

## CUBAN AFFAIRS.

### Signs of the Times—Tidings from the Seat of War—Trophies for Spain—A Singular Practice—Miscellaneous Mention—An Explanation.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Feb. 4 1871

Coming events cast their shadows before. The shadows in Cuban affairs are the surrenders of prominent revolutionists and the offers of others to surrender. It is reported that the Cuban Chambers have been dissolved, and that the Cabinet is wandering about the country; but this report has been given so often that, notwithstanding the fact of the changed condition of affairs in the Camaguey, it will be well to receive it with some doubt. A little fact, which has come to my knowledge, may be its origin. The nearest relatives and friends of Mr. MACHADO, the Secretary of the Cuban House of Representatives, have called on the Captain-General and tried to obtain MACHADO'S pardon, alleging that he had never been in arms against the Government, and had never killed a man or set a plantation on fire. VALMASEDA refused, and will not allow MACHADO to surrender, but has given orders that he shall share the same fate, if caught, as any other member of the Cuban House of Representatives. VALMASEDA remarked that these "quill-drivers" had done all the harm they could, and had not been possessed of equal courage with those who have gallantly been fighting with arms in their hands; that the surrender of an officer with a number of armed men is of importance, because it deprives the insurgents of their aid and enables the Spaniards to send their troops to some other place; but that the scribblers and talkers had been the origin of the trouble and must suffer for it. Another personage, who at one time caused a great deal of talk in Havana, who surrendered once, and was a daily visitor at the palace, and who completely pulled the wool over the eyes of Gen. RODAS and others, and after being fêted, took to the road and annoyed the Government considerably, has also written to the Captain-General, asking to be allowed to leave the country. This man is the celebrated CARLOS GARCIA, a person of bad reputation, but of undoubted courage and sagacity. It is not known whether VALMASEDA will grant GARCIA'S petition.

#### FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

Regarding war news and movements of troops but little authentic information can be had. The usual number of scrimmages are reported from the different departments. No other surrenders of importance are mentioned, and it appears as if VALMASEDA was only reorganizing the army and placing it in small detachments all over the country. Some companies of regulars returned from the seat of war to be reorganized and filled up with new recruits to the maximum standard. The physiognomy of the soldiers was the most effective testimony which could have been produced to prove the difficulties of the war in Cuba, and the immense amount of labor and fatigue undergone by the troops. Although these soldiers represented the so-called healthy and able men remaining, their appearance was more like invalids just recovering from a serious attack of fever or jaundice, than anything else. The war, no matter how it ends, will cost thousands of lives yet, and the number of persons ruined in health or crippled will be frightful.

#### TROPHIES FOR SPAIN.

The cannon and flags from the captured *Hornet* expedition are on exhibition at the artillery workshop, and have been visited by crowds of sight-seers. The remainder of the captured cargo is also here, and nevertheless there are plenty of people who still believe that the whole cargo has found its way to the interior. According to my calculations the Cubans managed to carry off about 500 rifles and about 30,000 rounds of ammunition. How much of that was lost or thrown away, when the troops began their pursuit, is only a matter of conjecture.

#### A SINGULAR PRACTICE.

A strange fact which has never been published has just come to my knowledge, and shows the fear entertained by the slave-owners in relation to the negro question. Every colored person who leaves this country for any place excepting Porto Rico is free on his return; this rule has not always been scrupulously observed in former years, but is strictly adhered to now. But the Spanish Government will not allow any colored male to return to Cuba after having been in a foreign country. Should they come here they are compelled to return by the first steamer leaving. On inquiring as to the reason of this order, the official politely informed me that the negroes who had been abroad had learned too much, and that it was inconvenient and dangerous to allow them to return to mingle with the blacks to teach them abolition doctrines and perhaps to produce an outbreak which would cost the lives of women and children at the mercy of negro servants. If the negroes were free, receiving pay for their labor, and taught to read and write, such precautions would be unnecessary, but a guilty conscience makes cowards of us all. Lately the negroes have been much better treated, and for several reasons. In the first place working hands are scarce and it would never do to kill them off as formerly, for there is no way of replacing them; the days of slave-trading are past. Secondly, the plantation owners know that the negroes have learned something, are aware of the existing revolution, and would perhaps, rise when least expected and set the cane fields and plantation buildings on fire. Therefore, out of motives of interest alone, the owners treat the slaves better. No matter what the cause the effects are beneficial to the poor black.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MENTION.

The Matanzas people are agitating the project of erecting a bronze statue of Gen. PRIM in Vigia-square....The different bands belonging to the Havana volunteer battalions serenaded Gen. VALMASEDA on Thursday evening, it being his saint's day....The Belgian Government has sent an order to its Consul here to have a number of sharks of different species captured and to have the skins forwarded to the Antwerp Museum. Several denizens of the deep have already changed their quarters from their native element to the yards of the Consulate....Havana, on the receipt of the news of the surrender of Paris, was much excited....The Spaniards are anxious to have daily telegrams from Spain, and when none arrive news is always invented; they are no longer accustomed to let a week pass in Spain without a revolution or disturbance of some kind....The weather has been exceedingly warm for the past few days, the thermometer marking 78° today....SUSINI, the basso, has arrived here to reinforce the opera troupe at Albion, and a tenor is expected from London. The troupe will occupy the Tacón Theatre in about a week.

#### AN EXPLANATION.

In the letter published on the 2d of February, your correspondent made some remarks about the conduct of the impresario of the opera company in connection with the death of Mme. RUBINI. Portions of the item were erroneous because of wrong information received about the matter. The death of Mme. RUBINI was not owing to any act of the impresario, who behaved in the most generous and kind manner, but was attributable to the fact that Mme. RUBINI took a very heavy supper the night previous to her demise—a thing which is almost always sure to produce yellow fever among new-comers. The physician who was first called in failed to treat the sickness as yellow fever, which made the case very dangerous, and the patient was beyond hope when other doctors were called upon. The expenses of the funeral were paid by Mr. CURBELO, the impresario, although he was not compelled to do so, and was not indebted to the deceased lady.

QUASIMODO.