

CUBA.

The Rebellion—Its Decreasing Importance—Continuance of Surrenders—Wretchedness of the "Presentados"—Valmaseda's Policy—General News-Items.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Thursday, Feb. 16, 1871.

Gen. VALMASEDA left the city this morning for the Cinco Villas, and numerous conjectures are made as to the motives which cause this sudden and unheralded trip. But the public is in error if it supposes that this trip has not been premeditated, and that it has not been known to the select few for over a month. The present trip is simply an incident of the system inaugurated some six weeks ago, or more, by VALMASEDA, and begun with the surrender of the Cienaga de Zapate insurgents, the Spanish Major ARRAGON still remaining at Hanabana, and receiving the surrender of the few Cubans who still hold out in the Macaqua and Colon districts. It is known that several propositions have been made by Cubans occupying important positions in their army or civil departments, to the Spanish Government, with a view of surrendering, but on condition that a certain guarantee should be given them, that their lives might be protected and their pardon be unconditional. This much the inferior officers of the army cannot grant or promise, and therefore all negotiations to that effect fell to the ground. In order to accomplish the object, however, VALMASEDA now leaves for the Cinco Villas, as the Cuban chiefs will not make any arrangements, or waste time in treating with officers who have neither the power or authority, and who want VALMASEDA'S consent in writing. Another object of VALMASEDA'S visit is to look a little into Gen. PORTILLA'S administration of affairs. PORTILLA is a man of wealth and education, and having made himself a great favorite of the ultra-Spanish party, on account of his severe measures, has carried things with a high hand and little tact. As a commander of troops he is a failure, and as a diplomat or administrator of affairs even worse. PORTILLA intends to carry out his measures on the strength of his bayonets, and the Cubans hold today almost as many portions of the Cinco Villas as they did a year ago. Whatever decrease the revolution has experienced has been caused by the natural decline of the war—the dwindling of the Cuban forces from sickness, bullets and desertions; as no new reinforcements are received, the power of the insurrection has been much lessened. The credit of this has been given to PORTILLA, but the idea is erroneous. In Sancti Spiritus the troops hold the ground they stand on and no more; hitherto they have had hard work to protect their convoys and forts. As the Spanish troops move in the Central Department, the Cubans, for the time, either move to Sancti Spiritus or to Eastern Departments. Owing to the movements about Santiago de Cuba, the Cubans appeared off Bayamo in force, and some severe engagements between small detachments took place there. Other movements brought several Cuban bodies near Las Tunas, in addition to those already there, and the consequence was that the convoy of provisions from Manzanilla had to be escorted by an entire battalion. The jurisdiction of Cienfuegos proper, is much quieter, and the famous army of CAVADA has almost ceased to exist. A number of his men surrendered lately, and, if their statements are correct, his force consists of no more than thirty or forty men, while his authority is not recognized by any other chieftain. But all these surrendered Cubans are, as a rule, such adherents to a system of falsehoods, that an implicit belief can never be placed in their statements. Nineteen men surrendered to Major ARRAGON, twenty-two at Sancti Spiritus, and several hundred persons at Puerto Principe. A number of them were capable of carrying arms; they continue to come in. These *presentados* serve to swell the population of the already overcrowded towns in the interior, and all imaginable kinds of diseases are killing them off at a fearful rate. I have already mentioned that these *presentados*, with but rare exceptions, come in almost naked; many are full of sores, and are afflicted with loathsome diseases; all are without means to buy either food or clothing. I hope that the people of the United States will do something for them. Whenever any plan for this has been proposed, your correspondent will give, with pleasure, all needful information as to its execution. The matter is urgent, and, unless seen to, nobody can have any idea of the extreme misery to be endured by many of these *presentados*.

VALMASEDA'S POLICY.

The term of VALMASEDA'S amnesty expired yesterday, but he has not issued any proclamations as to what he intends to do. In private conversation he has mentioned that, notwithstanding the expiration of the time, he will continue to pardon all those who surrender, and hoped to do more by employing leniency than by force of arms. VALMASEDA may possibly extend his trip to Puerto Principe, and in that case he will know whether his policy has the desired effect.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

Admiral MALCAMPO leaves for Spain on the 18th, on the frigate *Almansa*. . . . Col. JOHN L. WINTHROP, of Newport, arrived on the *Morro Castle* yesterday. . . . The Spanish gun-boat *Concha*, ashore near Cardenas, has been put afloat, and arrived here to be repaired. . . . The small-pox is raging at Sagua la Grande.

QUASIMODO.