

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Valmaseda's Movements—Cubans and Spaniards—Tales of Suffering—“War” News—Cuban Finance.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, June 24, 1871

VALMASEDA has landed at Vertientes, with the battalion of RODAS and the two companies of Viscayan volunteers, as I informed you in my last he would do. Undoubtedly, he does not intend to be caught again in any scrape similar to that at Cauto, where he nearly fell into the hands of the insurgents. The Havana volunteers did not go with the General, and it appears that their enthusiasm evaporated at the idea of insurgent bullets and musquitoes, although the information alarming them only reached here on Monday, and as yet is a secret to all except the initiated few. A telegram was received on that day from the Colonial Minister, and from the King ordering VALMASEDA peremptorily to take the necessary steps toward holding the election for members of the Cortes, as the opposition element in Spain was making this disregard of previous orders by the island authorities a powerful weapon against the actual party in power, and as many adherents of the Ministry were also in favor of having Cuba represented in the Cortes. The island authorities have in reality no power to enforce this law, as the volunteers and ultra Spaniards are a unit against it. Nevertheless, the law must be published sooner or later, and further delay can only prove injurious to the Spanish cause. Delay is the great thing which they are working on, and the first example of it was given by the acting Captain-General, who failed to transmit the telegram immediately to VALMASEDA, offering as a reason, that he did not know where VALMASEDA then was. The order will, therefore, be sent to VALMASEDA by mail, and in a couple of weeks he will answer. If the Spaniards had only taken a firm hold of the election last year and carried the order into execution, they could have elected men of their own party, such as Ramon Herrera, Capt. Salas, Mamerto Pulido, Julian Zulueta, Alejandro Chao, José Ferrer de Conto, Rizo, and others distinguished for their intelligence, wealth, or ignorance. These would, at all events, have cast so many votes against the Deputies advocating equal rights, and even the independence of Cuba and the Cubans.

CUBANS AND SPANIARDS.

There is a feeling of disquietude, and a dread of something to come, among all classes. The Spaniards think that when least expected they must proceed to some harsh measures against the Cubans who sympathize with the rebellion, and the Spaniards who traffic with the revolutionists. The Cubans fear a general massacre, if the Spaniards should possibly meet with some grave disaster, and many are prepared to sell their lives dearly. True, the Cubans are not organized or well armed like the Spaniards, but in the narrow streets of Havana a revolver is nearly as effective as a rifle, and at close quarters a machete or dagger is not to be despised. May heaven avert such a calamity from this already unfortunate country, once happy, although too much and often badly governed, but now suffering all the miseries which a brutal and relentless civil war can inflict.

TALES OF SUFFERING.

In Havana or Matanzas nothing of this kind is seen, and but little is known; but the misery in the interior is perfectly horrible. Small-pox stalks everywhere, not singling out its victims, but claiming them by the hundred; and the *Centinella* newspaper of Remedios sounds the alarm by announcing that in one of the Cinco Villas cholera has again broken out. The cholera makes short work of the emaciated Cubans who come in from the insurgent camps, and of the soldiers broken down by endless marches. Sanitary regulations are nowhere complied with, and the superior Government of Havana was under the necessity of ordering the immediate repairs of the cemetery, where numberless vaults had fallen in, and where the half-decomposed remains of the dead were exposed to view, filling the air with nauseating and pestilential vapors. The *Voz de Cuba* says, sarcastically, “We don't know whether, owing to the urgency of the case, the Junta of Cemeteries has been consulted,” but it fails to state that this Junta, composed principally of priests, has failed to do the work, although over nine months have been spent in discussing the matter. As the profits arising from the cemetery (about fifty thousand dollars annually) accrue to the Church, which has also to pay for repairs, the fortunate owners of the monopoly of burying the dead care to take in but not to pay out the money. The cemetery, owing to the large profit it left to the Bishop, is jocularly called “the Bishop's plantation.”

“WAR” NEWS.

Something very grave must have taken place at Remedios with the marine soldiers stationed in that jurisdiction, as, according to the local journal, the entire body of field and line officers of the Second Marine Battalion has been ordered to Havana, and thence will embark for Spain. What's the cause of this?... The arrivals of persons from the insurgent districts continue daily. During the first fifteen days of June over 300 have come in at Sancti Spiritus alone; these persons are principally women and children and men unable to do military duty, but some servicable men are also among them.... The great anxiety of the Trinidad people to discover a conspiracy similar to that of Santiago de Cuba, is not bringing the same result. The majority of those arrested have been tried and found innocent, and the rest are but slightly complicated. The Spanish merchants who sell merchandize have been smart in arresting these people, thus escaping the suspicion resting on them, especially as it is publicly known that the Cubans have been and constantly are receiving large supplies from them. The different Cuban bands operating in the jurisdiction of Trinidad are still sufficiently active and numerous to keep the troops constantly on the move, but they are not sufficiently powerful to undertake any movement of consequence. The sister of Gen. FIGUEREDO, married to the Cuban leader CARLOS PEREZ, surrendered to the Spaniards near Bayamo. The husband did not surrender, and it appears that for over a year the lady has been quietly residing, with a number of other families, at a place called Simon Dulic, near Cabaniguan. Mrs. PEREZ gave the following information: CESPEDES, at last accounts, was at San Pedro, very close to Guaimaro, accompanied by Vice-President FRANCISCO AGUILERA, JOSE ESTRADA, FRANCISCO MACCO, and others. The brother of Mrs. PEREZ, Gen. LUIS FIGUEREDO, had passed the Cauto with a large force, the son of President CESPEDES holding a command under him. The celebrated Lieut.-Col. CARLOS GONZALES BOET, who was lately set at liberty by a Court-martial, is about the country as if he had never had anybody killed in order to rob him of two thousand dollars. But the Court-martial excused him on this point, and took care not to elicit too much testimony, because it would have been very discreditable to have him shot; for, as a Spanish Colonel observed to your correspondent, “Why punish him alone for a thing which so many do?”.... One hundred and fifty Cubans convicted of treason are already at work on the military line, and it is understood that every Cuban convicted of treason by a military or Civil Court will in future be sent to work there also.

The vomito is on the increase, but the majority of the cases are light.... The cane for the ensuing crop looks very poorly in many sections. All who have any money to spare are sending it out of the country as fast as they can, whether Cubans, Spaniards or foreigners.

QUASIMODO.