

## Condition of Affairs Throughout the Island.

### Fight on the Cauto River—The Insurgents' Moving into Bayamo—Excitement Among the Spaniards—Valmesada's Proclamation—The Captain General's Reports from the Camaguey—Operations Insignificant—The Cinco Villas—Other News.

The steamship *Bienville*, from Havana the 20th, arrived at this port yesterday with latest mail advices of the progress of events in Cuba. The purser will receive thanks for favor received.

HAVANA, April 20, 1870.

A fight of considerable importance has taken place on the banks of the Cauto river separating the jurisdictions of Las Tunas and Bayamo. The accounts thus far received are entirely through Spanish sources. According to these the insurgents under Modesto Diaz (and almost every other chief in the Central Department), fleeing before the active persecution of the columns in the former and other jurisdictions, "determined to seek relief in the cradle of the insurrection, believing they could there find the requisites for prolonging the contest." They were encountered near the point of passage of the river by the battalion San Quintin and an engagement took place, in which they lost on the field and by drowning some 200 men, forty horses and many arms and munitions. They succeeded in crossing into Bayamo, however, and on reaching the capitanea of Horno, defended by a detachment of volunteers and soldiers, attacked them, killing all but four, two of whom were wounded. The number thus killed is reported at thirty-five. Evidently much excitement followed on the movement. Valmesada immediately proceeded to Bayamo to take personal charge of operations, and as usual preceded them by a proclamation or two, which appear in the *Bayamere Español* under date of the 15th. These are addressed to the inhabitants and soldiers respectively. He informs the former that Modesto Diaz, with his band, had entered Bayamo, fleeing before the columns which were pursuing him in Las Tunas, and announcing that the six battalions which he had sent in pursuit, together with the loyal volunteers of the jurisdictions, would soon put an end to this cohort of bandits. He calls on the latter, who "have a better knowledge of the country than the enemy" to drive them out with the usual patriotic appeals. The battalions mentioned as sent in pursuit, in addition to the San Quintin, are the Matanzas, E-paña, Bailen and Valmesada. The Spanish loss is not mentioned. At the last moment the journal mentioned, of date the 17th, states that on the 15th the San Quintin met the enemy on the banks of the river Bary, near a point called Rosario, beating him and causing him six deaths. Spanish loss six wounded.

Dates from Santiago de Cuba to the 15th state that the fight near the Cauto took place on the 10th, and places the insurgent loss at thirty instead of 200. In the jurisdiction of Santiago, long since reported pacified, the usual active prosecution of the insurgents continues. On the 9th the coffee estate, "Santa Elena," guarded by a small number of mobilized volunteers, was attacked by them, but reinforcements coming up they were driven off with a loss of two killed—one, a negro.

We have no variety of report from the Camaguey. The Captain General still remains at Puerto Principe, and in a telegram dated the 14th, mentions a reconnaissance by the column under Lieutenant Colonel Vergal in the Sierra de Cubatas, in Yaguajay, San Antonio, Clavellina and San Jose. A body of 200 men found in the hill near the Savannah Tabaguey, were dispersed with two deaths. One or two other small bodies were encountered, but without any determined result. The other columns report nothing new.

Persons presenting themselves state that the insurgents have adopted extreme measures to prolong their resistance. All have been obliged to take up arms, irrespective of age or condition. They also say that the disagreement between the chiefs increases. Céspedes is completely at loss, and has endeavored to relieve himself of responsibility, offering the Presidency to Fortun (?) who declined the honor.

Don José de Lamar y Valera, a native of Matanzas, and Pedro Bon, of Colon, in this island, who came out with the expedition of Colcuria, and Francisco Sicre y Justiz and Froilan Pola, who came out with the expedition which disembarked in the Ramon, have presented themselves at Moigun, and have written to the Captain-General, claiming to have been deceived and asking his indulgence and pardon.

Private accounts from Puerto Principe, under date of the 14th, state that 500 troops had arrived from Havana. No additional military operations were recorded.

A meeting of the citizens of note had taken place to devise means to renew agricultural operations about the city, and otherwise to restore the normal condition of the locality. A number of presentations are reported but none of insurgents in arms.

There would seem to be little change in the Cinco Villas and mountains of Trinidad, as we receive the usual reports of encounters from there with no results of moment. A telegram from Remedios reports several encounters with small losses to insurgents in the mountains of Alunado and Guabazas.

The embargoing of property is going on with much energy, and the *Gazette* each day contains the names of those embraced in the decree.

The children of Castañon (late editor of *Voz de Cuba*, killed in Key West) have sailed for Spain. A sufficient sum of money has been raised for them to render them comfortable for life.

The Irish-American sailor, Thomas Kerry, reported killed here recently, is not dead at all, much to the disgust and dismay of an officer who had officially reported his death. It seems he was struck down and left for dead, but subsequently came to and is now about the streets again.

The coast survey steamer *Ebb*, which was sent as bearer of despatches to Admiral Poor, at Santo Domingo, recently returned here. He reports all quiet &c. The Dictator is expected to come to Havana before going North. The *Severn* had gone to Santiago de Cuba to examine into the enforced departure of Mr. Phillips, the late American Vice Consul there.

### Arrival of the Flagship *Severn* at Santiago de Cuba—Communications Concerning the Departure of Mr. Consul Phillips—They are Reported Amicable—Courteous Treatment of Her Officers.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, April 15, 1870.

The United States flagship *Severn*, Rear Admiral Poor, arrived here on Friday evening, the 8th inst. Considerable curiosity was manifested when she was signalled, and some excitement when it became generally known that Mr. A. E. Phillips, late American Vice Consul in this port, was on board. The *Severn* saluted the Spanish flag at noon next day, and written communications have passed between the government officials and the Admiral on the subject of the precipitate departure of Mr. Phillips, who, I believe, holds the Spanish government responsible, and claims heavy damages. What the result is by the exchange of despatches I do not know. The Spaniards claim they were amicable on both sides. The officers of the *Severn* are constantly coming on shore and have been treated with the greatest politeness, except, indeed, by the *Bandera Española*, who chose the *mal-ayropos* time of the Admiral's presence here to publish some notes from St. Domingo, in which the officers of the American Squadron were grossly insulted and accused of drunkenness and licentiousness while in the above named city. However, yesterday the *Bandera* published a refutation of the libel, and everything has passed off pleasantly.

Mr. Phillips has not been on shore. A small panic reigns among the Cubans, who dare not go near the *Severn* for fear of being identified with Mr. Phillips. On the arrival of the flagship Mr. Parsons, the present United States Consul here, went on board, and was received with the usual courtesies. Yesterday a large party, including Mr. Parsons and the British Consul, went on board to visit the Admiral, and were received with the utmost attention. On leaving, the representative of her Majesty was saluted with the usual complement of guns. The *Severn* will remain until Monday, the 13th.

From the insurrection we have little new. A party of insurgents recently attacked the coffee estate "Esrella," and killed and wounded most of the small garrison there and seven or eight negro slaves.