

CUBA.

More Executions by the Spaniards.

Execution of Ricardo Casanova—The Captain General Freeing Slaves of the Insurgents—Anxiety of the Spaniards as to the Future—Fear of Annexation—The Different Parties—Arrest of the Contra Guerrilla Chief Gonzalez Boet in Santiago—Release of American Ladies.

HAVANA, May 21, 1870.

The insurgent chief, Don Ricardo Casanova, was shot in the Cabanas fortress on the morning of Thursday, the 19th. He was from Santi Espiritus, in which jurisdiction he had been operating with a small force. Some time since, in accordance with a proclamation of the Captain General, he presented himself to the Spanish authorities, who, with that gracious clemency for which Spain is so remarkable, pardoned his disloyalty and tried him by court martial for incendiarism, convicted him and shot him. As stated in a previous letter, great efforts were made to preserve his life, but without avail, as the Captain General refused to interfere on the ground that in the pardon for disloyalty the long suffering clemency of the government was exhausted. He died with the greatest possible serenity, doubtless happy in the consciousness that his disloyalty was not to be treasured up against him. He was a brother of Donna Emilia Casanova de Villaverde, which fact doubtless had something to do with his death, as the feeling against that lady and the family to which she belongs is very bitter.

As in the United States during the late war, so, sooner or later, the question of slavery must exert a paramount influence upon the contest in this island. The Captain General already appreciates the power of the negroes. He knows that they have done much for the advancement of the Cuban cause and now in a proclamation makes a bid for their support. This appears in the *Official Gazette* of the 19th and is as follows:—

SUPERIOR POLITICAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE PROVINCE OF CUBA.
PUERTO PRINCIPLE, May 14, 1870.

Having regard to the information furnished by the Council of Administration and in exercise of the extraordinary faculties which I am invested, I decree the following:—

SOLE ARTICLE—All slaves who belong to persons in the insurrection or to those in foreign countries working for the same cause and who have taken up arms to accompany our columns, and also those who have served as guides or rendered other important services in the war and are comprehended in the law (title third, part four and case four), will be declared free. In order to the fulfillment of this decree the commanders of columns or the Lieutenant Governors will ascertain in reference to the services of such slaves and the names of the persons to whom they belong and communicate the same to the superior government for its action.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.

As these slaves, by the acts of their masters, done in obedience to the emancipation proclamation of the Céspedes government, are already free, and in no case ever liable to be legally enslaved again, the kindness of the Captain General is rather superfluous. The cry for more slaves on the part of the Spanish residents is so very strong, and as the negroes once freed contribute very little to the labor of the island, it is not probable that within the circle of Spanish authority any great number of them will be left entirely free. Some law or decree will be passed which will make them effective in the cane fields, and that is all that is required.

Anxiety as to the future is now very great among the Spaniards here. It is known that the unsettled condition of affairs in Spain renders it impossible for the home government to pay such attention to the island as its importance is thought to demand, and the most gloomy forebodings are entertained. The insurrection is not over, nor is it likely to be, and preparations must be made for another year of campaigning, and that, too, under far greater disadvantages than ever before. As the result, then, is a great conflict of opinion in the *Casino Español*, which controls and shapes public opinion throughout Spanish Cuba, there are entire obedience to the regularly constituted authorities, allowing them to be the judges as to the best course to pursue. There is another class, which, if not stronger, is certainly noisier, made up of those who advocate a quasi separation from Spain, at least until matters there are settled, and taking the entire control of matters here meanwhile. There is said to be another class, small in number, yet representing great wealth, who consider that the only chance for the preservation of the island lies in annexation to the United States. If such exist, however, it is very doubtful if they could advance their theories with safety to themselves. The feeling among the first two classes is very strong; the former are friends of De Rodas, while the others, though not regarding him as their leader especially, are very favorably disposed toward Valmaseda. That a rupture, important in its results, may follow is not improbable. The publication of certain correspondence between the Washington and Madrid governments in the papers of the Peninsula has added fuel to the flame. These were brought here by the mail steamer Comillas, which arrived a few days since, and the correspondence is judged to indicate a tolerance on the part of Spain of an intervention on the part of the United States in the affairs of the island, if not the possibility of a cession or sale. This has enraged the volunteers, many of whom are talking in a high sounding manner and uttering very loud threats. The *Voz de Cuba* insinuates that Spain has never interfered when killing was going on anywhere—which is true—and it cannot see why the United States should interfere with her. The Spaniards who come out here to make their fortunes and then to return again consider themselves the people of the island, and express much wonder that the northern republic should think of annexing the island without the consent of the people. Such are specimens of the ideas and talk which meet one at every hand, indicating the state of anxiety and excitement which exists.

