario de la Marina*, dated Nuevitas, the 8th, says:—"It is stated here by persons worthy of credit that one of the columns into which the forces of Puello were divided had surprised an encampment of the rebels, causing it numerous losses, and that our troops continue their march to the interior without hindrance." The other journals have similar very unsatisfactory statements from which it may be inferred nothing is known. From Puerto Principe the 8th a few incursions in small force are reported, but without further result than the capture of cattle in considerable numbers. From Santiago de Cuba dates to the 5th report no additional military operations.

From Gibara the 7th we learn that the troops which went out from Holguin had returned. From the fact that but seventy-two of the insurgents are reported killed it is inferred the troops returned without annihilating them, as was promised. Many families were met with in great desolation. The *Trinidad imparcial* of the 7th has accounts of additional encounters of like result with those heretofore reported. *El Alba*, of Santa Clara has some captured correspondence between Brigadier Guillermo Lorda and General Roloff, from which it is seen that the former was a candidate for Governor in an election which was to take place, but was prevented by military operations. He had been engaged in burning estates throughout Trinidad and Villa Clara. A letter of Roloff mentions the dislodgment of Villamil from a coffee estate and its occupation by a force of the Spaniards. Telegrams from the Cinco Villas mention one or two encounters, some presentations and the repairing of the telegraph line between Santi Espirita and Ciego de Avila, and that to Trinidad the line is nearly completed.

By the steamer Rapido, which arrived at Satabano on the 9th, came eight political prisoners, among them Brigadier Castillo, aged seventy-two years, and another chief called Carbonel.

The committee acting for the volunteers of Matanzas have consented to yield to the volunteers of Covadonga 1,000 of the 2,000 Peabody rifles contracted for and expected to arrive on the 13th. The Asturians of this city have contracted for 1,000 to come later and to replace those given up by the Matanzas committee. This will enable the volunteers of Covadonga to take the field, which they have been prevented from doing owing to their poor armament.

The following disposition has been made of political prisoners:—Placed at liberty, D. Juan Rodriguez Casas, D. Clemente Iradi, D. Severeno Rosello, D. Benito Capote; subject to council of war, D. Juan Bautista Latta, Camilo Hernandez and Juan B. Coloma; sent to Peninsula and placed at disposition of superior government, D. Cayetano Palon. The embargo on the property of D. Juan Bautista Latta has been raised, he being a prisoner and awaiting trial.

The following embargoes are published:—On property of D. Emilio Marquez and Domingo Mora.

#### Nothing Heard of General Puello in Camaguey—The Insurgents Reported in Good Spirits and Wanting Only Clothing—The Insurgent Government Reported at Najasa—Condition of the Country—The Chances of the Rebels—The Spanish Commissariat Selling Supplies to the Enemy—Foraging Expedition.

NUEVITAS, Jan. 8, 1870.

Notwithstanding the many rumors afloat it is certain that no news whatever has been received from the column of General Puello since its departure. No one of the command has returned, and we are completely in the dark concerning it. It is known that when Puello marched out towards Guaimaro a column of about 800 rebels took the old road to Puerto Principe to a point near Las Minas, on the railway, thus escaping him. A small force went out in search of them from the latter place and a few shots were fired, but without further result than the capture of a few women, who were by no means favorably disposed towards their captors, one of whom fiercely asserting that had the commander of the insurgents been near she would not have been molested, and otherwise expressing the universal hatred and contempt towards the Spaniards. As to the condition of the insurgents, it would seem they must be short of ammunition, as they have received no supplies of late. A letter, however, was recently received here from within their lines which stated that they had everything necessary except clothing, that they were in good spirits and had no thought of giving up the contest. Nevertheless, the prevailing impression among their sympathizers here is that their holding out against the large forces brought against them is very doubtful. No conclusion can be formed as to the result of Puello's operations, though it is certain the rebels can keep out of his way if they choose to do so. It is understood here that their present stronghold and where the seat of government is established is at Najasa, fourteen leagues southeast of Puerto Principe. This consists of a collection of small stock farms, and is what remains of a colony established there on the free labor system by that well known patriot, writer and philanthropist, Gaspar Betancourt Cisneros, otherwise called Gaspar Najasa, and who wrote under the *nom de plume* of "Homo Bono." I may remark *en passant* that this man, whose great object in life was the freedom of Cuba, died some two years before the breaking out of the insurrection, and that his last words were "Two years, two years," oftentimes repeated; and that many of his countrymen regard the present revolution as the fulfillment of a prophecy thus expressed. Najasa is situated within a very rugged and mountainous district of great extent, embracing immense virgin forests, within which are craggy precipices, huge caves and winding paths, known even to but few of those born and reared near them. The country is inaccessible to artillery, and if there is a grain of spirit among the insurgents they can hold it against any force in the island. There is a rumor here that this locality is besieged by Puello; but this is ridiculous, as it is so extensive that it could not be besieged by 50,000 men.

It is thought here that the insurgents are supplied with many articles of luxury by the Spanish officials of the commissariat, who will do anything for money. As an evidence of this is mentioned the fact that a small column which recently went out from along the line of railroad found, in a hut in the woods, a pipe of wine, many boxes of sardines and a considerable quantity of bread, having the mark of the commissariat upon them. This is the more suspicious as no captures of supplies have been recently made by the insurgents.

A foraging expedition recently left Puerto Principe and returned with 450 head of cattle. The enemy was not seen, from which it is argued that he is concentrating his forces to oppose Puello.

The weather is pleasant and the general health is improving.