

## **Decline of Spanish Power in Cuba—Feud Between the Regulars and Volunteers.**

It would appear that the only foundation for the story that a coalition between the volunteers of Cuba and the patriot army has occurred is to be found in the reported unpleasantness between Captain General De Rodas and Count Valmaseda. When De Rodas took the field in the district where Valmaseda commanded a question arose as to the seniority of the rank. De Rodas and Valmaseda are both lieutenant generals in the Spanish army. But Valmaseda's commission is the older of the two. According to the rules of the Spanish army this seniority of date would not permit Valmaseda to act under De Rodas as a military officer, and it is said that this circumstance led him to withdraw or resign, or refuse to obey. Whatever the precise fact may be, it is believed here that there has been no personal difficulty in the case, and that there is no truth whatever in the report that the volunteers and Cubans have a private understanding or concert of action. But that the volunteers will in the end prove to be the real conquerors of the Spaniards in Cuba is not doubted in official circles here. This, it is believed, will be done without the co-operation of the patriot army. Our government has information tending to show that the purely Spanish influence is waning in Cuba and that the volunteers are gaining a strength and power which must speedily result in a crisis disastrous to Spanish rule. Letters from American agents in Cuba represent that all the Cuban and Spanish leaders, with the exception of De Rodas himself, are incompetent, and that they will never, as at present managed or guided, accomplish anything.

The government has, up to this morning, received no official despatches in the least degree confirming or strengthening the report that volunteers have seized Morro Castle, as recently reported.

### **Return of General Jordan from Cuba.**

A prominent friend of Cuban independence says the reason why General Jordan left the Cuban army is that he had engaged in that service for only one year, which time has expired; but he is now on his way to this country, accompanied by two secretaries, as an accredited agent of the insurgents.

### **The Seizure of the Aspinwall—A Big Bill for Damages.**

The owners of the American steamer Aspinwall, which was seized by the Spaniards and afterward released on demand by Secretary Fish, have made a very big claim for damages. They want a good round sum for the act of seizure, and \$300 per day likewise for detention, and expect they will get it all. It is said here, however, that they have little chance of realizing their blissful expectations. Information at the State Department leads to the conclusion that the entire value of the vessel is not more than about \$10,000, and that the real damage sustained by the owners is infinitely less than that claimed.