

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Religious Ceremonies in the Streets—A Pious Promenade—Progress of the Revolution—Agramonte and His Influence—Affairs in Santiago de Cuba.
From Our Own Correspondent.

The holidays have now drawn to a close, and the city has again assumed its usual appearance. Notwithstanding the many changes which have taken place within the past ten years in the habits and customs of the Cubans, and the martial disuse of many of the religious ceremonies, which formerly constituted one of the principal diversions and occupation of the people, there are still enough peculiarities, which deserve more than a passing notice, either because of their importance or their oddity. Among the latter class are the procession of the "Encuentra," (*Encuentra*), which occurs every Easter morning at 5 o'clock. After the procession of Good Friday is over, the statue or wax figure representing Christ is taken to the Cathedral, while the images of St. John and the Virgin Mary are taken to San Domingo Church. From the latter place issues, arrayed in a plain robe, on Sunday morning, the image of Mary Magdalen, borne on the shoulders of a number of stalwart negroes, who are hid from public view by curtains, which are fastened around the platform on which Mary Magdalen rests. Preceded by the cross, and followed by a crowd of men carrying lighted tapers in their hands, the procession moves slowly to the corner of the street where the Cathedral is situated. Magdalen then inclines forward, looks around the corner, sees nothing, shakes her head mournfully, and returns to San Domingo Church at a slow gait. She looks into the door of the Church, and sees the Virgin in the centre. Magdalen shakes her head once more, makes three profound bows to the Virgin, and returns again to the street where the Cathedral is. The same ceremonies are gone through with, and Magdalen returns and leaves for the third time. But now everything is changed: Magdalen, when she reaches the corner of the street, sees Christ coming out of the Cathedral; not lying on a bier and covered with red paint intended to represent blood, but erect, with a life-like expression on his countenance and with a mantle of gold brocade adorned with precious stones and a jeweled crown on his head. The negroes carrying Magdalen turn quickly and run back to San Domingo Church as fast as they possibly can. Magdalen no longer bows to the Virgin but beckons lustily, while an attendant priest runs inside and delivers to the Virgin the message which Magdalen has brought, "Christ has risen." The chamber-maid of Magdalena (*La camarera mayor*) brings a mantle for Magdalen, and holding the cross aloft, with a military band playing lively tunes, the strains of the band accompanying Christ being heard at a distance, the procession moves forward in order to meet that conducting Christ. Magdalen, tired of having been compelled to act in such a staid and proper manner a little earlier, makes ample amends by dancing, the motion of the Cuban dance being imparted to the image by the negroes who carry it. About half way on the road the two processions meet; the Virgin and Christ salute and bow to each other, Magdalen makes a profound reverence to both, the bands strike up the royal march, the soldiers present arms, and the processions kneel. All united then return to San Domingo Church, where the statue of Christ will remain until holy week of next year, when it will be taken back again to the Cathedral for interment until the procession which I have just described takes the image back to San Domingo Church. Other processions take place in different churches; the most noticeable being that of Espiritu Santo, which is accompanied by young ladies in their carriages, and by others on foot, while the sidewalks are lined with young men, who have all got up at that early hour in the morning in order to pray and show their respect to the religion which they profess with so much ardor. Not a single young man has come out to see the young ladies; of course not.

THE REVOLUTION.

