

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Matters in Porto Rico—Important Election—Results—Liberal Deputies to the Cortes—Influence Upon the Island Politics—Havana Journalism—Matters at Santiago—The Death of Colas—The Vomito.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, July 8, 1871.

The Republican Secession Party of Porto Rico, which calls itself the Reform Party, but which shares in reality the ideas held by the Cubans under CESPEDES, has gained a most decisive and important victory over the ultras and so-called Conservatives, the Radicals electing fourteen out of the fifteen Deputies to the Spanish Cortes to which the island of Porto Rico is entitled. The Spaniards elected but one man, Gen. SAUR, Ex-Captain-General of the island, and their candidate for the district of the capital, where the Spaniards are in a majority, owing to the large number of officials and ex-officials there residing, and the fact that three battalions of regulars are quartered there, every soldier who knows how to read and write being allowed to vote. The importance of this defeat of the Spanish party cannot be over-estimated, and the shrewdness and sagacity of the opposition in having thus "effected a revolution and obtained control of the island of Porto Rico by peaceful means, breaking the power and destroying the prestige of Spain," calls for the admiration of the public, and shows conclusively that the Cuban leaders could have done exactly the same thing had they been more prudent, cool and patriotic, and less ambitious. The Porto Rico radical leaders, with great foresight, preferred the title of a Deputy to the Spanish Cortes to that of a Colonel or General of Revolutionists. Instead of burning plantations, they teach and enlighten the ignorant; instead of shouting "Death to Spain," and making a military display, they say "Long live Spain and Porto Rico," while every day that passes makes the Radical Party more of a unit; the people has felt its power, and will not easily relinquish it. The so-called *tibios* (lukewarms) must decide to join either the Spanish or Radical parties, as a half-way party is impossible and the Radical Party necessarily will obtain the lion's share. Autocratic laws and their promulgation are now shelved among the relics of a time gone by, and the Government in Madrid, no matter who may be in power, will be compelled to listen to the remonstrances of these fourteen Deputies, who as so many votes will always suit as a bone of contention to be used by the opposition party to attack the Government. A member from Porto Rico will be listened to with more attention if speaking on affairs connected with the island, than a member from some Spanish province, who has never seen the island, and Spanish officials will be careful how they act, as their conduct can easily be brought before Congress by these Radical members, who will embrace every opportunity to discredit the officials sent from Spain. I am of opinion that Porto Rico will obtain a special legislative council to make laws for the island before the end of two years, and will resemble in autonomy and Parliament, Canada and Australia. This is the aim and object of the Porto Ricans, and although Spain might grumble and feel hurt for awhile, it is certain that she would not engage in another war on that account, to cause the destruction of the country and in the end result in its complete independence. Even now there are rumors that a part of the Radical Party intends to rise against the Spaniards, but the number of these extremists is small and the leaders are opposed to the scheme.

PRESS VIEWS.

The *Voz de Cuba* is convinced that sooner or later Spanish dominion must cease, and exclaims: "Are the enemies of Spain convinced that the field on which the Spanish Americas are lost is not the battle-field; it is the field of intrigue—it is Madrid?" The *Voz* is correct, but what a commentary on Spanish patriotism and national pride, for which Spaniards were once so famous, and stood foremost among all nations, lies in this short sentence of the *Voz*? And then the *Voz*, after announcing the election of Gen. SAUR, and modestly asserting that he is worth as much as ten of his opponents, and recapitulating the possibilities and strength of their opponents, comes out with the usual final argument by saying: "Against all the intrigues we will, if necessary, oppose our bayonets." Bayonets alone will not do it, and the immense efforts made at the capital, the threats and persuasions used, and the large quantities of money spent by the wealthy Spaniards and their adherents, all these were needed to secure the election of Gen. SAUR as the solitary representative of the Spanish element in a Spanish country. Two editors of the radical journal *El Progreso*, and the celebrated BALDIOROTHY DE CASTRO, whose political ideas are well known, are among the elected Deputies. The whole number of voters in Porto Rico is given as 19,331, of which number 5,866 are entitled to vote because they pay a yearly tax of \$8 and over, while the remaining 14,065 vote because they can read and write. The election has for the present killed the projects of the extremists, whose intention it was to get up a revolution. In a few days, the excitement consequent on the election, the new and pet toy painted with poisonous colors, will have passed away, and then the future only can tell whether the Spaniards will be foolish enough to try and undo what can't be helped, and what the progress of civilization is producing everywhere—the right of man to govern and to aid in making the laws which are to govern him.

THE LOCAL ELECTIONS.

