

CUBA.

THE REPORTED MASSACRE IN CUBA.

Progress of the Campaign in the Eastern Department.

Threatening Conduct of the Volunteers.

The steamer *Morro Castle*, from Havana via Nassau, arrived at this port last night. The purser will accept our thanks for favors received.

The Killing in Havana—Exaggerated Reports—Threatening Conduct of the Volunteers of Matanzas—Address of the Captain General—The Second Officer of the Steamer *City of Mexico* Drowned—Sequestrations—Killing of Two Young Men in the City.

HAVANA, Feb. 5, 1870.
While it is undoubtedly true that some of the loyal sons of Spain of the baser sort have thought it proper to avenge the death of Efebor Castañon by killing a few Cubans, the accounts which are rife concerning such killing are grossly exaggerated, and the report of the slaughter of 300 sent from Key West has no base of truth whatever. In some of the remote and vile localities of the city a few murders have been committed within the past week, variously estimated from five to ten. Aside from those mentioned in my despatch of the 3d none are officially reported, and I cheerfully record the fact that, following the news of the death of Castañon and the obsequies which followed the arrival of the body, the volunteers of the city conducted themselves with entire propriety. Last evening a negro was killed on the Plaza San Francisco, but from the account he was the assailant, and the affair certainly had no political character.

In Matanzas, however, the volunteers are not entitled to so much credit. On receipt of the news of the assassination in Key West some of them procured revolvers and went about the streets in a very threatening manner firing at houses occupied by Cubans and otherwise terrifying the people. Two or three innocent persons were killed, and the matter being communicated to the Captain General he forwarded the following address to the volunteers which was published in the *Aurora* of that city:—

The law of reprisal, besides being unjust, gives a bad idea of those who employ it. I recommend to the volunteers a complete abstinence from all such proceedings, which is to be the strongest help to the authority and to order. The death of Castañon is a great loss to the country, and his name will pass into history and be a source of honor to the country, demonstrating to all the world the difference which exists between the cause of Spain and that which is sustained by fanatics and men against civilization. C. A. L. L. R.

The subscriptions for the children of Castañon continue. The Spanish Bank gives the sum of twenty-five dollars per month until they are of age, and the amounts from various sources will doubtless reach \$50,000 and more.

An attempt was recently made to start the cry of "Cuba libre" on the estate La Comana, in Colon, but was resisted by the Chinese laborers, who have been publicly thanked for their conduct in the official *Gazette*.

The mail steamer *Catarinas*, from Cadiz, arrived on the 4th, bringing eighty-six sailors for the squadron, one captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, one sergeant and eighty-six soldiers.

The steamer *City of Mexico*, Deaken master, from Vera Cruz and Sisa, arrived here this morning. When about three miles off the *Morro Castle* her second officer, named Dunn, accidentally fell overboard and was drowned. The body was recovered and this morning buried at Regla.

Mr. Seward will remain on the estate near Cardenas where he is at present visiting until about the 12th, when he will visit Matanzas for a few days, proceeding thence to this city and sailing on the 20th for Baltimore.

While the Spaniards and foreigners of Havana were manifesting their horror at assassination and sympathy for Castañon; while the journals of the city, in their denunciation of the foul crime, made responsible those for the whole Cuban race, there appeared in one of them, with no especial prominence, a statement that at early dawn on the 1st, in the Plaza del Vapor, two young men, named Perico Llerenas and Fausto de Mantancero (so called), uttered subversive cries and were arrested by "three decided persons" (volunteers) and taken towards the guardhouse. They attempted to escape, and, not halting when called upon to, were shot dead. Such like stories have a very familiar air. We hear "he uttered subversive cries and was shot dead," and we never hear anything more of it, and the friends of the victims nurse their indignation in silence. Reliable authority states that these young men were singing to a guitar accompaniment in a manner distasteful to the "three decided persons," who regarded their songs as an exhibition of the defeat of Lucillo, and insisted on taking them off, and on their refusing to go shot them with the ever ready musket.

Again, these same journals record the killing, after a verbal court martial in Santiago de Cuba, of the Chief Francisco Marciano. The details of the affair are given elsewhere and need not be repeated. While reading them and similar ones which might be written every day the heart sickens at the continual cry of blood! blood! And the wave of indignation which sweeps over it at the recital of some vile deed is scarce realized ere it is swallowed up in another and a greater.

Conclusion of the Peace Festivities—Capture of Francisco Marciano and Details of His Execution—His Brother Said to Hold Five or Six Spanish Officers Prisoners—Details of Operations in the Eastern Department—Capture of a Train by the Insurgents—Other Successes—Landing of an Expedition on the North Side.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Jan. 27, 1870.

