

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

The Troops and the Oath—No Privileges for Cuba—War News—The Dead of the Revolution—The Sugar Crop.]

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Tuesday, March 14, 1871.

The taking of the oath, or rather the not taking of the oath of allegiance to King AMADEO and the Constitution, of which I informed you in my last letter, took place on Sunday afternoon. This seeming contradiction needs an explanation. On Saturday night the shining lights of the Casino held an adjourned meeting, and as keepers and guardians of the conscience and welfare of all Spaniards, they decided that no Spanish volunteer could take the oath of allegiance to the Constitution of Spain, because Cuba belongs to Spain and is a Spanish province, and because the Spaniards here are Spanish subjects, and therefore, like good and honest Spanish citizens, they must not do anything which would be un-Spanish, namely, obey a law of the land, but like true sons of their fathers, find a subterfuge and evade it, in order that the Spanish proverb, "*Quien ha hecho la ley izo la trampa,*" (He who made the law made its evasion,) should not fall into discredit. The volunteers had no particular objection to swear allegiance to King AMADEO, because such a trifle does not amount to much, and, as AMADEO is not near so big a personage in Havana as the President of the Casino, or one of the Colonels of the different volunteer battalions, they let it pass. But swearing to obey the Constitution was quite another matter, and could not be done, because then the volunteers would have bound themselves to obey the laws of Spain, a country which, to a certain extent, they consider hostile, because republicans, abolitionists and other dangerous people abound there. The swearing of the Constitution would have made Cuba like other Spanish provinces, and caused it to elect Deputies to the Cortes, a most dreaded thing to Spaniards; the laws of old Spain, which are very liberal, would have been put into force, and where would the Spaniards have gone with such innovations, which would have destroyed their power and preponderance much quicker than a dozen Cespedes and another Cuban Army? They know that their salvation lies in the keeping up of the "special laws," which rule and misrule this conquered province—for as such it must be considered—these special laws having taken the place of the so-called laws of the Indies. The Captain-General, under these special laws, rules his employes autocratically; the employes rule the Spaniards of position; the latter rule the rest of the Spaniards and Cubans, and the two last "boss it" over the poor negro and Chinaman, who in turn keep the ball rolling by beating their animals. The officers and soldiers of the regular army took the oath to King and Constitution, because they are not a local organization, and might be sent to Spain at any time, and thus necessarily have to obey the existing laws there. The review which took place was a success, and nothing occurred to disturb the festivities, the men being exceedingly orderly, and behaving as few corps of citizen soldiers would do. The only incident was that of a thief, caught in the act of trying to rob an American spectator of his watch, and he was quietly reminded by the butt end of a volunteer's musket that this was no time to show sleight-of-hand tricks, as swearing was a more solemn affair. The old Count O'REILLY injured himself returning to his house, his horse slipping under him; his injuries are serious.

WAR NEWS.

A Cuban who surrendered himself near Vasquez reports that only twenty-two filibusters reached the Cuban camp with Col. AGUILERA, and that they came without arms, having thrown them away on their march. The insurgents destroyed about four miles of woods, bush and grass, between the forts of La Data and El Polvorin. This will compel the soldiers to go a longer distance to find fodder for their horses. The locality where the fire took place is one which the Spaniards had picked out to build a new settlement. * * * * A serious engagement took place at La Dichosa between the battalion of artillery and the combined forces of VICENTE GARCIA, PANCHE VEGA, VARUNA and GONZALES. The fight lasted until nightfall, both parties remaining on their ground during the night. The engagement recommenced in the morning, when the Cubans were compelled to leave the field, the Spaniards having received reinforcements and a fresh supply of ammunition, that of the Cubans having given out, their artillery not arriving in time owing to some mismanagement of the messengers, while the Spaniards had two howitzers, which they managed with great effect. The Cuban loss was twenty-five killed and a large number of wounded; the Spaniards lost nineteen killed and about twenty wounded, some of whom arrived today by the *Pelayo* and state that the negroes of GONZALES fought like devils.....The surrenders at Puerto Principe have diminished greatly in number. The wife of EMILIO LUACES, an insurgent chief, arrived here today by the steamer *Felajo*.... Among the killed leaders is the well-known Cuban, Col. HORACIO SIMONI, a native of Puerto Principe, but educated in France and in the United States. On his return to Cuba he was a fellow-passenger of Mr. FAIRCHILD, then a street contractor in Havana, and now proprietor of the St. George's Hotel in New-York. He became enamored of Miss FAIRCHILD, and shortly after she eloped with him, the family being adverse to the match. He settled near Puerto Principe, and was one of the first to join the Cubans. He was wounded and taken prisoner early in 1869, wrote a letter of thanks to the Spaniards, was pardoned and went to New-York, whence he returned in the *Upton* expedition. Col. SIMONI was only twenty-eight years of age and generally spoken of as a good soldier, having occupied different responsible positions in the Cuban Army; he was captured on the banks of the Cannao River, taken to Magarabomba and there executed. Among the Cubans executed are Major Miguel Perdomo, of Havana; Major Santiago Milar, and Capt. Antonio Paredes, of Regla, and Lieuts. Emilio Rivero, Juan B. Agramonte, Juan Martinez, Pedro Ibarra, José Ibarra, Benito Leiva, Filomeno Echemendia. The death of the Marquis of SANTA LUCIA, Ex-President of the Cuban Chambers, and that of Col. EDWARDS MARMOL is also reported. Col. PEDRO CISNEROS FIGUEREDO, a nephew of Gen. LUIS FIGUEREDO, was killed at Nigua, and Major ANICETO LOPEZ GUTIERREZ executed at Las Tuas. Much fighting occurs in the jurisdiction of Sancti Spiritus, many Cuban detachments having gone there from other portions of the Island. Gen. VILLAMIL was defeated on Saturday last, and compelled to divide his forces into small detachments, after losing sixteen men killed.

THE SUGAR CROP.

The sugar crop of the Sagua District will be smaller by twenty per cent. than that of last year.

QUASIMODO.