

# CUBA.

## Spanish Bank Notes—Indemnification— West Indian Cable—Improvements on Sugar Estates—Paucity of War News—Sickness.

HAVANA, July 23, 1873.

Notice of the declaration of war between France and Prussia reached here yesterday, and set people thinking about the possible complications that may result therefrom. Henceforth the insurrection in Cuba will probably receive less attention from readers of Northern journals. The war of the giants will throw it into the shade. The extreme heat with its lethargic tendency and attendant diseases causes stagnation in business as in war. No news, either official or otherwise, has been received in this city bringing to public notice important movements in the field. The Havana journals are, with special pleading, doing their utmost to induce all classes to combine and keep at par the Spanish bank notes in circulation in the island, and are likely to succeed. Wednesday of this week they were at five per cent discount for gold, by reason of the advices from Europe, while to-day but three per cent discount is paid, and the rate will no doubt within a few days be as heretofore, one and a half to two per cent discount. Spaniards, sufferers by the insurrection, and they are legion, are putting forth great efforts to induce government to adopt some step—authorize some act of indemnification of properties destroyed by the insurgents since the beginning of the rebellion at Yara. The plan most in vogue seems to be using the proceeds of the embargoed estates to that effect. Should this take place, the insurgents will have but a poor show of ever seeing their own, no matter which way the war ends, for the Spaniards will hasten to make hay while they can.

Telegrams from Cienfuegos note that the steamer, *Dacia*, of the West India Cable Company, had left that port to begin her work of laying the cable that is to connect hence to Jamaica. Sir Charles Bright was in town yesterday, and left this morning for the south side of the island.

There is a certain animation apparent among planters in the *Vuelta Abajo* to improve their estates, at least to supply the most urgent wants, such as machinery and facilities for transportation to and from the contiguous railroad stations. Boilers are being forwarded, besides labor-saving machinery, and on several estates located at considerable distances from existing railroads branch lines of track, with narrow gauge and light rails, are being built in such a manner as to a limit of operating them economically. General Ampudia, formerly military governor of Manzanillo, left town yesterday charged with the command of the districts of Bayamo Jiguani and Manzanillo. Colonel Fortan, with a part of the volunteer battalion at his command, surprised a party of twenty-five insurgents at Caibejes, killing six—thanks to the offices of a prisoner who acted as guide to the Spaniards. Some foraging parties of soldiers in Cinco Villas district met in their forays small bands of insurgents. Extent of damage, one or two killed in each encounter on both sides. Mr. Ferrer de Canto, of the *Cronista* of New York, comes out with a fiery article recommending a committee of volunteers to be sent to Madrid asking the expulsion of the deputies in the Cortes who spoke against or disparagingly of the volunteer organization of Cuba, and that they, the deputies, be proceeded against. Yellow fever and smallpox prevail in Havans, though, perhaps, not more than usual during the summer months. The weather is hot and dry, the rainy season not having made its appearance, a rarity within the tropics in July.