

Spanish Officers Imprisoned for Being Too Lenient.

Execution of Senor Lemar and Brutal Whipping of Negroes.

A REIGN OF TERROR ON THE ISLAND.

Spanish Policy in Cuba—Innocent Families Sent to Spain—Influence Upon the Insurrection—Incendiary Proclamations—Executions—Disposition of Political Prisoners.

HAVANA, Dec. 25, 1869.

Some one has well remarked "the Spaniards in despite of all their experience have learned nothing for five hundred years. They seem infected by the curse of the Bourbons, who have so long ruled them." While during the last half century the other nations of Europe have so treated their colonies that the inhabitants have manifested a patriotism not surpassed in the mother countries, Spain has lost a continent and the hatred towards her has survived two generations. It would naturally be supposed that following on a revolution based upon liberal ideas, upon sentiments in keeping with the age, a different policy would control her; but so far from this in the treatment of the revolution in Cuba she is pursuing precisely the same course which lost her Mexico and South America. When through the power of her arms, combined with a conciliatory policy which has cost her leaders their place, a powerful insurrection is on the eve of suppression, she adds new exasperation and with it new strength and unity to her rebels. Insanely proud of her own strength, which has only the unsubstantial foundation of her traditions, she manifests all the peculiarities of weakness, and to the passion of hatred in the breasts of her enemies adds the, to her, more deleterious one of contempt. It is safe to say that this insurrection, began at a most inopportune moment, without arms and without any necessary preparation, at a time when Cuba was like to be favored with all those reforms which more moderate Cubans and all resident Spaniards demanded, would long since have been ended had a proper policy been adopted. Dulce attempted it, but at every step he was met by the bloodthirstiness and bigotry of the Spanish element here, which thwarted his every effort and which finally resulted in his being driven from the island.

For some months past it has been generally admitted by Cubans outside of the seat of the insurrection that their success depended much on the action of the United States government; as shown primarily in the recommendations of the President's Message on the opening of Congress and the resultant action of that body. All the world knows what these have been; the Spaniards could have desired no more. From them the hopes of the Cubans have been brought to the lowest ebb. What follows? Not what would seem most natural, an attempt to show the fruitlessness of their endeavors and to reconcile them to the home government; but renewed exasperation, renewed tyranny, renewed injustice, renewed outrages against natural and civil law. The same course was pursued in Mexico and in South America. The last and most foolish exemption of this is in a wholesale order issued one day before the departure of the steamer, sending between forty and fifty prominent Cubans, residents of Havana, to Spain. With a refinement of cruelty which is seldom met with; the order, with the connivance of the authorities, remains in the hands of the Commissary of Police for days, and until a few hours before the vessel sails, and then is served upon its astonished victims—men whose only crime is that they are natives of the island; merchants and planters, in the height of the business season; doctors and lawyers, who have been quietly in the practice of their professions, and who have, while professing no great love for Spain, eschewed all connection with politics; men against whom no charges are brought, only they are suspected of sympathy with the insurrection; of having communication with the Cuban Junta in New York. Concerning this action of General de Rojas various rumors are afloat. It is stated that a plot has been discovered among the Spaniards to inaugurate a general massacre of Cubans, and that these were sent off to preserve quiet; that a recent examination of the mail from the United States showed that Cubans here had an understanding with those in New York; that the authorities are determined to break up the Society of Laborantes known to exist here, et cetera, ad infinitum. All that is known is that these people are sent off protesting their innocence and in vain asking for the charges against them. Whether or no their property will be confiscated following their departure remains to be seen. The number of those sent by this steamer is placed between forty and fifty. They compose the principal Cuban planters and lawyers. Among them is mentioned Gonzalez Alfonso, seventy-five years of age; Senor Jorrico and wife, Silvia Molinar Sterling, Manuel and Francisco Mestres, Ricardo and Enrique Echarte, Emilio Cospedes and family, Pablo Mazonra and Julio Ibarra. It is announced that 150 additional will be sent off by next steamer. The affair has naturally created the greatest excitement among the Cubans, and all are arranging their affairs so as not to be taken unawares.

A fire broke out on the night of Wednesday last in the street Prado, and the *Prensa* insinuates that it was the work of the Laborantes. It claims that while heroic efforts were being made by volunteers and others to extinguish the flames the natives were engaged in circulating the incendiary proclamation of which the following is a translation:—

SIEMPRE YENDE QUIEN SABE MORIR.

HABANEROS—The despotic and sanguinary Spanish government unites its hosts to launch them against our heroic brothers of the East. Forty thousand millions of tyranny march against them, and shall we remain impassable? No! We will hasten to their aid. We fly to arms! We go to the combat and to the magic cry of liberty or death! We will show to an admiring world of what a people is capable who strike for independence.

Habaneros! Quick! Quick! to assist with our arms to save from the clutch of the tyrant our beloved Cuba. Let us encounter with a serene spirit all kinds of danger. Justice and right are with us and the God of victories will favor your glorious struggle.

On Thursday, the 23d, arrived steamer Paris, with 726 men and thirty officers, under command of Don Sebastian Garcia Pelayo, of the Third battalion of Catalans. Great enthusiasm was manifested at the landing.

We have nothing additional from the insurrection. The *Sagua* of the 22d, published in the city of that name, mentions the execution of D. Miguel Acosta y Espinosa, an insurgent chief twenty-two years of age, and indulges in moral reflections thereon, reminding parents of their responsibility in bringing up their children, doubtless to impress them with the propriety of "submitting to the powers that be."

On the 24th a young man named D. Teilo Lamar y Valera was shot in Matanzas for having munitions, equipments, banners and arms in his possession. On the evening of Thursday four persons were arrested in a drinking place in this city charged with uttering subversive cries. One of them has already been sentenced to six years' imprisonment. Another person, charged with endeavoring to seduce the Cantos' volunteers, has been sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment.

The following disposition has been made of political prisoners:—Placed at liberty, D. Manuel J. Azcue y Castellanos and Joaquin Perez Guizarro; sent to Isle of Pines, D. Blas Mendez Rodriguez Manuel Palma and José Inocente Azcue.