BATTLES OF CUBA!

CONTAINING AN AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT OF THE
BATTLES
FOUGHT ON THAT ISLAND IN HER LATE STRUGGLE FOR
INDEPENDENCE:
INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF THE
DREADFUL MASSACRE OF
Fifty-Two
AMERICAN CITIZENS,
WITH A LIST OF THEIR NAMES.
ALSO, THE CAPTURE AND
DEATH OF GEN. LOPEZ!!!
TO WHICH IS ADDED A GRAPHIC
HISTORY OF THE MEXICAN WAR!
HIGHLY ILLUSTRATED.

NEW YORK:
PUBLISHED AT 128 NASSAU STREET.
1852.
Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1851,
BY E. HUTCHINSON,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Southern District
of New York.
BATTLES OF CUBA.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

This book is not issued for the purpose of producing excitement in respect to a subject on which there is already too much. But the object of the author is to present the facts in the case as far as they are known. There are many in these States who have had friends engaged in the struggle, and feel an intense anxiety to learn as much as possible in respect to their fate, especially since the barbarous slaughter of our fellow-citizens at Havana, in cold blood.

We deplore war in every form and on all occasions, when it can possibly be avoided. It is not for us to say whether the rising of the Cubans in different parts of the island was justifiable. They think it was, or they would not have risen; they, like our ancestors of the Revolutionary times, feel that they have long enough submitted to the iron rule of their oppressors. When the people of any country commence a revolution, and have good reasons for it, we leave it for our readers to decide whether it is right for foreign freemen to aid the cause of independence. Still, for ourselves, we believe that our countrymen had better stay at home than to engage in any wars, especially those on foreign shores. But as people will fight and excite revolutions, and have done it in all ages of the world, the results of such outbursts of the people constitute matter for history.

The Cuban struggle, whether right or wrong, must be placed upon the annals of history. We must say that, in our opinion, a thirst for freedom exists among the inhabitants of that beautiful island, which will ere long burst the bonds of despotism that bind them to the dust, and show their oppressors that the people must rule.
BATTLE OF PUERTO PRINCIPE.

For years there has been increasing dissatisfaction among the Cubans, with the oppressive exactions and tyranny of the Spanish government. Within a year past secret arrangements have been made for concerted action in various parts of the island. Cubans residing in this country have also acted in concert, raised funds, and induced adventurers to go from these shores and fight the battles of freedom. Puerto Principe, capital of the Central Department of Cuba, was wisely chosen as the place where the flag of liberty should first be unfurled.

This town is situated in the interior, a little to the east of the center of the island, and 450 miles from Havana. It is thirty-six miles from Neuvias, which is its seaport, and through which all its foreign trade passes. The town is situated between two rivulets, which unite and form the San Pedro River. The country in the neighborhood formerly produced immense quantities of cattle, and supplied the markets of Havana. The soil is exceedingly rich and productive, but much of it lies waste and uncultivated. The mountain range of Cuba flanks the city on either hand. The eastern chain, running to the point of the island at Cape Mayai, is savage and broken, some of the peaks rising to the height of 8,000 feet. These mountain valleys and defiles afforded ample shelter to the revolutionists, who could also draw their supplies from the rich agricultural region adjoining.

In addition to this advantage the distance from the seat of Government was also in their favor.

The city of Puerto Principe contains within its jurisdiction a population of one hundred thousand souls, mostly whites. An inland city, remote from all the blanishments, frivolities and foreign influences which operate upon and change the native disposition of the inhabitants of seaport towns, the Principanos are noted for their strength of character, inflexible uprightness, sturdy honesty, and conscientious adherence to right principles and abhorrence of wrong, in spite of persecution or opposition, no matter
under what circumstances. The Principanos may, in fact, be considered types of real Cuban character, and it is not too much to say that in many of their prominent characteristics they resemble the old Puritans of New England. It would naturally be expected that such a place would be the hot-bell and nursery for Liberty and Democracy; and such is the fact.

