

Details of the Great Victory at Guaimaro.

PUELLO'S SUCCESS ON THE FIRST DAY

Grand Advance and Victory of the Cubans on the Second.

The Spanish Army Saved from Annihilation by a Negro.

The steamship Eagle, from Havana the 29th ult., arrived at this port last night. She brings the full particulars of the battle near Guaimaro, between the Cubans under General Jordan and the Spanish forces led by General Puello. The favors of the pursuer are acknowledged.

Miscalculation and Defeat of Puello—His Death, Account Practically Admits Defeat—The Column Saved by a Negro.

HAVANA, Jan. 29, 1870.
The steamship Barcelona arrived yesterday from Nuevitas and other ports on the north side, bringing the anxiously looked for news of Puello. He has not suppressed the insurrection in the central department, and, strange to say, the loyal journals of this city do not claim that he has. To use his own words, he went "out with the flag of Castle gallantly flying as becomes it, from the glories which it has acquired in all parts of the world," and it has come back drooping in a very unbecoming manner. To use a homely yet expressive illustration "We went in search of wool and came back shorn." He announced that no quarter would be given and that somebody was going to be exterminated; that somebody has not been he, but his troops owe their safety to the friendly offices of a benighted African.

Here, aside from the most extravagant rumors, we have little save through Spanish sources. A passenger confirms in all of its essential points the account of your well informed correspondent at Nuevitas.

The journals "roar gently as a sucking dove." They do not acknowledge a defeat and they do not claim a victory. While there is no other news of importance, no prominence in place or type is given to this. In its edition of last evening *La Prensa* said not a word of this and in the morning not much more. Only the *Diario* has anything like a connected statement. It claims to have had a correspondent with Puello's force, not connected with it. It has letters from Puerto Principe and Nuevitas, but prefers to give this. It prefers to believe it, too, rather than the rumors in circulation. I translate the extracts of the correspondence published. It is of date the 25th, at Nuevitas:—

Yesterday afternoon we returned to this place after an expedition of twenty-eight days to Guaimaro. It is impossible for me to give you to-day a detailed account of the hardships we have passed through, and I must limit myself to telling you that out of the twenty-eight days of absence not more than seven passed without being under fire of the enemy. But the first day of the year was the most horrible of the war. At the point called La Mina de Juan Rodriguez between Guaimaro and Palo Quemado. We came upon an intrenchment which I judged to be 250 metres long and perfectly constructed. Behind this over 2,000 insurgents awaited us with one piece of artillery, with which they fired five shots—three with grape and two shells—which, with a concentrated fire of musketry, vexed (*mortificaron*) us for a long time. We did not hesitate to attack the intrenchment, which we took and burned and encamped at that place. On the following day we returned to a farm called Arroyo Honda, where we stopped fifteen days to succor our wounded, arranging stretchers, searching for horses and until we found five carts which were hidden in the woods and which aided us to recommence our march. While at the farm we obtained some knowledge of the losses of our enemies from an official paper of theirs we took, which placed it at 350, and which seems small to me, judging from the number of grape shot, grenades and balls we fired at them. I have seen the ground they left, and nearly one-half kilometre of the road upon which they retired is so discolored with blood that the original hue of the soil cannot be ascertained. Colonel Aguilar attacked in front with his half brigade (cavalry), and Colonel Suances on the right flank; at which fierce attack the rebels disbanded, leaving on the ground a few dead, a small number of arms and the rammers of the cannon.

We have suffered many hardships, and for many days eaten meat without salt and having but few vegetables, as they were very scarce. All the officers and soldiers have shown themselves prodigal of their generous blood and have manifested that abnegation so proper in those who wear the honorable uniform of the Spanish army.

From the original it is evident this correspondence is not given in full, but only such parts of it as suit the editor. Its inconsistencies are patent and need not be commented upon.

The affair of the intrenchment and the subsequent withdrawal of the Spaniards is explained by an officer arrived here, who states that this was the first of two intrenchments which had been constructed on the road over which they were marching; that the insurgents abandoned the first, after inflicting heavy loss on the troops, taking with them their wounded and their cannon. Their object was to draw the Spaniards on to the second position, which was much more formidable, and from which some would have escaped. Of this Puello was informed by a negro, and at once commenced his retrograde movement. From the same source I learn that the hidden fire of the insurgents had a most demoralizing effect on the troops, who could hardly be kept in line, but were constantly endeavoring to skulk into the woods to avoid the bullets of the insurgents. The Moxezuma brought 120 wounded, including Colonel Aroz, of the regiment La Reyna, and Colonel Marin, of the artillery. The latter is expected to die.

From facts which are constantly coming to light in one way and another it is evident that the reported losses of the Spaniards are less than the reality, and that Puello and his column met with an overwhelming and most disastrous defeat. Also that the insurgents' loss was insignificant, as they were scarcely seen by the Spaniards, save on the 1st, when their works protected them. This is the statement of an officer.