It has been a matter of some discussion to what extent the gubernatorial or dictatorial functions were assumed and exercised by Gen. YGNACIO AGRAMONTE, and whether CESPEDES is recognized as President. Nominally, CESPEDES is President, but in reality he neither commands nor is obeyed; the change of leader is plainly apparent in the different manner in which the war is carried on, AGRAMONTE uniting all the qualities necessary to make a Spanish-American revolutionary leader successful. He is brave, proud, ambitious, talented, and sanguinary, and is equally revengeful toward his countrymen if they thwart his plans or disobey his orders, and toward the Spaniards. Gen. NENE PERDOMO, who lately surrendered to the Spaniards at Puerto Principe, and who is still an inmate of the jail there, was driven within the Spanish lines by AGRAMONTE, who had sent a small body of men to arrest him. PERDOMO knew that if AGRAMONTE got him in his power, his trial would be a short one, and the result certain. Seeing the provost guard, he put himself in a state of defense, and sustained a hand-to-hand combat, managing to escape after being wounded in the arm. PERDOMO was one of the youngest leaders in the Cuban Army, being but twenty-one years of age. He was very brave, and was known as the best swordsman among all. The number of Cubans who have surrendered to the Spaniards, out of a fear of AGRAMONTE's wrath, is considerable, one of the first being FREDERICO CASTELLANOS, who is now in New-York. One of AGRAMONTE's principal supporters is Gen. SANCILLI, a Havanese, who was shot and lost a leg at the attack on Las Tunas, and has to be lifted on his horse whenever he goes to fight. But this one-legged General is much more dangerous to the Spaniards than many others with two legs. Another of AGRAMONTE's friends is Gen. JOSE MENDOZA, a Spaniard, who commands the Cuban cavalry of the Cannas. MENDOZA was formerly a book-keeper in a New-York commercial house, and has a brother in the Spanish Army.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

Your correspondent writes under date of 17th inst.: The insurgents have again made their appearance, nobody being able to tell where they come from or what they are up to, except by the results. They set fire again to the Gojoja Bridge, on the Villa del Cobre Railroad, the same which was saved a few days previous by the counter guerrillas, and they destroyed completely. Communication over the road is completely interrupted on rails, and it is exceedingly dangerous to travel unless with squads of armed men. One of the last steamers brought some forty or fifty dogs from Havana, to hunt insurgent with. Some of the dogs were fine looking Cuba blood-hounds, but the majority had a mongre not to say currish, appearance. I don't altogether see the necessity of these dogs, as the insurgents are not so scarce as not to be found with dogs, and the canines may probably be used to hunt runaway negroes, who are more numerous yet than insurgents, but more difficult to get. These negroes, if caught, will probably be taken to Havana, where they can be sold, hired out at rates paying a fair interest on the amount expended for clothing them.

VALMASEDA'S DEPUTY.

The successor of Gen. CARBO is Gen. ANTON CEBOLLINO, who assumed charge as Segun-Cabo and acting Captain-General until the return of VALMASEDA. But little is known of Gen. CEBOLLINO. In Spain he has the reputation of a brave, but not one of the most able Generals. It is, of course, too early to form a supposition as to what share he will take in the expected triumph of the Spaniards, but Gen. CEBOLLINO alone are not sufficient to change the present condition of affairs. There is something needed, which begins to be very scarce, and that is money. The Treasury is empty, and the income of the Government from different sources, although much larger than in former years, is not sufficient to supply the army, and civil Government with all they need. It is not perceptible to any great extent by the masters of regiments in the field

frequently compelled to wait a couple of weeks or more until the Treasury can supply them.

THE SUGAR CROP.

The entire stock of refining sugars here has changed hands at four and one-quarter cents per pound. Guantamo matters look well, the jurisdiction being entirely free from insurgents. The sugar crop will be large, and prices are very good. QUASIMODO.

The Revolution Not Dead Yet—The War Reviewed—Money Getting Scarce—The Situation at Present—New Filibustering Expeditions Expected—Miscellaneous News.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, April 22, 1871.

