

CUBA.

Reported Surprise and Slaughter of Cubans Near Santiago de Cuba.

The Latest from the Captain General—Additional Reconnoissances—The Capture of Fernandez Varela—Reported Embarkation of Goicouria and Defeat of Peralta—The Rumored Relief of Valmaseda—Increase of Embargoes.

HAVANA, April 26, 1870.

The Captain General has furnished us with another rose-water report from the Central Department, equally unsatisfactory and deficient in detail with the others. It is under date of the 20th, and starts off with informing us that the news from the columns of operation is scanty. The force under Colonel Agullar brings thirty prisoners and 500 head of cattle. The regiments Catalan and Marina have fortified two estates in Buena Vista, the boundary of Mamanayagua, and are extending themselves towards Maraguán, Pera'cos and Najasa. In the reconnoissances which have been made in all directions not a single organized band of insurgents has been encountered. Small parties who have dispersed themselves in the aforementioned districts have fired from a distance, without causing any loss, while they have had fifteen killed, whose arms and horses have been taken. The troops attach no importance to these skirmishes, which last only a few minutes, and which, more than anything else, enable them to exercise their ingenuity in cutting off the retreat of the rebels. Nevertheless, the deaths caused the enemy within the last thirty days exceed 200.

Among the prisoners taken in the night surprises in the mountains, composed mostly of women and negroes, is the sub-prefect, José Fernandez Varela, formerly a public writer of Puerto Principe, one of those who have contributed most to sustaining the enemy in the field and have been most bitter in our pursuit of those intending to present themselves.

His Excellency, on the occasion of the celebration of the mysteries and passion of our Lord, pardoned Vierne+ Santos, who had been sentenced to death in Nuevitas for disloyalty. He also well receives those who come in from the country voluntarily, though determined in punishing those who are persistent in disobedience, as in the case of the sub-prefect and a deserter from the Battalion of Order, who was captured with arms in his hands. The column "Bascones" had just marched in the direction of Canao to communicate with the points occupied and bring news of the results. The line of railroad to Nuevitas has not been molested, nor have the forces protecting it seen the enemy. The presentados continue to recount terrible stories of the conduct and situation of the insurgents. Robbery and assassination are on the increase. The killing of D. Pedro Garcia Palomares, with his family, consisting of seven persons, is mentioned. At the cry of "The troops are coming" all are required to flee to the mountains, including those who live on the farms and ranches. This has deprived the poor people of their all—their houses and furniture, clothing, cattle and horses, which are, after their abandonment, either burned or carried off by the troops.

Some of the presentados desire to take up arms against the insurgents, and exhibit an anger towards them not equalled among the troops. These make certain and valuable guides, indefatigable and astute guerillas. Through the presentados it is known that the attack on Punta Pilon (a point of the railroad nine miles from Puerto Principe) some time since was by Jordan in person, who had 1,200 men and three cannon. All the stories which appear in the periodicals of the Junta in New York, such as of the surrender of Goyeneche with his whole division, the disagreements between the Captain General and Valmaseda and also the Intendente, are the work of the Laborantes to bring about recognition.

This and nothing more. As seen, the report is but a rehash of old stories forwarded in the absence of any successful operations against the insurgents and is regarded here as a piece of special pleading in favor of the Spanish cause.

A late telegram from Puerto Principe, dated the 24th, via Calbarien, mentions the return of a Spanish officer who had been a prisoner among the insurgents since November last. He says the panic among the insurgents was each day becoming greater. It is stated that Goicouris had embarked for Nassau. Official notice of the defeat of the chief Peralta, with 500 men, near Holguín, had been received. The Spaniards, as says the despatch, numbered but sixty-two, under the Lieutenant Governor of the jurisdiction. The insurgents lost fourteen killed, three prisoners, some arms, munitions and horses.

