

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

The Seizure of the Cargo of the *Hornet*— The Cienaga de Zapate Affair—Italian Opera in Havana—New Attitude of the Cubans—Miscellaneous News.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1871.

The *Hornet* has landed her cargo at last, and the agency is over, but the result has been disastrous to the Cubans. From the best sources the following information has been obtained: After the *Hornet* had been prevented from landing at Punto Guincho by the Spanish gun-boat, she went to Punta Brava, where she arrived on the night of the 11th. The Spaniards had detachments placed all along the coast, nearly all belonging to the battalion of artillery, twenty-five of whom were stationed within a hundred yards from the spot where the *Hornet* intended to touch. This detachment saw the *Hornet* come in toward the coast, and watched the landing of the arms and ammunition and of about sixty men, nearly all of them Venezuelans. The *Hornet* continued to land arms and ammunition, the troops looking on from their hiding-place. The raft on which the ammunition and people were carried on shore was at last capsized, and there seemed to be some difficulty in arranging another on the *Hornet*. The Spanish Commanger, judging then that all the cargo had been landed, advanced and poured a raking fire into the expeditionists, who, seeing the small number of their opponents, returned the fire with interest. By this time the next Spanish detachment of twenty-five men had come up and commenced to fire into the filibusters, who, seeing that the *Hornet* had already steamed off, and seeing the smoke of another steamer in the distance, made for the woods. Seven filibusters were killed and a number wounded. The artilleryists immediately pursued the filibusters with their small force, of which four had been killed and nine wounded. The steamer in the distance proved to be the *Neptuno*, a Spanish sloop-of-war, which landed her men hastily and came on shore to take possession of the cargo. They had hardly reached land when a party of ten men, waving a white flag, advanced toward them and surrendered as prisoners, stating that they had just landed from the *Hornet*. These ten men were taken on board of the *Neptuno*, and are now held as prisoners at Puerto Principe. Another of the expeditionists on seeing the soldiers shouted, "Viva España, now I am with my own people," ran toward them, and it is supposed that he is a Spaniard who took this method of coming to Cuba in a cheap manner; others opine that he is a very smart fellow and took this means of "saving his bacon." Nothing further has been heard from the *Hornet*, and telegrams have come in to the authorities stating that the soldiers from the country had surrounded the mountains where the filibusters had landed, and that it would be doubtful if any of them could escape into the interior. The above information, however, is mainly from Spanish sources, but enough is known to announce the fact that the expected results of the *Hornet* expedition will not be attained, and that the Spaniards have come cheaply into possession of a valuable cargo of arms and ammunition.

THE CIENAGA DE ZAPATE AFFAIR.

The Cienaga de Zapate affair has turned out much better than I expected. The three leaders, Gen. DAMAIN MADRUGA, Capt. SALVADOR RODRIGUER and the Civil Governor, JOSÉ TRUJILLO, surrendered on Monday to Major ARAGON, VALMASEDA's commissioner. MADRUGA and TRUJILLO, with six armed followers are now at Colon, and from a telegram received at noon today, I learn that sixty-seven men besides, with their arms, have already surrendered at the Spanish out-post at Hanabana, some fifteen miles from Colon, and that they are expected to arrive at the town this evening. Capt. RODRIGUEZ returned to the Cienaga, and is expected back in a couple of days with the parties who are further in the interior of the Cienaga. In order to reach his destination, it was necessary to carry a dug-out on the shoulders of the relatives who followed him into the swamps, (about a dozen,) so as to cross the numerous lagoons and streams. The importance of these surrenders cannot be over estimated, and if all come in as is confidently expected, the planters of the Colon and Macagua districts have reason to be thankful, as it will enable them to harvest their sugar crop in peace.

ITALIAN OPERA IN HAVANA.

The Italian opera continues, but just now it is not my aim either to criticise the performers or performances, but to announce the sad death of Mme. CANCETTA RUBINI, one of the prima donnas. The ultimate cause of her death was fever, the origin of her sickness, the brutality and ignorance of men. Mme. RUBINI was not one of the finest artists on the stage, but bade fair to become a great ornament thereof, for she was barely twenty-four years of age. The performance of "Ernani," in which she took the part of *Elvira*, was a partial failure, due principally to a bad orchestra, insufficient rehearsals and contemptible management. Intriguers threw all the blame on her, the baritone of the company insulted her grossly, and to cap the climax, the manager of the opera sent her a note in the morning containing the grossest insult to an artist, an announcement that the rôle of *Elvira* had been taken from her and would be given to another singer. This action on the part of the manager, which we hope proceeded more from ignorance than from malice, threw her into a terrible state of excitement, which soon brought on a severe fever, and culminated in her death. Only two of the company ever went to see her, namely, Mrs. RUIZ and our country-woman, Miss KATE MORENSI, in whose arms she died. The funeral was attended by the entire chorus and band, by all the Spanish artists from the Tacon Theatre, but only by four men of the Italian troupe, and by the ladies above mentioned. This action on the part of the performers, and the part filled by the manager, has excited universal comment and contempt, and Miss MORENSI has taken as high a place as a woman as she formerly occupied as an artist. To make the matter still more painful, the management gave the opera of "Lucrezia Borgia" the same evening, and did not even close the theatre for a single night.

NEW ATTITUDE OF THE CUBANS.

A new political movement has just been inaugurated, having existed for some time, but having now only received life. A party of the wealthy and influential Cubans have taken a bold stand with the Spaniards, and intend to break down the belief that all native Cubans are sympathizers with the revolution. These Cubans had collected \$100,000 to start a new journal under the direction of Mr. PEDRO G. LORENTE, a Cuban, lately the editor of the *Integritad Nacional*, at Madrid; but this plan was assisted from, and the *Voz de Cuba* was chosen as their organ, and the money collected will be turned over to the latter journal—a very necessary thing by the way, as the *Voz*, financially speaking, is not a success, is typographically a nuisance, and, in the matter of news generally, is behind its contemporary the *Diario*. This action on the part of the Cubans is expected to smooth the way toward a future reconciliation between the Spaniards and Cubans, and toward the return of the confiscated estates to their original owners.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Constancia plantation, near Remedios, has again been burned by the Cubans commanded by CASARIEGO. The houses were all destroyed, and the soldiers guarding the place had to fortify themselves in a sugar-house, the only building left standing. Several colored people perished in the flames....The journals continue to treat the educational question at great length, but no steps are being taken to increase the number of schools....The late rains have been very beneficial to the sugar and tobacco crops.

QUASIMODO.

The Central Bank of Brooklyn—Report of the Referee.

In the Supreme Court of Brooklyn, yesterday, HENRY T. CHAPMAN, Esq., the referee appointed by Judge PRATT, in September last, to investigate the affairs of the Central Bank of that city, filed his report, the effect of which is to show beyond all doubt that the affairs of the bank when it failed were in the most disorderly

condition. "The last quarterly report, bearing date June 25, 1870, to the Superintendent of the Bank Department of the State of New-York shows the resources of the institution to be \$623,185 61, and the liabilities to be of the same amount. Mr. CHAPMAN, however, says that on that date the resources according to the books were \$301,821, and the liabilities \$897,631, but despite that fact, so large was the amount of paper on hand, since proved to be worthless, that the institution was really insolvent, and at the present time possessed no means of fully meeting its liabilities.