For years the desire of release from the terrible thraldom of Despotism, which has so long manacled Cuba and the Cubans, has burned in the hearts of the Principanos. Each year has the fire grown stronger and greater, and many times has the smothered volcano of popular feeling all but burst forth. But till now, by the ceaseless watching and manoeuvres of Spanish despotism, the application of their tortures, the use of the garrote, the sword, the dungeon, and expatriation, they have managed to prevent, up to this time, a general rising among the people, though every act of cruelty has but made the day of vengeance more certain to approach, and the revenge, when it does come, more terrible.

The late sudden arrest, confinement, and quick banishment of ten of the first and most distinguished men of Principe, for the crime of being concerned in the revolutionary movement for Liberty, created the utmost consternation among the people. The action of the government in the execution of such a high-handed act, only seemed to bring on the crisis and the open outbreak.

The Spanish garrison at Principe consisted of 2400 men, under command of Gen. Lemery. The troops were quartered in the convents of the friars, there being no fortress there, and the city being without walls. The fourth of July, the day of our national independence, it seems, was fixed upon as the time for a general rising and the issuing of a Pronunciamiento by the Principanos. Accordingly, on that day a crowd assembled in the adjacent groves, under Don Joaquin Aguero y Aguero, as their leader, and raised the banner of revolt.

The Spanish troops were soon in motion under General Lemery, and fighting commenced in earnest. A party of cavalry lancers rushed forward and attacked the rebels with great impetuosity; but they were met with firmness, and soon routed by the Patriots, leaving about 20 Spaniards dead on the field and a large number wounded. Several Patriots were wounded, but none killed. This success encouraged the revolutionists, and others flocked to their standard. The whole disposable force of the government in that quarter were on the alert; they were divided into columns of 500 each, and proceeded with great energy against the Patriots.

Various other towns raised the standard of revolt in the early part of July, and issued their Pronunciamentos, among which were:

**In the Vuelta de Arriba**—Puerto Príncipe, Villa Clara, Holguin, Trinidad, Bayamo, Manzanillo, Cienfuegos, Santo Espiritu, Las Tunas.

**In the Vuelta de Abajo**—Pinal del Rio, Mantua, Galafro, and various places nearer to Havana.

Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Villa Clara, and all the adjacent towns and villages, sent out their bands; and on the 24th of July the banner was raised at Guinía Miranda, and proclamations issued to the citizens and to the troops.

**BATTLE OF COSCORRO.**

On the same day (July 4th) there was a sharp contest between 200 Cubans and 300 Spaniards, consisting of 100 lancers and 200 infantry, who had been dispatched previously to the 4th, to the Coscorro mountains. After much hard fighting, the government troops fled, losing their commander and 20 others, who were killed. Twelve of the Spanish soldiers went over to the Patriots.

**BATTLE OF LAS TUNAS,**

**AS DESCRIBED BY ONE OF THE PATRIOTS.**

We raised aloft the banner of liberty on the 4th inst. in the districts (partidos) of Guaymaro and Sebanico, with
the small number of 250 patriots. We remained there till the 5th, when, in concert with another band which rose in Holguin, we directed our march upon the town of Las Tunas, which was garrisoned by a company of the Regiment of Zaragoza; but circumstances growing out of the darkness of the night, led to a meeting of the two parties at 12 o'clock, before the appointed place, and our commander inquired, "Who is it?"—to whom the other, carried away by the force of habit, answered "Spain;" whereupon, alas! the order was given to fire and charge upon them, which charge lasted till they could recognize each other in the midst of the combat. The result of this unhappy affair was the loss of five from the Holguin party, and 28 wounded between the two.

However, this disaster did not discourage our brave patriots, they immediately united, and fell upon Las Tunas with the swiftness of lightning; they attacked the barracks by surprise, and after a short resistance, in which some were wounded, the company united with them in mass at the magic word of Liberty. The Lieutenant Governor of that jurisdiction was so cowardly, that he implored our mercy, and in pity we left him at liberty, taking from him only his horse, sword and pistols, and $1000 belonging to the funds of the despotic government. Thence we marched upon the districts (partidos) of San Juan and Santa Cruz, recruiting our force, and on the 8th we were in Coscorro with 380 horse and 200 foot.

