

## CUBAN AFFAIRS.

### Gloomy Prospects of the Revolutionists— The Surrender of Porro—New Govern- ment Policy—Play-House Morality— Miscellaneous Mention.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Jan. 28, 1871.

The situation in the interior is undoubtedly undergoing a great change at present, and if it continues, the effects will not only be very disastrous to the Cuban cause, but may result in the entire disappearance of the insurrection and the triumph of the Spaniards. The surrender of the bands and leaders who have held the Cienaga de Zapate, at the very doors of Havana, and where a couple of hundred men defied all the troops sent against them, keeping the sugar districts of Colon, Macagua, and others, in a continual state of alarm, the capture of the *Hornet's* cargo, and the surrender of SILVA, the Ex-Cuban Governor of the Central Department, are facts not to be lightly passed over. But the surrender of SILVA alone would not have been of paramount importance had it not been followed by that of MANUEL ARTEAGA BORERRO, the real mover of the revolution in the Central Department, who raised the district, and although at first professing the political sentiments of NAPOLEON ARRANGO, soon changed and headed the party, which has been making war on the Spaniards with varying success, and which still holds out to hate and fight them. SILVA, ARTEAGA, and a M. CARLOS GUERRA arrived here yesterday from Puerto Principe, and had a lengthy interview with Gen. VALMASEDA. What occurred is only guessed at, but enough is known to assert that SILVA offers, on certain conditions, to return to the Camaguey, accompanied by the other two, and to influence all of his countrymen at all willing, to accept VALMASEDA'S proffered amnesty. Such a proceeding is very likely, as previous to his departure from Puerto Principe SILVA managed to have the man exercising the largest moral power among the Cubans in the Camaguey to surrender.

#### GEN. PORRO'S SURRENDER.

This man is Gen. CORNELIO PORRO, who, previous to the war, owned a large plantation, and was universally beloved on account of his sterling qualities, the poor people almost worshipping him on account of his charity. The son of MANUEL ARTEAGA influenced him to join the War party, and although PORRO has never given any proofs of military talent, the fact of his belonging to the army drew to it hundreds of recruits and kept many others from abandoning the Cuban cause. Always kind and humane, even the Spaniards have only been able to speak well of him, and the fact of his surrender will be a severe blow to the Cubans, as many will follow PORRO'S example. He surrendered with a Major, a Captain, two Lieutenants and thirty men, all armed, and was expected to arrive at Puerto Principe on the 26th. The fact of his having surrendered has been reported so often, negotiations to that effect having already been in progress during the sojourn of RODAS at Puerto Principe, that I doubted it on hearing the rumor, but SILVA announces it as a positive fact, and private letters state the same thing. The next fortnight must bring important intelligence, and if the Cubans in the Eastern Department do not hold out firmly the outlook will be gloomy. The Eastern Department, Sancto Spiritus and other portions of the Cinco Villas can hold out, however, for a long time, and there is not a General in the Spanish army who understands guerrilla warfare as well as the two Dominican Generals commanding the Revolutionists in the Eastern Department—MAXIMO GOMEZ and MODESTO DIAZ.

#### NEW GOVERNMENT POLICY.

The Spanish Government, or rather VALMASEDA, is also changing its policy, seeing that executions and butcheries of prisoners do not have the desired effect, and, instead of lessening, only widen the breach. As a proof I may cite a hitherto unknown and unprecedented action on the part of the Spaniards. The eight men who came on the *Hornet*, and who were captured, were not executed, and six were sentenced to leave the island, which is equivalent to giving them their complete liberty, while the other two are to undergo six years' imprisonment. The mother, aunts and other lady members of BEMBETA'S family had surrendered, and arrived at Puerto Principe; also the priest THOS. DEMETRIO SERRANO, who has been with the Cubans since the beginning of the struggle. The largest portion of the *Hornet's* cargo, consisting in part of about 1,500 rifles, several hundred boxes of ammunition, a cannon, saddles, &c., has already reached Gibara, and the remainder is expected in a few days. The number of persons, including, of course, women and children, of whom at least nineteen-twentieths are non-combatants who arrived at Puerto Principe, proceeding from the insurgent districts, since the 1st of November, 1870, amounts to 11,200 persons. This will give an idea as to the number of fighting men still in the Cuban ranks.

#### MORALITY IN THE PLAY-HOUSE.

If we are to judge of a nation's morality by the theatre, it must be confessed that the Spaniards are not a very moral people. On Thursday evening, a piece called "Redimir el Cautivo," was performed at the Tacon Theatre for the benefit of MARI, a really fine actor. But the idea of representing a house of ill-repute on the stage, in a theatre crowded by hundreds of ladies, has shocked even the men, and I have heard many observe that they would never permit their families to visit the place again. The text was in keeping with the play, but the critic of the *Diario*, who dares not to offend the popular taste, quietly opines some of the jokes were rather "piquant."

#### MISCELLANEOUS MENTION.

The weather is very hot and sultry....The merchants are almost idle, owing to the non-arrival of sugars, from the interior, the season being extremely backward; if the rainy season should set in early the crop will be a small one. ....A couple of *chevaliers d'industrie* from New-York, who expected to reap a rich harvest here, have been compelled to abandon their Winter retreat hastily, as their character was discovered.

QUASIMODO.