

VALMASEDA all say that the insurrection in Sancti Spiritus is dead, but that troops are necessary to prevent the small bands from making raids and inroads, and to keep the insurgents who went to the Central Department from returning. They are unanimous in stating that the negroes are the real parties who give trouble.

#### IMPORTANCE OF THE NEGRO ELEMENT.

This proves beyond a doubt that the negro element is now beginning to assume real importance in this war, as every thinking man knew it would be when the revolution began. LERSUNDI was in favor of employing negro troops to quell the insurrection, and LERSUNDI, in many respects, was a far-seeing man. In a conversation on this subject with your correspondent, he remarked: "This cry of the Cubans, 'The country is ours by right,' is sheer nonsense. Let us examine the claims which each party has to possess the island, and we must give the preference to the negro before we give it to the Cuban." Your correspondent would have said, "And over the Spaniard also," for the same reason which LERSUNDI gave. "If you, Mr. —, by hard work, improved a non-producing property and made it valuable, who ought to enjoy it? You, of course, and this is the negro's case precisely. Slave labor made this island what it is, and the wealth of this country has been produced by the sweat of the negro, while we (the Spaniards) have given our blood and supplied the people." But if the negroes have supplied the wealth to the slave-holding and non-slave-holding Cuban, they have also furnished the wealth to the Spaniard with or without slaves, and not only to the Spaniards here, but to many Spaniards in Spain. LERSUNDI'S intention was to quell the revolution by arming the free negroes, and giving liberty to such slaves as desired to enroll themselves in the Spanish Army; but the entire slave-holding autocracy opposed this idea bitterly, and LERSUNDI was compelled to abandon the plan. Several thousand negroes, however, are fighting on the Spanish side, and the gun in their hands, as well as in those of the hands of the negroes on the Cuban side, have proven to be exceedingly intelligent school-masters. When the negroes on both sides unite, (a not very improbable thing,) then let Cubans and Spaniards beware, as their joint forces, with the influence of some foreign nation thrown in, will not be sufficient to prevent the blacks from forming a Government of their own, and at least holding the Central and Eastern Departments, and laying the foundation for a second Hayti. Of late the negroes have been singing a couplet, when among themselves, which has not been heard since Spain warred on her colonies in the year 1820, when so many whites were killed and the negroes were asked to rise and fight:

"El arroz se quema, dejalo quemar;  
Que los frijoles, han de quedar."

"The rice (white men) is burning; let it burn; the beans (the negroes—black Cuba bean) will remain." The significance of these lines from the lips of negroes is important, and the rice is burning very badly just now.

#### RUMORS OF FILIBUSTERING EXPEDITIONS.

There are a number of rumors regarding the sailing of some filibustering expedition under the leadership of QUESADA and JOSE DE ARMAS, lately editor of the *Patria*, in New-Orleans. It appears that the *Florida*, or some other steamer, is to bring the expedition, and if it can land it will be of immense service to the Cubans, who are sadly in want of ammunition. There is no denying this latter fact, as several Cuban bands are actually prevented from taking advantage of the carelessness of their adversaries by this scarcity of cartridges. The navy, as usual, is moving about and doing all that can be expected from a fleet of ships useless for the purpose and hampered by official red tape. The *Ohuzuca*, left to cruise off Gibara, and the Delamater gun-boats are buzzing up and down the coast like flies. Something is undoubtedly in the wind, but it is not certain whether the *Florida* or some other steamer is the daring craft that is to bring the expedition. The word daring is rather out of place, as any old-fashioned Dutch galliot could land a cargo without much risk, much less a fast steamer.

#### SCANDALS OF THE JUDICIARY.

The Havana Judges are in bad luck, and if their present fortune continue it will be almost the same to call a man a Judge as in the United States to call a man a chief of the Tammany Ring. About ten or twelve days ago a young volunteer named ANTONIO GONZALES, a very genteel-looking person, was robbed of his watch and chain. He knew the thieves, and gave information to the Police, who in turn informed Judge MATA, of the Pilar District. The Judge either willfully or carelessly neglected the matter, and the young man seeing the thieves walk about the streets with the utmost indifference, wrote a note to the *Voz de Cuba*, which was printed in the paper. Judge MATA, offended in his dignity, and imagining himself to be an Alcalde de Casa y Corte of the sixteenth century, sent his constable to arrest GONZALES, who at that moment was in the ranks of the volunteers, awaiting VALMASEDA'S arrival. The constable was laughed at, and being a sensible man, walked off, without offering to fight the volunteers; the volunteers talked the matter over, and, on Monday evening, serenaded the Judge in a very becoming manner, cow-bells, old kettles, tin-borns and baby-whistles being the principal instruments. This would all be very funny, but every occurrence of this sort lessens the respect of the law, (not very high at any time,) and Judges are beginning to be mentioned in the same breath with coachmen and other common characters.

#### VALMASEDA'S MOVEMENTS.

VALMASEDA will hardly remain here long, and will probably return toward Sancti Spiritus, and thence southward to the Central Department. The streets were decorated on the day of his arrival, and a grand banquet given him by Gen. CEBOLINO; the Segundo Cabo, Commissions of Volunteers from Matanzas, Guanabacoa and other towns felicitated him, and the Havana Volunteers serenaded him yesterday evening.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Small-pox is decreasing slightly, but the vomito is on the increase. . . . Public instruction is in a bad state in Spain, to judge from the following statistics just published. Spain has a population of about sixteen millions. Of this number are 2,414,015 males, and 715,806 females who know how to read and write; 316,557 males, and 316,557 females can read only; while the immense number of 5,034,545 males and 6,489,846 females can neither read nor write. QUASIMODO.

