

Return of the Captain General and End of the Campaign.

The Present Situation of Affairs—Necessity for
Additional Reinforcements Realized—Ru-
mors of Conscription—Candidature
of the Prince of Hohenzol-
lern—The Insurrection.

HAVANA, July 9, 1870.

His Excellency the Captain General of Cuba is again in his capital, having reached here Wednesday evening, on board the corvette *Isabella Católica*. At half-past nine o'clock a gun from the *Morro* announced the arrival of the vessel off the harbor, and the *Segundo Cabo* and other high officials immediately went off to meet her. She moved to a point opposite the Custom House wharf, upon which a large crowd soon gathered, supposing his Excellency would land there. He, however, proceeded without delay to the landing opposite the office of the Captain of the Port, and thence to the palace, evidently desirous of avoiding any demonstration. A large number of the more prominent officials immediately waited upon him, and a crowd of volunteers, with a band of music, serenaded him from the Plaza de Nemas. A more extended reception was anticipated on the following morning, but it did not take place.

With his return may be regarded as at an end the campaign commenced in November last with the troops which had been for some time in the island, the mobilized volunteers and the 40,000 reinforcements sent out from Spain, making in all a force of from 60,000 to 80,000 men. With this great army it was supposed the insurrection could be easily suppressed, the wandering bands which constituted the military power of the insurgents and their leaders killed and captured, and so the national authority re-established. What has been done can be seen, without reviewing the operations, by simply glancing at the situation as it is, and this, too, based upon information derived entirely from official and other Spanish sources.

Commencing at the extreme eastern end of the island, we find a force in the jurisdiction of Santiago de Cuba, commanded by Donato Marmol, of 2,500 insurgents. At latest accounts these were well entrenched and the Spanish commander was demanding more troops preparatory to attacking. Some two or three months since Modesto Diaz, with a considerable force, entered the jurisdictions of Bayamo and Manzanillo from the Camaguey. Valmesada with five or six battalions has ever since been endeavoring to drive him out, but without success. Numerous encounters have been reported, each time with the complete annihilation of the insurgent forces; yet still they survive and hold their own. Recently General Varona, known as "Bembeta," entered Santi Espiritu with 500 men—as say the Spaniards—with a view of arousing the people and extending operations in the Cinco Villas and the Western Department. This movement has caused considerable anxiety, and it has been several times reported that Bembeta had been driven back to the Camaguey, after suffering a most disastrous defeat. Extending from Ciego de Avila to Moron and nearly across the island is a broad highway, which, about a year since, was repaired and extended, with a view of preventing as far as practicable the passage of the insurgents from the Eastern to the Western Departments. Posts were established within easy distances and a considerable force placed along it. As say the Spanish reports, "Bembeta" has been endeavoring to break this line, but thus far without success.

During the past twenty months the insurgents have occupied the hills of Trinidad, and all the military operations in the jurisdiction have been with a view of dislodging them. The encounters have been of no very great importance in themselves and have been utterly valueless to the Spaniards, as the insurgents have not been driven out, but are seemingly as numerous and active as ever. The same may be said of the jurisdiction of Cienfuegos, Villa Clara, and, indeed, of the entire Cinco Villas. A party of insurgents have recently been going about in the district of Colon, and are reported as committing many depredations. This is not far from Havana, and as yet their appearance there is only indicative on that account. The volunteer organization known as the *Chapelgorris* have been in pursuit and have committed many cruelties on innocent people accused or suspected of favoring the insurgents.

Returning again to the eastern part of the island, on the north side, we find the insurgents in Holguin still organized, under the command of Peralta, notwithstanding the desperate efforts which have been made to destroy them. The attention of those interested in the affairs of this island has, during the past four months, been mostly directed to the Camaguey, where the Captain General has been personally in command, and the situation there is generally known. For the time mentioned all the troops in the department have been constantly on the move, but no decisive engagements have taken place; only non-combatants have presented themselves, and no Cuban leader of prominence has been killed or captured. General Oyeda is in command, and it is not too much to conclude that in fighting material the insurgents are as strong as ever. In Remedios are, and have been for many months past, one or two bands of insurgents. These are opposed by a volunteer battalion, under Colonel Fortun, but the movements there are of little importance. It will thus be seen that the Cubans have been driven from no district which they occupied one year ago. They have successfully defended themselves during eight months of warfare, and there are now indications of their assuming the aggressive as the rainy and sickly season progresses.

Here in Havana the reality of the situation, as thus depicted is fully appreciated, and also the fact that other and more extended sacrifices must be made ere peace can be restored. The subject of reinforcements from Spain as soon as the sickly season is over is under consideration, and rumors of a coming conscription have been so generally life as to create a panic among the Cubans, who are fleeing in large numbers to the United States. Threats of hostile demonstrations by the volunteers toward the Captain General, in case he returned without ending the insurrection, have been made, but though his Excellency was received with no particular enthusiasm on his return, it is not probable any open or practical opposition to his administration will be manifested.

The telegrams in reference to the candidature for the Spanish throne of the Prince of Hohenzollern have just been received here. The journals treat the matter very gingerly and it is evident do not altogether approve. The *Diario* regards the opposition of France as fatal. Of the effect on the people it is too early to judge, but it may be set down that the advancement to the throne of Prince Alfonso would be the most popular solution of the difficulty among the Spaniards here which could be made.

The war news is without interest. The Commanding General of the Eastern Department sends an official report in which he repeats the old stories of the destruction of the insurgent forces under Modesto Diaz, claiming that there is not more than a hundred left. As the inference from the Spanish reports is that every one of these must have as many lives as a cat, they still make up a considerable force. The local journals continue to publish captured correspondence and documents taken from the insurgents. They are mostly dated about a year ago and are of little interest. The following is among them:—

CUBAN REPUBLIC, 1

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 7, 1869.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, &c.:—By reason of explanations made by me during this day's session of the House the Reprisal law has been enacted as follows:—The House of Representatives of the free people of Cuba decrees:—

First—Prisoners of war will be shot.

Second—Those who directly or indirectly aid the Spanish government will be punished with death.

Which I communicate to you in order that the President of the republic may sanction the same should he think proper, suggesting that previous to so doing the Executive should officially invite the Spanish commanders to agree upon a line of conduct regarding prisoners in accord with the dictates of humanity and the law of nations.

SALVADOR CISNEROS, President.

ANTONIO ZAMBRANA, Secretary.

SAVANELLA, June 7, 1869.

NOTE.—Should the Spanish commander neglect to reply to the invitation mentioned within twenty-four hours or should the "reply be unsatisfactory, the law will be carried into effect forthwith." S. CISNEROS, President.

A. ZAMBRANA, Secretary.

Mail advices from Santi Espiritu refer to the alleged defeat of Bembeta, but give no additional particulars of interest. It is claimed that there were captured two medicine chests, 200 horses, a variety of small arms, a sabre and a rifle, the last evidently belonging to some superior officers. It is said Diego Dorado was wounded and many others. José Castillo and the Irishman Juan Garcia were recently shot in Cienfuegos for disloyalty.