

SPANISH OPPOSITION TO EMANCIPATION.

Mr. Sumner's Resolutions—The Fighting Point Reached—The Death of Morales Lemus—Important Change in Operations by the Insurgents—A Rising to be Attempted in the Western Department—Bembeta in the Cinco Villas—Affairs in Camaguay.

HAVANA, July 2, 1870.

The coming storm on the slavery question has long been dreaded here, and how to avoid emancipation has been very often and anxiously discussed in the Casino Español, where Spanish sentiment is embodied and expressed. The spirit of the revolution of 1863 meets with no response in the hearts of Spanish residents here, and however liberal may be a peninsular at home, once settled in this island he adopts the motto "Cuba for the Spaniards" and becomes among the loudest advocates of the *status quo*. Men of this class have always opposed the introduction of reforms, realizing that the only way for them to retain their supremacy lay in a strong and arbitrary government. In the matter of emancipation there are no two opinions. All are bitterly opposed to it and it lies at the base of opposition to change, as more than anything else is feared an entering wedge which shall result in the freedom of the slave. From the beginning of the insurrection the antagonism between Spaniards and Cubans was sufficiently bitter; but when emancipation became the established theory, and, as far as possible, the practice of the latter, it became deadly and uncompromising. The Spaniards' material interest here is their all. They have the history of abolition in Jamaica and the other West Indies, brought about by philanthropists, not statesmen, before them, and they realize that however much the former may be delighted and the negro elevated in the scale of humanity, as is exemplified in the islands mentioned, great loss, if not entire ruin to them will result. In despite of Mr. Sumner's horror of gradualism they believe that the sudden upheaving of a labor system which is the growth of centuries must be immediately disastrous, and they fear it; and not only this, but they will oppose it *vi et armis* if necessary. In a word, Spain is powerless to emancipate the slaves on this island, and no decree of her Cortes abolishing slavery at once would be obeyed. She realizes this, and no such decree will therefore ever be issued. The recent law of the Cortes ostensibly providing for gradual emancipation meets with the approval of slave owners and all others, as it puts off the evil day so far that they will long previous have passed away from earth. As provided, it gives the option of freedom or continuance in slavery to all over sixty-five years of age. It declares that all children hereafter born of slave parents shall be free on reaching the age of twenty-two, up to which time they shall remain in charge of the owners of the mothers. It leaves all others to die in a condition of slavery. Who so wild or foolish as to suppose Spain will retain for twenty-two years longer the possession of this island? The recognition of the Cubans as belligerents, as proposed by General Banks, sufficiently exasperated the Spaniards, but was received with mild complacency compared with the resolutions of Mr. Sumner demanding emancipation. It was thus which brought out in the *Diario de la Marina* those heroic words translated and forwarded in a previous despatch:—"We have not sought, nor do we need teachers. We do not pretend to impose our will upon any one, nor will we permit any one to impose his upon us. We do not boast of ourselves as strong, but persevering; yes, and if we cannot enjoy the triumph, we will make the victory dear. We can conceive Spain destroyed, but not a coward."

In view of these facts, so apparent that even the most foolish may comprehend them, the American government in considering its relations to the struggle going on here may as well leave out the emancipation question, for until Spain is ready and able to conquer her hitherto loyal sons on this island it will never be accomplished through her or them.

The death of Morales Lemus has caused profound affliction among the Cubans here, and corresponding satisfaction to the Spaniards. Prior to the insurrection no man in Havana or throughout the island stood higher than he. A truly honest man, of great capacity and learning, he was a constant adviser of the government, and managed to stamp the impress of his influence, to an extent, on the administration of affairs, and always for good. He had the rare faculty of ascertaining the ideas and prejudices of those associated with him and of shaping, and in reality controlling them, without seeming to do so. It is thought by some who knew him well that he never would have left the island and gone into the insurrection had he believed himself safe here, but rather have attempted an exercise of his vast influence for the good of his country in allegiance to the government. Be this as it may, in him Cuba has lost her most capable son, and at a time when she can ill afford the loss.