**BATTLE OF NAJASSA.**

The 8th and 9th were passed in organizing four divisions under the command of the patriots who had most distinguished themselves at Las Tunas; and on the 10th, three of them marched out, the other remaining on the mountains. The one commanded by Don Serapio Recio advanced towards Santa Cruz, and shortly before reaching the river Najassa, was informed that four companies of the regiment of Cantabria were marching in the same direction, under command of Colonel Conti; but that the river being swollen, they were occupied in making rafts to cross it.

The commander Recio immediately ordered a march towards that point; he watched the enemy's movements, and when sufficiently near without being seen, he planted his 250 men in ambuscade, and waited till they should begin the crossing on the raft. That soon took place. The commander of the enemy crossed at the head of the first company, and landed, and the raft, drawn back by the ropes, returned to the opposite bank to bring over the second; our patriots remaining meanwhile motionless and ready for the attack.

The raft began to move with the second company, and then the patriots fell upon them desperately; scattered confusion among them, took prisoners Colonel Conti, six officers and 50 soldiers. The number killed that could be counted on the banks was 30, without counting a great number of wounded, together with various materials of war, taken from the enemy. Still, in the midst of the fight, the brave Recio did not forget the raft; he ordered them to cut the ropes and to fire upon it, following it along its course. The result of this most brilliant action in which the patriots only lost one killed and ten wounded, was so complete that none were able to escape but those who kept on the opposite side of the river.

On the 10th and 11th, the other patriot corps had various skirmishes with the troops of cavalry and infantry that marched out from Puerto Príncipe after them. On the 13th, in the district of Guaimarillo, a corps of artillery came over to the patriots under the command of its Captain, Don Gabriel Fontan, composed of 60 men and four field howitzers. The 14th, 15th and 16th, the liberators remained inactive, recruiting men from the country; but the 17th was a day marked by Providence to make the fields of Cuba witnesses of one of the most heroic deeds of arms ever seen in the history of revolutions.
BATTLE OF SAN MIGUEL.

At 8 in the afternoon of that day, the corps commanded by Don Augustin Aguero de Aguero, was marching towards the district of San Miguel. On the way he received information that at the distance of three leagues, were marching in the same direction, three companies of the Regiment of Isabel II., and 80 lancers of the squadron of Bourbon. Aguero immediately halted, examined the positions he could occupy, and selected a level spot bordered on the right by a pretty high hill. He selected 50 men from the corps, and directed them to advance along the road so as to draw the attention of the enemy; and the rest, consisting of 150 men, he placed in ambuscade at a point agreed upon.

As soon as the commander of the royalists espied the fifty Patriots, confident in his numerical superiority, he advanced at full speed upon them. They, on their side, retreated upon the hill appointed, and there stood firm, intrepidly awaiting the charge. The royalists did not keep them long waiting; they charged upon them, lance in rest. At that moment those in ambush presented themselves, and surrounded the lancers, who, attacked on all sides by the republicans, had to succumb, the result being that, of the 80 who entered into action, only 10 escaped with life, though badly wounded.

POSITION OF THE PATRIOT FORCES.

On the 18th and 19th, nothing worthy of note occurred; but the republican ranks had gone on increasing every hour. On the 20th, all the corps being united, marched upon the mountains, which march was interrupted by three companies of the Regiment of Cantabria, who were beaten and dispersed. After the 20th, these brilliant positions were occupied by 2000 patriots, 600 horse, 4 field howitzers, and the munitions and subsistence required for two months.

BATTLE OF THE CERRO.

On the 21st of July a band of Patriots sallied forth, and attacked the village of the Cerro, six miles from Havana, and really a part of the city. They approached with precipitancy, and surprised and killed some of the picket guard, and then returned to their fastnesses in the mountains.

After much hard fighting, the Liberators in the vicinity of Principado were driven back into the mountains, and a few captured, among whom was their brave commander Aguero. Some fled to the sea-shore and embarked for the United States, and are now among us.

It is said that the government authorities had succeeded, by inducing the mothers of the rebels to go and entreat their sons to lay down their arms and accept of the proffered pardon, in weakening the strength of the Patriots. Many yielded to the entreaties of their mothers, and this served to dispirit others. The Patriots were poorly armed and equipped, and it is a wonder that they could make any stand at all against such fearful odds.

