

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Disunion Among the Spaniards—Miscellaneous Serenades—Opposition to the Election Law—Recruiting for Volunteers—The Filibusters—Surrenders—Quesada's Proclamations.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Tuesday, July 18, 1871.

The principal strength of the Spaniards has hitherto been their union, they forming a compact mass socially and politically, and presenting a steel-clad surface to the shafts of their enemies. This iron-clad armor has been broken, a thin, but powerful wedge has been driven into the joints of the giant, and if some master mind does not take hold of the patient and refasten the broken rivets the damage may become irreparable, and the much-dreaded worm may make a formidable attack on the wood behind the iron. The cause of this commencement of disunion among the Spaniards is the long-talked-of and much-discussed election question, which has kept all minds busy for over a week. The Madrid Government is urging the Government to inaugurate the measure; the Captain-General, his Secretary, and the Governor are trying to carry it out, but are met by a terrible opposition from the ultra-Spanish ranks, the said opposition having always existed, and received a head and defender in the person of Mr. JOSE RUIZ DE LEON, chief editor of the *Voz de Cuba*, who not only attacked the measure, but stigmatized all in favor of it as traiters to the country. The anti-electionists serenaded Mr. RUIZ for publishing a very sensational article on the subject, vowing eternal curses on the unlucky opposition, a split took place among the stockholders of the *Voz de Cuba*, and Mr. RUIZ resigned. The election party was "in clover," as Mr. ZABARTE, the Government Censor, refused to allow the publication of any more articles from the pen of Mr. RUIZ guilty of attacking a measure which the Supreme Government had ordered to be carried out, and the Casino Español discussed the question at length, and with much warmth. The casinos in the interior, principally under the control of the ultras, send resolutions expressing their regret at the separation of Mr. RUIZ. Another meeting of the shareholders was held, and Mr. RUIZ consented to resume the editorship of the *Voz de Cuba* on his return from the United States, whither he goes in a few days for the benefit of his health. On Friday evening, Mr. ZABARTE, the Censor, was visited by a horde of patriots, and treated to a tin-horn and copper-kettle serenade, and an attempt was made to perform the same opera for the benefit of Mr. RAMON DE AZARTEGUI, the Secretary of the Island. The Governor is also threatened with an exhibition of kindred musical talent, while the election party is quietly looking on, anxious to prevent an open rupture, but working steadily to gain adherents. My opinion is that the election will take place about Christmas, and that the ultras will soon be compelled to give way to their more moderate candidates. The *Diario* refrains from touching on the subject; the *Voz* continues to publish flings at the policy of the Government, and condemning its conciliatory course in pardoning prominent Cubans, while a weekly paper, the *Juan Palomo*, under pretence of being patriotic and liberal continues to publish articles which widen the breach between Cubans and Spaniards, and by its intended witticisms, which are anything but witty and approach coarseness, heaps coals of fire and prevents peace. The electionists and more moderate among the Spaniards know that the irrelevant allusions to Cubans, and Cuban ladies in particular, are not the best medium of attractiveness for the moderate Cubans; but the *Juan Palomo* is too blind to see it. Many of the election party only wish to hold an election, send the members to take their seats in the Cortes, and then immediately address Congress that they have come because they are elected, and that they tendered their resignation, leaving the care and protection of the island in the hands of their Spanish brethren. This charivari business has produced much alarm at the already over-frightened population, particularly among the Cubans, who know that they would be the sufferers in the event of an outbreak, the negro element and the lower classes only waiting for a chance to play at "Paris Commune" in Havana, the party who charivariated the Censor being followed by a large number of negroes.

RECRUITING FOR THE VOLUNTEERS.

About three months ago a movement was inaugurated in Cardenas to increase the present volunteer force by sending commissions from house to house, noting down all able-bodied men, and making them join the volunteers voluntarily, but not accept any refusal to do so, especially from native Spaniards. The object of this is twofold—those who have done duty for the past two and a half years are perfectly willing that those whom they have hitherto protected and kept guard over should also do their share of work in consideration of living on the fat of the land; and in this they are right. But there is another and a very powerful reason; the casinos wish to increase the number of volunteers, so as to have a larger armed force with which to oppose the Election law, or any other Spanish law which may not suit them, and probably, as some say, to quadruple the existing force, and enable the Government to take a few thousand volunteers to relieve the garrisons in the interior, and allow the regulars to take the field. The Havana volunteers are doing the same as the volunteers, and many a poor Mambi in sympathies will dolefully don the volunteer uniform and wear the red and yellow cockade. It is expected that the volunteer force in Havana will be raised to thirty-five or forty thousand men by these means.

