

Excitement in Havana Over the Action of a Florida Grand Jury.

Latest Reports from the Insurrectionary Districts.

Engagements With the Patriots at Several Points.

The steamship Missouri, Captain Edwards, from Havana May 14, arrived at this port yesterday. We are indebted to Purser Hempstead for the prompt delivery of our correspondence.

Excitement in Havana Over the Discharge of Persons Accused of Killing Castanon—Violence Threatened—An American Judge in Danger—Capture of the Brothers Agüero—Their Arrival in Havana—Reports from the Insurrection.

HAVANA, May 14, 1870.

We have had a small undercurrent of excitement here for the past few days, owing to the report of the Grand Jury at Key West, in the case of certain persons held as principals or accessories in the killing of Castañon, late editor of the *Voz de Cuba*, the facts connected with which are still familiar to the minds of the readers of the *HERALD*. In the United States this affair seems to be regarded as a brawl between Cubans and Spaniards, in which one of the latter was shot to death—as a bad affair, yet with nothing particular to distinguish it from the many disturbances ending fatally throughout the republic and the world. Not so in this city and island. Here Castañon is regarded as the victim of assassins and a martyr. Going over to Key West with the avowed purpose of punishing certain enemies of Spain, he is regarded, either really or affectively, as having sacrificed his life to his country. An unexampled demonstration was made over his remains, a large amount was subscribed for his two sons, and the Cortes, in the name of the nation, declared them its children. It will be seen from this what interest attached here to the fate of those who had been arrested charged with his murder. Recently, through the arrival of a fishing smack, it was known that the Grand Jury had failed to find a bill against them, there being no evidence obtainable sufficient to justify an indictment. The fact was mentioned in the local journals, and caused a very strong and bitter feeling among the Spaniards, and certain of the volunteers, as usual, talked loud and threatening, as usual, too, knowing nothing about the case. These are entirely ignorant of criminal jurisprudence in the United States, and as they are accustomed to see their own first authority shape both the law and proceedings to suit individual instances they are inclined to regard the United States government responsible for the non-punishment of the accused.

The truth is, owing to the absence of the friends of Castañon, who accompanied him, no witnesses could be found who knew aught about the matter. According to the *Diario de la Marina*, of this city, the District Attorney at Key West sent here for the witnesses as the case was coming on. Following this it was reported here that much excitement existed among the Cuban refugees in that place, and that if any person went over there to testify he would be likely to meet the fate of Castañon. A telegram was sent to the Spanish Minister requesting him to ask from the government guarantees of protection, and meanwhile the matter was disposed of. It is known that the persons who accompanied Castañon as seconds and surgeon were very loth to go over there to testify. They called upon the American Consul and asked if their evidence could not be taken by commission here and were informed that this was impossible. They expressed themselves anxious, too, as to the length of time they would be detained, stating that their business engagements would not permit of their being absent more than forty-eight hours. As no assurance could be given them on this point the probability of their arrest for violation of the laws and constitution of the State of Florida was considered, as they went thither to take part in a duel. This, certainly, was probable enough, and they thought it best, evidently, not to go over, and the discharge of the men was the result. It is certainly difficult to see how the government of the United States is in any way responsible in the matter, and yet it is considered so by some, and a disturbance was anticipated during yesterday. It seems that the Judge who presided at the court came over here on a pleasure excursion. His advent was not generally known, but he was advised by some of his friends that, if it became so, his life might be in danger. He consulted with the Consul and others, and finally concluded, as a matter of prudence, he had better postpone his visiting, lie *perdu* until an opportunity afforded and then return. No demonstration whatever was made, and the course which the Judge, under advice of friends, pursued was merely precautionary and to avoid possibility of trouble.

A week since something like a gala occasion was made of the execution of Golcourt, and this morning Spanish Havana glows with pleasurable excitement over the arrival of two of his companions, the brothers Agüero, on the steamer Pajaro del Occano, from Nuevitas. The despatch announcing their capture reached here last evening and caused much rejoicing. They state that the English major who was of the party, had died of hunger, and the three others had managed to escape from the Key. They have been subjected to a council of war and will doubtless be shot during the day. An execution took place in the Cabañas this morning, said to be of a Cuban, named Casanova, for disloyalty.

A despatch from Puerto Principe the 8th states that the column under Montaner composed of 300 men had arrived there with the artillery and park of the enemy. They had marched from Santa Cruz del Sur. The fight which resulted in the capture lasted eight hours. Ninety deaths were caused the insurgents during the march. On the arrival of the column in Puerto Principe great rejoicings took place. The guns were turned over to the Guías de Rodas as the representatives of the volunteers of the island and telegrams in felicitation passed between that place and the capital. They have been brought hither by the Pajaro, and will be made the subject of a demonstration to-day. Dates from Santago de Cuba are to the 6th. A fight had taken place at Altagracia, in which the usual Spanish success was reported. Nevertheless, the rumor became current that the troops were defeated with a loss of 100 men, and so persistent was its circulation that it brought out one Don Luis Anas de Acuña, who writes a letter to the *Bandera Española* stating that after six hours of firing the rebels were routed and dispersed, and in a search over their camp fifteen were found dead. The Spanish loss is reported at one officer and three soldiers killed and nine wounded. The insurgent chiefs Maximo Garcia, Calvo Garcia, Marmol and others were present. It is stated that they had passed the Cauto to establish themselves in the mountains of Altagracia. Private accounts state that the insurgents are again running over the jurisdiction in as large numbers as ever, and are committing many depredations.

