

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

The Elections in Porto Rico—A Lesson for Cuba—Results and Prospects—The Execution of Cavada and Osorio—Successful Flibustering—Defeat of Spaniards by the Expeditionists—Matters at Santiago—The Central Department and Sancti Spiritus.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, July 15, 1871.

The election of members to the Spanish Cortes in the island of Porto Rico is of such paramount importance, not only to Spaniards, to Spanish West Indians, and to Spanish Americans, but also to the United States, its interests and future policy, that every particular connected with this event becomes not only a matter of mere news but an event of more than ordinary political, commercial and social importance, and one meriting the closest attention. The election just concluded has been more than an election. It has been a thorough and complete revolution of a nation against its Government, not brought about by violence and the horrors of war, but by talent, astuteness and an extraordinarily well-managed direction of the willing masses, by the leaders and successful candidates, against their time-honored customs, traditions and ancient Government and rulers. If Cuba had only waited, the useless effusion of blood and destruction of more than one-half of the island would have been avoided, and the island would find itself today in a position to demand and even dictate terms to the mother country, holding the power by reason of the numerical strength of native Cubans and the propaganda of its leaders, instead of suffering all the horrors of a cruel civil war, where the armed minority not only dictates, but also prevents a junction and common action of the opposition majority, prostrate and divided at the feet of the minority. But in Porto Rico the reverse is the case; the Captain-General and the organs of the Spanish party have been completely cowed and frightened, and the moderate language with which they express themselves and the pacific advices they give are in complete contrast with those used by the Spaniards in Cuba. During the three election days at Porto Rico all telegraphic communication with the interior was interrupted, by order of the Government, and the drawing of the lottery announced for the 23d was postponed until the 28th. Gen. BALDRICH was impartial, and his well-known liberal and anti-slavery opinions were fully displayed. He refused to send troops where the voting took place, and also refused to order about the employes of the Government or to use its power either pro or con. The military officials, instigated by some hot-headed partisans of the Spanish party, and with the tacit sanction of Gen. YZQUIERDO, the Vice-Captain-General, would have enjoyed a row. BALDRICH ordered them to remain in their barracks, and the soldiers then shouted "Viva Yzquierdo," but nothing further happened.

BALDRICH'S PROCLAMATION.

Gen. BALDRICH issued a proclamation, saying, among other things:

"I cannot find words whereby to signify to His Majesty's Government that in all parts of the island the precious right of suffrage has been exercised without coercion or the scandalous scenes produced by passion and perfidy. In this manner nations show that the exercise of political liberty is compatible with the necessities of order and public peace. The electoral period having terminated, it is the duty of the Government to give all men some prudent advice. After the election all hatred ought to disappear. The most dangerous of all passions is vengeance. Generosity in the victors and prudence in the defeated ought to be the sentiments pervading all who share in the electoral campaign. The proverbial nobleness of our people, and our written laws, do not permit the most powerful to abuse their victory, or the defeated ones to employ means which public decorum rejects. And that the glory of having carried on the election tranquilly and with respect to the authorities be not eclipsed by the bad passions produced in the heat of political fights, it is indispensable to lay all personal ill-will aside and to forget all that has passed, and remember always that we have one country and one nationality, and that all we aspire to in the most solemn acts of public life is for the greater glory of Spain in America."

Thus far we have the opinion of a liberal General, convinced that, to use a common expression, "bullying is played out in Porto Rico," and that moderation may keep down the turbulent spirits on the radical side, who are largely in the majority, and may also keep the ultra Spaniards quiet, these being under the impression that an outbreak could easily be quelled by the troops and by such volunteers as Havana would send. Their Captain-General and the Captain-General of Cuba have less faith in the readiness of the volunteers to fight away from home, and they can take the willingness of these volunteers in not going to guard the military line as a sample of other action.

AN ULTRA MOVEMENT.