Reports from Nuevitas—Puello Defeated and Driven Back by the Insurgents under Jordan—His Column Under Fire for Twenty-eight Days—Three Hundred Killed and Wounded—The Insurgents Thought to have Marched Against Goyeneche—Hardships of the Troops—Valor of the Insurgents—Nothing from Goyeneche.

NUEVITAS, JAN. 28, 1870.
The campaign under the Dominican, General Puello, inaugurated with so great a flourish of trumpets and proclamations, and which was to restore the Camaguey to obedience to the Spanish government, has come to a disastrous conclusion, and the forces of that officer which remain have returned here broken and dispirited after suffering a terrible defeat from an enemy they affected so much to despise. The column arrived at Baga, on the opposite side of the bay, on the 22d and on the 23d reached here. It is hard to conceive so great a change in men in so short a time. They had gone out well armed, clothed and equipped; they return weary, covered with dirt and presenting such an air as is only seen in the defeated soldier. The severely wounded were brought across the bay in launches, twelve of these being filled with them, while many others but slightly injured accompanied the column by land.

As stated in my letter of that date, the column of General Puello left here on the 25th of December, moving in the direction of Guaimaro. It numbered from 2,500 to 3,000 men of all arms, and was accompanied by twenty-five mounted cavalry volunteers from Puerto Principe, thoroughly acquainted with the country, to act as guides. From the day of their setting out to their return the forces were under an almost incessant fire, a greater portion of the time unseen, and which for this reason had a very demoralizing effect on the men. On the 1st of January (as say the Spaniards, when between Palo Quemado and Guaimaro) they came upon a fortified position of the insurgents, strong by nature and strengthened by all the resources of military art. From the accounts it seems that the locale of this position was made known to Puello by a negro who presented himself, and the Spanish officers frankly admit that

had not this knowledge been obtained they would all have been killed or captured. They attacked the position, from behind which the Cubans poured a fire of musketry and artillery, which caused dreadful havoc among the troops, killing and wounding more than 300 men. All of Puello's staff were dismounted and many wounded. The General's horse was killed and himself wounded or bruised in the leg. Among the wounded were Colonel Arviz, of the regiment "La Reyna," a brave and capable officer; Colonel Marin, of the artillery, and an officer of German birth, whose name I did not learn. The Spaniards say they took the place, but on the following day "fell back" to Arroyo Honda, where they remained fifteen days, resting, taking care of the wounded and otherwise recruiting from the effects of the fight. Thence the retrograde march commenced, necessarily the slowest, as the wounded had to be carried with the column, which was fired upon at every step. Positions for the night had to be selected and partially intrenched, with much time and labor, which accounts for the length of time taken up by the return.

The loss among the officers in killed and wounded was very great. Of the seventeen, in the regiment "La Reyna" but three escaped unhurt; the regiment "Chicliano" lost two; the marine regiment two, and the cavalry one killed and one wounded. These are reported, but there is known to be more, the entire number being estimated as high of thirty six. Both officers and soldiers are eloquent over the hardships which they endured and which were, no doubt, very great. They were without salt for their beef, and much of the time without vegetables. They speak in the highest terms of the gallantry of the insurgents, whose fighting qualities astonished many who had been led to believe them a set of arrant cowards. A colonel relates that in a hand to hand encounter he lost some of the insignia of rank from his sleeve and all of his overcoat. A part of a volunteer regiment from Puerto Principe formed part of the column, and is said to have behaved in a very cowardly manner, screening themselves in every possible way from the bullets of the enemy. No estimate can be made of the loss of insurgents, concerning which the Spaniards evidently know nothing.

From correspondence which fell into the hands of Puello it is known that Quesada has been relieved from command by the republican government and Jordan substituted. The latter was thought to have been in command on the 1st, though it is reported that Beauvillier's chief of artillery was. From the fact that the insurgents did not follow the retreating column in any force it is inferred that they moved off to reinforce their compatriots at Najasa, upon which Goyeneche is moving with 6,000 men. On the 25th Puello, with the remains of his command, took the train for Puerto Principe. Among the wounded brought in three soldiers and two officers have since died.

The train which arrived yesterday from Puerto Principe brought news of the return of a small column which had left Las Minas. It had marched to Canau without meeting any insurgents, and to the environs of Cuyitas. They brought in D. Malano Estrada, a very old man, owner of the estate "Industria," and his niece Pepulia, Don Rafael Medrano and his family, consisting of a few young children. It is said the family of Napoleon Arango just escaped; that all of their clothing and his correspondence were captured, the latter implicating many persons in Puerto Principe.

On the 21st, at noon, the Spanish man-of-war *Hernan Cortes* arrived, having in tow a small steamer, taken near Maternillas lighthouse. She is regarded as suspicious, from being so near the coast and having very few men aboard of her. Two shots were fired at her before she would stop, when she hoisted American colors, but immediately after hauled them down again. She will be taken to Havana. It is surmised among the Spaniards that she was hovering off the coast to receive some of the insurgent leaders, and particularly Quesada.

Nothing has been heard of Goyeneche since his departure on the 16th.

