

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP CITY OF MERIDA.

The steam-ship *City of Merida*, from Sisal and Vera Cruz, via Havana on Jan. 12, reached this port yesterday evening. By the courtesy of Purser BENDEL, the interesting letter printed below was promptly delivered at this office.

The Capture of Mme. Cespedes—An Interview With the Wife of the Republican President—Position of Revolutionary Matters—A Tragedy Through Love.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Monday, Jan. 12, 1871.

The most exciting event of the week has been the capture of Mrs. ANITA CESPEDES, wife of the Cuban President, and that of her escort, Mr. JUAN CLEMENTE ZENEA, who intended returning with her to the United States, running the blockade from one of the keys near Guanaja. In order to give a full account of the affair, I can do no better than to send the result of an interview between Mrs. CESPEDES and a friend of your correspondent, who was the only gentleman, except some members of her family, who was permitted to see her. Mrs. CESPEDES arrived here on Sunday night on the Spanish man-of-war *Onuruica*, and on Monday my friend called to see her at the Beneficencia, (orphan asylum,) where she had been placed by especial order of VALMESADA, instead of in the Paula prison. My friend found Mrs. CESPEDES in a pleasant room beside that of the Mother Superior. After stating that he should like some information, which would be published in New-York, Mrs. CESPEDES gave him the following account of her departure from within the Cuban lines and her capture:

"We left the interior," she said, "several days previous to our capture, and were waiting, accompanied by two sailors, who had come with Mr. ZENEA, for a sloop to take us off. The calm weather prevailing prevented the sloop from reaching us at the appointed time, and we were discovered by the Spanish troops and captured. I was not only well treated, but taken care of by the Spanish officers in the kindest manner possible. No matter what my political sentiments may be, in honor of the truth I shall always be thankful, and shall laud the generous and gentlemanly behavior of the Spanish officers. The only tent which the troops had was that of Brig.-Gen. CHINCHILLA. A rain-storm came up, and the General marched to and fro in front of the tent which he had ceded to me. They gave me the best they had to eat and were delicate enough to remove me to a safe distance when they executed a number of prisoners taken by Col. BERGEL, so that I should not notice it. On our arrival at Nuevitas, I was placed in the house of a private family, where I was well treated and furnished with some clothing, of which I stood sadly in need, all mine having been lost when my mother was captured some months ago. The Spanish officers asked me whether I had not intended to surrender to them, when I was captured, so as to put the fact in their report? I answered them no, and that I had only intended to leave the island because I was ill, having suffered a great deal since my confinement. My baby died, and I have not been strong since, and am suffering still. The officers also asked me whether my husband had not been with me at the time of my capture? I knew why they asked, and as I always tell the truth, I told them that I had left him several days previous. The following questions were then answered by Mrs. CESPEDES:

CORRESPONDENT—Is it true that there is so much discontent among the Cubans and that they suffer so terribly?

Mrs. CESPEDES—Yes and no; they suffer as a matter of course, and bickerings between some of the officers also take place, but matters on the whole are well organized; there is meat enough in the Camaguey to feed the Spaniards and Cubans for several years, and the Cubans have planted sweet potatoes and bananas everywhere throughout the mountains. Salt is abundant, and everybody is provided with it; the Spaniards occasionally destroy the salt works, but these are again put into operation the moment the troops leave.

CORRESPONDENT—Do the Cubans commit the barbarities on Spanish prisoners they are charged with by the Spaniards?

Mrs. CESPEDES—No, Sir; on the contrary, the prisoners are well treated, and only ill treated as a matter of retaliation. My husband's son, a young man of twenty-two, was executed simply because he was the son of CESPEDES. Young OSCAR held no rank in the army, and was only a private soldier.

CORRESPONDENT—Are the Cubans as determined now as they were?

Mrs. CESPEDES—Yes, Sir, they are. Many of them will not give up under any circumstances. When I bade adieu to my husband, he told me: "If we triumph, we shall meet again on earth; if we fail, we shall meet in heaven."

CORRESPONDENT—Who are the most prominent military men in the Camaguey now?

Mrs. CESPEDES—MANUEL BOZA is Commander-in-Chief; IGNACIO AGRAMONTE commands a body of guerrillas, and BEMBETA heads some very fine troops.

CORRESPONDENT—Does the paper money of the Republic circulate freely now?

Mrs. CESPEDES—No, sir, not now; gold does, and if a person has plenty of it he can obtain almost everything, but the prices are fabulous. An ordinary dress-pattern worth about \$5 costs \$17, and so on in proportion.

The correspondent seeing that Mrs. CESPEDES was fatigued, refrained from asking any more questions, and leaves the task to his New-York confreres, to whom the lady can speak freely and with more leisure. The Captain-General gave her permission to leave for the United States and join her family, and she will leave this afternoon for New-York on the *City of Merida*.

PERSONAL.

Mr. W. J. STARKS, who has so creditably filled the position as *Herald* correspondent, leaves here today. Mr. STARKS was universally esteemed here for his qualities as a gentleman.

QUASIMODO.