

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Valmaseda's Administration—A New Move and its Alleged Results—Bad Position of the Insurgents in the Cinco Villas.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 1871.

VALMASEDA works like a beaver, and, in common with his predecessors, is now developing plans, which, as a rule, have always failed, except when applied to individuals or small bands. The fat gentleman knows the power of the tongue and pen, and although the ultra-Spaniards say "no dealings of any kind with the insurgents, except by arms," the leaders let them shout, but at the same time are continually at work to gain advantages over the Cubans by diplomacy. But very few persons know what VALMASEDA is doing, and those few are members of his staff; but your correspondent has been fortunate enough to find out the latest move on the board, and one which VALMASEDA thinks will be successful.

A NEW MOVE.

The Cienaga de Zapate is an immense swamp on the southern coast of Cuba, extending from Batabano to near Cienfuegos and joining the rich sugar districts of Guines, Colon and Cienfuegos. But small portions of this monster swamp, intersected with bayous, creeks and volcanic remnants, are habitable. The most difficult and indistinct paths lead to its centre and to oasis like-spots. It is exactly such a country as might have been created for a successful guerrilla warfare. This Cienaga de Zapate has been the great refuge, hospital, workshop and depot of the Cubans operating in the Cinco Villas. Sloops and minor craft have landed, and are still landing their cargoes of provisions, clothing, or war material with the greatest impunity, and these effects find their way to the interior of the Cinco Villas with the utmost facility. From time to time the Spanish Government organized a military battue, or hunting party on a grand scale, and the troops penetrated into the innermost portion of the Cienaga, but only reached it in rags, as the thorns and undergrowth tore every stitch of clothing from their backs. The Cubans inhabiting the Cienaga at the time would seek refuge in unknown and out of the way places, re-appearing again the moment the troops had withdrawn, the soldiers rarely remaining over forty-eight hours. A few Cubans would be captured and executed, and after the expiration of three or four days things would resume their old aspect. The Cienaga is also the post route by which the Cubans in the Central and Villas Departments have steadily communicated with their compatriots and sympathizers in the Vuelta Abajo, the jurisdictions of Havana, Matanzas and Cardenas, whence they derive recruits, supplies and funds. VALMASEDA knows all this, and as he is aware of the fate former military expeditions have met, he has imitated DULCE in the De Armas and Tamayo matter, and RODAS in the Anango business. Unfortunately, however, Cuban emissaries are at a discount, and therefore it is possible that VALMASEDA'S plan may fail. The name of the Commissioner whom VALMASEDA has sent to the Cienaga de Zapate is not known, but it is positive that he is already there, and among the 100 or 150 Cubans who are now in the Cienaga. He sent a telegram to VALMASEDA this morning announcing that he had been successful, and that all the Cuban forces in the Cienaga would surrender. Should this prove true, the Government will establish detachments of from fifty to one hundred men in different points of the Cienaga, and prevent them from being reoccupied by the Cubans. The importance of this movement cannot be over-estimated, as it will cut the Cinco Villas Cubans off from their supplies, and, what is of equal or more importance, will allow the planters near Colon to sleep in peace, instead of having to be on the look-out continually to watch for the torch of the incendiary. As long as the planters do not feel any confidence—and they emphatically do not—the war must always be considered *in statu quo*; unless property is safe, there is no safety of any kind. QUASIMODO.

A Swindler Discovered—The Wife of Cespedes in Havana—A Rebel Courier Captured.

HAVANA, Jan. 10.—JOHN B. PHILLIPS, a Belgian, from New-York, accompanied by his wife, sailed in the steamer *Ouba* for New-Orleans. PHILLIPS, while here attempted to swindle several merchants, but failed, and was discovered by means of jewelry which he obtained by false pretenses, and which was recovered on board the steamer....The wife of President CESPEDES arrived here last night. She is quartered at the Orphan Asylum, and will probably be allowed to go to the United States....A bearer of important rebel correspondence has been captured. His name is ZENA, and he is said to be a commissioner from the Cubans in New-York to CESPEDES.