Dates from Santiago de Cuba to the 20th have been received. A surprise of the Cubans by the contra-guerrilla chief, Gonzalez Boet, at a point called Guraguay, is reported. He was guided to the spot by a negro, arriving between eleven and twelve o'clock at night. The surprise was complete. The advance sentinel was found asleep and killed, so the insurgents were unaware of their danger until completely surrounded, and, as the account states, all were killed or captured. Among the latter was the chief, a mulatto, of clear complexion and well dressed, called Julian Chev. He was shot. Several other encounters are reported.

Dates from Santi Espiritu the 20th, Trinidad 2d, Santa Clara 23d and Cienfuegos 24th report occasional fighting. A body of mobilized volunteers and employes of the estate "Couchita," near the latter place, recently went out to reconnoitre the fields and were attacked by a body of insurgents. D. Jose Orlano Ortiz and Raphael Nunez, both natives of the island, who were of the volunteers, were killed. From Santi Espiritu the death of the chief Francisco Fawna, in an encounter, is reported.

The relief of Valmaseda is still the subject of speculation and conversation here, although there have been no new developments. It is strongly opposed by the volunteers, some of whom state that neither the Captain General nor the home government would be permitted to relieve him—that the 60,000 of their number in the island would oppose it. It is, however, not probable that any concert of action could be obtained, or that the Count himself would take the responsibility of opposing the orders of the government.

There has been a great increase in the list of embargoed properties of late. The *Prensa* attributes this to the great number of documents which have been captured implicating many persons, to the facilities for carrying out the orders of the government owing to the increased tranquility, and lastly to the discovery of the plots and plans of the laborantes. Doubtless the real reason lays in the desire to appropriate as much as possible before the anticipated close of the insurrection. An address has been forwarded to the Spanish Cortes from Porto Rico protesting against the idea of the cession of Cuba to a foreign Power.

The sum of \$100,000 was recently tendered the Intendente here, Don Emilio Santos; but, having rather antiquated notions regarding the propriety of men in official position receiving presents, he declined it.

The *Diario* of to-day says that a letter from Nassau, dated the 14th, announces the arrival there in a small boat of General Jordan, accompanied by Castillo, Betancourt, Agramonte and Stephens, his aide-de-camp. The General and his staff had taken passage to Charleston in the American steamer *Anna*, being bearer of despatches from Cespedes to the Washington government.

The Contest in Bayamo—Valmaseda and Modesto Diaz—The Spaniards Report Another Victory—An English Vessel Stopped and Searched.

HAVANA, April 27, 1870.

The arrival of the steamer *Villa Clara* at Batabano brings us dates from Bayamo and Manzanillo to the 21th ult. No decisive operations between the columns of Valmaseda and the insurgents under Modesto Diaz seem to have taken place. The *Bayamese Español* of the date mentioned speaks of the arrival of twenty-three persons in that city from the insurgents who passed through the districts of Morno and Gulsa, many of them with arms, which they were permitted to retain for their loyalty and to assist in the defence of the country. The insurgents are represented to be in a deplorable condition for clothing and food, and had been promised to be freed in Bayamo from the incessant persecutions of the troops.

The same journal at the last moment, and in its "edition for Havana and Santiago de Cuba," states that the combined battalions of Español, Ballen and Matanzas, with three pieces of artillery, attacked the position which the insurrectionists, under Diaz and Marcano, occupied. They numbered 1,200, and a fire was kept up for nine hours, with repeated attacks with the bayonet, resulting in their complete dispersion, leaving the ground covered with bodies. No official account of this victory is given, however, from which the inference is that it was gotten up for the edition mentioned.

The usual atrocities are attributed to the insurgents and the inhabitants are said to be turning out to assist in repelling them.

An English lighthouse schooner was recently discovered near the island by the gunboat *Concha*, which, suspecting that she carried an expedition, boarded and searched her. She reported that she had been visiting the various lighthouses on the Bahama Banks, and was permitted to proceed.