

C U B A .

The Fourth of July in Havana—The Return of the Captain General—The Insurrection Not Suppressed—Reports from the Departments—Sharp Fights in Santi Espiritu and Santiago de Cuba—Exodus of Cubans.

HAVANA, July 5, 1879.

The anniversary of their national independence was celebrated by the Americans resident in this city in a grand dinner given at Marianao, one of the suburbs of the place. The occasion was an interesting one, as being one of the first gatherings ever held here by the sons of the great republic. During the day the political governor was asked if there would be any objection to the meeting, to which he responded in the negative with great cordiality, and, in order to prevent any possible interference, he gave it his official sanction, and addressed a note to the *Capitan del Partido*, in Marianao, directing that they be treated with every consideration. The party sat down to at six o'clock P. M., the Consul General at the head of the table. Soon after a band of music, furnished by the local authorities, made its appearance and continued to play national and other airs until the conclusion of the entertainment. The dinner over, the usual patriotic toasts were proposed and responded to with a fervor and noise, if not eloquence, which must have astonished the quiet denizens of the locality. The party returned to Havana by the ten o'clock train, escorted to the depot and to the first station out from Marianao by the band, which was lustily cheered with hurrahs and *ritas*.

Whether or no his Excellency has put an end to the insurrection in the Camaguey, he evidently considers further effort useless, and his arrival is now momentarily expected. With his departure from the capital of the Central Department may be considered ended that grand campaign inaugurated in November last and following on the arrival of the 40,000 troops sent out from Spain. The condition of affairs from day to day has been so kept before the readers of the HERALD that no recapitulation is now necessary. It is sufficient to say that no marked successes have been attained. No prominent leader actively engaged in the insurrection has been captured. The insurgents are still strong and confident, while fully 20,000 of the reinforcement so sent out have been placed *hors de combat*. Preparations for a grand reception to his Excellency are in preparation, and the report to be furnished the public after his arrival is looked forward to with much speculation and curiosity.

The latest dates from Puerto Principe contain little of interest. Some small encounters, with the usual results, are reported. The Sub-Prefect, Don Fernando de Varona, had been captured, brought to the city and shot; also one Don Jose Francisco Fernandez. The sentence of Don Augustin Barranco, condemned to death, has been commuted to imprisonment for two years. Fortifications are reported built and four cannon placed upon them at Santa Cruz.

The commanding general of Holguin, under date of the 29th, reports that the pursuit of the twenty-one filibusters who disembarked from the *Upton* at Herradura had resulted in the death of fourteen, including Loño, and the capture of seven, who were imprisoned in Holguin for a time awaiting trial by court martial and were subsequently tried and shot. As stated, Loño was killed by a corporal and two soldiers. It seems they came upon him at some point, and while seeking some clue to his identity he threw himself on the corporal, whom he succeeded in wounding, and was then himself killed by the soldiers. The Spanish accounts have constantly referred to this party of twenty-one as running about the country, actively pursued and without knowing which way to turn. This is hardly possible, however, as the insurgent chief Peralta is known to have been in the vicinity when the landing took place, and it is probable the expeditionists soon after joined him. The report of Loño's death is improbable, therefore, and is not generally believed.

From Santi Espiritu we now learn that Bombetta, after being driven back, has again recrossed from Principe. A sharply contested fight is reported at Palmira, in which it is claimed the insurgents lost heavily. Three banners were captured and some arms and horses.

Dates from St. Jago de Cuba are to the 29th ult. The Spaniards, under their new commander, Lieutenant Colonel D. Enrique Barges, attacked the encampment of the insurgents at "la Ceiba," and, as they say, captured it. Among the Spanish killed is the Captain and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Don Antonio Gonzalez Cervero, who had recently come into a great fortune and title in Spain. The results of the fight do not seem to have been of importance.

There has of late been a considerable exodus of Cubans here, as a report of an intended conscription is rife. It is, however, probably, a false alarm.

I just heard from a very reliable source that in the Central Department of Cuba two American engineers have been executed without any trial. Their names are George Bode and John Titus. The latter has an aged mother residing somewhere on Long Island.

Don Gregorio L. de Mola, a well known planter from Puerto Principe, was also captured in company with his wife. Colonel Fajardo sent Mrs. Mola to the city, but Mr. Mola was cruelly butchered in company with thirteen more harmless families.

General Cornelio Porro, hearing that a Spanish column was sent out to burn his estates, set fire to them himself.

Two engineers, named John Caniff and Henry Story, raised the American flag on a small country seat. The flag was torn down and trampled upon, and the two were strongly tied and taken to Puerto Principe, but were set at liberty by the Captain General.