

CUBA.

The Insult to the American Flag in Santiago de Cuba.

Flight of Mr. Phillips on Board the French Steamer Darien and His Arrival at Kingston, Jamaica.

The steamer Cortes, Captain Nelson, from Havana March 17, arrived at this port yesterday, with latest news from Cuba and Porto Rico.

A United States Consul Taken to Task for His Official Despatches—He is Waited on by a Commission and Denies Their Authenticity—His Departure for Jamaica—Copy of His Denial—Murders and Cruelties by Insurgents.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, March 9, 1870.

The steamer Villa Clara, which arrived yesterday morning from Batabano, brought dates from Havana to the 4th, and New York to the 24th ult., causing us a new and short-lived excitement, which ended with the unanticipated departure of Mr. Phillips, acting Vice Consul of the United States of America, in the evening by the French steamer Darien for Jamaica.

In the Havana journals, translated from the HERALD of the 23d February, appeared an official letter dated "United States Consulate, Santiago de Cuba, January 3, 1870," and signed by Mr. Phillips, which reflects very severe on Valmaseda, the volunteers, the Catalan residents and the method of carrying on the war in this department. Naturally this was not agreeable to those referred to, who had learned their power in the contemplation of a hundred massacres, and there was great excitement during the day and many conflicting rumors as to the action of the government and of the calumniated Catalans towards Mr. Phillips. Later it was demonstrated that the former proposed to take no action whatever, and, furthermore, the determination was expressed to afford Mr. Phillips the fullest protection in case it should be needed. Not so the Catalans, a number of whom, as a commission from the Spanish circle (*Circulo Español*) waited on him, asking an explanation of the injurious remarks contained in the despatch referred to and attributed to him. Mr. Phillips having occasion to know how little power the government really has here, and that his character as an American citizen and official would afford him no protection whatever, denied the authenticity of the despatch verbally and signed a communication to that effect, which appeared in the *Sanita Español* of this morning and a copy of which in translation I append. Still, Mr. Phillips could not consider himself safe, as the feeling against him was very strong; so he at once embarked on the French steamer as stated, accompanied to the wharf by the government secretary and the British Consul. No demonstration of any kind was made.

The Spaniards are not content with the result of the affair and regret that Valmaseda was not here in person, being under the impression that he would in some manner have satisfied the popular desire for vengeance. It is not probable, however, that worthy would have paid any more attention to the affair, than did Colonel Ojeda's *locum tenens*—an amiable and harmless old gentleman.

The following is a literal translation of the communication of Mr. Phillips herein referred to:—

CUBA, March 8, 1870.

GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE SPANISH CIRCLE:—
I have read with great displeasure in the *Diario de la Marina* and *Diario Civil* of Havana certain disgraceful expressions, unmerited insults directed towards the Catalan Volunteers and the worthy chiefs who commanded them, no less than to the natives of Catalonia residents of this city, whom I know in great numbers and esteem as they merit. These expressions referred to the American Consul in this city, and are attributed to me. This has caused me great vexation. It is a calumny, for I have not written or caused to be written such ideas; and as I am about absconding myself in order to seek explanations of this same correspondence which so much annoys me, and not having time for more extended manifestations, I hope that you will persuade all those gentlemen who are your friends, and those of the worthy society of the Circle, of my sincere appreciation and high regard. Making such use of these lines as you think proper, I take leave of my friends, remaining, &c.,

A. F. PHILLIPS.

In the recent raid of the insurgents on the estate "Armonia," five white men, employes, were murdered. Of these one was thrown into a sugar boiler and boiled to pieces. The insurgents numbered about 200 and were commanded by a worthless mulatto named Maseo. They came down from the Mogote, where they remain in considerable numbers in despite of the long campaign in that locality.

There is a letter in town from Valmaseda, in which he claims to have defeated Maximo Gomez and Modesto Diaz, with a loss of 200 men, the Spanish loss being about fifty. The action took place near Cauto, the insurgents numbering 2,000 men.