

## CUBA.

**Proclamation Granting Freedom to Two Thousand Negroes—Privilege of Trial by Special Courts to be Abolished—Discovery of a Cuban Junta in Santiago and Execution of the Members.**

HAVANA, Feb. 24, 1870.

The Captain General has issued an important decree. It grants liberty to over 2,000 negroes, prisoners of war, who had been hired out to labor by the government with the understanding that they were to become slaves after a certain date. The decree declares that every one who is willing to work can take care of himself, while the laws will protect all classes. The measure is warmly applauded by the liberal and progressive party.

The Captain General intends to issue a decree abolishing the privilege of trial by special courts, hitherto enjoyed by persons in the army, navy and church and by foreigners. This will do away with the tribunals of commerce for foreigners and others, and will strike at the root of a partial and unjust administration of the laws.

The *Diario* publishes documents revealing the existence of a Cuban Junta in Santiago, which had for a long time assisted the insurgents with information and materials of war. The members of the Junta, eighteen in number, were arrested. The charges against them were proved and they have all been executed.

Generals Ferrer and Canto have arrived here.

General Webb, accompanied by Consul General Biddle, visited De Rodas to-day.

Sugar buoyant, with large speculative inquiry; No. 12 Dutch standard quoted at 8½ a 8¾ reals per arroba; muscovadoes active; fair to good refining, 7½ reals.

Exchange—On London, 10½ a 11½ premium; on Paris, 2 a 1 discount; on United States short sight, gold, 1½ a 2 premium; sixty days' sight, currency, 16 a 15 discount.