

CUBA.

Movements of the Insurgents in the Guines District.

The Reported Offer of General Jordan to Sell Out the Cubans.

Spicy Letter from the General to Captain General de Rodas on the Report.

**The Affair in Guines—Valmaseda Moving on
Las Tunas—The Villa Nueva Theatre Affair.**

HAVANA, March 10, 1870.

According to official accounts published in the *Gazette* the affair in Guines is of little moment. The troops are in active pursuit of the insurgents, and a small number have been killed and a few captured. It was believed they were under the command of the Chief Goto, though one of the prisoners states that the leader was known as Don Lucas. There is, however, a very general feeling in Havana that it is of more importance than the government admits. Many rumors are rife, but nothing positively known.

From Bayamo we learn that Valmaseda was forming his forces to march to Las Tunas, and it was anticipated that the movement would have an important effect on the campaign in Camaguey. The *Spaniards* claim that the party of insurgents under Maximo Gomez has been completely destroyed, and as the result follows the complete pacification of the jurisdiction of Higuain. Nothing, however, is said of the destruction of Gomez himself.

Dates from Trinidad to the 6th mention the continued activity of the troops in the mountains of that jurisdiction and an occasional encounter.

The following names have been sentenced to the extreme penalty for their part in the affair of the Villa Nueva theatre in January, 1869, when the volunteers fired upon a crowd of men, women and children:—Don Antonio Fernandez Bramosa, Don Jacinto Velasco (otherwise called Benjamin de las Flores), Don Luis Nuy Fons, Don Pedro Martin Rivero, Don Francisco Javier Cisneros and Don Ambrosio Volents. As all these gentlemen are away from the power of Spain their condemnation is not likely to injure them much.

**Nothing Yet of Goyeneche—Puerto Left on
the 13th—Operations of Insurgents—Napoleon
Arango—Sickness Re-Appearing—In-
surgents Near Gibara—Insurgent Fortifica-
tions Near Palo Quemado.**

NUEVITAS, March 7, 1870.

We have nothing yet as to Goyeneche, who, it will be recollected, left Puerto Principe for the third time on the 24th ult., moving out toward Guaimaro. There is a statement that he is encamped on some estate, where he is compelled to remain, as all military operations are stopped owing to the condition of the roads following on heavy rains. On the 1st General Puello left Las Minas with two battalions, namely, "La Union" and "Aragon" and the Catalan volunteers. He has not since been heard from.

On the 27th a small body of insurgents appeared before San Miguel, about six miles from Baga, on the opposite side of the bay from this place. A desultory firing was kept up for a short time without important effect, when they withdrew. On the 28th they appeared before Las Minas, and some firing took place, in which several of the Spaniards were wounded, among them Captain Ituano. They set fire to the cane fields of an estate near there (the only one standing), causing the destruction of two of them.

On the day of Napoleon Arango's presentation there was given at Las Minas an amateur theatrical performance in his honor. The Catalans were very much displeased and commenced throwing stones at actors and spectators, which had the effect of closing the entertainment prematurely. Much ill feeling exists among some of the Spanish officers owing to the attentions which have been paid to Arango, and it is even stated that the Catalans made an effort to kill him, fearing he had presented himself only to betray them into the hands of their enemy.

The cholera has already broken out at Las Minas and Puerto Principe, and the approaching season promises to be very unhealthy. In the latter place Count Zaldivar and Senor D. Salvador Ramos, with several others, have been arrested and imprisoned.

On the 28th there arrived here one of the gunboats to obtain assistance for another that was going to pieces on some rocks near the entrance of this harbor.

From Gioara we learn that there are a large number of insurgents in the vicinity of that place, and that it is impossible for the inhabitants to go a quarter of a league from town.

We hear through Spanish officers that Goyeneche considers 8,000 or 10,000 men necessary to capture the insurgent fortifications near Palo Quemado. A light field battery recently arrived here has been sent to use against them.

**Indignant Letter of General Jordan to the
Captain General—The Alleged Proposition
to Sell His Command Indignantly Denied—
The Cruelties of Spanish Warfare in Cuba
Recapitulated—The Battle on the 1st of
January—A Repetition Promised.**

We have been furnished for publication the following letter, written by General Thomas Jordan, of the Cuban army, and addressed to the Captain General de Rodas, in answer to the statement made some time in November last that he had offered to surrender his command for a valuable consideration. It contains interesting statements, which clearly indicate that the Cubans have no idea of giving up the contest:—

HEADQUARTERS OF THE LIBERATING ARMY, }
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF, }
LA ESPERANZA, CAMAGUEY, Jan. 15, 1870. }

I have recently seen in newspapers from New York a telegram, dated at Havana, in the latter part of the month of November last, in which is stated that I had made propositions to your Excellency to surrender, with the forces under my command, to the Spanish government, for a certain amount of money. As all telegrams from Havana have to undergo a strict censorship in the office of your Excellency, without any doubt this news was circulated with the sanction of your Excellency; and if this immense falsehood was not the direct conception of your Excellency, your Excellency was most assuredly its abettor, as your Excellency is responsible for the acts of the creatures of your palace, more so as your Excellency has suffered your emissaries in the United States to circulate this news without any contradiction.

Sir, your Excellency has not received, not even apocryphally, any such proposition—nothing that would have the least similarity thereto, and which could have any other origin than that of Havana. If it is not so I challenge your Excellency to lay the proofs before the United States Consul at Havana. A soldier since my adolescence, proud to belong to a profession whose members, of all civilized nations, I am accustomed to recognize as men of honor, to whom it is repugnant to fight their enemies with unworthy arms, I came to Cuba expecting that even the Spanish officers were gentlemen. But I soon found, too truly, around me the proofs that they were tigers rather than soldiers; but the skunk, not the tiger, tries to annihilate his enemy with filthy odors. When I have seen the subordinates of your Excellency assassinate aged men, helpless women and children, the sick in the hospitals, the wounded on the battle field, the demented, which even the savage Indians respect and honor; yes, when I know that their practices are to inflict obscene mutilations on the corpses of their enemies and commit incredible and diabolical atrocities of all kinds it should not really surprise me that Spanish officers can be found who sell an honorable profession with false inventions like the one I treat of in this letter.

But I was not prepared, sir, to see a lieutenant general and viceroy of Spain intend to spatter his enemy with dirt thrown by his own hands. Honorable soldiers do not make use of such arms, and I leave the sad honor to your Excellency to be the first one to do so. Nobody will believe you; the results will not recompense even the small amount out-layed to give course to your falsehood.

I have inaugurated the new year with a blow worthy of true soldiers, which five battalions of Spanish soldiers will not easily forget, carried out on our part, by a mere handful of men, who on their own soil and on the threshold of their homes fought for liberty against foreign oppression and inveterate spoliation. With this I have at least convinced this people what can be accomplished with a good method of warfare, and if I live one month, sir, I assure you that what has occurred in the "Alma" de Fava on the 1st of January, 1870, will only be the prelude of what has to follow.

Come, sir, to combat at the head of your troops, like a soldier and in honor of the sword which you wear, do not attempt to throw me from the field, irritating me from Havana with the contents of filthy water of syringe. I am with all consideration your Excellency's obedient servant,

THOMAS JORDAN.

To the Lieutenant General De Rodas.

A private letter from General Jordan to a friend says:—

The enemy as yet has been unable to get any advantages and the dry season is fast waning. After what they can do nothing for months and we can operate advantageously against them.