THE FILIBUSTERS.

The fighting about Santiago de Cuba with the Cubans continues, and the landing of the filibusters is as much of a muddle as ever, taking the information from all parts into consideration. Gen. PALANCA telegraphs that, on the 12th, he had an engagement at Santa Rosa with the insurgents, he calculating their loss at one hundred, between killed and wounded, and giving his own as nine killed and ten wounded. The most puzzling thing is a telegram, which announces that the steamer *Virginia* had arrived at Port Spain, Trinidad, without having been able to land the expedition in Cuba, and, at the same time, the correspondent of the *Diario* at Manzanillo, says, after giving an account of different encounters between the Spanish troops and Cubans, that "This will prove to you that two expeditions have already landed in safety," referring to the fight near Guantanamo, where the San Quintin battalion was engaged, and the other fight, nearly at the same time, where Gen. VELASCO, with Battalion España and other forces, took a hand. The *Voz de Cuba* also recognizes the fight of San Quintin, and acknowledges that out of the two hundred men engaged on the Spanish side, thirty-seven were killed and sixty-two wounded, the Spaniards carrying off all their wounded, including a Captain and Col. TOLLA. That bit of a fight must have been lively, when one half of the force was put *hors de combat*.

SURRENDERS.

Surrenders continue everywhere, and among the usual nameless crowd is Col. JUAN HALL, the celebrated insurgent leader and at one time the terror of Sancti Spiritus. It is reported that JUAN CARAZANA has also surrendered, and the *Voz de Cuba* announces these surrenders and the pardon in such a manner as to denote its bitter hostility to VALMASEDA, and its desire to inaugurate the general exterminating, non-reasoning and non-pardoning ultra-policy.

QUESADA'S PROCLAMATION.

Following are extracts from the proclamation issued by Gen. MANUEL QUESADA, distributed by him to the filibusters, when he bid them adieu in Venezuela:

COMPATRIOTS: When I left the shores of our country, it was not with the intention of abandoning you, or our cause, but with the firm intention of serving you in a better way. In the time that I have been absent I have only lived for the interest of Cuba. In Venezuela, the country of BOLIVAR, and patriots of like importance in the welfare of the enslaved, I have found great sympathy and disposition to aid our cause. From this country comes an auxiliary expedition to aid the patriot cause of Cuba, the vanguard of others, led by officers whose only ambition is to battle for the right. Cubans, the time of our independence draws nigh. Other expeditions are in reserve. I have arma-

steammers, ammunition and equipments. Cuba shall be free. All journals in the places where I have been, give us their support. My heart is full of lively emotions when I hear the words of hope and the positive promises, so freely uttered, for our cause, and the rightful expressions of hatred toward the Spanish Government.

Cubans: Our brothers of Venezuela are waiting to receive us into the family of the American Southern Republics. They will not leave us without leaders for our armies, arms, vessels, and all that we may require. Spain has lost her prestige in America. Cuba places the stone upon her sepulchre. Cubans, take courage, be not dismayed. Another expedition, which bears the immortal name of BOLIVAR, will follow the Venezuelan vanguard. Others will follow that of BOLIVAR. South America will give her contingent to Cuba. What want you more? If this is accomplished, will I have spent my time in vain? Cubans, strive on, be not discouraged; the moment of our independence has arrived.

GENERAL HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE EXPEDITION OF VENEZUELAN VOLUNTEERS, AT SEA, 29th May, 1871.

MANUEL DE QUESADA.

This proves the determination and desire of QUESADA to land arms, men and ammunition, and now it is necessary to wait and see if his hopes are fulfilled. Everything is very uncertain in this war, and time must always necessarily elapse before the truth is known.

ANOTHER EXECUTION.

News has just been received that the Cuban General, MANUEL LERDA, Ex-Minister of War, and CHUSHA CONSUEGRA, another insurgent leader, have been executed at Villa Clara, yesterday.

QUASIMODO.