## CUBAN AFFAIRS.

### The Foreign Claims Against Spain—Progress of the Revolution—Increasing Influence of the Negro—Muengo's Doings—Lersundi's Foresight—Scandals of the Judiciary—Miscellaneous Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, May 17, 1871.

The question of the mixed Commission to decide claims of Americans against Spain, caused by the present war in Cuba, continues to occupy the Press, and is the general topic of conversation. The Spaniards speak of it as a kind of defeat, and discuss the subject in a sullen manner. The Cubans, on the contrary, look on the appointment of this Commission as a great moral victory, and as the first step taken by the United States toward recognizing the insurgents as belligerents; meanwhile the more suspicious view it as the inaugural measure toward annexation, or as it undoubtedly would be, absorption. The Anglo-Saxon stomach, the healthiest in the world, can easily swallow a few Cubas, St. Domingos or Mexicos, and not feel as if it had eaten anything, because the peoples of these countries are exceedingly light dishes for a growing giant like the United States. Some fish bones may become annoying, but never of sufficient importance to cause any serious disturbance, and are not of sufficient size to stick in the throat. The correspondence from New-York of the *Diario* and *Voz de Cuba* relates mainly to the commission business, and the letters of the correspondents contain the Washington correspondents of the *TIMES* of the 7th and published on the 8th in full. The rapidity with which the Commissioners were appointed astonishes the *Diario* correspondent, and he asks the readers of the *Diario* to read the *TIMES* correspondence with great care and slowly, so as to understand this grave and transcendental question. The *Voz de Cuba* correspondent after speaking of the English High Commission says, first "after this the following (the *TIMES* correspondence which he translates in full) will not sound well to Spanish ears," and then continues thus:

"We see that this Commission is composed of four Americans, because the care with which the *TIMES* refers to Mr. PODESTAD cannot have any other meaning. The claims which Spanish citizens may have—and they ought to be heard as well as American citizens—remain completely unrecognized, while Mexico and England oppose theirs to those of their creditors. Besides, the claims for damages, which altogether do not amount to one million of dollars, are set down at a hundred millions."

The correspondent judges very hastily in asserting that the claims, or rather the damages, do not really amount to a million of dollars. If the correspondent could only see the devastated camps of the Cinco Villas, Central and Eastern Departments, he would soon convince himself that the damages done to the property of Americans, either native born or naturalized, represented much more than a million of dollars. But the Commission to investigate this matter is undoubtedly as able to judge of the real amount of damages as the correspondent in question, because they are in the same condition, being compelled to decide according to the testimony produced.

#### PROGRESS OF THE REVOLUTION.

While this business is being discussed in Washington, the revolution continues, with a painful slowness and a steadiness in destroying everything which can be destroyed, which admits of no argument. The country from Trinidad toward Cape Maisi is converting itself, by slow but sure degrees, into a wilderness, and the inhabitants into savages or semi-barbarians. The latter title can be applied to the better classes of whites, and the former to the lower classes of the whites and to the negroes. People often wonder at the tenacity and valor displayed by some of the Cuban bands, but it becomes plain when it is known that these bands are mainly composed of negroes and deserters from the Spanish Army. The latter number about fifteen hundred serviceable men, and many of these, previous to becoming defenders of the fatherland, had already done signal service to their country as public benefactors, by keeping Judges busy first, and afterward repairing the common highways as inmates of the Penitentiary and members of the chain-gang. Their lives are already forfeited, and a sure death awaits them if they fall into the hands of their countrymen; having nothing to lose, they will fight desperately. The negro, however, is the real arbiter of the destiny of Cuba. He has tasted the sweets of liberty, free Cuba is his God and his all, and hatred to the Spaniard the only thing which he understands, and which to him is more than an idea, and actually a fanatic faith. To fall into the hands of the Spaniards is synonymous to becoming once more a slave, to be overworked, ill fed and cruelly punished, if he fails to obey or ill pleases the slightest behest of his task master. If the negro element could be removed from the Cuban ranks, the revolution would soon be at an end, because the remaining whites could not oppose a sufficient resistance to the Spaniards. Every day almost we hear of some Cuban officer, either civil or military, having surrendered to the Spaniards. We have yet to hear of a negro officer surrendering. And in proportion as the white leaders of influence resign, are killed, or leave the country, their places are in many instances occupied by negroes.

MUENGO, a negro chief, commands the principal insurgent body in the jurisdiction of Sancti Spiritus, and all inducements held out by the Spanish officials have been fruitless in gaining his surrender. His late companion, however, MONTEAGUDO, of Villa Clara, who was one of the principal inaugurators of the revolution in the Cinco Villas, and latterly a member of the so-called Republican Military Court, was in his heart blacker to the engagements he had taken toward his companions and countrymen, although he had a white face, and surrendered to VALMASEDA with eight men, they being all he could gather. MUENGO is the head of the Sancti Spiritus insurrection today, and he moves with marvelous rapidity from point to point, skirmishing, hiding and fighting. On the 6th he was near Sancti Spiritus; on the 9th he made a raid into the jurisdiction of Villa Clara, and on the 13th he was in the rear of the Spanish detachments every day, because he hardly ever avoids an engagement; and yet his band remains about the same in numbers, because all the daring negroes and whites belonging to other bands join him. VALMASEDA would have announced that the territory of Sancti Spiritus was pacified and tranquil, and only the presence of this black prevents him from doing so. Quietness today may be converted into a hell by MUENGO to-morrow. ROLOFF, the Pole, VILLAMIL, and others, went to the Central Department. LIC PENA and LORDA are near Trinidad with a few men each, but MUENGO has men and refuses to leave his camping-ground, and the army of thirteen thousand Spaniards has not been able to catch or destroy this small party. The officers who went with