

The Haytian Steamer *Marianne* Released—
The Situation at "Mogote"—Continued Sick-
ness Among the Troops—The News from the
United States—The St. Domingo Question—
Prospects of the Coming Crop.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 17, 1869.

The Haytian steamer *Marianne*, captured at the mouth of the Bacanao river by the war steamer *Fernando el Catonco*, is still here, although released by the naval authorities, there being absolutely no proof against her. She is bound to Boston with a cargo of logwood, but her arrival there is extremely problematical, as she is in a wretched state.

The position of affairs in the "Mogote" remains a mystery, as the government, while laying claim to constant victories, furnishes us with no details. It is presumed that the insurgents are still there or in the immediate vicinity. From persons who have travelled through that section back to Mayari I learn it comprises a thickly wooded and nearly uncultivated district, large enough to shelter an immense army and sustaining any quantity of cattle, which, with the yams and plantains recently planted by the insurgents, will enable them to hold out for an indefinite period against any force the Spaniards can send. The yellow fever, which was making fearful havoc among the troops in that region, has assumed a less malignant type, but still makes numerous victims. Not seldom as many as thirty men are brought here in one day, suffering from this and other diseases. It is known that fully an equal number remain behind too sick to be removed. The highest number of deaths in one day at the military hospital here is reported at twenty.

The authorities are making strenuous efforts to prevent supplies from reaching the enemy, and every pound of provisions or piece of clothing which goes to the country must be accompanied by a permit and safe-conduct, signed by the Governor, to obtain which must be presented a petition written on stamped paper, each sheet of which costs twenty-five cents. This law creates endless difficulties and bears very hard on the poor countrymen, who, for want of means, are compelled to purchase necessaries in small quantities and each time to pay tax (for them) heavy tax.

The news from the United States, as reported in the Havana papers, has naturally had a most depressing effect upon the partisans of the insurrection here, and a correspondingly elevating one upon the Spaniards, who consider the insurrection at an end and a conflict with the United States avoided. The latter is, however, considered rather a matter of congratulation to that power than to Spain.

The question of the annexation of St. Domingo excites but little remark here, aside from an amiable wish from the Spaniards that the Yankees may fare as badly as they did.

There is now bi-monthly steam communication between that island and this by means of the Antilles line (Herrera's), one steamer touching at St. Domingo and the other at Puerto Plata going and coming between this port and St. Thomas.

Grinding will soon become general on the estates in this jurisdiction, and the prospects for next year's sugar crop, as far as canes go, is pretty good. A number of the estates are, however, still *hors de combat*, and when the cane becomes a little drier there will no doubt be numberless fires, as it is almost impossible to prevent the firing of sugar cane when dry, owing to the large extent of ground to be watched and the extreme combustibility of the material.