

## The Election of the Duke of Aosta—The Celebration in Havana—Reception of the News by the Havaneros—Comments of the Press—Reported Killing of "Bombetta" and Cavada—The Burning of Estates Commenced—Items from the Insurrectionists.

HAVANA, Nov. 23, 1870.

We have a king! *Viva el Rey!* After much tribulation Spain has been furnished with one of those articles so much in keeping with the age and without which it is so difficult for a people to get along—an article which the great Jehovah gave the Israelites in His wrath, and which seems to have been an instrument of wrath ever since. *Viva el Rey!* A most necessary prayer—so it is addressed to the Almighty—for worse chances of a continued existence than has the new King of Spain it were hard to conceive. Nevertheless, Havana was awakened this morning by a most unseemly racket of guns, bells and the royal march. The Riego Hymn, having an unsavory flavor of the great unwashed, has gone out. Bunting, too, soon appeared in all the balconies, and it began to be told about that three days of rejoicing had been decreed by his Excellency the Captain General—no longer the creature of successful revolution, but the viceroy of a king. Soon the following announcement, contained in an extra of the *Oficial Gazette*, appeared on the street:—

### SUPERIOR POLITICAL GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF CUBA.

Their Excellencies the President of the Council of Ministers and the Colonial Minister in telegrams of the 17th inst., received to-day, communicate to me that the National Assembly in virtue of its sovereignty has elected his Royal Highness the Prince Amadeo de Saboya Duke of Aosta King of Spain by 191 votes, and in celebration of this welcome news I have decreed as follows:—

First—The celebration of *Te Deum* at nine to-morrow morning in the cathedral, and a reception at one o'clock in the evening at the Palace.

Second—That day and the two following are holidays, and officials will appear in full uniform.

Third—The national banners will float over the public edifices for three days, and these buildings will be illuminated each night. The political government invites its loyal inhabitants to unite in these demonstrations.

Through the Captain General's Office the necessary orders will be issued for the firing of guns and the grand parade which will take place.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.

HAVANA, Nov. 23, 1870.

As I write three celebrations are in progress, and the "truly loyal" of Spain seem to be affected favorably. It is, however, as yet too soon to judge of the effect of the election upon the Spaniards in this island. They are almost, without exception, monarchists, and will, no doubt, happily receive news of any solution of the long existing difficulty, though the great mass of them have been supporters of Prince Alfonso or the Duke de Montpensier. Occasional sly allusions are heard to the "Maccaroni King," which shows, nevertheless, that the proud and intensely patriotic Spaniard doesn't like the idea of going away from home to find a ruler.

The journals, as a matter of course, accept the situation, but treat the election rather gingerly. The *Diario de la Marina*, in making the announcement, says:—

On the 16th of November, 1870, the laborious work of finding a King to sit on the throne of San Fernando and Carlos V. was concluded. This high honor has fallen to Amadeo Fernando Maria, Prince of the ancient House of Savoy, named and proclaimed king by the Constituent Cortes. We salute respectfully the choice of the national representation, the new King of Spain, and only beg Heaven to crown the choice in the happiness of the nation.

The *Voz de Cuba*, after certain allusions to the history of Spain, in which, not unnaturally, it finds a parallel case, says:—

To-day we celebrate a like instance. The telegraphic news which we gave yesterday, taken from the New Orleans journals, of the proclamation as King of Spain of Amadeo de Saboya, is confirmed by official announcement. The Spaniards of this province, who, attending to other duties, have not taken part in this election, are nevertheless obliged to respect and obey the new monarch. It only remains for us to ask God that those who have taken upon themselves the great responsibility of the election have proceeded with the same faith, patriotism and wisdom as the Judge of Caspe, and the reign of Amadeo the First, be as long, as glorious and as prosperous for Spain as the never-to-be forgotten one of Isabel la Catolica.