The Spanish Account of the Great Battle at Guaimaro.

The *Diario de la Marina* of Havana, January 29, contains the following respecting the movements of General Puello and his forces:—

By letter from Nuevitas under date of the 24th inst., we are informed that General Puello engaged the enemy a little beyond Guaimaro, in a locality called Juan Rodriguez, in which the troops lost some men. The intrenchments held by the insurgents were formidable, but were taken, and from some papers found at Arango they confess to have lost 300 men. The copy of a proclamation was also taken, by which General Jordan was appointed General-in-Chief in place of General Quesada.

Fighting at Santiago de Cuba—Insurgents Reappearing—Heroic Conduct of a Cuban—State of Affairs in Cinco Villas.

HAVANA, Jan. 29, 1870.

Information has reached here from Santiago de Cuba that on the 21st, the day upon which is dated Valmaseda's proclamation announcing the restoration of peace in that jurisdiction, a fight took place ten leagues from the city, in which the Spaniards lost one captain and four men killed and eight wounded. A mule train carrying provisions for estates in the vicinity of San Luis, near which the fight took place, was ordered back, as the insurgents had appeared in considerable force there. It is stated that the Marceno recently captured and brought to Santiago is neither of the brothers of that name, generals in the insurrectionary forces, but the father, an old man seventy-two years of age, who was not engaged in the insurrection. The Leyha mentioned in the same connection is the one reported killed by Colonel Abril at the opening of the war, or his brother, Don Federico Gras, chief of staff to Cavada, recently captured and shot by Carbo in Cienfuegos, was offered his life on the betrayal of his compatriots. In addition all possible influences were brought to bear upon him, but in vain. He responded that he had entered this war for the liberty and independence of his country with a full knowledge of its risks, and that having been captured he was willing to suffer. His conduct excited a reluctant admiration from his enemies who shot him. The family of Figueroa, recently captured in the Eastern Department, is composed of his wife and sister-in-law, both daughters of Lucas Casullo, the first with three children and the other with one. He himself had left the house but a short time before. A few arms and packages of gold ounces were found in the house.

There is nothing to show an improved condition of affairs in the Cinco Villas. The usual number of encounters are reported, showing the usual presence and activity of the insurgents. The *Imparcial*, of Trinidad, of the 22d, has the account of a fight on the coffee estate "Vega Grande," in which the combined columns of Colonels Olio and Laquidant took part. The insurgents were in a strong position with artillery, and a heavy firing was kept up for two hours. The affair, as reported, terminated in the usual victory to the Spaniards, but with considerable loss. The insurgents are said to have abandoned three more cannon and one wooden one. The latter burst.

A letter published in the *Fox de Cuba* from an officer of that regiment says that a mail escort of twelve men from the volunteers of Covodanga recently beat 300 insurgents, which is not possible. A considerable force of insurgents recently attacked the small village of Jibaro, in Santu Espiritu; but were driven off by a detachment of soldiers and volunteers there.

An epidemic has broken out in Santi Espiritu, from which many have died.

Although by the decree of the Regent abolishing the direct contributions in this island is revived the system of taxation previously existing, yet, in virtue of the discretionary powers held by the Captain General, this is to be materially modified, if acted upon at all. A full page of the official *Gazette* is taken up in explaining the matter, and it is made most documents of the character, it affords no light to speak of. The condition of affairs is not favorable to a revival of that system; indeed, it is incompatible with it. Under it a certain class of taxes was liable to great abuses, and the Intendente declares that with the Custom House, the lottery and the sale of stamped paper, he requires nothing more to meet the current expenses. What these are, whether they include the large expenditures growing out of the war, and the usual donation to the Spanish Treasury, we are not informed. But should these not afford as much revenue as anticipated, his Excellency will then devise some means of additional taxation which will be satisfactory to all, which leaves much to think of.

The Eagle brought here the captain and crew of the schooner General Marshall, of Boston. This vessel sailed from Wilmington, N. C., on the 22d of December last. Coming down the river she struck on some obstructions, causing her to leak badly, and she put back for repairs. On the 16th of January she sailed again for Boston. On the 19th the wind increased to a gale, blowing from the northeast. The vessel labored heavily and was soon discovered to be leaking. Both pumps were kept at work as long as possible, but they finally became choked with tar and were useless. On Saturday, the 22d, she stood in for the island, having eight feet of water in her hold. At eight A. M. the Eagle was in sight, and the captain, W. H. Jenkins, after counselling with his crew, decided to abandon her. The steamer came near and took them off, in latitude 34 1/2, longitude 76 3/4. Those on board consisted of the captain, two mates, a cook and three seamen. She was built in Belfast, Me., in 1849; was partly insured. Her cargo was as follows:—1,697 barrels of cotton and eight bags of rice. The steamer captured and brought to Nuevitas by the *Hernan Cortes*, as mentioned in your correspondence from that place, had been out from New York thirty days. She had but two or three men aboard of her and no cargo.

When the Moxezuma left Nuevitas it was rumored that an expedition had landed in the Bay of Mayari.