

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

The New and the Old Year—The Situation—Matters at Holguin—Surrender of Insurgents—Mexican Exiles—General Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Dec. 31, 1870.

Before this letter reaches New-York another year will have been ushered into existence, and with it the continuance of the Cuban revolution, which the Spaniards persist in calling an insurrection. Apparently there is no change, and in many respects we must admit that no change of importance has really taken place. It is undoubtedly true that the number of Cubans in arms, or rather of those who opposed the Spaniards, has decreased materially. The Cubans have also been driven out of many districts, wherein they formerly had things their own way. But it is the opinion of cool and impartial observers that we are no nearer to the end of the revolution than we were six or eight months ago. Your correspondent has sources of information which are thoroughly trustworthy, and all the information received indicates that the revolution will last a long time yet, that much more blood will be shed, and that the majority of Cubans and Spaniards are completely in the dark as to the condition of affairs in the interior.

MATTERS AT HOLGUIN.

Holguin itself is again assuming the tranquil aspect it has worn for some time, but the discovered conspiracy has frightened the people considerably, and the utmost vigilance is exercised. Although the ringleaders were detected and punished, there is no evidence that the conspirators have given up their plan, and the flame may burst forth when least expected. The punishment meted out has been extremely severe, eight men having paid the penalty with their lives. The culprits were all natives of the jurisdiction, and, what is more remarkable, all were active members of the Holguin volunteers. The Spaniards have always boasted that the Holguin volunteers were the most loyal, as nearly all of them were native Cubans; if this be a sample of their loyalty, the Spaniards had better put a couple of sentries beside each volunteer. A ninth accused was sentenced to eight years in the Penitentiary, and twelve others were placed at the disposition of the Captain-General, to be dealt with as he may direct. The plot was denounced to the Spanish authorities by a colored man named JOSE VALENZUELA. How much VALENZUELA received for his services is not known. At the investigation it appeared plainly that the plan of the conspirators had been to capture the town of Holguin on Christmas Eve, and not on the 5th, as had been erroneously stated. The death of AURECOHEA and the denunciation of the mulatto, produced the complete failure of the plan, which otherwise would have been successful, and have enabled the Cubans to have matters their own way, at least for a time, in the jurisdiction of Holguin.

SURRENDER OF INSURGENTS.

Surrenders continue in very large numbers, over three hundred persons having come into Puerto Principe on a single day. All these *prezencios*, or persons coming from within the insurgent lines, present, according to the statement of several eye-witnesses, a most lamentable sight, such as would move the stoutest heart to pity and tears. Covered with but a few miserable rags, some of them full of sores and disgusting skin diseases, these people have suffered hunger and danger, ruining their health, all for the sake of seeing their country free. They have beheld their children suffering, and yet they would not submit again to Spanish rule; but suffering has become in many cases too great for human nature to endure, and at last, in order to preserve the lives of their wives and innocent children, they have come in, waiting for a favorable change. The charitable people of the United States would do a great thing in sending provisions, clothing and money to these unfortunates, leaving the question of sympathy with one or the other of the contending factions entirely aside, and looking at the matter only in the light of charity. The true reason for so many surrenders must, however, be looked for in another direction. During the Summer months, but few Cubans were necessary to make a stand against the Spaniards, but as the dry season sets in affairs must necessarily change, and larger forces are required to defend every mountain pass and cross-road, unless the Spaniards be tacitly allowed to capture the remaining revolutionists and execute the leaders at pleasure. Some three weeks ago, President CESPEDES called a number of his most prominent civil and military leaders together, at Las Cabrerias, and the expediency of a levy en masse was there discussed. Nearly all of those present voted in favor of it, though foreseeing that if the law was put in practice, numbers would try to leave the insurgent lines and remain near some Spanish detachment, without taking part in the military movements. The law was not proclaimed, nor has it been put into vigor generally, but measures have been taken by the revolutionists to secure an increase of their force.

MEXICAN EXILES.

The Mexican Ex-President FELIX ZULOAGA, who has been residing here for nearly ten years, and who had been banished by JUAREZ, will return to Mexico within a few days, taking advantage of the recent amnesty granted to old sinners by the Mexican Congress. ZULOAGA publishes a card in this morning's *Voz*, thanking the people for the favors shown to him during his stay. ZULOAGA is a man of very narrow mind and intellect, but he enjoys a certain popularity with the Mexican Church party. A number of other Mexican refugees are also returning to Mexico, while others remain here. Among those who will not return is the eldest son of Gen. SANTA ANNA, who, in partnership with Gen. A. MARQUEZ, the so-called "Tiger of Tacubaya," has a pawnbroking establishment, and does a very good business. As pawnbrokers and money-lenders, SANTA ANNA and MARQUEZ are considered to be the keenest and most avaricious of their class. Ex-Minister J. M. DURAN sticks to his business as an exchange broker, and is a favorite among merchants.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

VALMASEDA has issued an order allowing cattle to be imported into the town of Santiago de Cuba free of duty, and has also placed AYALA in possession of the Postmaster-Generalship, from which that gentleman had been kept by Gen. RODAS. . . . It is estimated that the sugar crop of 1870-71 will be twenty-five per cent. less than that of 1869-70. . . . The opera has not proved a great success, artistically speaking, and the only real artists who have also gained the good will of the public are Mmes. FEDERICA and VIZCONTI, soprano; Miss KATE MORENSI, contralto, and Signor VILLANI tenor. Nearly all try to flatter the peculiar taste of the Havana public, which prefers loud shouting and a strong voice to artistic singing. . . . The vice of gambling is on the increase, and the Casino Habanero and upper floors of the notorious Louvre are crowded nightly; it is understood that VALMASEDA will take some steps to suppress this, but as all these gambling halls pay a regular salary to the majority of Government employes, whose duty it is to prevent gambling, it is extremely doubtful whether the efforts of VALMASEDA will prove fruitful of good results.

QUASIMODO.