

# CUBA.

## Unsatisfactory Results of the Winter Campaign.

## Hard Fighting in the Eastern Department.

## Spanish Hostility to Foreign Consuls.

HAVANA, March 23, 1870.

On Tuesday last arrived here the steamer *Triunfo*, having on board that repentant insurgent, Napoleon Arango, who came, as is said, upon the invitation of the first authority. Be that as it may, he immediately waited on his Excellency, and soon after they were seen walking through the principal streets together, followed by a brilliant staff. Unquestionably this demonstration was for effect on the people and to show that the policy of the government was one of conciliation. Now, the Spaniards are very weary of conciliation. They are not naturally inclined that way, and the attempts which have been made have not resulted in a manner calculated to incite its continuance.

The organization of the volunteers throughout the cities and villages of the island, the sending of thousands of soldiers from Spain at an immense cost, were not for the purpose of conciliation; and after a campaign of three or four months—which had promised so much—to see their Captain General receiving and paying the most marked attention in the most public places to a repentant rebel, indicating that he still relies on conciliation to a greater or less extent for the return of peace, has caused a feeling of intense bitterness. And not only this, it has affected their hopes, for they say "certainly this humiliation would have been spared us had the government been certain of its strength." Meanwhile his Excellency is beyond hearing of their cavillings for a time. On the evening of the same day he went on board the war vessel *Isabella Católica* and sailed for Neuviñas and the capital of the Central department, still accompanied by Arango. This is a visit he has for some time contemplated, but it has from time to time been delayed on account of his sufferings from an old wound. Nevertheless the stories as to its objects are many and various. The journals state that he goes to take personal cognizance of affairs in the Camaguey and to dictate such course as may be required for the restoration of peace. The rumors are that he goes to receive the surrender of prominent insurgents. That a great effort is to be made to bring the insurgent leaders under obedience to the government, in which Arango is to play a prominent part, and the immediate return of Arango would seem to indicate some truth in this; and again, that a vigorous campaign is to be inaugurated, in which he is to act as guide to the stronghold of the insurgents, which is not probable. There is little doubt that the journals are nearly, if not quite, correct in their statements, and that nothing of much importance will result from the visit.

Another cause of complaint—wonderful to say—is that the Captain General has had the audacity to interfere with the independence of the judiciary. It will be recollected that, some time since, his Excellency saw fit to imprison the members of a council of war for inflicting too lenient a punishment on an unfortunate accused of *infidencia* (disloyalty). It is not recorded that any fault was found with his Excellency for his action on this occasion; but there are offences, and it will not do to presume. As the readers of the *HERALD* are aware, the police recently broke in upon the meeting of a Freemason's lodge here, held contrary to law. It appearing that there was nothing of a political or otherwise harmful character in the proceedings, the foreigners present were at once discharged, and the others, Spaniards and Cubans, having been detained for a few days, were brought up before a certain Judge and after examination were also discharged. With this the Captain General was dissatisfied and the result of the matter was the Judge was sent to Spain. This caused the greatest excitement among his fellow Judges, the lawyers, doctors, literary men and others, and much fine talk has been indulged in concerning the liberty of the subject, the independence of the judiciary, and other things regarded as of much interest when a Spaniard is affected, but of no importance otherwise. The affair is not likely to lead to important results, as the Captain General by virtue of his extraordinary faculties is above all law.

Though the death of Sorredondo, chief of the insurgents, has been officially announced, and his statement previous to his execution made public, still the Cubans by no means admit the fact, but, on the contrary, stoutly deny it. It is positively stated that his relatives in this city have recently received a letter from him, stating that he was alive and well, and that the report of his death was a Spanish *canard*, resulting from their chagrin at the insurgents appearing so near Havana with impunity.

The *Bayamese Español* of the 20th has a letter which states that the Matanzas volunteers serving in that locality, numbering about 400, on the 12th, near Rio Abajo, beyond Majibacos, encountered 1,600 insurgents, commanded by the chiefs Modesto Diaz, Figuerdo, Vicente Garcia, Pancho Vega and others. An obstinate fire was kept up for two hours, when two well directed charges of grape, followed by a bayonet charge, completely routed the Cubans, who left sixty-four dead bodies on the ground. The Spanish loss was seven dead and twenty wounded. The same journal reports encounters on the 13th and 14th, in which some deaths were caused. On the 15th Valmaseda left Bayamo for Cauto del Embarcadero, accompanied by his chief of staff and an escort from the squadron of his name.