From Trinklad the 5th some fighting is reported. A body of 200 insurgents had set fire to the estate Baga. They had an encounter with the column of Morino, in which one Spaniard was killed.

The *Imparcial* states it is undoubted that some cases of cholera have appeared in the city, resulting in death. The fever, too, is appearing with considerable virulence.

In Santi Epiritu no operations are reported, as it is impossible to find the insurgents, who seem to have hid themselves.

From Santa Clara a fight is reported in the mountains of Caoba, in which the insurgents lost eleven killed and one captured. A wooden cannon was also taken.

D. José Escolastico Borges, with seventeen persons of his family, has presented himself to the military commandant of Colon, soliciting pardon, which has been granted.

The *Oficial Gazette* here announces that General José Laureano Sanc, Superior Political Governor of Porto Rico, has been relieved by the Mariscal de Campo D. Gabriel Baldrich y Palan.

Affairs in the Central Department—Capture of the Insurgents' Artillery—Reports from the Operating Columns—A Fighting Editor—Capture of the Brothers Agüero—Woodcutters Killed near Puerto Principe by Insurgents—Presentations.

PUERTO PRINCIPE, May 14, 1870.

Since my last affairs in this department have not varied much. The insurgents still continue running over the country, constantly pursued by the troops, who are operating in every direction. The event of the most importance has been the march of a small column, about 300 men, under Major Montaner, from Santa Cruz del Sur to this city, having a fight with the insurgents on the way and capturing two pieces of artillery. Montaner, who is perfectly acquainted with the country through which he travelled, came upon the insurgents, about 250 strong, between Bermejo and Carasco, in the district of Najasa. They were behind trenchments, from which they were driven after firing one cannon shot. They retreated, and after four hours he again came up with them, they having greatly decreased in numbers. A slight skirmish followed, when the rebels fled, abandoning their artillery, which they had scarcely defended at all. One of the guns is that taken by Angel Castillo from Colonel Portal in the vicinity of Moroa. The other is a

very fine brass howitzer, having the name of Jordan upon it. When the column arrived here a great demonstration was made. Banners were hung out and the band of the Guías de Rodas was playing all day. Montaner was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel by the Captain General. During the march a prisoner betrayed to him the whereabouts of a forty-pound cannon which was hidden away. As it was too heavy to bring with him it was spiked and buried. He reports having killed ninety insurgents in these engagements. He brought no prisoners, and, it is said, never takes any.

On the 4th inst. the column operating in Marazuan returned, bringing ten prisoners, a number of women and children, said to be *presentados* and about \$10,000 in Cuban currency, besides a large quantity of insurgent correspondence, said to be of much interest. They had been at the stock farm Matilde, belonging to J. R. Gironi, father-in-law of Ignacio and Eduardo Agramonte. Among the prisoners were Gonzalo de Varona, an aide-de-camp of Ignacio Agramonte, and a man named Morales, a paymaster in the insurgent army, who were both shot.

On the 6th inst. the column operating under the command of Colonel Chinchilla arrived here. They had started from Las Minas the day before. This column is composed of 300 of the Battalion Aragon, about forty contra guerrillas and a section of cavalry. Ferrer del Couto, editor of the *New York Cronista*, had joined this column in search of adventures, as I mentioned in my last. It had an engagement with a party of insurgents on the 5th inst. The rebels were posted on a hill called La Serranita. The account given by the commander is eleven insurgents killed, five prisoners, twenty-one arms taken and eight horses. Of the prisoners two were taken by Ferrer del Couto. He was presented by the Captain General with the red cross. The five prisoners were pardoned by the Captain General on Ferrer's intercession. This column only accounts of losing one man, a straggler, who was gobbled up by the insurgents.

The column operating in Caunao, under Colonel Falfarío, arrived on the 5th inst. also, bringing a number of women and children, said to be *presentados*, also some prisoners. They had several skirmishes, in one of which they report killing Ramon Benarides.

Juan Caballero, of Aguilera, brother of the Marquez de Santa Ana and cousin of Francisco Aguilera, was brought in a prisoner by the column operating near Guimaro. He was sentenced to death, but the execution was suspended by orders of the Captain General, as he promised to make important revelations. It is stated that he promised to deliver his cousin into the hands of the Spaniards. Gaspar and Diego Agüero, brothers, were recently taken prisoners in Cayo Romano. They belonged to the Golcourt party. The first named is the same that was made a prisoner by General Valmaseda in the beginning of the revolution, in a fight near San Miguel. He was sent to Havana, and there imprisoned in the Morro. When General Dulce arrived he was pardoned with the rest of the prisoners. Gaspar is a very finely educated young man, speaking several languages with fluency. Both of the brothers will be sent to Havana, where the fate of Golcourt awaits them.

Seven woodcutters, at work within sight of the forts of this city, were cut to pieces by an insurgent party, nine more are missing. Among the killed was a boy ten years old.

The only presentations of any importance that have taken place are those of Ignacio Torres Masarrieta, formerly a lawyer of Havana, and Señor Zaldivar. Both brought their families.

There goes to Havana in the Pajaro a nephew of the wife of the late General Dulce. He was condemned to ten years' imprisonment at Gibara.