

accompanied only by a few officers comprising his staff, in order to run up the Canto River, a very crooked stream. On reaching the bar at the mouth of the river VALMASEDA found several schooners there, waiting for the tide to run up the river and carry provisions to the soldiers. He took this schooner in tow, and that probably saved his life as he reached Punta del Mate about three hours later than was anticipated. On reaching Punta del Mate a peculiar steamer was observed by those on board. The cause was soon apparent. The small Spanish detachment there was burning the corpses of ten insurgents whom they had just killed, and who were repulsed with severe loss while attempting to capture the Spaniards, and then lay in wait for VALMASEDA. PANCHITO VEGA, the insurgent commander, had learned of VALMASEDA'S trip and his intention to land at Punta del Mate. He quickly united about 250 men, intending to capture the small detachment of twenty-five Spaniards, and then to kill or capture VALMASEDA. The Spanish Lieutenant was equal to the occasion, and waited patiently until the insurgents were right at the muzzle of his guns, when he let them have it with great effect, pouring volley after volley into the insurgents, who, seeing that they could not capture the Spaniards, withdrew sullenly, leaving ten dead behind them and carrying off about forty wounded. Three of the Spaniards, a Sergeant, a Corporal and a soldier, ran away when they saw such a number of insurgents coming, and swam across the river. When they observed that their companions were gaining the day they returned. VALMASEDA rewarded these three by having them shot, and those who did not run away were decorated with the Cross of Military Merit, and the Lieutenant was promoted to a Captaincy. The *Diario* gives the story only in part, and the *Voz de Ouda* of this morning advises VALMASEDA to be more careful, and says that personal valor alone is not sufficient, and that under the present circumstances, when he is so much needed, he ought not to imperil his life.

THE SUGAR CROP.

The sugar crop at St. Jago de Cuba is not likely to exceed and perhaps will not reach eighteen thousand hogsheads, which will be a falling off of twenty-five per cent. from last year's. This, however, is in no way attributable to natural causes, such as drouth, but to the want of laborers, oxen, and means of transportation, and to the total ruin of several estates by fire. In 1868 the exports from this port were about forty-seven thousand hogsheads, and at this rate it will be seen that a year or two more of revolution will stop exports altogether. The new municipal tax is in full swing, but the Havana authorities are opposed to the collection of municipal taxes on imports and exports, and, to avoid any difficulties with the Government, the new tax is no longer called a tax, but "*un donativo voluntario*," (a voluntary contribution,) and is collected as usual.

A CONSPIRACY DISCOVERED.

A conspiracy has been discovered at St. Jago de Cuba, and a number of persons were arrested and condemned to death for the crime of treason. They were ordered to be shot at once. Numerous telegrams, however, were sent to the King of Spain and to SERRANO, and the operators of the Cuba cable remained all night at their posts. At 3 this morning the King telegraphed to VALMASEDA to act as he thought fit in the matter, and VALMASEDA pardoned the culprits in the King's name.

QUASIMODO.

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Changing Aspects of the Struggle—Valmaseda's Movements and Good Fortune—The Sugar Crop—A Conspiracy Discovered.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, May 13, 1871.

Nothing of importance is reported publicly from the seat of war, but there is not the slightest evidence that fighting, such as it is, continues to be carried on in the Cinco Villas, Central and Eastern Departments. This Cuban war is a funny matter, and the participants themselves cannot get "the hang" of it. The present week presents an entirely different aspect from the last, and next week will bear no resemblance to its predecessors. A county is understood to be pacified, the Cubans disappear and everything begins to assume a regular peace appearance, while a few Spanish soldiers march carelessly over the territory and the troops are withdrawn to operate against the insurgents in some, determined locality. A few skirmishes are reported, and for a few days the utmost quiet prevails, when suddenly the Cubans make their reappearance in the first locality, and the same game is played over again. A week ago we were told that all the insurgents had left the jurisdiction of Sancti Spiritus and had fled to the Central Department, and this week we are informed that a number of skirmishes have occurred between the troops and the Cubans, and actually at a considerable distance from the dividing line of the two jurisdictions. Somehow it seems almost incredible to listen to the stories we are told of the insurgents attacking in strong numbers some point defended by a handful of Spaniards. Nevertheless some of these stories are true. The attack on Las Tunas, the defense of Colon Tower, and the repulse of the Cubans, which has just occurred on the Canto River, and where VALMASEDA escaped miraculously from being killed or captured, are tangible evidence of the fact that the Cubans are quick movers but poor attackers and stormers.

VALMASEDA'S GOOD FORTUNE.

VALMASEDA went on board the little steamer bearing his own name at Emburgueta del Canto.