LANDING OF GENERAL LOPEZ.

The news of the Cuban struggle for independence produced intense interest in this country; and several banished Cubans and others got up an expedition, with the gallant Lopez as their leader, to go and aid their oppressed brethren.

The Pampero, commanded by Capt. Lewis, after leaving the Balize, below New-Orleans, made for Key West and reached there on the 10th inst. After having anchored in the harbor some hours, she weighed anchor at 11 o'clock at night, and sailed for the Cuban coast, with Gen. Lopez, suite, and about 450 men on board.

On the 12th she returned to Key West, after having landed Lopez and party at Puerto Cabanos, a place about 40 miles West of Havana.
General Pragay, the distinguished Hungarian, Adjutant General of Khipka, at Corinth, who has been in forty-two battles, and is a most skillful and gallant officer, went with Lopez as second in command. There were also twenty Hungarian engineers in the party.

The other officers, were Col. Crittenden, late of the army, a nephew of the Attorney General, who had immediate command of an artillery company; Col. Dollman, of Georgia, who served through the Mexican war; Major J. A. Kelly, who served in Florida and Mexico; Capts. W. Scott Haynes, A. J. Dailey, and others.

The Pampero, on her return to Key West, again anchored in the harbor, but she was obliged to leave in about an hour to prevent seizure by our vigilant Government officers.

She hung around Key West, however, until the night of the 14th, and took off some 20 or 25 emigrants, when she sailed for Jacksonville, Florida, to take on board Gen. Gonzales and a party of 500 men, who were in readiness at that point for embarkation.

It appears that, close into the entrance of the harbor, Lopez fell in with a schooner, from which he took out the captain and mate, to serve him as pilots on the coast of Bahia Honda, the navigation of which is very intricate. They arrived off Bahia Honda about 9 P.M., when they immediately commenced making signals to the shore by means of rockets, &c., which probably had been previously agreed upon between the liberators and those on shore. Gen. Lopez did not effect a landing with his men until 4 A.M.; but the disembarkation was done in a most orderly style, that before sunrise he had not only landed his men, with all their munitions of war, but was on his march to Las Pozas, a town a few miles distant from the coast, where he immediately commenced entrenching himself.

**BATTLE OF LAS POZAS.**

**LOPEZ’ FIRST ENGAGEMENT.**

After the landing of Gen. Lopez was announced at Havana, the greatest excitement prevailed.

The Pizarro, laden with troops, under the command of General Euna (who is next in command to the Captain General), and with him the Admiral, left, about 8 A.M., for Bahia Honda, one thousand men having previously been sent by the railway cars.

It must be borne in mind, that such was the state of confusion and alarm into which the government were thrown, that they had no distinct idea as to whether Bahia Honda or Mariel was the point to which the liberators had come. The following morning General Euna came up with the pirates, as they are termed by the government, and fought with them at Las Pozas, a small town about three miles from the coast. He regrets the loss of some of his men and others wounded.

In this engagement, which occurred Aug. 13, the Spaniards were commanded by Gen. Euna in person, who had his horse shot from under him; Col. Rudal and seven officers and about 78 men were killed.

So merrily and deadly was the fire of the brave liberators that Gen. Euna was three times repulsed with loss. At this moment the Lieut. Governor of Mariel, Col. Guereno, came up, with about two hundred men more, when the Colonel received a shot through his leg, and his men such a check, that Gen. Euna (as he states in his official communication to the Captain General, dated 3 o'clock on the 14th) saw the uselessness of attempting anything further against the pirates without more artillery, as it would be only exposing his men to certain death, without any favorable result; consequently he demanded further reinforcements.

Accordingly, two steamers, the Habanero and the Adventures, left that day with more troops, to the number of fourteen hundred; so that, according to their own account, with those who had been concentrating from the other districts, they had upwards of 8,000 men including cavalry, and had up to that time taken only three captives, whom they instantly put to death. Two of the persons were sailors belonging to the steamer Pampero, who, after landing Lopez, had gone into a tavern and got drunk; the other poor fellow was found in a hut, unable to move, from a fracture he received when landing.
BATTLE OF BHABH HONDA,
And Dreadful Massacre of Fifty-two American Citizens at Havana!!!

