

WASHINGTON.

Discouraging Reports from Cuba.

Mismanagement of the Cuban Junta in New York.

Cause of the Failure of the Revolution.

The Privateer Anna at Charleston.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, 1870

Discouraging Accounts from the Cuban Patriots—The Sentiments of the President.

There are two sides to the Cuban as well as to all other stories. From a high official source I have to-day heard a number of facts, which, if reliable—and I have every reason to credit them—throw a flood of light upon the real situation in the "Ever Faithful Isle." The facts alluded to are based upon official information from our agents in various parts of Cuba, as well as from private letters received here and elsewhere, from parties whose opportunities for obtaining accurate knowledge of the progress of the civil war are such as to guarantee perfect reliability. The inference to be drawn from these despatches and letters—and I state it with regret—is that the revolution of the patriots is on its last legs. Their forces are reduced to a mere handful of armed and unarmed men, who are carrying on a predatory warfare, merely prolonging the struggle in the forlorn hope that something may yet turn up to help their cause, and that then their little family may be made the nucleus from which will gather the dispirited patriots in every part of the island. The revolutionary party, according to my information, is now driven out of every stronghold which a few months ago it possessed. I hold not a single town on the island, and is compelled to confine itself to attacks upon the Spaniards along the narrow roads and bribe paths. Further, I learn that intercepted letters show that the Junta itself is badly demoralized and distracted by internal dissensions, which cause all its expensive efforts to aid the patriots to eventuate in failures and disasters. Some of these letters indicate that jealousy and petty wrangles about precedence and leadership are the cause of these dissensions. For instance, one member of the Junta writes to a friend in Cuba that "Lemus is a weak, inefficient, ambitious and pompous official, who is so inflated by his own importance as to sink every other consideration on the altar of vanity and self-interest." Another letter calls Aldama a traitor. Still another describes him as being "simply a money bag, stuffed full of gold, and without an atom of sense or discretion." Nearly every member of the Junta is abused by some one or other of his colleagues in the fiercest manner and characterized by the vilest epithets. Worse still, some of the Cuban generals write to their friends in New York that they have no confidence in their men, and one of them proposes a surrender to the Captain General. This last fact I am assured is beyond question, although it has been so often denied since its first announcement in the newspapers. The letter of this dispirited general has been exhibited at the State Department, and is known to be genuine, but for obvious reasons will not be made public for the present.

At the State Department the failure of the Cubans is considered to be due to the inefficiency and blundering of the Junta. At an early stage of the revolution Señor Lemus, in an interview with Secretary Fish, was informed that the Cubans might purchase from our government all the arms they could pay for; further, that they might ship such arms as merchandise to any place in the world in American ships, and would be protected from search by our government in any place except within the marine jurisdiction of Spain. "You may buy as many arms as you choose, and you may ship them as you would sugar or cotton, and we will protect you," said Secretary Fish. "But when you get into Cuban or Spanish waters," added he, "you must look out for yourselves. There you will have to take the consequences. But on no account will we permit you to organize an expedition within our territory. You may send passengers to Cuba, but you must not put arms in their hands, nor send them away from here as regularly organized forces. You have our sympathy. We would gladly see you win, but you must remember we have a duty to perform in executing our neutrality laws." Instead of taking this advice strictly the Cubans not only bought arms, but organized armed expeditions and sent them away from our shores. The whole number of men thus sent or sought to be sent would not amount to one full regiment, it is estimated, so that they could not have contributed much to the cause, even had they all succeeded in making a safe landing.

Secretary Fish thinks the Cuban Junta in this respect evidenced their lack of sound judgment and business management. By attempting to send away organized expeditions they forced our government into an attitude of hostility to the patriots. The administration felt constrained to enforce the neutrality laws against its sympathies and feelings, and the result has been that nearly all the expeditions have been crushed by our officials. Secretary Fish is of the opinion that the Cubans have not sent away a single cargo of arms unaccompanied by organized companies of filibusters. He also states that both the President and himself were as anxious to sign a proclamation in favor of the Cubans as the latter were desirous that one should be issued; but he declares that the reckless management of the Junta deprived them of the opportunity of doing so. At one time the rebellion seemed to be gaining strength rapidly, and a proclamation was actually drawn up and ready to be signed by the President, but disaster after disaster followed, and the President was reluctantly compelled to withhold his signature to the proclamation.

The fact that such a large army was sent from Spain to suppress the rebellion is explained upon the theory that cholera, yellow fever and general sickness did more to kill off the Spaniards than the Cuban bullets and sabres.

The Cuban Privateer Annie.

The Spanish Minister has notified the State Department that the steamer Annie, a Cuban privateer, crossed the bar off Charleston harbor yesterday about noon and anchored off Fort Sumter, with a portion of the crew of the Hornet on board. The Secretary of State immediately notified the Navy Department. A revenue cutter, with the United States Marshal on board, has been ordered down to the suspected steamer.

Rich Specimen from the Silver Mines of Nevada.

From the Original Hidden Treasure Mine, in the White Pine district, Nevada, a specimen of very rich silver ore has been transmitted to the Commissioner General of the Land Office, for the geological cabinet connected with his office. The mass in question consists of sulphuret of silver, associated with a large proportion of the famous horn silver ore, a chloride of silver, of soft, wax-like consistency, which, in some places, can be stripped off the walls of the vein in sheets. The vein stone is quartz, and, in places, is mineralized with antimonial silver ore.

Postmasters in Council.

Postmaster General Creswell has summoned to Washington the postmasters of the leading cities of the country to meet him on the 15th inst. for the purpose of general consultation on matters of importance. It is understood that Supervising Architect Mullett will submit to this convention his plans for the New York and Boston Post Offices and other important structures in other cities, and ask them for suggestions and advice which may be of service in the prosecution of the work.

Additional Salaries for Clerks.

The clerks in the office of the Congressional Printer have made application to the Secretary of Treasury for an addition of twenty per cent to their salaries, the increase of compensation to date back a year or more. The claim is made on the ground that the law giving officers of the Senate twenty

per cent additional compensation embraces the clerical force of the Congressional Printer, who is elected by the Senate. Secretary Boutwell has referred the application to the First Comptroller.

Weekly Customs Receipts.

The following were the receipts from customs for the week ending December 31:—

At Boston.....	\$196,393
At New York.....	1,344,000
At Philadelphia.....	65,645
At Baltimore.....	101,142
At San Francisco.....	84,972

Total.....\$1,788,152

Tax on Scrap and Waste Tobacco.

Application having been made to Commissioner Deiano by dealers in leaf tobacco to be allowed to purchase the scraps, waste and sweepings of cigar manufacturers in bulk without paying any tax thereon, in the same manner manufacturers of cigars are allowed to sell in bulk such clippings and waste to tobacco manufacturers to be used as material, the Commissioner has decided this permission cannot be granted, and this class of tobacco cannot be allowed to be put upon the market as an article of traffic without full compliance with all the requirements of law in regard to it—that is, the payment of sixteen cents per pound, and proper packing, as required in all classes of manufactured smoking tobacco.