

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP COLUMBIA.

The steam-ship *Columbia*, which left Havana on Jan. 14, arrived at this port yesterday. By the courtesy of Purser MAGNA, the interesting correspondence reproduced below was promptly delivered at this office.

The Situation—Appearance of the "*Hornet*"—The Case of Mr. Zenea—War Items—Miscellaneous Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Jan. 14, 1870.

According to popular rumor, this is to be the last day of grace given by VALMASEDA, and to-morrow operations will begin in earnest throughout the island. Operations have begun "in earnest" several times, and, so far, the result has not been of a kind to show that the insurrection will positively be over in one, or two, or more months. That the Cubans are in a worse condition at present than they were some months since cannot be doubted, but the changes come so suddenly, and the whole war is so peculiar, that perhaps in a week they may have regained all the advantages lost, especially if the *Hornet* and other craft known to be on the way manage to land their cargoes of freight and men. The *Hornet* is the nightmare of the Spanish Army and Navy, while every resource of the Government is brought into play to prevent her from landing. The gun-boats are cruising along the exposed coasts, and are continually running up and down, under a full head of steam.

APPEARANCE OF THE "*HORNET*."

On Sunday last, the gun-boat *Xumuri* was steaming along quietly near Puerto del Padre when the man at the lookout noticed a red flag on shore, flung to the breeze from a tree on a slight eminence. In a few moments the flag was taken down, and the suspicions of the commander of the gun-boat being thus aroused, he ran rapidly toward the coast and seeing nothing at Puerto del Padre, went to windward, whence he had just come. There he saw the *Hornet* quietly off Punta Guincho. If anything has been landed from the *Hornet* it was done during the morning, as on the previous day the spot where she then was had been cruised over by the same gun-boat. A number of men were seen on the *Hornet*, who quickly landed a boat in which some persons were seen to go on shore. Then she veered about and steamed out to sea, escaping with the utmost ease, while the gun-boat sent shot and shell after her, the missiles failing to reach. From a deserter one of the Spanish commanders on shore learned that arms and men had been landed, and this is probably the case, but nothing positive will probably be known until the *Hornet* returns to New-York. Another report also from a *presentado* is, that on Tuesday several bands went from San Cristobal toward Manati in order to receive arms. This would seem to indicate that the *Hornet* might have landed part or the whole of her cargo in the Bay of Manati after having failed to land at Punta Guincho. The Cubans in Havana are of the opinion that the cargo and men have been landed, and one man assured your correspondent that he knew positively that such was the fact. Whether he has the means of obtaining correct information is unknown to me.

THE CASE OF MR. ZENEA.

A telegram was received here stating that Mr. JUAN CLEMENTE ZENEA, the gentleman who was captured with Mrs. CESPEDES, had been tried and executed at Puerto Principe; but this was false, Mr. ZENEA having arrived here yesterday by the steamer *Moctezuma*. Mr. ZENEA will undoubtedly be tried here, and he stands a better chance of escaping the death penalty than the Agueros and others. If VALMASEDA obtains any advantages of importance in the field, he may possibly commute the ZENEA's punishment; but if not, public opinion will compel VALMASEDA to let the Spanish law take its course. Mr. ZENEA enjoys excellent health and was in excellent spirits. As he is a very determined and finely-educated gentleman, it is extremely doubtful if the authorities will be able to obtain much, if any, information from him.

WAR ITEMS.

VICTORIO CARDOZO, the second in command of PEDRO CAPOTE's division, had deserted and surrendered to the Spaniards....The Cubans attacked and destroyed the coffee plantation and buildings of Mr. ADRIANO DANDINOT, near Santiago de Cuba....ANGEL A. RODRIGUEZ and JUAN ANTONIO COVALES were executed at Santiago de Cuba, having occupied positions in the civil and military departments of free Cuba....The troops have destroyed a number of huts wherein the army of MADRINALES encamped; some of the men were killed. MADRINALES has about five hundred men and BEMBETA three hundred....President CESPEDES was at Canario on the 5th....A few more of the inhabitants of the Cienaga de Zapate have surrendered; to judge from appearance, they belonged to the non-combatants, and their loss will not be severely felt by the insurgents.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

Previous to the departure of Mrs. CESPEDES it was supposed that some disturbance might take place if she was allowed to leave, but nobody paid any attention to this. Today's *Diario* says that it expects Mrs. CESPEDES to allow all sorts of uncontradicted stories to circulate regarding her supposed ill-treatment, &c. As Mrs. CESPEDES is a lady, the *Diario* will find itself mistaken. Politics and truth may go hand and hand sometimes.

QUASIMODO.