

The Undercurrent of Feeling in Havana.

Division Among the Volunteers—Likelihood of Trouble on the Return of the Captain General—The Volunteers Exercising Their Power—The New Political Governor Not Allowed to Land—Valmaseda Superseded—Desperate Fight in Bayamo.

HAYANA, May 4, 1870.

Havana is quiet. The story published in certain sensational journals that the volunteers had assumed charge of the island, detained the Lloyd Aspinwall and performed other acts of that ilk are all false. There have been no such demonstrations as yet, and the Spanish journals are energetic in pooh-poohing the idea that there will ever be. Still there is a wide-spread and general belief that, unless an early termination of this insurrection is reached, a radical change in the situation of affairs will take place. The Spanish element is known to be divided, and while it is extremely doubtful if the requisite union and organization can be attained to control or expel the authority sent out here by Spain, yet it is a fact that many, failing an early return of peace, are in favor of the volunteers taking the control of affairs in their own hands and shaping them at least until the question of the future government of Spain is settled. If any concert of action has been agreed upon it is not known. Probably there has not, yet many roundly assert and believe that the return of the Captain General from Puerto Principe, without having crushed the insurrection beyond peradventure, will be the signal for overturning the government and placing it under the control of the Spanish residents here. This belief has naturally given rise to many rumors and speculations; as, for example, it has been stated that his Excellency would not return here at all, but would sail from Nuevitas for Spain, if he did not meet with the success anticipated, and, again, that a fusion between the Spaniards and Cubans might be brought about with a view to the independence of the island.

It is unnecessary to mention others of these many rumors, and they are only referred to as indicating the perturbed condition of the public mind and the very general idea that a crisis of some character is at hand. What would be the effect of any such action on the part of the Spaniards it were hard to tell, and, perhaps, useless to speculate upon. Without the co-operation of the navy nothing permanent could be accomplished, and that is not likely to be afforded. The great mass of the volunteers would, doubtless, be controlled by the conservative and property interest, and do all they could to maintain order, while others of the worst and most bigoted class might inaugurate horrors such as this century has given no example of. Meanwhile a question has arisen, the development of which is not yet, which affords a taste of the quality and power of the volunteers. It seems, as stated, that the home government determined to supersede Lopez Roberis, the political Governor here, and appoint in his place José M. Diaz who was secretary to Dulce during his late unfortunate administration here. The "policy of Dulce," always the great bugbear of the volunteers, was, according to accounts, to be revived again and an opposition to the action of the government was started of so determined and violent a character that the order was rescinded. The *Correo* meanwhile arrived yesterday with Diaz on board, where he has since remained, not thinking it prudent to come on shore, as one of the battalions had threatened his life. What the upshot of the matter may be is yet a question, but it may be set down that he will not assume the duties of political Governor.

The Spanish mail steamer *Isla de Cuba* arrived here yesterday from Spain, bringing General Don Pedro Caro, who, as is understood, comes to supersede Valmaseda, although there has been no authoritative statement of the fact. According to a journal of Santiago de Cuba the latter was expected in that city on the 2d. Since his proclamation announcing the invasion of Bayamo by the insurgents under Modesto Diaz, and his inauguration of vigorous measures to drive them out, we have heard nothing of him. There is a possibility of much excitement growing out of his relief, to avoid which the matter will need to be managed with much delicacy. The *Isla de Cuba* brought a large number of officers and 211 soldiers.

The Captain General, under date of the 29th from Puerto Principe, furnishes us with four columns of the official *Gazette*, descriptive of operations in the Camaguey. There is but little of interest. The march of columns and convoys through the country, a few captures and presentations, with occasional encounters with the insurgents, in which the latter fire a few shots and run away, make up the sum. It is stated that notices from Santa Cruz the 18th confirm the announcement that the rebels, commanded by Ignacio Agramonte, Magin Diaz and Bembeta, had concentrated in Najasa to the number of 1,600 or 1,800 men, for the purpose of surprising the column of Commandant Montaner. That officer had divided his forces, and marching with great precaution had surprised them, and, after various encounters, had completely dispersed the insurgents, who did not defend the entrenchments which they had prepared. From these encounters resulted twenty-six killed, and among them two chiefs; named respectively Viamonte and Manuel Parado, and two Americans, one of them having a commission as captain. It was thought the rebels had removed from Caunao, as the columns had not been able to find them. A powder factory had been discovered on the estate "San Luis," which was destroyed. The stories of the panic and demoralization of the insurgents are repeated, and some captured correspondence is published showing the ill-feeling between the chiefs.

Colonel Benegas, from Gualmaro the 28th, reports his command in excellent health. The troops were in constant motion. That place had been made the central depot for provisions. Four hundred and sixty had presented themselves and more were coming. In an excursion the sister of Magin Diaz, wife of Zayas Bazan, had been apprehended, with thirteen members of the family. Diaz himself escaped, leaving behind his horse and revolver. No loss had occurred to the Spaniards. Agramonte had renounced the chief command, and Frederico Cavada succeeds him. Bembeta had been made commanding general of the villas. Cespedes was wandering near the coast, and slept no two nights in the same place.

Dates from Mansanillo are to the 28th. *El Fortunario* of that place claims that its statement that the chiefs of the insurrection would encounter their death in the land where they gave the first subversive cry, has met with a practical fulfillment. Two or three encounters are reported in that jurisdiction, in which the rebels fled to fight another day, as usual. In the district of Bayamo, on the 21st, a fight of considerable magnitude took place. A Spanish force, composed of the battalions *Espana*, *Baïen* and *Matanzas* attacked the encampment *Macio*, where were Diaz, Marcano and others. A terrible struggle took place. The Spaniards, of course, claim a victory, but admit a loss of fifty men, the greater part of the regiment *Espana*—balance from the *Baïen*. The men contended in a hand to hand contest, and the slaughter was very great. The same paper, in its issue of the 1st, mentions another encounter at a point called *La Isleta*, in which were some losses. It is stated that a great number of dead bodies are found in the mountains by the pursuing troops, having died from exhaustion and exposure.

From Santi Espiritu we learn that Don Flomeno Cañizares, Don Luis Venegas and Don N. Bernia had been placed in the capilla, from whence they were taken out and shot on the morning of the 29th. Small encounters are reported in Trinidad and Santa Clara. Correspondence from Santi Espiritu of the 23d mentions the arrival of bands of insurgents in that jurisdiction and Moron, which appear to be coming from the Camaguey.

One of the greatest outrages ever perpetrated in the history of criminal jurisprudence has recently been perpetrated on this island. It will be recollected that in November last Don Esteban Parodi and José Maria Mora, after being in prison for many months in Cardenas, were tried for *infidencia* (disloyalty) and acquitted. The mob of volunteers, however, would not permit of their release, and the matter was referred to the Captain General. That worthy, instead of carrying out the decrees of the court, weakly and criminally ordered them tried again, although under the law they could not again be placed in jeopardy. After waiting many months and until the train was all prepared these men are again tried, of course condemned and immediately shot.

The captain of the *Lloyd Aspinwall*, under direction of the owners, has received the vessel. A Board of Survey, composed of two naval officers from the flagship and two masters of merchant vessels, are examining her and will report soon on her condition. Various stories are afloat concerning the determination of the volunteers to prevent her leaving the harbor, and doubtless there has been some such talk among them. The *Severn* will remain until the matter is entirely disposed of.