

# CUBA.

## The Situation in Camaguey—The Statement of a Spanish Officer—Falsity of Official and Other Spanish Accounts—Results of the Captain General's Visit.

HAVANA, April 16, 1870.

The Spanish steamers Fajaro del Oceano and Cuba arrived here from Nuevitas on the 13th, bringing dates from that place and from Puerto Principe to the 11th. Little of interest is furnished additional to that which the Captain General has sent by telegraph. Among the passengers by the latter steamer came Captain D. José Olano, who accompanied his Excellency in command of his escort, the "Guías de Rodas." This officer furnishes to the *Diario de la Marina* a long communication concerning matters in the Central Department which fully confirm the oft-repeated statements made in the HERALD correspondence from this island, and show how ridiculously false were the stories which have been furnished us through official and other Spanish sources of the campaign there. He says when the Captain General arrived at Puerto Principe on the 23d of March that city was one vast cemetery, guarded by a great disorganized camp. Counting the sick, the combatants, camp followers and servants there were some 3,000 men. The battalions went out to the field luxuriously provided with beasts of burden; even the lieutenants and the servants were mounted, many of them having led horses. Defective morale was clearly observed in the entire army, and also the resultant danger to discipline, local order, and a happy end to the war. So grave was the situation that the resident Spaniards were much depressed, fearing that their sacrifices were to be in vain. The streets were solitary, the suburbs entirely deserted, desolation and misery reigned, and a multitude of poor wretches clamored for bread to satisfy their hunger. Military operations were conducted with much lenity and little ability. The war by columns, adapted to the enemy, had been changed to grand divisions, which went out and returned with no decisive result. The insurgents, encouraged, overran the whole department, marauding at the very gates of the city, bringing daily upon the small bands which went out for forage and causing them some loss, while spies and mail carriers entered the city every night to bring and carry away correspondence and to learn the plans of the government, which notices they acquired with great facility, for it seemed that three or four days before the departure of a column even the little children knew when and where, who commanded it, and whatever other details were necessary for the convenience of the enemy.

Such was found to be the condition, as portrayed by the commander of the Captain General's escort. For describing it in corresponding terms during the past three months your correspondents in this island have been assailed with every vile term which the Spanish language—prone in nastiness—contains by men only remarkable for their sublime ignorance of the real situation.

The writer then proceeds to recount the changes which followed upon his Excellency's arrival. Puello was relieved. He is pronounced a brave and honorable man, faithful to the banner of Spain, but without that high order of military knowledge which the campaign required. General De Rodas recognized the gravity of the situation at once, and as Puello sought permission to visit the capital it was granted at once. Soon after a chief of police and one of the inspectors, with five negroes, were sent to prison and subjected to trial by council of war. The latter were arrested in a house in the suburbs. Parties engaged in carrying mails to and from the insurgents were arrested; two of them were executed and one, a woman, pardoned. A revolution in the civil and military administration followed; the resignation of a number of officials was accepted—nobody is ever dismissed in this island—and great vigor was infused into the campaign. Various columns were started out in different directions, and as the result it is claimed by the Captain General that the insurrection is about over. What has really been accomplished is familiar to the readers of the HERALD through your well informed correspondents at Nuevitas and Puerto Principe. As the insurgents have been neither killed nor captured they must exist somewhere, and it certainly remains an open question whether anything has been or will be accomplished through the visit of the Captain General, which has promised and is promising so much.

The story of the embarkation of Jordan, Cornelio Porro and others is repeated, but no evidence furnished of the facts. Valmesada was expected at Puerto Principe, he having arrived at Manati on the 10th, en route for that place.

Colonel Benegas left St. Miguel on the 4th, conducting a convoy containing a large amount of provisions for Guaimaro and the other cities now occupied by detachments of troops.

The anniversary of our Lord's death and resurrection has been celebrated by the usual suspension of business, processions, &c.

The exequatur of the new Consul in this city, Mr. Thomas Biddle, has been furnished him by the government, which fact is announced in the *Oficial Gazette*.

## Attempt to Detain an English Bark at Trinidad—The English Consul Threatens to Pitch in and She is Released.

TRINIDAD DE CUBA, April 13, 1870.

The English bark Charlie Wood, Touse, master, which sailed from this port to-day, bound for New York, was detained here one day by the Custom House authorities, who claimed that she had illegally taken stores on board and was subject to a fine of \$200 for the offence. Such a thing as preventing provisions from going on board a vessel has never before been attempted by a Collector of Customs; but the Spanish official at this place probably thought he could make some money for his government by his action. He was, however, brought to his senses by the English Consul here, who bluntly told him that unfortunately the depth of water prevented the entrance of a British war vessel to the port, but if there was he would have Cusilda and Trinidad both blown up if the Charlie Wood was not given up and her provisions restored. Warned by this energetic demonstration, the authorities concluded to surrender the vessel.