A very narrow-minded minority of the ultra Spaniards in Porto Rico is not satisfied with the result of the election, and through sheer stubbornness may succeed in producing a revolution. They have sent Mr. OREYZA, their defeated candidate in the Rio Piedras district, to Madrid, to try and enlist the sympathies of the Cortes and Colonial Minister, so as to send a few thousand soldiers to Porto Rico, and, if possible, annul the late election, while another grand point is the retention of the Spaniards, who yet hold positions of importance in the island, and to prevent the introduction of any new employes tinged with liberal ideas. It is a settled fact that at least fourteen-fifths of the inhabitants of Porto Rico are anti-Spanish and abolitionists. The only question to be settled now is to wait until the hand-to-hand combat begins, and see how long slavery and Spanish rule will exist in that island. If the Cuban revolution continues much longer, it will be only a matter of months to expect the inauguration of the revolution in Porto Rico; if the Spaniards master the revolution in Cuba, then Porto Rico will not only remain quiet, but the Spanish party will regain the ascendancy. The interests of both islands are too closely united for the fate of one not to operate strongly on the future of the other.

SLIGHT DISTURBANCES.

Having written thus far, later news has come in from Porto Rico announcing slight disturbances in different parts of the island, and that some of the ringleaders had been arrested. A correspondent of the *Voz de Cuba* also tells the same story, while private letters from every imaginable source all express the fear that the revolution has already begun, and that it will blaze out before another week has passed. The colored people have held secret and open meetings, and the Government, knowing it, did not dare to proceed against them, for fear of awakening the dormant rebellion. Many of those who were so willing to enlist as volunteers have backed out, and the radical leaders are now discussing the propriety of forming volunteer companies like the Spaniards, so as to have the nucleus of an armed force at all times.

DEATH OF CAVADA AND OSORIO.

The following interesting particulars of the capture and execution of the late Gen. FREDERICO CAVADA and of Osorio have been related to your correspondent by an eye-witness, who saw and spoke with both, and witnessed the compliance with the fatal sentence of the Spanish Court-martial. OSORIO had left the interior of the island some months ago, in company with BERNABE VARONA, alias Bembeta, the young Cuban General who lately arrived in New-York, OSORIO being in a most miserable state of health and a mass of sores and eruptions from a kind of scurvy, which is causing such terrible ravages among the insurgent Cubans, and also from the effects of an unhealed wound. OSORIO refused to state how he had been left behind by Bembeta, and simply announced that such had been the fact. He was hid in the woods and cared for by some Cubans, who could not furnish him with anything beyond the bare means of subsistence until Gen. CAVADA came along and kindly offered to take him to Nassau or any other secure place, a boat being then in waiting for the latter gentleman and another, supposed to have been Mr. FRANCISCO AGUILERA, Ex-Vice-President of the Republic. Everything went well. They were not seen by any Spanish troops, and they reached Cayo Cruz in safety, embarking immediately in a two-oared boat, and headed for the light-house on the English Key, known as Cayo Lobos, (Wolf Key.) When in plain sight of the light-

