

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP MORRO CASTLE.

The Havana steam-ship *Morro Castle*, which left Havana on March 11, reached this port yesterday. By the courtesy of Purser R. W. ALBERTS, the special correspondence of the TIMES, printed below, was promptly at hand.

Allegiance to the New Dynasty—Taking the Oath—Matters in Porto Rico and Investigation in Venezuela—More Executions—Public Instruction—Miscellaneous Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, March 11, 1871.

The taking of the oath of allegiance to the new Spanish dynasty takes place to-morrow afternoon. Civil employes do not take the oath, and it would be a matter of small consequence if they did, because the army rules the land, makes and unmakes revolutions, ministries and kings, and whoever has the bayonets at his beck in Spain need trouble himself very little about the people or intellect of the country. Journalists and philosophers may write and explain until they are exhausted. When they think that the people have at last been convinced by their arguments, a corporal with a squad of soldiers steps in, plants himself before the knights of the quill, produces the written order of his Captain or Colonel, and down come the castles in the air and the convictions of the would-be reformers as by enchantment. Therefore it is but just that those who have the power should also do the swearing, but when we consider the wholesale nature of the thing, and the incongruous political character of the principal officers concerned, the affair changes its solemn robe for a motley garment. The day is perhaps, well chosen, because this Sunday is considered as one of the carnival Sundays, and is recognized by the euphonious title of *La Sardina* or Sardine Sunday. The number of *Sardines* on the Paseo to-morrow with gun or sword will be wonderful. As most prominent, VALMASEDA might first be mentioned. No sane being can imagine that his ideas were suddenly changed from those of a dyed-in-the-wool Bourbonist and ultra into those of an admirer or supporter of a King who is looked upon by the men of VALMASEDA's party as an interloper and adventurer, created by the bugbear and holy horror of the ultra party, a liberal revolution. In this instance the King is "taken in," and the public is the sardine. Next in order is blunt Gen. CARBO, the *Segundo Calo*, who knows all about a regiment, and very little about politics. CARBO became a revolutionist in '68 because NARVAEZ accused him of being one. In other respects, CARBO is a member of all parties, and if the "old gentleman" himself were appointed Minister of War, CARBO would obey his orders. The chief commander of artillery, Gen. VENENI, and Gen. CLARJO, of the engineers, are both Bourbonists. The remainder are adherents of every political faction in Spain, although many of the officers and the rank and file do not care about political parties or know much about them. The idea, however, of the army alone swearing allegiance to the King, and thus virtually establishing the precedence of brute force to everything else, is significant, and affords the best key to the anomalous and sad condition, not only of Spain, but of all Spanish-American countries. The people are not consulted; they are simply subjects and tax-payers, furnishers of money, provisions and recruits to the military Moloch, who swallows all. The army is the Juggernaut of Spain, and there are no indications that, for a long time to come, it will cease to crush its victims indiscriminately beneath its ponderous and gory wheels.

THE CEREMONY.

The ceremony to-morrow will begin at the Admiral's office, where the naval officers will swear before Mr. JOSE MONTAJO, the acting Admiral, Gen. MALCAMPO having embarked for Spain on Wednesday as some say, in order not to take the oath. At three in the afternoon the general officers and those on detached duty or on the retired list will be sworn in at the palace in presence of Gen. VALMASEDA. At the same time the regular and volunteer troops will draw up on the Prado and on the Calrade de la Reina, and Gen. VALMASEDA will review them after they take the oath. This will be administered in the following manner: The commander of each separate corps will place himself, with his standard, in the centre, placing his drawn sword across the flagstaff so as to form a cross; VALMASEDA will then stop before him and say in a loud tone, "Do you swear to guard and defend truly and loyally the Constitution of the Spanish Monarchy decreed and sanctioned by the Constitutional Cortes in 1869?" The officers and soldiers will answer it simultaneously, "We swear." When VALMASEDA will answer, "If so you do, God and the country will reward you, and if not, they will hold you responsible." The same attitude being maintained by all parties, the Captain-General will be middle-man again, and say, "Do you swear fidelity and obedience to His Majesty, AMADEO the First, Constitutional King of Spain, elected and proclaimed by the Constitutional Cortes of the nation?" The troops will answer, "Yes, I swear." The same ceremony will take place before every corps. Afterward every man will go home and swear again; this time not at the King or at the Constitutional Cortes, but at the horrible nuisance of being compelled to stand in the sun for two or three hours, and tramp through the dust for such a nonsensical purpose. The solemnity of the thing lasts but a moment, and with some even that moment does not occur. The idea of a forced oath is very unpleasant, and this is a regular "iron-clad," but the Spanish character is happily so constituted as not to trouble itself with the responsibility of oaths for the behoof of so unimportant a personage as an imported King. It will be a long time before AMADEO will be respected by the Spaniards, and much longer before he is liked; if he had come to Spain and opened a steam macaroni factory, it would have been the reverse, but Spaniards don't like to be governed by a foreigner, although he may be the best man under the sun.