Although no announcement of the fact appeared in the journals this morning, it is generally understood that official information has been received of the capture and shooting of Generals Bernabe de Torona, known as "Bombetta" and Cavada, prominent insurgent leaders. As of all news received here the "official" is least reliable, it needs to be confirmed before accepted as true.

As has been for some time anticipated, the insurgents have commenced burning estates in the Cinco Villas, and grave fears are entertained that the destruction is likely to become very great. Private letters state that three of the larger estates in Cienfuegos have already been destroyed. A telegram from St. Domingo, in the jurisdiction of Sagua la Grande, says:—"The houses on the plantation Beatriz are burning. Forces are required on the estate Caoba. I leave this moment with volunteers." This from a Spanish commander. These estates are contiguous and in the jurisdiction of Cienfuegos, not far from the Sagua boundary.

Dates to the last of October have been received from Victoria de las Tunas, a point in the jurisdiction of that name, situated inland and occupied by Spanish troops, from whence communication is very seldom. The forces there seem to be doing nothing of moment. An occasional raid is made into the country; but according to the reports no insurgents are met with. A convey had arrived and returned from which news of the situation was obtained.

From Puerto Principe the 15th comes report of the usual number of fights. The presentados are numerous; among them some well known families of Camaguey. Donna Malvina de Zagas, wife of Don Manuel Ramon Silvia, a person of prominence in the insurrection, recently reached the Spanish lines.

The *Voluntario*, of Manzanillo, in its issue of the 11th, calls for more troops in that jurisdiction, and for the establishment of military posts at various points.

From Holguin the 11th we learn that Nazaro Santesteban is on trial for disloyalty.

## The Killing of Adolfo Varona, Quesada's Private Secretary, by the Volunteers—Arrival from Curacao—What was Found on his Person—A Passport and How Obtained.

From a private letter received from Havana we have particulars of the movements of Colonel Adolfo Varona, whose execution by Spanish guerillas was briefly noticed by telegraph. Colonel Varona left this port on the 4th of October last by the steamer *Virgin*, bound for Curacao, in company with General Quesada, having previously arrived with him in this city from Cuba. On arrival at that place Varona was commissioned to take despatches of the highest importance to the provisional government in Cuba. For the purpose of disguising himself a small sloop was chartered to convey him to the coast of Cuba, which he reached after an uneventful voyage. Dressed as a simple peasant, he made his way through the Spanish lines mounted on a horse he purchased the day after his arrival, and when challenged as to who he was showed a passport which he had obtained from a fisherman for fifty dollars and the promise of returning it within fourteen days. On the fourth day of his travels, while visiting in a hut situated on a sugar plantation in the jurisdiction of Manzanillo, he was set upon by several of the hands who had seen his passport and knew the man whom he represented himself to be. They forthwith called in some Spanish guerillas, who, having the statement of the men, shot Varona dead on the spot. The despatches he carried, which were found secreted in the lining of his coat, were seized and forwarded at once to the Captain General, De Rodas, at Havana, in whose hands they are at the present moment.

Adolfo Varona was born in 1830 at Puerto Principe, of wealthy and respectable parents. In his eighteenth year he went to study medicine at Paris, and after walking the hospital *Maison Dieu*, where he acquired a thorough knowledge of chemical surgery, graduated as an M. D. In addition to this he distinguished himself as a linguist, speaking and writing several languages with elegance. At the commencement of the revolution in Cuba he offered his services to Quesada, who accepted him gratefully, and they afterwards became firm friends. In the army he performed the double functions of colonel and surgeon, and showed great courage and skill in both departments. On his recent arrival in Cuba he addressed a letter to a friend at New York, commencing, "I write this in Cuba Libre."

This letter was handed to the captain of the sloop, with instructions to post at Jamaica, and in due course has reached here.

Many erroneous reports have been spread in Cuba and this city as to the identity of Varona.

The telegram gave his name as Sambetta, but subsequently corrected it, and the *Diario de la Marina*, of Havana, states the name as A. Varona. It was also reported that it was Louis Varona, brother of Charles, the leader of the insurrection in Camaguey.