From Santiago de Cuba we have the important information of the arrest of the guerrilla chief Boet. Your correspondent, writing from there under date of the 15th, says:—"A steamer, which recently arrived here from Mansanillo, brought an order for the arrest of Gonzalez Boet, the leader of the Contra guerrilla force, which has been operating during the past winter in this jurisdiction. This is the man under whose charge so many citizens of this place have been taken to the estate San Juan, three leagues from here, and there, after a farce of a trial, executed. Among the number, as will be recollected, was John Francis Portando, an American citizen. Boet was in the country at the time, but by some means obtained knowledge of the order, and at once came here and communicated with the volunteers. Great excitement among them followed, and it was threatened to drag the Governor, Ojeda, from his palace and murder him, as he was thought to be the instigator of the arrest. Matters, however, were not carried to this extent, as he was prepared for any demonstration. He intended at one time to send for the 700 men under Brigadier Deteure, stationed not far from here, in the country; but, happily, this was not found necessary. This morning, I learn, Boet is a prisoner in his house, and will be sent to Mansanillo en route for Bayamo by the steamer which leaves to-day, and there is good reason to suppose he will be shot. The charges against him are not positively known, but popular rumor accuses him of murdering innocent and loyal people for the purpose of appropriating their effects, and other horrible crimes. There are said to be many insurgents in the jurisdiction, but no operations are reported.

There arrived here on the Spanish mail steamer Comillas, Brigadier Merela, appointed Governor of Santiago de Cuba. It was suspected by the volunteers here that he came to relieve Valmaseda, and a threatening demonstration has been talked of. It is understood, however, that he comes out simply as Lieutenant Governor of the city and jurisdiction of Santiago de Cuba.

The American Consul General has been officially notified of the release of the sisters Cudlipp and Mrs. Prats, American ladies, some time since imprisoned in Trinidad. The matter has been the subject of much correspondence, and their release was strongly opposed by some of the more prominent Spanish officials. The Captain General, however, peremptorily ordered compliance with the request of the Consul for their release.

The Cubans in Matanzas, following in the footsteps of those of Puerto Principe, have issued an address to their brethren in the field urging submission to the Spanish authority.

A Battle Near Santiago de Cuba—The Cubans Victorious—The Spaniards Fall Back to the City.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, May 4, 1870.

There was an engagement here recently, and a gentleman who is by no means partial to the insurgents writes that Brigadier Deteure was completely defeated at Remanganagua so disastrously as to make it necessary to prevent the publication of any mention of the affair. Although he conceals something of his defeat he has been obliged to confess that he never saw nor heard of such determined resistance upon the part of undisciplined men against vastly superior forces, well disciplined and supplied with artillery. In this action, for so it is called here, Francisco Herrera, captain of artillery in the Spanish service, was wounded six times and killed. Of the artillerymen not a single soldier survived, and the heavy column of infantry sent in support were barely able to save the guns, protected by Gaspar Herrera, which were brought back to Cuba

marked by more than 200 bullets. At this place there are more than 100 men *hors de combat*. The column was compelled to retreat on Santiago de Cuba. Its commander, Deteure, being wounded. Donato Marmol commanded the patriots.

Spanish Imposition on Foreign Shipmasters.

CIENFUEGOS, May 12, 1870.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

For the benefit of shipmasters trading to the port of Cienfuegos and other ports in Cuba this information in regard to rules and regulations is furnished:—

RULE 1—All captains and supercargoes of vessels calling from foreign ports and engaged in the importation to this island (Cuba) are obliged, on being visited by the health boat, which visit takes place after the vessel has come to anchor, to deliver the statement of the cargo, certified by the Spanish Consul, and also the general manifest of the aforesaid cargo, also the number of Spanish tonnage.

RULE 2—Should the captain or supercargo not present a statement certified by the Spanish Consul he will incur a fine of \$200; if the said document should lack any of the expressed circumstances in rule one a fine of twenty-five dollars must be paid.

Every vessel which has not been to a Spanish port has no way of knowing her Spanish tonnage, and the Spanish Consul omits it when the vessel clears, and when the captain arrives here he is fined from twenty-five to \$200. I am one of the victims, although I came from an island where there was no Spanish Consul; and, although I nor my vessel have ever been in a Spanish port, I, along with the rest, had to submit to this shameful imposition, against which the Consuls declare themselves powerless to act. I was fined twenty-five dollars because the Spanish tonnage on the manifests was omitted.

W. E. M.