

EUROPE.

Spanish War News from Cuba and President Grant's Diplomacy in Madrid.

American Securities on the German Bourses, with Danger of Overflooding.

Newspaper Speculation, Trade and Religion in England.

Our special correspondents in Spain, Germany and England supply the following exhibit—diplomatic, political, financial and religious—of the condition of affairs existing in the Old World on the 7th of May.

SPAIN.

Cuban War News and the Government Relations to Cuba—Reading the Colonial Telegrams in Cortes—The Volunteers a Difficulty—General Sickles' Diplomacy—American and English Interests.

MADRID, May 3, 1870.

Another month has slipped away and Spain and her colonies continue in the same unsettled state as ever. Two or three times a week the Minister for the Colonies goes through the worn-out farce of reading important telegrams from the Captain General of Cuba to the effect that insurrection is crushed and stamped out, and that "almost" complete tranquillity reigns in the island. The farce has been played without interruption for the last eighteen months, in fact, may be considered as "played out," for the House appears to receive the news—if I may use the word—with the most marked indifference or unequivocal gestures of incredulity. Some of the members laugh outright. The members of the Blue Bench manage to maintain an air of gravity while the recital is going on, which is done as a matter of form, and considering the false part they have to support they play their rôle remarkably well. Practice leads to perfection. Some of the telegrams are exactly the same as others that have been previously read. This is too bad. As I told one of the deputies, they might at least alter the wording or form, so as to give an air of novelty to their reports. One of the last telegrams is somewhat altered. It runs as follows:—

HAVANA, April 28, 1870.

The operations give great results. The rebels dispersed, without chief, they are on the coast trying to escape. Several chiefs and about seventy rebels have been killed without our troops suffering any loss. Many rebels seek pardon. Yesterday 160 armed rebels, with their horses and families, presented themselves. Great panic in the enemy's camp.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.

Had the Spanish government to deal only with the insurrectionists they would have enough to do; but they have another enemy to treat which is as formidable as the insurgents themselves. I mean the volunteers and their supporters—the so-called loyal Cubans—the party that bundled Captain General Dulce off to Spain at a minute's notice; that has over and over again threatened Caballero de Rodas, and only keep him there on sufferance—a mere toy they can sport and do as they like with. Spain has no direct control over Cuba. It is governed by Spain and the volunteers and their partisans, the latter having decidedly the upper hand.

Now, there is the matter of the Lloyd Aspinwall, the American steam vessel the Spaniards unlawfully seized and took to Havana, where she was condemned as a prize. General Sickles, acting on government instructions, at once demanded her release, and, after different interviews with Sagasta, the Secretary of State, and General Prim, President of the Council of Ministers, a solemn official promise was given him to the effect that the vessel should be given up and the injured parties indemnified. Your correspondent at once forwarded a telegram to the HERALD of the result of General Sickles' demand, and on the following day the Spanish government sent a telegram to Caballero de Rodas, ordering him to give up the vessel and settle the consequent indemnity. But the Generalissimo, who governs the island about as much as I do the Peninsula, sent back word that the thing was impossible, the Cubans would not consent, and so, up to the present time, the matter rests in *statu quo*.

WHO RULES CUBA?

This gives rise to a question as to who really governs Cuba—the Insulars or Peninsulars? The next question is, as to what steps the United States government will take in the matter as it now stands, and, considering that the Spanish government do not appear to possess moral or physical force sufficient to carry into effect their decree respecting the release of the Lloyd Aspinwall, who can wonder at the insurgents demanding belligerent rights when the mother country has not even been able to carry out their order for the release of the American vessel?

GENERAL GRANT'S ATTITUDE.

Talking over the matter the other day with a gentleman well known in New York, he told me that the Spaniards had better beware how they trifled with President Grant, for if they once roused him he would be down upon them like the swoop of an eagle, and then they would find it "too late to mend." Spaniards are of opinion that Cuba is lost. A few newspapers occasionally boil up about the matter; but the sober minded part of the nation are of opinion that the retention of the island does not compensate for the loss of troops by sickness only. If I say anything to the Spaniards about the probability of their losing Cuba they say—"Moralmente está ya perdida" (morally it is already lost).

The other day the *Epoca* published a long letter dated from Paris and written by Gutierrez de la Vega, late Civil Governor of Cuba. The letter in question fills six columns of a paper.

Heber Gutierrez, it is said, leaves nothing to be added in defence of the right of Spain to the possession of Cuba, and his demonstration of the force, power and prestige of the Spanish elements there is incontestable. It has also always been our idea that to pacify was the first thing to be done, in order to legislate well afterwards. We do not agree with him respecting the power of the United States. It is possible that they now keep up an insignificant fleet in the Antilles in the assurance that nothing is to be feared from Spain nor any other European Power. Neither will we discuss as to whether their navy is weaker than ours. But we must neither go to sleep nor puff ourselves up; for who doubts—knowing the immense resources of America, the state of its Treasury, its dockyards and arsenals, all of them in full power—that weeks, nay, perhaps days only, would be sufficient to launch forces upon the waters equal even to powerful England? A struggle would doubtless be disastrous to American commerce; but its consequences would also be incalculable for Spain, that would surely lose in it all her colonies. Does this mean to say that on account of our relative weakness that we must always give in to the demands of a foreign Power?

Gutierrez de la Vega says that the population of Cuba is 1,370,211 souls. Of these inhabitants 761,750 are whites and 608,461 blacks and mulattoes. Of the colored people 225,933 are free and 379,528 slaves. Of the whites more than 400,000 are males and more than 300,000 females. Of the males (whites) something more than 200,000 are Insulars and a little less than 200,000 Peninsulars.