My last communication was written on the first of the three days of rejoicing over the restoration of peace in the jurisdiction, as announced in the proclamation of Valmaseda, therewith forwarded you. The festivities passed off generally to the satisfaction of everybody interested, though the defects in the gas fittings interfered materially with the illuminations, and showers of rain at various times wet the patriotic lions of Spain to the skin. They closed on the evening of Sunday, the 23d, by a grand performance at the ex-Queen's theatre, at which Valmaseda was present, and was played at, talked at and sung at *La Aurora*. It terminated by a grand scenic display, in the background of which was a bust of "Jura of Jiguani," illuminated by a blue light which an actress attempted to crown, but couldn't reach it, and so advanced to the footlights with a wreath of laurel, which was passed to Valmaseda himself over the heads of the people, amid enthusiastic plaudits. This through with the curtain fell. The General retired and was escorted to his home by his faithful "Guas," to receive the announcement of the arrival of Francisco Marciano, who had been for some time expected, but was delayed by sickness. He was lodged in prison, subsequently tried by verbal court martial and yesterday morning shot. Marciano, who was a quiet, simple-looking person, was formerly sacristan in Manzanillo, and ranked as lieutenant in the Dominican reserve, for which he drew fifteen dollars per month from the Spanish government. He was of little importance in the insurrection, although the Spaniards conferred upon him the rank of lieutenant general in the Cuban army, to give more importance to his capture. Strong hopes were entertained that his life would not be sacrificed, as he had saved the lives of forty-five Spanish soldiers who were delivered to him at Bayamo, with orders for their execution, and a number of whom presented themselves to Valmaseda begging his life. But in vain. That officer resigned a reluctance to signing the death warrant, and forbade a serenade prepared the evening previous to the execution, in honor of his promotion to the rank of lieutenant general.

The execution was made the pretext for a gala day, and at early morn the volunteers crowded to their rendezvous and the streets were filled with spectators. The prisoner, pale and sickly-looking from his recent illness, and most shabbily attired, issued from the prison about eight o'clock, and, with terribly swollen feet and legs, walked painfully on his last road. His arms were pinioned at the elbows, leaving his hands just sufficient play to grasp the crucifix. Several priests and Brothers of Charity walked by his side and behind, while his executioners, with fixed bayonets, closed in on all sides. It was a mild distasteful to the establishment devoted to the slaughter of beasts inside and of human beings outside, and the prisoner, on his arrival, was very weak and faint. Prompted by the priest he mumbled over almost unintelligible words, saying that he forgave all men and asked forgiveness, then knelt down and was shot in the back, he fell forward, striking his head against the wall of the slaughter house, and a choking cough as the blood arose in his throat procured him another shot to put him out of pain. The commanding officer of the troops then made a speech, in which he said a great criminal had fallen, and called for vivas for Spain, Valmaseda and De Ronda, responded to by approving yells from the Spaniards. The troops then

of Francisco Marciano were carried off to the dog's burial which awaited them.

At the time of his capture Marciano had withdrawn from the insurgents and was hiding in a small rancho. He was sold to the Spaniards by a miserable wretch called Leyba, who is now engaged in trying to betray Jesus Perez into the same hands. Luis Marciano, who has recovered from an attempt incited by the Spaniards to assassinate him, is reported to hold as prisoners five or six Spanish officers. If this is true he will wreak bloody vengeance upon them for the death of his brother. Reports of the capture of Figuerdo are in constant circulation, but there is reason to believe he is very much at large.

In despite of peace proclamations and festivities we have constant rumors of war. It is currently reported and believed here that Campillo, captain in the "mobilized," has been routed by the insurgents at a place twelve leagues from here, and that he lost the whole of a large convoy of food and ammunition. The insurgents being enured without the latter, attacked, machete in hand, with such fury as to rout the Spaniards and capture the train. A fight took place recently between the Cruz and Santa Isabel estates, in which the Spaniards lost a lieutenant and two soldiers killed. The insurgents are numerous near San Luis, on the railway line, and on Sunday no provisions were allowed to be sent to the estates in that district.

From insurgent sources I have just learned that a steamer recently loaded arms and ammunition on the north coast, between Manzanillo and Puerto Padre, and escaped in safety.

The insurgents have captured the garrisons of the estates Ldon and Estrella, some thirty men in all.

Several fires have taken place in consequence of the correspondence captured lately with Figuerdo's wife.