The Porto Rico election will not be without influence on affairs in Cuba, where this same election question is now approaching a crisis. The opposition party in the Spanish Cortes, and many members of the Government Party are in favor of having elections held in this island. Positive orders have been received ordering the authorities to hold them, but the Casino Español and Volunteer element, well aware of the great danger which threatens the ultra party they represent, are bitterly opposed to them, and in accordance with this opposition, the authorities are doing their utmost to delay the formation of electoral lists, and consequently the holding of an election. The first difficulty has already arisen, one which of itself gives a very plain warning of the many troubles to come, and at the same time exposing the peculiarities of Havana journals and journalism.

HAVANA JOURNALISM.

On Wednesday last the *Voz de Cuba* announced, to the surprise of the populace, a fact already known to the initiated few. It announced the withdrawal from the directorship of Mr. JOSE RUIZ DE LEON, who formerly held the same position on the *Diario*. In order to illustrate Mr. RUIZ's position it is necessary to state that all Havana journals are joint-stock concerns, where the shareholders elect the editor-in-chief, who is always a man representing the same political ideas as these stockholders, and if he wanders a little from the laid-out path in his editorials, he is quietly reminded by the Executive Committee or Directors that he must change his course. Mr. RUIZ is an intelligent and independent man in many respects, and as he has different ideas on religious questions and also on political ones from those held by the shareholders, difficulties arose, and Mr. RUIZ could no longer hold his position without degrading himself to the level of many other Havana journalists. The shareholders of the *Diario* and *Voz de Cuba* are composed principally of ultra defenders of the Pope, not from religious convictions so much as from a political point of view, strenuous upholders of slavery, which they formerly fitted many of them to be, and opposed to all kinds of innovation. The successor of M. RUIZ is Mr. JOSE TRIAY, a rising young journalist and former printer, active, ambitious and intelligent. As a bona fide journalist he is the best in the island, his style being forcible, clear and elegant, and his fitness for the position of director of an Havana journal being further illustrated by the fact that he will write in accordance with the ideas of the stockholders, and deport himself in

his writings as a rancid ultra Pope-upholding Spaniard ought to do, in direct opposition to his own ideas on these subjects. If left alone he will make a mark. But another reason existed for Mr. RUIZ's resignation—his self-respect and pride were wounded because many of the *Voz de Cuba* stockholders subscribed liberally toward the fund of starting a new journal called the *Centinel*, to be edited by Mr. GIL GELPI, the ex-editor and proprietor of the defunct *Prensa*. Mr. GELPI is now in New-York to purchase the necessary materials, and his journal will, when started, furnish an abundance of matter for discussion, as Mr. GELPI's devotion to the old régime, and his antiquated notions concerning politics and religion are at times so contrary to what we call the spirit of the age that they cause surprise even among the retrogressists. On commercial and naval matters Mr. GELPI is an authority to be listened to, and when discussing topics connected with commerce and shipping he is always impartial and correct.

MATTERS AT SANTIAGO.

Thousands of queer rumors have been in circulation about the late occurrences at Santiago de Cuba. It was stated that Gen. PALANCA had a row with the Volunteers and had fought them with the aid of the navy; that his son, a number of sailors and several dozen of Volunteers had been killed, &c., &c. The following appears to be the correct story: Since the discovery of the Villa del Cobre conspiracy, about two hundred persons, many of them Spaniards, have been arrested, and about seventy have been executed, of whom over half were Spaniards and eleven Spanish Volunteers. One of the latest arrests was that of JUAN COLAS, a rich and respected planter, and as proof being alleged to exist, and numerous telegrams being sent on his behalf to Spain, "COLAS was pardoned before he was tried." This infuriated the Volunteers; the Captain then on guard broke his sword, and the Spaniards who had allowed the trials to go on, irrespective as to who was being tried—Spaniard, Volunteer, and Cuban—swore that COLAS should not be liberated. An outbreak seemed inevitable. Gen. PALANCA being a cool and talented man, addressed the Volunteers, told them that the pardon would be disregarded, and that the trial should go on, appointing Col. CASINAL, a great favorite in Santiago, as Judge Advocate. This allayed all hostile demonstrations, comparative peace was re-established and on the following day or two days after Mr. COLAS was found dead in his cell, the excitement of the past few days having killed him. Although the Cubans allege that such is not the case, the inquest, however, proved it to be the truth.

THE VOMITO.

The Segundo Cabo, Gen. CEBOLLINO, is down with the vomito. His daughter-in-law died of the same disease on Saturday last, and several other members of his family are suffering from the reigning epidemic. QUASIMODO.