There is reason to believe that the insurgents are about to make an important change in their field of operations. Having received the required arms and munitions by the Upton, they have seemingly determined to draw the Captain General and his troops from the Camaguay by the magic of their presence in the Western Department. Bembeta has entered the Cinco Villas, a name given to the five districts of Cienfuegos, Villa Clara, Trinidad, Remedios and Santi Espiritu, which are among the most important in the island. The movement has caused some sensation here, and the statements in reference to it are numerous and contradictory. The commanding general of Santi Espiritu and Moron telegraphs that Bembeta has appeared in the former jurisdiction with 500 or 600 men, with the view of raising the Western Department. He states, however, that, pursued by the troops, his forces much demoralized and suffering from the cholera, he had returned to whence he came. This is the usual announcement made whenever any new movement is inaugurated by the insurgents, and the clear indications are that it is as false as usual. There is nothing to prevent the insurgents from running one way as well as another, and in any conceivable state of demoralization it is as easy to move to the Cinco Villas as the Camaguay. The *Voz de Cuba* announces the invasion of Santi Espiritu, and says the people are clamoring for arms to resist the invaders. The wisdom of this movement is apparent. The Spanish forces are mostly concentrated in the Eastern and Central departments, where they have been subjected to an arduous and exhaustive campaign for eight months, and one which has very greatly depleted their ranks.

Just at this time all operations are ceasing, owing to the rains, and should they be compelled to move to the Western Department and there open a new campaign at this season the effect would be disastrous in the extreme. The movement is evidently in accordance with some plan long contemplated. Ever since the insurrection began bands of insurgents have been moving through the Cinco Villas, and among the current news invariably come to us reports of encounters there, all so much alike that nobody reads them. Of late a party has been operating in Colon, west of Cienfuegos, and it is supposed that an attempt similar to that of the unfortunate Arredondo is to be made to pass through or around the Cienega de Zapata into that most fruitful locality, the Vuelto Abajo. Persons recently from that section say that the forces known as "the chapelgorias," which are in pursuit of the insurgents, are shooting innocent people, and a reign of terror exists. In Trinidad of late there has been unusual activity among the insurgents, who have appeared in much greater numbers than heretofore. All this indicates action, and if the insurgents manage to keep the troops at work during the hot and sickly season there will be required in the fall full as large reinforcements as were sent out last year to carry on the war.

And still his Excellency the Captain General comes not, and what is more remarkable those reports so encouraging to the "lovers of order" have ceased. The Presentados, upon whom so much stress has been laid, seem to be all in now, and no insurgents can be found to be killed. The last effort of his Excellency is an attempt through four columns in the *Gazette* to create the belief that all the arms and munitions landed by the Upton on two several occasions have been captured. The authorities and journals have been so persistent to create this impression that they have overshot the mark and excited suspicion. This last statement is based on the reports of prisoners and officials, and though it contains nothing that has not been already made public, comes to the very satisfactory conclusion that though the landings were made, they were made only for the benefit of the Spaniards, who have captured all the material.

The return of his Excellency is now set down for the 10th, but nothing is positively known.

The chief reported killed in the recent reconnaissance over the Sierra Cubitas was not Madridates, as stated, but Antonio Rodriguez Jimenez. Among the recently killed in the Camaguay is one American, upon whose person were found letters addressed to Colonel George W. Warren and Major Edward P. Peters.

It is stated that various detachments are moving about, but that no insurgents are encountered, giving probability to the report that they are moving west.

A letter from Manzanillo, the 25th, written by a Spanish sympathizer, says:—"There is no great change in the condition of affairs here. Some insurgent bands, numbering 100 or 125, are moving about the interior committing depredations, and I fear, owing to the hot weather and the rainy season, it will require several months more for Valentines and his forces to re-establish the authority of the government."

On Tuesday morning was shot in the Cabanas D. Francisco Gonzales Junco for disloyalty. In Cienfuegos a court martial has been instituted for the trial of D. Jose Herrera y Lopez and Juan Alvarez Campos for the same offence.

An Englishman named William Joy, who resided in the jurisdiction of Puerto Principe, was taken

from his house in January last and brought to the city of that name. He was tried and sentenced to two years in the chain gang for the crime of remaining in the country. He has of late been very sick, and the matter has been brought to the attention of the British Consul General, who has brought the matter to the attention of the authorities.