

CUBA.

TESTIMONY BY GEN. PELAEZ OF THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL AND THE VOLUNTEERS.

This officer has, since his arrival in the Peninsula, published a refutation of the infamous charges brought against him by the Volunteers of Cuba. He makes some unpleasant statements against his accusers, as will be seen by the subjoined paragraphs:

"The instructions which I received from the Superior Chief of the Island were by no means of a gentle character. Every head officer of the insurgents was to be shot. Every person who, in the opinion of the chiefs of columns, was contributing by his personal influence toward extending the insurrection was to be submitted to a process of war, and, should the charge be proven, was to be shot. I was verbally ordered to cause to be shot every doctor, lawyer, notary, and schoolmaster, who might be found among the insurgents. The reason given was that this class of men were the authors of the rebellion.

"Gen. Lopez de Letona and I arrived at Cienfuegos in February, and about the 1st of March we went to Villa Clara. Don Juan Molei was ordered to a place called Lechuzo, to overlook the navigation of the River Damuji and persecute Bullon and the factions of Yaguamawas and Cienaga de Zapata.

"Two young men, of the ages of 15 and 16 years, presented themselves before me for pardon. I granted it, but the volunteers were greatly disturbed. They cried aloud, 'Let the insurgents die.' The excitement, growing out of the granting of pardons, was unparalleled. The volunteers demanded that all the insurgents should be shot. The next day a negro robbed a store of a trifle, when, with the greatest difficulty, Gen. Letona and I succeeded in saving his life.

"Molei sent an insurgent chief, Juan B. Capote, to Cienfuegos. For this he was relieved of his command. An insensate multitude presented themselves before the door of the Governor, and cried out for his murder. The next day a Court-Martial was held, and Capote was shot.

"A volunteer officer presented me seven insurgents who had accepted the pardon offered. For the moment I could not give them passports. I ordered them home, but the men were brought before me at three other times by volunteers.

"On the 11th of May I learned that the insurgents were in large force at Camarones; but I could not find them. On the 14th I returned from my search to Cienfuegos. In a few days two pawns came forward to claim the benefit of a pardon. I granted it; but they were besieged by the volunteers, and took to flight. Being captured, they were lodged in jail by me in order to protect them. Then I was first accused of giving passports for money.

"The Cubans moved with marvelous exactitude, especially in the matter of ascertaining our whereabouts. As they were only in small bodies, they were enabled to pass rapidly through the different jurisdictions, and gave us nocturnal surprises. In 37 days 16 expeditions were sent out after them.

"The commander of Las Lejas captured a peasant who was at work. He was handed over to a guard, who murdered him. In the evening of the same day another poor fellow was captured; he was handed over to the same guard, who dispatched him as he had done by his former charge. I demanded information on the subject of these offences, and, as what was communicated did not please me, I determined to relieve the official. A commission of volunteers demanded of Molei that he would disobey my orders to that effect. They sent a commission to Havana on the subject, and another to me saying, that I must grant no more pardons; nay, more; that no Lieutenant-Governor should order anything to be done without their consent. I paid no attention to this, and issued a passport afterward to Hernandez Exherri, who had presented himself at Manacas.

"I returned to Cienfuegos on the 27th of May, supposing that I had been relieved of command. The volunteers met together and deliberated upon the matter as to whether I should be permitted to embark or not (for Havana.) But I went to the wharf, and on board soon found my plate of lodging."

THE PROGRESS OF INCENDIARISM—THE SITUATION AS SEEN FROM CIENFUEGOS.

A Spanish merchant of Cienfuegos writes to one of his correspondents in this city, under date of Jan. 5, the following: "The work of destruction goes on. During the week a part of the fields belonging to the estates Constancia and Laberinto, Lequeith, La Rosa, America and Jacinto, were destroyed. On yesterday the cane-fields of the estate Recurso were on fire for four hours. In truth, each day disasters of this kind are increasing. At present no one thinks of having lumber, for during the insurrection it is impossible to have it cut and transported, for which reasons I cannot fill your order. Nearly all the sugar which arrives from the country is of the ordinary retailing class; really, the most of it is very inferior. Up to this moment no sales have been spoken of."

Another gentleman, writing from the same place under same date, says: "Rarely does a day pass that some estate is not destroyed. Recently portions of the following estates were burned: Santa Elena of Lomba, La Estrella of Medina, San Francisco of Santos, Santa Rosa of Rivilla, Jarico, Las Vueltas, El Sagua, Pola, Yugueta Vieja, Santa Yabel, together with the estate of Malbran, and many others, the names of which I do not now remember, beside a great number of cattle farms and country seats. As to the pending conflict, all I can say is that it is more or less active, as in the past; and this, notwithstanding the many reports published in the journals to the effect that many insurgents have come forward and have renounced their cause, I have not seen the first one."