

been kindly treated by Col. PORTEAO, the late chief of the prison, who had even given some of them positions, with small salaries. Next week about sixty of these prisoners will be sent to the new military line near Cilga de Avila, and be employed in constructing roads and forts. This order, of course, only refers to such as are physically able to do so.

THE SEASON.

The heat is intense, and the vomito is on the increase; as but few Spaniards arrive nowadays from the old country, the number of deaths is less; but several Cubans from the interior have fallen victims to the disease,

QUASIMODO.

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Valmaseda's Plans and Position—Efforts to Secure His Removal—Importation of Coolies—An Anti-Album Crusade—Miscellaneous Havana Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, May 27, 1871.

VALMASEDA is making the necessary preparations to leave for the Central Department on or about the 10th of June, although public report asserted that he would go this week. But VALMASEDA is smart enough not to depart on a fool's errand, and his knowledge of the country and the people he has to deal with is such that he will not undertake any campaign where he commands in person, without effecting such arrangements as will prevent him from meeting with disaster, and consequent ridicule and general discredit, and guarantee at least some sort of success. His own expression in that respect is significant of what he needs. "I must have provisions for the troops at points to which I intend to send them, and they must be placed in localities whence they can move with celerity to easy supporting distances." Although VALMASEDA is feasting the prominent civil and military authorities, and they are feasting him, it is nevertheless certain that he has quite a number of enemies among the Spaniards, the most prominent being the men who were loudest in their clamor to have RODAS removed and VALMASEDA appointed. Until very lately VALMASEDA has always enjoyed the reputation of being a sanguinary and blood-thirsty tyrant; since his advent to the supreme power he is accused of being the very reverse, and the savagely-inclined portion of the Spaniards are in no way backward in expressing their disappointment in this respect. This ferocity, and his reported unforgiving spirit toward the Cubans, added to his exploits as a soldier, and the manifest injustice done him by the Dulce and Rodas cliques, made him the favorite of the largest portion of the Spaniards. Many of them believed that in a political sense VALMASEDA would prove another Concha, but VALMASEDA has disappointed them to a certain extent, and now a small ultra clique works silently to have VALMASEDA removed and CONCHA appointed. These machinations will prove unavailing while VALMASEDA goes personally to the interior and superintends operations; if he is successful, he can remain Captain-General during any period he pleases; if he is unsuccessful he must make way for CONCHA or some other General of the Ysabel party, as the men of the September revolution, beginning with SERRANO and ending with almost anybody, are not in very good odor here. Those well versed in the intrigues of the day assure me that the *Voz de Cuba* is slowly but surely pursuing a course which will make VALMASEDA's cause and proceedings distasteful to the Spaniards, and they cite the late "blood and thunder" articles of the *Voz* as a proof that the paper is opposed to VALMASEDA. There is some appearance of truth in this, and the reason of this change on the part of the *Voz* is ascribed to the narrow-minded and autocratic policy of the present Censor, whose decisions are sustained by VALMASEDA. The *Voz* very naturally never refers openly to VALMASEDA, but its editorial column advocates a course entirely contrary to the Captain-General's well-known policy. As the *Voz* has more influence among the noisy element than the always non-committal *Diario*, these articles are producing effect.

COOLIE LABOR IMPORTED.

A number of prominent planters have formed a society to buy coolies in China and bring them here. It is to be a joint stock concern of fifty subscribers, with a capital of one million of dollars, and the Chinese are to be distributed according to the number of shares subscribed by each. The proposed introduction of Mexicans is not effective, as the Mexicans know the fate which awaits them. The Chinese are the only people stupid enough to contract to work on a Cuban plantation.

AN ANTI-ALBUM CRUSADE.

The *Voz de Cuba* finds a great many things which the people at large do not generally observe. One of its latest attacks is against albums, wherein love-sick swains were in the habit of writing their effusions. The *Voz* has seen some of these albums, which contained "inconvenient" compositions, but fails to explain of what nature, and only advises the owners of these albums to tear them out, as such compositions might fall into the hands of the young, lead them from the righteous path, and serve as the base for uncalled-for insurrections like the present one. That is to say, these compositions have a political character. But of what use is it to destroy a page in a Cuban album, when almost every Cuban mother teaches her child to hate the Spaniards? To carry out the universal fatherland-saving maxim of the Spaniards, there is no other remedy than to sink the island for a few days under water, and destroy the people on it. The *Diario* has also found a "mare's nest," and explains why some of the Cubans have become such sudden defenders of absolutist measures and admirers of Don CARLOS. It seems the Cubans mean Don CARLOS CESPEDES, and not Don CARLOS, the pretender to the Spanish throne. The *Diario* thinks the joke a poor one, but advises the perpetrators not to repeat it, as it might be productive of broken heads.

SUICIDE.

A young man employed in a commercial house committed suicide on Wednesday evening by swallowing a dose of arsenic. Disappointed love was the cause, the lady of his choice having given him the cold shoulder and married a wealthy old gentleman on Tuesday. The old gent is a three-fourths of mulatto, but yellow gold changes a color with remarkable success.

INSTANTANEOUS WELLS.

The Government has received the necessary machinery to dig the so-called instantaneous wells, the machinery being equal to that employed by the English Army during the war in Abyssinia.

ILL-LUCK OF PRISONERS.

The Cubans will be furious this week when they learn of the new plan which the Government has put into operation in order to utilize the services of those of their countrymen who have been sentenced to the Penitentiary for treason. Some of these Cubans so sentenced had