MATTERS IN PORTO RICO.

Gen. VALMASEDA has become anxious about Porto Rico, and the reports he has received from BALDRICH, the Captain-General of that Island. Things are very uncertain in these countries of earthquakes and revolutions, and in order to come to a better understanding and afford possible military assistance to Porto Rico, if such should be required, Gen. VALMASEDA has sent Col. FRANCISCO ABREN DEL MONTE as an agent or commissioner to Porto Rico. As far as I can learn, Col. ABREN is to make minute inquiries as to the temper of the people, the resources of the Government, and the talked-of revolution. Another agent has been sent to Venezuela with instructions to report on the disposition of GUZMAN BLANCO and the Venezuelans, and on what Gen. QUESADA is about. The mission of both agents is in obedience to orders from Madrid, and if the agents find that the Venezuelans have been or are meddling too much with affairs which may injure Spain, and that the Government has gone beyond the limits and rules which a neutral and foreign Power ought to observe according to international law, it is more than likely that some fine morning the Venezuelans will wake up and find their ports blockaded, or be treated to a little bombardment *à la Valparaiso*. Notwithstanding the war in Cuba, Spain is sufficiently powerful to send ships enough to lay every Venezuelan seaport in ashes.

MORE EXECUTIONS.

Among the prisoners captured lately in the Cinco Villas were Capt. CARLOS CERISE and SALOME MOYA, a colored man. The Court-martial found them guilty, and both were sentenced to death, being placed in capilla at Cienfuegos on the night of the 7th, preparatory to their execution on the morning of the 8th. Capt. CERISE was very contrite, but firm, and when he became convinced that escape from his doom was impossible, he requested the attending priest to send for ANITA M——, who had been his mistress, and when he wished to marry so as to leave her his name. The young girl was then waiting outside and soon appeared; both confessed and received the holy sacrament, after which they

were married. The ceremony was hardly concluded when the muffled roll of the drum was heard outside, and the officer appeared who was to lead CERISE to the place of execution. CERISE was firm, embraced his wife, and with a steady step marched out to meet his Maker. The wife looked after him with tearless eyes, not a sound escaped her lips, and throwing herself before the crucifix she prayed silently. When the fatal volley was heard she threw herself convulsively before the altar, a loud scream was heard, and when her friends ran up they found that she had fainted. Restoratives were applied, but reason had fled for the time. Hopes are entertained of her recovery, and her case excites great pity. When the revolution broke out she was already engaged to be married to CERISE. Calling him one evening, she informed him that he must join the revolutionists else she would break with him. His love was stronger than his convictions, and he went off, gaining soon a reputation for bravery and almost for ferocity. Some months later, the young lady escaped from town and joined him in the field, where she remained with him until the capture. While the marriage ceremony was in progress, the mulatto continued to make irreverent remarks and was finally removed; even on the way to the scaffold he would laugh at his companion, and asked him whether he felt easier now, being a married man. At the place of execution he would not kneel down, but received the fire of the soldiers standing erect, shouting "Viva Cuba" and "Muera los Españoles!" The priests he treated with great disrespect, but he was excusable, because he stated plainly that he wished to have nothing to do with them, and if they were badly treated by him and tried to force themselves on his company it was their own fault.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The *Gaceta* publishes an order this morning which will fill the hearts of the poor with gladness, as it orders the re-establishment of the public free schools in Havana, which have been closed for over two years. The number of schools to be established in the city and surrounding villages is thirty-four—not a large number, certainly, but much better than none.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

Mr. MANUEL CALVO, who has represented the Simon Pure Spanish element here as agent in Madrid, arrived by the last Spanish mail steamer, and has been fêted in grand style since. The volunteer bands serenaded him, and the Casino invited him to a party. CALVO has well merited the honors paid him by his countrymen, because he has defended their interests with warmth and success.... The house of PRAT & Co. lately got up a grand patriotic bazaar. The patriots are PRAT & Co., and the persons to be benefited *idem*. A few attacks from outsiders spoiled their game, and now, instead of making, they will probably lose, Gen. VALMASEDA compelling them to hold the bazaar.... From all parts of the country we receive news of a great drouth, which is injuring the crops, and in many localities the animals have to be driven several miles for water.... A German band gives public performances at the Ceno Park.... The usual number of skirmishes are reported, and those of more than the usual importance of the famous Cuban battles, the telegraph has communicated to you. The signal-towers, which were expected to produce such transcendental results, have been abandoned as useless. New telegraph lines have been established, and the revolution continues in about its usual state without any remarkable change, except that the Spanish organs publish very little about it. This is interpreted by each party according to its wishes.

QUASIMODO.