

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Matters at Porto Rico—Chances of an Insurrection—Dispatch of Troops to the Insurrectionary Districts—Valmaseda's Policy—The Tobacco Trade.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Tuesday, March 7, 1871.

The revolution in Cuba, which apparently was drawing to a close, has received a new impetus from the state of affairs in the Island of Porto Rico, where all the modern improvements on the so-called liberal Spanish plan have been planted. These modern improvements consist in freedom of the Press and representation in the Cortes of Spain through Deputies. At a first glance the importance of these measures makes itself apparent, as it deprives the old-fashioned autocratic régime of fully three-fourths of its power. Captain-Generals, who formerly were little less than gods and something more than demigods, have been taken down from their mythological elevation by timely criticism, and the honored maxim of *Dios and Rey* (God and King) has received a blow from which it will never recover. The Captain-General is no longer a mysterious personage, but has become a man, like those whom he governs, and from whom he is only distinguished by a higher official position. Some of the partisans of Gen. SAUR, the predecessor of BALDRICH, the present Captain-General, have come out strongly in defense of their man, but the defense is a very lame one, because SAUR represented the old régime and belonged to the extinguished Narvaez party. The reason for the row between the Radical (Republican) and Conservative (ultra-Spanish and Catholic, pro-slavery and autocrat) Parties is self-evident. The former desires to become a self-governing people, free from all the old prejudices; the latter wants slavery retained, no representation and no voting, but is content to be governed by men sent to them from Spain. But in Porto Rico the Conservative Party is not strong enough to wage a successful war against the Radical Party, either with the pen or sword, and consequently the Radicals have, in a measure, things their own way. The elections which have just taken place were a one-sided affair; the Radicals named their candidates and quietly elected them. The principal leaders of the Radical Party are GOICO, ACOSTA, QUINONES and ANDINO. The right to vote is almost universal, as all who pay a small tax, or who know how to read and write, are voters. To judge of the political sentiments of the Deputies elected it is only necessary to state that six of them were implicated in the Lares revolution of 1868, and are recognized as enemies to Spain and monarchies. But the Porto Ricans are much smarter than the Cubans. They fight the Spaniards with their own weapons and on their own ground, and will not take up arms until they are certain of success. And it is not the natives of Porto Rico alone who belong to this Radical Party, but many Spaniards, who are in favor of liberal institutions, and are against the monarchy. The editor of *La Razon*, the principal organ of the Radicals, is a native of old Spain. The Conservative, or reactionary party, abstained from voting, and only 19,265 votes were cast, while the whole number of registered voters is 34,723. The Havana Press occupies itself extensively with this Porto Rico trouble, and the general opinion is that a revolution is likely to occur there at any moment. The *Diario* of today threatens the Porto Ricans, and says:

"We have heard many of the well-deserving volunteers say that if the national flag was in danger in Porto Rico, they would go there to defend it. Let our brethren, the Spaniards of Porto Rico, do whatever they can, and they may rest assured that they are not alone in the immensity of the ocean, because they have close by the Spaniards of Cuba, who think and feel like them."

Beautiful language this, very pathetic and patriotic, but the *Diario*, carried away by its enthusiasm, forgets common sense and its own position; it forgets that these volunteers have not been in a great hurry to go to the Eastern Department, which is much nearer than Porto Rico, and that the Spaniards of Cuba have not yet been able to suppress their own revolution after two and a half years of actual fighting. The future only will tell.

DISPATCH OF TROOPS.

The Cubans are not subject to military duty or conscription into the regular army like the Spaniards at home, and only the so-called militia exists, which is divided into three classes, namely: White and colored militia, infantry and cavalry. All persons who have a bad reputation are enrolled into the white and colored militia, although lately a number of Cubans joined it voluntarily, under the impression that the Government would otherwise take them as soldiers. The mounted militia consists of milkmen, sellers of vegetables, grass, fodder and poultry, in fact, of everybody who owns a horse and deals in those articles; hitherto their duties have been confined to acting as ornaments in religious processions, and filling up when a general review took place. But since the war this has changed, and two squadrons of mounted militia left on Saturday for the seat of war in the Cinco Villas—one from Havana and the other from Matanzas. The officers of the mounted militia are generally wealthy planters, while the infantry is mostly commanded by officers of the regular army. The sending of these men (the infantry having gone long ago) is a sure proof that much more insurrection exists than the journals would lead us to believe, and that more men are wanted.

VALMASEDA'S POLICY.

Gen. VALMASEDA is making preparations to visit the Central Department for a short time and see if he can induce some of the principal leaders to lay down their arms. The ex-insurgent Generals who have surrendered think he will succeed, and their letters to VALMASEDA are full of anxious requests to have him come.

THE TOBACCO TRADE.

The cigar manufacturers have held meetings and resolved to form a society which will defend the interests of the trade. At their meeting FERNANDO ARRIGUNAGA was elected President, JOSE PARTAGAS Secretary, and JOSI GENA, JULIAN ALVAREZ and J. A. CABARGA Executive Committee.

QUASIMODO.