

CUBA.

The Upton Expedition—Spanish Account of the Capture of the Cargo—Cause of the Failure—News from the Insurrection—Cessation of Operations—The Sickly Season Set In.

HAVANA, June 8, 1870.

A correspondent of one of the local journals, writing from Gibara, gives the following account of the capture of the cargo of the Upton:—

On the morning of the 23rd ult., while the gunboat Yumuri was cruising along the coast, her commander was informed by the master of the small schooner Comercio that the night previous, while passing Punta Brava, a considerable number of voices were heard, from which he inferred that a landing had taken place on the night of the 21st. At half-past ten the Yumuri arrived there, and eighteen men were sent ashore to reconnoitre. They came upon a quantity of war material, which they captured. While collecting it they were encountered by 100 of the enemy, who opened a concentrated fire upon them, compelling them to retire, which they did, protected by the gunboat. The Yumuri immediately proceeded to Nuevitas and gave notice, returning again and cruising about the spot until the 25th, when the gunboat Eco arrived with 100 of an artillery regiment, stationed at Puerto Padre. A plan of attack was formed, in accordance with which the troops, with the crews of the gunboats and some volunteers from Puerto Padre, were landed in two columns, respectively above and below the point of previous reconnoissance, and the vessels were placed in the positions best calculated to protect them. At five in the morning one of the columns came upon a body of the filibusters and opened a sharp fire upon them, killing six and wounding one. Meanwhile the other had come upon the arms and other effects and immediately commenced taking them on board, which operation they continued up to half-past ten o'clock of the evening, when the raving of the sea compelled a cessation. A firing was kept up during the night by the filibusters, rendered desperate by the loss of their arms and other material. On the morning of the 29th the balance of the goods were placed on the vessels. The columns encamped near Punta Brava, and in an excursion outside captured six prisoners, four of them wounded, and killed one man. On the 30th the gunboats proceeded to another point near by, where, according to the statement of one of the prisoners, 8000 effects were concealed. These were obtained, and after a careful reconnoissance in the vicinity they proceeded to Puerto Padre, from whence the effects were taken to Nuevitas, with the exception of much of the clothing, which was in a bad condition and was therefore burned.

The prisoners state that the expedition proceeded from New York on the 14th of May, in the steamer Upton, and was composed of 120 men, all Cubans, except four, who were Americans. Forty of them were officers. Francisco Cisneros and Gaspar Batacort were in command. The latter landed and the other remained with the steamer. The landing was accomplished on the nights of the 23rd and 24th with a steam launch (which was rendered useless the first passage) and the boats. Among the prisoners is one who says he was the secretary of the Cuban Junta in Key West; that the steamer was pursued by a gunboat, and fearing that she would be disabled by a shot the captain determined to land without a guide or certain point. He states that all the goods disembarked were captured, even to the rides of the officers, who abandoned them in order to make their escape the more easily. A long list of the captured property is given, comprising in the main such as was mentioned in the official report. Such is the account.

As will be seen, the landing was completed easily and without interference, and the entire or partial failure in the objects of the expedition resulted from want of concert of action between the expeditionists and the insurgents, and of the requisite caution when once on shore. To a person acquainted with the Cuban character it is easy to understand the incessant chattering which would be kept up, giving notice of their whereabouts, and, as in the present case, bringing down upon them the gunboats and troops. The steamer Triunfo, which arrived here yesterday, brought the captured property.

Dates from Puerto Principe to the 5th report no new operation. The names of a great number of presentados are published. The new commanding General, D. Pedro Caro, had been ill, and serious fears were entertained, but was improving.

The *Bandera Espanol*, of Santiago de Cuba, states that on the 19th of May a considerable engagement took place in that jurisdiction. The insurgents were behind strong intrenchments, which were approached on three sides, a piece of artillery being placed in the centre. A heavy fire was kept up for four hours, when the Cubans withdrew. The loss is not mentioned.

From Mansanillo and Bayamo dates to the 4th report the roads in an indescribable condition, rendering all operations impossible. The various columns were coming into town, Modesto Diaz and his forces have not been annihilated, as was promised, nor has any material damage been done them. No mention is made of Valmaseda, and that distinguished officer seems to have gone into obscurity.

The usual small encounters are reported from the Cinco Villas. In Sancti Spiritus a considerable quantity of clothing had been captured.