There had arrived at Manzanillo the necessary material for a telegraph line between Bayamo and Gignanal.

Dates from Puerto Principe to the 13th mention that D. Bruno Michel, formerly a prominent merchant of Cascorro, had presented himself. A letter from the same place, dated the 18th, states that a negro who had been captured gives information of the relief of Jordan as General-in-Chief, as it was thought he could be of more service at some other point. A certain Agramonte was appointed to succeed him. As Ignacio Agramonte, the only one of the name who could be appointed to the command, recently left for the North on account of the death of his father, there can be no truth in the statement. The Cubans here state that Jordan is now in the vicinity of Morou.

It is undoubted that a very considerable fight took place near the river Cauto recently, in which Modesto Diaz commanded the insurgents, and a battalion of Matanzas volunteers made up the bulk of the Spanish forces, as say the accounts through the journals and official sources. The accounts are various and the statement of losses equally so. Valmaseda, in his report, places it at thirty-seven to the enemy and says that his resistance was owing to a combination of the rebel bands in Las Tunas. The Cubans claim to have information that the Spaniards were defeated with heavy loss, and the fact that preparations were being made at Manzanillo to bring the wounded to Havana gives a color of truth to this. The Spanish papers place the Cuban force at 2,600, and admit that they fought with great audacity. Valmaseda further reports that the last convoy conducted to Las Tunas met with but little resistance. In Cuba the contra guerillas were continuing in pursuit of the insurgents. In a despatch of the 15th he mentions that a small band had been encountered at an estate called Faustino Grande and dispersed, in which the chief, Faustino Caballero, was killed; also the well known insurgents, D. Juan Napolas and D. José Antonio Alvarez.

A letter published in the *Prensa* says that the fight alluded to took place at Salado, three leagues from Cauto. It places the insurgent force at 3,000, and says Jordan was in command. The volunteers had gone out, not knowing the insurgents were there and for the purpose of clearing the road for the convoy.

The *Diario* of the 23d publishes a letter, dated at Cascorro the 16th, which says that presentations continue at that point, at Sibanicu and El Oriente, which are garrisoned and fortified. No military operations are recorded. The story of the deposition of Jordan is repeated.

## The Insurgents Operating in the Jurisdiction—The Spanish Press Threatening Expulsion of Foreign Consuls.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, March 18, 1870.

The news from the interior which we receive is of very little importance. Though the pacification of the district has long since been officially announced we still hear of parties of insurgents who have made themselves felt on some of the estates. A party of about sixty recently attacked the sugar estate Las Chivas, taking prisoners the overseer and engineer and driving off some forty oxen. The few troops stationed there to guard the property left in haste on hearing of the approach of the insurgents. It is said this party came from Mogote.

The Spanish organ here, *La Bandera Español*, still continues to speak insultingly of Mr. Phillips for his despatch to Mr. Fish, and threatens that all the foreign Consuls will have to leave the day Catalans wish them to do so.

The money collected by the ayuntamiento for the children of Valmaseda is to be returned, as the Captain General has disapproved of the proceeding.

## The Expedition on the North Coast—Troops Gone in Pursuit—Expeditionists Moving Inland—Hard Fighting Near Maniti—Heavy Spanish Loss—Cholera Among the Troops—Cornelio Porro.

NEUVITAS, March 20, 1870.

By the Spanish steamer *Cuba*, which is about leaving here for Havana, I am enabled to send you the important intelligence that another landing in the interest of the insurgents has taken place on the north coast. The accounts differ as to the pre-

cise point, one placing it between Maffucos and Manlabow and the other near Nuevas Grandes. As these places are, however, not far separated, this is not important. On the receipt of the news a telegram was immediately sent to Puerto Principe, and yesterday evening 400 troops arrived, who immediately passed over to Bags, whence they will attempt to intercept the expeditionists, who are said to be moving inland with a convoy.

We have news of hard fighting in the vicinity of Maniti, in which the Spanish force lost heavily. Great pains are taken to keep the matter quiet, and the Spaniards are very much depressed.

In Bags and San Miguel the cholera prevails among the troops. On the 18th General Acosta arrived here from that point on this account.

Cornelio Porro, an insurgent officer, well known here, has been made Major General in the Cuban army.