Havana has been the theatre of a scene that could hardly be equalled, in denominational barbarity, by the wildest savages of the forest. One universal burst of indignation arose throughout this union.

It appears that the Spanish war steamer Habanero fell in with a party of Americans, numbering 52, in four boats, off a place called Bahia Honda, 40 miles west of Havana.

On the 15th it was known that the liberators, who had been joined in large numbers by the people of the country, made a move in the direction of Diego de Nunez and Cabanas, with the intention of possessing themselves of the fort at the latter place, when, unfortunately, some forty or fifty of them, who had, in the most daring manner, endeavored to get there by sea in four launches, with the intention of taking the Spaniards in the fort by surprise, were themselves, after a most desperate resistance, captured by the Spanish Admiral, who, with his steamer, and an immense number of men, succeeded in taking them, after a fight of four hours.

They were brought to Havana by the Habanero, on Saturday morning, at 1 a. m. (Aug. 16) and placed on board a Spanish frigate lying in the harbor. They were executed at 11, 15 a. m. of the same morning. They were shot on the public road in Havana kneeling with their backs to the executioners. At the least calculation, there were present 20,000 spectators. The following are the names of most of the victims:


Christies, Wm. R. Little, Robert Cantley, John G. Lanka, Jas. Stanton, Thomas Harrett, Alex. Meeber, John Stubbs, James Ellis, Wm. Hogan, Charles A. Robinson.

After they were shot they were dragged by the foot by negroes and then left to the mob, who commenced stripping them of their clothes and carrying them on sticks through the streets, yelling like so many demons. Many of the Cherokee's passengers, who were on the spot of execution, were pointed at with a screech of contempt, and many stopped in the streets and insulted, telling them they were one and all of the same party—that they were Americans, and that were long they would be in the same situation. At night it was dangerous for an American to be in the streets alone.

The American Consul was called upon three hours before the execution, and requested to ask of the Captain-General an order to visit the prisoners, that he might know what to communicate to their friends and in whom—but he declined this act of humanity upon the plea that it was not his duty. He, however, consented to write a note, which of course was unattended to, when his personal demand would have been respected.

When the news of this barbarous massacre reached this country, meetings were called in our cities and large towns, and the greatest indignation manifested at the cruelty of the Spaniards, and the heartlessness of the American consul at Havana. The feeling was so violent at New-Orleans, that when the remains of Col. Crittenden and Capt. Kerr were brought to that city, a mob was raised, who attacked the office of the Spanish paper La Patria, broke in the windows and doors, and threw the presses, cases, types, and furniture into the streets; in fact, they destroyed everything belonging to the office.

After demolishing the Union office, the rioters proceeded to the cigar store on the corner of St. Charles and Graveier streets, broke in the doors and windows, and destroyed all the stock and fixtures, which were very valuable. At 7 o'clock the rioters went to the office of the Spanish Consul, and destroyed desks, furniture, and property of all kinds. They also broke down the sign, which they carried in triumph to a meeting held in La Fayette Square.
Another dispatch, dated 22d, says a mob of 2000 men surrounded the city prison this morning, where the Spanish Consul had taken refuge, and threatened to demolish it unless he was delivered up to them.

Minute guns were fired from sunrise until night in honor of the murdered liberators. Three or four Spanish coffee houses were also destroyed. The military were called out.

It is said the Spanish Consul received several letters from murdered Americans, written previous to their execution, but refused to deliver them up to a Committee who called on him. Subsequently, however, he was forced to surrender them.

ATTACK OF THE SPANISH STEAMER HABANERO,
On the American Steamer Falcon. Insult to our Flag!

The following account is given by a passenger on board the Falcon:

On the 16th inst., as the U. S. Mail Steamer Falcon was proceeding on her voyage from Chaguas to Havana, when off that part of the coast of Cuba known as the Bahia Honda, at 10 A. M., we saw the smoke of a steamer close in shore, and shortly after she hove in sight.