About three months ago and even more recently the impression was general that the revolution was drawing to a close. News of the surrender of prominent insurgents, and of entire detachments, reached Havana almost daily; the remaining insurgents were for a while cast down and acted as if they were stupefied; discontent was ripe among them, and CESPEDES roamed about the country without aim or object. Everything indicated an early close of the rebellion and a sure triumph of the Spaniards, Cuban stock went down at a fearful rate, and the countenance of every Cuban sympathizer, the surest barometer of the state of the revolution, indicated woe and sorrow. VALMASEDA and the other principal leaders, with but few exceptions, were sanguine of success; the Cienaga de Zapato had been cleared of insurgents through the exertions of Major ARAGON, and the jurisdictions of Colon and Cienfuegos were beginning to assume their former appearance. But suddenly all this changed; CESPEDES was compelled to take a back seat by the enterprising semi-Dictator IGNACIO AGRAMONTE; encounters were reported in the vicinity of Santiago de Cuba, where the Spaniards did not come out first best; the Cubans regained their lost spirits and moved about with miraculous rapidity, changing their base of operations from the Central Department and portion of the Cinco Villas to the jurisdiction of Sancti Spiritus, whence VALMASEDA had to go in a hurry in order to set things to rights. Our journals are silent on the state he found matters in, although they are publicly known everywhere, and he immediately removed such commanders as had failed to comply with his orders, either on account of stupidity or laziness, while he superintended new movements in person. Brig.-Gen. FRANCH was sent to Havana, and as a trial of such a high officer would excite comment, he was quietly ordered to go to Spain. Gen. CARO went home at his own and VALMASEDA's request, both being convinced that he was not the man for the place. The Intendente Militar, or Quartermaster-General, GOURALO, also left in the last steamer for Spain, because he acted as Quartermasters are generally accused of acting during war time. Gen. ZACARIAS GOYENESHE was a fellow-passenger of the other two, his latter-day exploits being such as to induce VALMASEDA to send him out of the country. Many changes of Lieutenant-Governors have also occurred, and by the Spanish mail steamer of the 30th, the *Segunda Cabo*, Gen. BUENAVENTURA CARBO, beyond a doubt the ablest, most honest, straightforward, and gentlemanly man the Spaniards had in Cuba, will also bid Cuba adieu. Speaking of CARBO's departure, a very prominent staff officer remarked to your correspondent: "I never felt anything so much as the General's leaving; I was always sure that if the revolution could possibly be subdued VALMASEDA and CARBO were the only two men that could do it, and if they fail there is no use for anybody else to try. I don't say that they have done it or can do it, but I am sure that there are no other men in the Spanish Army who know this country, its mode of warfare, and enjoy the respect of the people to such an extent as these two." The officer is quite correct in his appreciation of matters, and, unfortunately for the Spaniards, his remarks are quite likely to prove true.

THE PRESENT SITUATION.

VALMASEDA remains in Sancti Spiritus, but no engagements have taken place, because the largest portion of the Cuban forces are keeping out of the way, and are retiring toward the Central Department before the advancing Spaniards. This is a gain for the Spaniards, because they enjoy an advantage if they can drive the Cubans into one department instead of having to fight them in two or three; and it will be exceedingly difficult for the Sancti Spiritus insurgents to return, because the measures taken by VALMASEDA are such as to prevent its being done with ease. A rumor was current in Havana that VALMASEDA was seriously ill, but the only thing which happened to him was a bruise of the right arm, which he received at Col. ACOSTA's, when the chair in which he sat broke under him, not being sufficiently strong to carry so much honor and corporosity. The *Diario* has an editorial on VALMASEDA's doings today, taken from private letters of the General himself, as I understand from a reliable source. The information is that the insurgents had been driven out of the jurisdictions of Sancti Spiritus and Moron, and had gone to the Camaguey under command of Gen. VILLAMIL and SALOME HERNANDEZ, who had threatened to return with artillery, cavalry, and the other necessary articles to carry on a successful war. The troops are stated not to be able to find any more insurgents, who are disbanding in small parties and hiding." This has been the universal tactics of the Cubans, and therefore does not offer any new feature. The *Diario* continues, "A military road and cordon is being established in its smallest details, and will be finished by the end of this month. When this is realized, and if we consider the number of *presentados* able to carry arms, the number captured and the losses which the enemy has suffered, and the pacification of the Cinco Villas as being then a fact, everything leads us to believe, that in a very short time the country this side of the cordon will be free from bandits. Gen. VALMASEDA intends to remain there until this satisfactory result is completely obtained." All of which, as the Spaniards say, has to be put in quarantine, or to express it in polite English, give it the benefit of the doubt. As to VALMASEDA's future movements, the *Diario* adds: "The General was waiting for the little steamer *Valmaseda* on which to embark and go inside of the Keys, inspect the road and cordon from Tucaro to Moron, arrange such matters as need immediate attention, and as soon as these districts are completely pacified, take five or six battalions with him to the Central Department, and conduct operations there, sure of an early and certain exit. The general error has hitherto been, in order to afford protection to all the loyal people to operate everywhere, and this mode of warfare is impossible on account of the peculiar manner in which the insurgents conduct the war, and makes nearly all efforts sterile intending to bring peace and prosperity back to the island. * * * The Island of Cuba is too large to conclude with those who run away, unless they are reduced within a narrow limit, from whence they are not to be permitted to leave. The pacification by circles may appear slow, but it is the only sure remedy to bring back peace." All of which the *Diario* says, but the other side has not been heard on these plans, and it is very likely that they will impede the carrying out of the above programme.