house a very stiff breeze arose, which tossed their boat to and fro, and with the strong counter-current made the efforts of the rowers useless, and drove them back toward Cayo Cruz. CAVADA, seeing the futility of the attempt to reach Cayo Lobos, then ordered the rowers to return to Cayo Cruz, the boat skimming like a swan over the surface of the water, by the aid of wind and current. At this moment they were sighted by the gun-boat *Vigia*, and shortly after the expeditionists had landed on the key, the Spanish marines were after them. The three other men escaped easily, but CAVADA was too weak to proceed rapidly, and he was, at the same time, sufficiently generous not to leave OSORIO to his fate. The marines sighted them, and an hour after landing they were prisoners in the hands of the Spaniards, who treated them well during their stay on board, the officers giving them provisions and clean clothing. The gun-boat steamed away toward Nuevitas. When the prisoners arrived at Nuevitas, their emaciated appearance and their wretched health excited general pity, and your informant having known both in former years, offered them his services, but as they had been provided with suitable clothing by the commander of the *Vigia*, they declined further aid. CAVADA asked for writing materials, and wrote letters to the insurgent Generals, Salomé Hernandez, Villamil, Penco, Lico, several others, and to his brother, the Cuban General, ADOLFO CAVADA. They were of the following tenor: "The only service you can do Cuba is to surrender all, and deliver up your arms; the Cuban cause is completely lost here and in the United States; the Cubans are shamefully misled by news from the island and from abroad, and we are only acting a foolish part, and only managing to shed blood, uselessly completing the ruin of the island." He also praises the treatment received from the Spaniards, and calls on his countrymen not to fear, and to surrender, while if they try to escape the same fate might befall them as befell him while trying to leave the island, whose coasts are so closely watched. In the letter to his brother he wrote the following sentence: "Surrender so as to avoid the fate which might have befallen me." This sentence sounds as if some chance of a respite had been held out to CAVADA, but the man knew too well that VALMASEDA could not pardon him, even if he was willing to do so. Perhaps no man was so much hated by the Spaniards as CAVADA, who had earned the soubriquet of the Fire King. CAVADA was taken to Puerto Principe on the morning of the 30th, and executed on the afternoon of the 1st. He met his fate like a hero, without bravado or cynicism. Tranquilly he conversed with some friends, and when the fatal hour came he marched, smoking a cigar, erect and proud to the place of execution. When he arrived there he took off his hat, flung it on the ground, and in a loud tone of voice cried, *Adios Cuba para siempre.* (Good-by Cuba, forever.) A volley was heard, and FREDERICO CAVADA ceased to exist. He persistently refused to see a Catholic priest or to confess, stating that he was not a Catholic either by conviction or practice, which so incensed the priest that he refused to allow the corpse to be buried in consecrated ground, and only after a long and bitter quarrel with the Spanish commander, Brig-Gen. ZEA, was the matter adjusted, ZEA threatening to bury CAVADA himself, and send the priest to Havana as a prisoner. The Spanish Post-Captain at Nuevitas, JACOBA ALEMAN, had in the meantime telegraphed to the Admiral as to what to do with OSORIO. The Admiral replied: "He has been sentenced already by a Naval Court as a pirate, and the punishment for pirates is to swing at the yard-arm." But the Spanish Captain had no executioner, so he took it upon himself to have OSORIO shot, instead of hung, and the sentence was carried into effect on the morning of the 6th. The shooting party was drawn up. OSORIO knelt on the bowsprit of the *Neptuno*, the officer in charge of the party had given instructions that when he raised his sword the men were to get ready, and when he dropped his sword, to fire. He raised his sword, when one of the marines fired, the bullet entering OSORIO'S head and coming out of the mouth, producing instant death. The others, of course, did not fire, and the body was taken ashore and buried, OSORIO having accepted the services of the priest and confessor. A short time previous to his execution, he wrote two letters, one of them to his sister, to whom he also sent a ring which he then wore on his finger; he also sent two short notes besides, one thanking the officers of the *Neptuno* for their kind treatment, and another thanking the first and second Commanders of the gun-boat *Vigia* for their kindness. But a fifth document written by him, though in few words, is terrible in its import. I translate it literally as follows:

Half an hour before my death. The friend, BERNABE DE VARONA, alias Bembeta, will have my death on his conscience. At this moment a person does not lie.

(Signed,) JUAN B. OSORIO.

This document is authentic; it was written in presence of the entire crew of the *Neptuno* and many outsiders. Can Bembeta, who has always borne the reputation of a kind and humane gentleman, clear up this mystery? He may excuse himself, but he cannot erase the dying words of OSORIO; if dead men tell no tales, they nevertheless leave frequently terrible accusations behind them. The other three men have undoubtedly managed to return to the mainland, and thus escaped their pursuers; if they remain on the key yet, they must either surrender or else starve, as no provisions or eatable articles, excepting crabs and a few shell-fish, can be found. Their unfortunate companions are no longer denizens of this world, and if Cuba triumphs their names will be remembered with those of the AGUEROS, AYESTERAN and GOICOURIA.

A SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION.

A Colonel of Volunteers is seen in mysterious confab with a prominent Government employe; both have long faces—they speak in a low tone of voice, and in a few moments they are joined by a staff officer. Their voices are not heard, and yet their conversation is understood, because no Spaniard, Cuban, or Italian can talk with his tongue alone, but must necessarily call in the assistance of his hands, and at times a foot. The body moves and contorts itself to suit the subject, which, in this instance, must be disagreeable in the extreme. A Cuban laborer, or sympathiser, one of that numerous class who, with the most unconcerned and innocent mein, lounges on one of the benches in the Plaza de Armas, watches their movements with the keenest interest, and when he notices that the three Spaniards salute an acquaintance in a very short but polite manner, the watcher's eyes begin to dilate, and his lips twist nervously, and with the characteristic impulsiveness and want of caution of his countrymen, he can hardly keep his seat, but feels inclined to rush toward the group and, at the risk of being killed, inquire as to the cause of this interesting conversation. But the futility and danger of the attempt overcame his native curiosity, and he passes by in a very careless manner and catches but three words—"Virginia, filibusteros, Cuba." This is enough for him, and he draws the inference that the blockade-runner, filibustering steamer, or whatever title may be given to the *Virginia*, has landed her cargo of arms, ammunition and men somewhere in the Department of Santiago de Cuba. Rapidly our Cuban friend proceeds toward some prominent café, communicates to his coreligionists the information he has gained, perhaps stops a journalist on the way, and inoffensively asks, among other matters, "Is QUESADA still in Venezuela?" Pumping New-York journalists is a tough job, and the Cuban has simply given the clue, without eliciting anything; but his report flies from mouth to mouth and ear to ear with lightning speed, and in a few hours all Havana asks what has taken place, and the Government is compelled to satisfy the numerous inquiries by telling such portion of the facts as suits its pleasure. Public curiosity is satisfied, and the Government prevented from keeping the landing a secret even for a single day, while the prominent authorities wonder how the matter got about in such a hurry. Notwithstanding all the rose-colored reports from the interior, all of them favorable to the Spaniards, it is certain that matters would soon wear a different aspect if the Cubans could be provided with arms and ammunition. This can

