

could not have been less than 100. The *Diario* says the Spaniards had only three killed and one wounded. This is not *vero* at all, but very well *travato*. While this fight was going on 200 Cubans attacked Fort Loreto, but learning of the success of the Spaniards at the intrenchments, retired. QUASIMODO.

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Progress of the Struggle—The Central Department—Surrenders and Captures An Important Engagement.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, April 15, 1871.

The war is continually changing, and the Spanish officers no longer laugh at the tactics employed by the Cuban leaders, or the stupidity displayed by the latter, until lately, in laying traps for the troops. The affair has become too serious for mirth, and the sending of ten or twenty soldiers against a body of two hundred insurgents has become a thing of the past, and belongs to history. It takes even numbers now to cope successfully with the insurgents, and VALMASEDA has his hauds full in bringing order into the chaos in the jurisdiction of Sancti Spiritus, where 2,500 insurgents defy the efforts of 13,000 badly managed troops, and where they come and go to and from the Central Department as best suits their convenience. Not a single engagement of even slight importance has occurred in the jurisdiction within the past fortnight; VALMASEDA'S plan limits itself to driving the various insurgent bodies before him toward the Central Department, where they are to be encountered by the troops, thus placing forces in their front and rear. But twice has this plan failed already, as the wily insurgents, well acquainted with every path and road, have given him the slip and appeared in the rear of the advancing Spanish forces. This necessitated beginning the work all over again. VALMASEDA himself neither writes nor publishes anything about his movements, acting very wisely in this respect. But some of his subordinates are not so cautious, and let the cat out of the bag. The proposed line of troops to extend from Trinidad to Remedios will be established within a few days, and then the forward movement will begin toward the Puerto Principe region. Every available man has been pressed into service, and when fully under way, the Spanish division will number fully fifteen thousand men fit for active service. The movement will, at any rate, prove beneficial to the jurisdictions comprising the Cinco Villas, when the insurrection will decline much more than at present, but it is doubtful if Puerto Principe and the Central Department will be affected in the same manner.

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT.

Gen. ZEA has assumed command, and his first act was the carrying out of his order of last December, to compel the hummers and *presentados* at Puerto Principe to go to work and raise eatables by planting within the surroundings of the town. Several engagements of minor importance have occurred, and the following Cubans were captured and executed near San Jacinto: A Mexican named FELIPE FERNANDEZ, and FELIX MARTINEZ, JOSE VALDIVIA and JOSE CAMPANON, and Provost-Marshal FERNANDO PEREZ. The number of surrenders is decreasing considerably, as IGNACIO AGRAMONTE has scared many from attempting to do so by having a few who were caught in the act shot or hung. A relative of Gen. QUESADA, JOSE MANUEL DE QUESADA, was captured near San Fernando and executed. On the 25th the Spaniards attacked and captured the famous fort or intrenchments known as the Asiento, which has been taken several times by the Spaniards and always reoccupied by the Cubans. PEDRO CRISOLOGA DE ZAYAS, a Cuban Sub-Prefect, was killed there, and also several other Cubans and a few Spanish soldiers. The Cubans encamped near the Najara River, uniting with those from the Asiento, attacked the Spaniards, while they were preparing to fix a camp for the night. A hand-to-hand combat ensued, and the engagement lasted until late into the night. Insurgents were whipped in one place and appeared in another; every company of the Quintui battalion fought on its own hook against an enemy that seemed to grow behind every bush and tree. The soldiers fought bravely and desperately, and near 10 in the evening remained masters of the field, having thirty-six men killed and about fifty wounded.

The Cubans, protected by the trees, had only twenty-one men killed, and nearly seventy wounded, leaving six men dead on the battlefield and carrying off the others. The Spanish Captain, PIADA, was severely wounded, and died afterward at Puerto Principe. MONTANER'S battalion did not meet with its usual success during its last excursion, encountering the enemy but twice, and in such numbers and in such advantageous positions as to make an attack a piece of foolhardiness.

IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENT.

The great battle of the fortnight, however, has been the engagement between the forces of Col. MARIN, of the artillery battalion and the Cuban division of Gen. VICENTE GARCIA, their ablest commander in the Central Department, at Loreto in the jurisdiction of Las Tunas. Numerous Cuban and Spanish versions have been circulated and published regarding this fight. Leaving the habitual exaggerations of partisans aside, the following appears to be the correct version, judging from extracts of letters written by Spanish officers. The Cubans had been reorganizing for some time, and Col. MARIN knew that in VICENTE GARCIA he had an able and brave enemy to contend against. Being informed by some spies, who had been told so on purpose, that a Cuban force was at the Loreto, he ordered Capt. CASANS, with 120 men and a piece of artillery, to march to the place and dislodge the enemy, or if this was impossible, to make a reconnoissance only. The Cubans awaited their coming behind entrenchments, only about 100 being visible. CASANS attacked the position, when he received a destructive fire in the flank and rear. The enemy increased in numbers, and CASANS beat a hasty retreat, losing seventeen killed and thirty wounded in less than fifteen minutes, but carrying some dead and all of his wounded with him, his piece of artillery rendering him immense service in protecting his retreat. When CASANS returned and informed Col. MARIN of his disastrous defeat, MARIN immediately assembled all his forces, amounting to nearly 700 men and two pieces of artillery. The Cubans did not stop behind their intrenchments, but came out and fought for some time, when MARIN put his artillery to the front, and sent a few charges of canister and grape among them, killing several. Thereupon, the Cubans again fell back to their intrenchments. The Spaniards then divided into three divisions and advanced to attack the enemy in his stronghold, marching along a supposed road leading to the intrenched camp, but which was merely a trap road, constructed to lead the Spaniards into, and was obstructed by fallen trees at the end, and by rifle-pits and intrenchments. The Spaniards were caught, and for a moment seemed done for, the Cubans firing volley after volley into their ranks. Only an act of extreme daring, and that quickly performed, could save the troops from being annihilated. MARIN ordered his soldiers to attack the position at all hazards, leading the advance himself. His bugler and sergeant were shot by his side; two others who took their places shared the same fate, but when a few Spaniards had once surmounted the intrenchments they were saved, as the Cubans, astounded at such daring, wavered and withdrew. In the meantime the two pieces of artillery had been placed into position, and the grape caused sad havoc among the Cubans. The Spaniards had gained the victory at a fearful loss if compared with other engagements, and as the troops were completely worn out, and would have been unable to resist another attack, Col. MARIN ordered the Cuban and Spanish dead to be placed in the intrenchments and had them burned. Among the killed are some young artillery officers only lately from Spain. According to the best accounts the Spaniards must have lost 150 men in killed and wounded, while the insurgent loss