

Confirmation of the Capture of the Cargo of the Steamer Hornet.

Execution of a Number of the Passengers.

Full Confirmation of the Capture of the Steamer Hornet and Her Cargo—Most of Her Passengers Captured and Executed—Balance Surrounded—Steamer Said to Have Gone to Hayti—Surrender of Insurgents.

HAVANA, Jan. 18, 1871.

Your Nuevitas correspondent says that the Hornet disembarked her cargo and passengers at Punta Brava, twenty-one miles from that place. All the Spanish reports of the capture of the cargo and the disaster to the men are confirmed. The steamer made a narrow escape, several shots being fired at her. Most of the guerillas have been killed. They had a rough engagement with the Spaniards, in which some were killed, and those who were captured have since been executed. The few who remain are surrounded by an artillery regiment operating in Vasquez and have taken refuge in a small stretch of woods.

The prisoners captured by the Spanish troops declare that the steamer Hornet has gone to Hayti.

Mannel Raymon Silva, the insurgent Governor of Camaguey, Dr. Sarriol and other insurgents of consequence have surrendered themselves to the Spanish authorities at Puerto Principe.

Surrender of Insurgent Leaders—The Recent Meeting at the House of Count Canonga a Trap for the Cubans—The Case of Zenea—False Reports—The Sugar Crop.

HAVANA, Jan. 13, 1871.

The effects of Valmaseda's conciliatory policy are becoming manifest. It is only two days since a number of the insurgent leaders surrendered to the Spaniards in the town of Manabana, in order to avail themselves of the Captain General's amnesty; but in the meantime I have heard of many similar instances—the surrender of Don Donaso Madruga, chief of the insurgents in that region; Don José Trejillo, who had been appointed Governor of this district by Cespedes, and Don Salvador Rodriguez, a captain in the patriot army, are not in themselves events of much significance, for if the Spaniards are to be believed there have been no rebels in this part of the island for many months. Yet we are now told on Spanish authority that Captain Rodriguez has left the town of Manabana with the object of bringing in the rest of his band. After the traitors have all presented themselves from a region where we had thought there were no traitors it is hinted that the authorities will construct a line of light fortifications, similar to those they are now erecting in the Central and Eastern departments, and imprison in the swamps all who refuse to present themselves. All this looks well enough on paper, but the little of conciliation which Valmaseda has shown has done more to weaken whatever strength remained to the insurgent cause when he assumed control of the island than all the military enterprises of his predecessors. I hear from the HERALD correspondent in Nuevitas that many conspicuous persons are daily presenting themselves. Among those who have recently availed themselves of the clemency of the government are Don Mannel Ramon Silva, Don Joaquin Moia, Don Rosendo Locarras, Don Miguel Castello Cespedes, Don Antonio Arzilliz, Dr. Sarriol and family and many others. Two Americans, John Tius and Thomas Ross, who were recently reported to have been captured and shot by the Spaniards, are now named among those who surrendered on Valmaseda's terms. Last Saturday it was rumored at Nuevitas that Cornelio Porro, the present quartermaster general of Cespedes' forces, intended presenting himself with 400 men. The latest advices fail to confirm this news, and the Spaniards have as yet nothing official concerning it. It is admitted on all hands that the surrender of Porro would be a very unfortunate event, signifying beyond doubt that the revolution is at an end. He is, or at least before the insurrection he was, a very wealthy Cuban. He is only thirty-three years old, and has lived all his life in Puerto Principe, where he was born, though he received his education in the United States. Porro entered the insurgent army as a colonel, but for a long time he has been quartermaster general, having been appointed to that office by General Jordan. He has taken an active part in all the military movements of the Cubans, and was severely wounded in an engagement on the Santa Cruz road in March, 1869. He is not only one of the most influential men in the Central Department, but he is a great favorite among the insurgents, and has even acquired the admiration of the Spaniards on account of his clemency and justice. General De Rodas, long before Valmaseda's policy of conciliation was thought of, was anxious that Porro should present himself, but even now it may well be doubted whether he has done so. He was with the wife of President Cespedes only a few hours before she was taken, and it is certain he has not thought of presenting himself. If he has thrown himself upon the clemency of the Spaniards at last it is a sign that the revolution is ended, and that the Cubans must watch and wait for annexation. If Valmaseda's conciliatory policy is bearing some sort of fruit in insurgent districts, it is barren of results in the capital.

The meeting at the house of Count Canonga was an absurd affair. Indeed, instead of being a meeting of leading Cubans, it turned out to be a meeting of persons calling themselves good Spaniards. A glance at the characters of those who attended it, though there were some good men present, will show that it could not advance liberal ideas in Cuba. The Count Canonga, in whose name it was called, is old and childish, and the meeting owes its origin to Juan A. Colome, who married the daughter of a rich Spaniard, and has taken upon himself to be the representative of the Cuban loyal party. After Colome the leading spirits of the movement were Marquez D. E. Almindarez, who is very rich and a great cock-fighter and gamester; he was a Senator in the reign of the last Queen; then come rich men like Blas Pedroso and Gregorio de Quesada, who always look after their personal interests, and being without political ideas, are willing to serve the Spaniards to save their money. Juan Poy, one of the leading men in this movement, is a planter, a man of capacity and an autonomist, but not trustworthy, while the rest of those who participated are made up mostly of don vicants, like the Marquis of Aguas Clara, who is very sarcastic and never pays his debts, or Gabriel de Cardenas, of Cardenas, who is of no account, in spite of his long name, able gentlemen, like Dr. Hernandez, and men of advanced ideas, like the Marquis de Campo Florida, being few and far between.

The Cubans have long wanted a journal which could be their organ, and Valmaseda seemed to favor their wishes. This meeting was undertaken with some such purpose, but either the Captain General little understood the meaning of a free newspaper, as is very probable, or he backed down at the last moment, for the whole body of gentlemen assembled at Count Canonga's house found they had been entrapped into signing an endorsement of the *Voz de Cuba*, one of the most rabid and blood-thirsty Spanish papers on the island. Designs, good in themselves, too often end thus in Cuba; but Valmaseda must be more brainless than his worst enemies have charged him with being if he imagines he can secure Cuban loyalty by a trick so transparent.

The case of Zenea, the reported Private Secretary of Cespedes, well illustrates the evil effects of muzzling the press and the telegraph. It has been impossible to learn the truth concerning this young man. Only this morning the *Voz de Cuba* indignantly dealt an unbounded rumor to the effect that he had been set at liberty and sent away; that journal says the assertion was made with no holy intentions, and declares that the traitor Zenea is well guarded in the fortress La Cabana, and that his trial will be actively prosecuted. It is funny to read in a newspaper that he is one of the prisoners captured by General Chincilla's column, when only two women were taken besides him. First, fifteen prisoners were taken with him; then he was shot; after which it appeared he was in Havana, and now he is to be dealt with according to justice. The fact is Zenea has a *salvo conducto* from Minister Roberts and from Minister of Ultramar, which accounts for his not having been shot immediately, and it is now said he was sent by the government to treat with Cespedes. A little liberality in the beginning would have prevented many false statements and put the affair in its true light from the first; but we live among rumors.

Not long ago everybody was talking about the reported assassination of De Rodas, and to-day the town is full of rumors of the death of Castellar at the hands of a mob. It cannot be otherwise till the press is free, or, what is more hopeless still, the Spaniards learn to speak the truth. There is still some fighting in the Cinco Villas, and there are many sick in the military hospitals at Nuevitas. A correspondent from Caobes, district of Bejaco, writes that the sugar crop will be at least one-third less than in former years. From Matanzas the reports are of a like tenor.