only be done by running the blockade, (not a difficult matter by any means), and of the different expeditions spoken of one has landed in safety, and all the cargo, consisting of a large quantity of arms and ammunition, together with some 275 Cuban and Venezuelan filibusters, reached the interior. According to private advices, the steamer *Virginia*, which had been in the service of the Venezuelan Government for some months past, left Caracas on the night of the 1st, and landed on the evening of the 5th, near Santana de Lico, about thirty miles from Santiago de Cuba, and midway between that place and Guantanamo. The Cubans, numbering over 1,700 men, and previously advised, were on hand to receive the cargo, Gen. MAXIMO GOMEZ being Commander-in-Chief. When the steamer made fast in a little bay, some rafts and boats immediately put out to her. The first cases of arms and ammunition landed, were immediately distributed among the forces of MAXIMO GOMEZ, and the filibusters landed, already fully equipped and armed, under command of Col. RAFAEL QUESADA, a brother of Gen. MANUEL QUESADA. The means to bring the cargo ashore were so primitive that three days were taken up before the last of the cargo was landed, and when this operation had been concluded, word was passed around that if anybody wished to return he could do so. Twenty-one Cubans and nine Venezuelans availed themselves of the permission, and returned whence they came. The *Virginia* then went to sea, and on the morning of the 9th a Spanish gun-boat hove in sight, attracted toward the coast by the smoke from the insurgent camps, and immediately steamed away for Cuba to carry the news. The same information adds that four companies of the España battalion, not suspecting such a large or such a well-armed force, attacked resolutely; the butchery which ensued was horrible, over one-half of the Spaniards being killed, the rest seeking safety in flight, and many falling into the hands of FIGUEROA, who had made a flank movement, and cut off their retreat toward Bayamo. This report is from a reliable person, (a Spaniard), and bears traces of veracity, but in a spirit of fairness. I have read the official Spanish report, which appears to be concocted by means of the official telegrams. Your correspondent cannot understand these different reports, not even with the aid of several dictionaries and old almanacs. VELASCO routs them on the 11th, captures six flags, the insurgents run away, and on the 12th PALANCA routs the routed, destroys their huts and captures another flag. Unless routing means not being routed, and that every few insurgents have a flag for their private amusement, or else use them as a substitute for fans, the solving of the riddle must be laid over for another occasion. The above information makes, all in all, a very pretty mess, and if the *Diario* told the truth, the *Voz* didn't, and *vice versa*. But this is none of my business, and in all matters unfavorable to the Spaniards nobody need expect a fair and plain statement of the truth, no more than a correct account of a great mishap to the Cubans could be found in their organs. The account which I gave first appears to be the most reliable, and as matters go in this country, full particulars of the landing will be received, via New-York, as soon as a letter from the *Virginia* can reach that City, the Havanese always waiting quietly for the New-York journals to find out what is going on in Cuba.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

The landing of the filibusters has changed the condition of things considerably, and the troops will have their hands full to keep the insurgent hands from attacking the smaller detachments, a very common practice with the Cubans, and one which is generally successful. Want of ammunition has hitherto prevented the Cubans from taking the offensive in many instances, because they did not dare to risk an engagement with the Spanish soldiers, having only a few cartridges to each man. All of the Cobre prisoners have been brought to Santiago de Cuba, by special order of VALMASEDA, and as there was not enough room for all in the jail, a portion of them were confined in the San Francisco barracks. In the engagement, which the battalion of San Quintin had with a portion of the filibusters, the Spanish Colonel, TOLLEZ, a nephew of LERSUNDI, was dangerously wounded, and he was brought to Santiago de Cuba with about seventy-five more wounded. The fight took place in the Estacada Mountains.

THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT.

Gen. ZEA makes things lively in his department and the Cubans help to keep up the fun. The fighting is now carried on without mercy or quarter, every prisoner taken by either side, with very rare exceptions, being shot. But ZEA has pluck and his last order shows that he does not fear the ire of volunteers or renegades, he having disbanded the Spanish counter guerrillas of Masia, the terror of Cubans and Spaniards, who were originally organized to protect the suburbs of Puerto Principe, but who in time became a regular robber band, plundering Cubans and Spaniards indiscriminately in the streets of Puerto Principe after nightfall, and making it dangerous for a person to walk about after dark, except in two or three of the principal thoroughfares. They stopped one of ZEA'S adjutants, a day or two previous to the disbandment, and robbed the Chief Surgeon of the Hospital, on returning home from a visit to Gen. ZEA. As both of these officers knew the perpetrators, ZEA disbanded this organization, and ordered their arms to be taken from them. Numerous fights have taken place, and the number of killed is considerable. Two of the men who came on the *Upton*, all of whom were once killed before when they landed, have been killed near the Cannao, their names being ANTONIO RODRIGUES and a certain VEGA.... The only operation of real importance has been that effected by Gen AMPUDIA, who surrounded the Yaguajey Mountains with a considerable force, and, although the Spanish report gives but a small number of Cubans killed, I have positive information that, in addition to those killed during the different skirmishes about 130 prisoners were executed.... At Las Parras a number of young Cubans surrendered to the Spanish commander, among them DOMINGO GERAL, a Havana, and ex-member of the Cuban Chambers. The Spanish commander refused to accept his surrender, because GERAL did not surrender with any armed force, and ordered him out of the camp, informing GERAL that he would give him four hours' start of the guerrillas. GERAL did start, and the four hours had barely expired when the counter guerrillas went in hot pursuit. EDUARDO BERNAL, who was one of those who surrendered, said it was not known when he left Las Parras to come to the Principe, whether GERAL had reached the interior safely or not, but it is probable that he did. If IGNACIO AGRAMONTE catches him, let GERAL look out for a hempen neck-.... A surrendered Cuban reports that VILLAMIL was wounded in the hip, and a Spanish journal gives the very improbable report that SALOMI HERNANDEZ and VILLAMIL had made propositions to surrender.

SANCTI SPIRITUS.

Gen. VALMASEDA, after returning from Santiago de Cuba, remained several days at Sancti Spiritus, trying to get things to rights and make the military line a success, but want of soldiers is his stumbling-block. From Sancti Spiritus he went to Tucuro by sea, and is now on the way to Moron. Circumstances may not allow him to go at once to the Central department, but to remain in the jurisdiction of Moron and Sancti Spiritus a few days longer. The Sancti Spiritus paper publishes the absurd statement that EDUARDO DEL MARMOL, the insurgent General who surrendered, had been captured and shot. An engagement occurred near Trical.

THE PAPAL ANNIVERSARY.

A *Te Deum* was sung on Sunday last in the cathedral, to celebrate the Pope's twenty-fifth anniversary. For a reputed Catholic country, it seems rather strange that the *Te Deum* should be held so long delayed. But few more persons than usual attended church, and the illumination of the cathedral on the previous evening, loudly heralded by the Press in advance, consisted of a display of about two hundred gas-lamps, which the wind blew out every moment, while the audience of about three hundred persons who listened to the music of the volunteer band, was composed in its biggest part of negroes residing in the neighborhood. The whole thing was a sham and a fizzle.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

A number of persons were poisoned last week by partaking of ice cream at the famous Helados de Paris. One person, I understand, has died, but the rest are out of danger.... The ex-insurgent General, JOSE MENDOZA, who was in the service of the Venezuelan Government, arrived here yesterday from Puerto Principe and leaves for Spain to-morrow by the Cadiz steamer.... The vomito continues its ravages, but small-pox is declining; several cases of cholera morbus, but not of Asiatic cholera, have occurred.... Some movements of a Spanish

nature, have been noticed among the colored population, but nothing positive has been discovered by the Police. QUASIMODO.