Movements generally in the Central Department continue on the same scale as lately. Nothing important has occurred, and the number of Cubans killed in different engagements, as reported by the Spaniards, amount to about a hundred within a fortnight. The town of Puerto Principe continues to be dreadfully infested with small-pox and measles, and the misery among the poorer classes is frightful. The Catalan volunteers had an engagement with the troops of VILLEGAS, but were unsuccessful in preventing them from crossing the lines. The Cubans have thrown dead animals into the wells in the neighborhood of some Spanish detachments, and the want of good water is frequently felt.

RUMORS OF CUBAN EXPEDITIONS.

We have plenty of rumors of expeditions having landed arms and ammunition on the coast,

and that one or two expeditions of importance are now on the way. In all five small expeditions brought from Jamaica have been landed in the Eastern Department; one small expedition has been landed near Sancti Spiritus, on the south side, coming from Yucatan, as some state, and from Belize, Honduras, according to others. About five thousand cartridges were smuggled into the Vuelta Abajo, but those who had them were compelled to throw them into the water, on account of the close persecution made by a Spanish officer who had received a confidential information. Landings have been reported in other parts of the island, but they are merely reports, and not based on facts. The military and civilians complain of the navy as insufficient, and if they would only confine their remarks to the ships, and not to the men, their remarks would be quite in order. It takes longer to make out the requisitions for a small Spanish gun-boat, until she is ready for sea, than it takes an English man-of-war to ship a crew, get ready, and make a trip across the Atlantic. Outside of Delamater gun-boats, the ex-blockade-runner *Ohurica*, and perhaps the *Isabel la Catolica*, there is not a ship in the Spanish navy which can go over six miles an hour, or which has a good pair of boilers. I exclude the large frigates, which are models of men-of-war, but which are altogether useless and unserviceable in Cuba. The gun-boats *Canto* and *Indio* will cruise between Cardenas and Caibarien, relieving each other every fifteen days; they cannot be at sea any longer, because it takes either craft about ten days to get the necessary papers written up on which to draw coal, funds and other supplies.

A FEW FIGURES.

To give an approximate idea of the losses of the Spaniards, the following official statement will be very serviceable. The Colonel of the battalion of Coradanga volunteers certifies that until date he has lost 1 Major, 3 Captains, 11 Sergeants, 25 corporals, a bugler and 264 soldiers, making a total of 320 men. Of this number 196 died from disease, 56 were killed by the insurgents, 8 crippled by wounds and 60 discharged for ill health. It is, therefore, safe to estimate that over one-third of the Spanish army have been put *hors de combat* inside of two years, and the exhibit of this battalion is one of the most favorable. OTIASIMODO.