We, however, held our course, and running only at our usual speed, soon left her eight or ten miles astern, notwithstanding she seemed to be doing her best. We at first took her for the Pizarro, but afterwards learned that she was the Isabella Catholica, formerly an English steam frigate—the Caledonia. After she had been in chase of us for about an hour, we saw the smoke of another steamer on our starboard bow, close in shore, hull down. She soon, however, showed herself, steering so as to head us off, in which, being a fast goer, she succeeded. She fired two guns shouted, to scarify to bring us to, as soon as she was within about four miles; but we took no notice of her until she run down close aboard of us and fired a third shot across our bows. After the third shot, the engine was run slow, when she hove to, and hailed us to "stop her," which was then done.

SECOND GREAT BATTLE OF GEN. LOPEZ.

General Enna, after obtaining large reinforcements, marched to the field of action, and came up with the Patriots August 17th. A terrible battle was fought. The Spaniards were determined to drive the rebels from their position, but the latter maintained their ground and fought like tigers, and finally routed the enemy. In this and the previous engagement, the Spaniards lost about 80 officers and 300 privates, either killed or wounded. Among the killed was Gen. Enna himself, whose remains were taken to Havana and buried on the 20th, with great pomp.

CLOSE OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION,
And Execution of Gen. Lopez at Havana.

As soon as they saw that we had stopped, the officers of the Spanish steamer, the Habanero, took off their caps and waved them round their heads with a hurra! This was a decided insult. An officer then boarded us and demanded what ship we were, where bound, and if we had any Spanish passengers, &c. He was answered, and he said he must go on board his vessel and report. He lost no time in doing so, and then motioned us to go ahead.

After struggling with almost every disadvantage, till the latter part of August, General Lopez saw with dismay that his cause was desperate. The whole power of the Spanish forces in the island was brought to bear against his few heroic adventurers. The Cubans who were favorable to liberty, did not dare to enlist, to any great extent, under the banner of the Patriots, and especially after the barbarous slaughter of 52 American citizens at Havana, August 16th; and those who had enlisted being offered pardon by the government if they would leave the rebels, began rapidly to desert, until finally Gen. Lopez was left entirely alone.
Those who witnessed his execution, state that he ended his life manfully.

The failure of the expedition is attributed to the separation of Col. Crittenden's command from that of Gen. Lopez.

Just previous to his capture he had but thirty remaining followers, and they finally deserted him in a wounded condition, so that he had not one remaining friend.

He wandered alone for some time, and was finally run down by bloodhounds. His last words were—"Adieu, dear Cuba!"

The Spanish accounts state that of the whole number of Patriots landed by the Pampero and from other quarters, 556 had already been killed, and 436 were in prison.

Previous to the death of Lopez, he declared that he had been greatly deceived in regard to promised aid in Cuba.

He was captured and taken to San Christoval on the 29th, and brought to the city of Havana on the 31st, where he was publicly garroted Sept. 1st., at 7 A.M.

A few minutes before 7, Lopez was brought forward, and ascended the platform (about 15 feet high), on which was the chair for the execution. He turned and facing the multitude assembled, addressed them with a short speech; the conclusion of which (and his last words) was, "I die for my beloved country." He then took his seat, the machine was adjusted, and at one turn of the screw, his head dropped forward. He evinced not the slightest trembling or fear; his step was proud and firm, and his voice clear and distinct.

A few hisses and groans were heard from the crowd after the execution; save that, everything was orderly and quiet.

The unfortunate party were literally starved out. Several, it is said, died for want of food. Gen. Lopez himself, when taken, was alone, and had eaten his horse through hunger.

The insurgents were still maintaining themselves in the mountains near Puerto Principe.

The punishment of the garrote is described as placing the victim in an easy chair, clamping his limbs, placing a band around the neck, and gradually pressing a screw until the neck is broken.

Thus solemnly and awfully has ended, for the present, the attempt of the Cubans to achieve their independence. But the Spaniards, by their barbarous and unheard-of cruelties, will not gain many friends.

We confidently aver, that the time is not far distant when the down trodden, oppressed, and enraged populace will rise in their might, and scatter, like chaff before the tempest, the minions of tyranny in that beautiful Island!