

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP MORRO CASTLE.

The steam-ship *Morro Castle*, which left Havana on Jan. 7, and touched at Nassau, N. P., reached this port yesterday. By the courtesy of Purser R. W. ALBERT, our special correspondence, printed below, was promptly delivered at this office.

The Situation—Negotiations With the Revolutionists—Gen. Portella—Surrender of Cubans—Prim's Assassination—Contagious Diseases—Miscellaneous Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Jan. 7, 1871.

The political and military situation has not undergone any remarkable change within the past few days. The same old stories of surrenders, unimportant skirmishes, and prophecies that the war will be over in a couple of months, are current. But these same two months do not seem to come; at least we have no demonstrative evidence that the war is any nearer to its close than it was in March last. From the Central Department, where the principal bodies of the Cubans still operate, we receive hardly any news. Every few days the chief of staff treats the public to a homeopathic dose of war movements, but to none which announce that any of the principal leaders of the revolution have either surrendered or disbanded their forces.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE REVOLUTIONISTS.

Up to the present, the result of the negotiations with the revolutionists in the Cienaga de Zapate have only produced a slight result. About sixteen or eighteen men have surrendered, and the others still remain in the Cienaga. They had sent a messenger to their chief, the Cuban General ANTONIO DE ARMAS, who commanded a party near Cienfuegos, informing him of the overtures made by the Spanish Government, but when the messenger arrived he learned that Gen. DE ARMAS had been caught by the Spaniards and executed. His body was taken to Villa Clara on New-Year's Day, where it was identified by many people and then buried. Gen. ARMAS was a brave man, and exercised considerable influence. His loss will be severely felt by the Cubans in the Villas.

GEN. PORTILLA.

The Spanish General-in-Chief, PORTILLA, who had been in Havana to confer with VALMASEDA, has again returned to his district, and begun his labors in earnest. PORTILLA is a better Police officer than a soldier, and his qualities have enabled him to nip many a conspiracy in the bud, while his severity and intelligence have caused the arrest of many suspected and guilty persons. The latest case is that of Mr. GALCERAN, a planter near Cienfuegos, whom PORTILLA ordered to be arrested, GALCERAN having been betrayed by a certain CAPOTE, who under the pretense of being an adherent of the Cubans has for a long time been in the pay of the Spaniards. Mr. ABAD MOREIRA, the administrator on GALCERAN's estate, was also arrested, and as he was really guilty and knew the fate which awaited him, he committed suicide on the 2d inst. in his cell. He attempted to hang himself, but the sheet being old and ragged broke, and he then opened his veins with a broken knife, and bled slowly to death. A quantity of arms and 300 tins of powder, which, it appears, had only been landed a few days previously, were found on GALCERAN's plantation.

SURRENDER OF CUBANS.

Several Cubans of prominence closely pursued by the troops, and who were promised liberty and restoration of their property, surrendered to the Spaniards, and have arrived at Villa Clara. These are Mr. DIEGO ECHEMENDIA, the Cuban Governor of the Cienfuegos District; Mr. DIONISIO BORGES, the Cuban Prefect of Carthage; his Sub-prefect, MARTIN CARDOSO, and eleven others. Before the war ECHEMENDIA was a notary at Cienfuegos.

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

The Spanish Navy has been particularly unfortunate in having its vessels run aground, and some of the ultras are of opinion that these accidents have been intentional. The man-of-war *Pineira* was towing the gun-boat *Concha*, and when near Cayo Piedras the sea was found so rough that the commander concluded to return to Cardenas. But on going about, both vessels drifted on Mangle Key Reef's; the *Pineira* got off soon, but the *Concha* still remains.

PRIM'S ASSASSINATION.

The *Diario* and *Voz* have commented on the assassination of Gen. PRIM as a great crime and outrage, and they clamor for the punishment of the perpetrators. Generally the deed is condemned even by the severest political enemies of the deceased, but as the Spaniards here were almost to a man opposed to PRIM, the matter was merely a day's wonder, and nobody mentioned it afterward. The Casino Espanol has sent a very able document to the Cortes, lamenting the death of PRIM, but, although the document is otherwise very appropriate, the retrograde members of the Casino could not miss the opportunity of making it a *quasi* campaign document, wherein the members display their collected wisdom.

OBITUARY—CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Gen. PEDRO AGUILAR, who for a long time commanded a division of Spanish troops in the Central Department, and who was the man most respected by the Cubans among all the Spanish officers, died on Saturday last, and was buried with military honors on Sunday. The small-pox has appeared in its most virulent type in the Sagua district and town, a large number of deaths caused by this loathsome disease having already taken place. Near Sierra Moreno and Cardenas the cholera is playing sad havoc on many plantations, plenty of negroes having died on the San Rafael and Cagua plantations, belonging to O'FARRIL, and on the Recuerdo. Other plantations are invaded by the measles.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

Collections are again being made to support the poorer portion of the volunteers doing occasional service. A German house headed the subscription with \$1,000, the Spanish Bank, which has declared a semi-annual dividend of ten per cent., following suit. VALMASEDA has established the Censorship under its old and most obnoxious form. The weather has been exceedingly hot and sultry the past few days.

QUASIMODO.