

MISCELLANY.

CUBA. — On the night of the 15th of May, 1850, Gen. Lopez, at the head of 500 men, landed at Cardenas, on the island of Cuba. His design was to seize that place, secure the cars, march on Matanzas, surprise it, and then ascend the river to the mountains, and there fortify himself. The name and popularity of Gen. Lopez, it was thought, would bring the soldiers and citizens to his standard. His force being thus swelled by the increasing confidence of the Cubans in his resources, he would soon be in a condition to meet the army of the government. His first attack, on the morning succeeding the landing, was on the jail. The invaders met with a warm reception by the few troops here on duty. In their progress through the town, they were fired upon from the walls, housetops and windows. A body of Spanish troops, moving towards the governor's house, returned an answer by firing. The governor's house was then attacked and set fire to, and himself, some officers, and about forty soldiers forced to take refuge in the adjoining building. They were thus driven from house to house, until, being hemmed between the enemy and the fire, they were compelled to surrender. Gen. Lopez then addressed the citizens, and explained that the Expedition came to the island to offer liberty to the inhabitants, not with purpose of plunder. He issued, at the same time, strict orders that no property should be taken without being paid for, and gave other necessary orders. The effect of these measures was, that the Spanish soldiers put on red shirts and cockades like the invaders, and scattered through the town with the ostensible object of conciliating the people in favor of the new visitors. Little impression was made, however, for the Spanish officers, throughout the whole affair, remained faithful to their flag.

The loss on the side of the invaders was about 4 killed and 10 wounded; and on the part of the Islanders, upwards of 20. Gen. Lopez states that there were not more than 100 regular soldiers in Cardenas at the time of the attack, but news had, in the beginning, been sent to Coliseo, a post about ten miles distant, and to Matanzas, and before night, reinforcements arrived. During the day, too, some of the invading force had become somewhat dis-

couraged, and a portion had been detailed to place the wounded and a quantity of coal on board the Creole steamer, to enable her to return for fresh troops. Influenced by these and other strong considerations, Gen. Lopez determined to re-embark his men, which was done soon after nightfall. As the Americans abandoned the city, a body of one hundred and fifty lancers marched into it; a part took up a position to cut off retreat; the others, fifty in number, charged the retreating troops, and were all, with one exception, shot down. In this attack, no assistance was rendered to the invaders by the citizens. Being disappointed in their expectations of arousing the inhabitants, and knowing that a large force, stationed in the vicinity of Cardenas, was moving down upon them, the soldiers, against the wishes of Gen. Lopez and the officers who were desirous of attempting another landing near the town of Mantua, immediately put to sea for Key West. The next morning, the Spanish steamer Pizarro was discovered astern in chase. They kept ahead, however, and were landed in safety at Key West. It was the intention of the Americans, had the Pizarro overtaken them, to have boarded her. She had about two hundred troops on board, and a bloody struggle would have been the result. The Creole has been seized by the Collector for various breaches of the revenue laws, and will, doubtless, be forfeited.

Eighty-four doubloons were found in the treasury at Cardenas, and by order of General Lopez, distributed for the relief of the sick and wounded among the soldiers.

On the 24th of May, Gen. Lopez, with several of the officers connected with the Expedition, were arrested at Savannah, but, in the absence of direct testimony, were immediately discharged from custody.

In the correspondence on this subject between the Spanish Minister and the Secretary of State, Mr. CLAYTON assures CALDERON DE LA BARCA of the good faith of the Government, and of its anxiety to repress all attempts of agitators and adventurers upon any part of the Spanish possessions. The President, he says, as in duty bound, will exercise all the power with which he is invested to prevent aggressions by our own people upon the ter-

ritories of friendly nations, and will use every effort to detect and to arrest for trial and punishment all offenders in any armed expedition prohibited by our laws. Three ships of the Gulf squadron have been ordered to Cuba to prevent the landing of any invading forces under the American flag, and two additional war ships of great force and speed, one of which was the steam-frigate *Saranac*, have since been added; the *Saranac*, within a few hours after credible evidence had been submitted to the President in reference to the intended invasion.

Thirty-nine persons belonging to the invading force on board two small vessels have been taken off Woman's island by the Spanish steamer, *Pizarro*, and brought to Havana. Subsequently, one hundred and five were taken from the Mexican Island of Contoy on the coast of Yucatan. Respecting these last, the Secretary of State instructs Mr. Campbell, the American Consul at Havana, to impress upon the Spanish authorities, the distinction between those who have committed a crime, and those captured under appearances of an intention to commit a crime, and says, that the President claims for the American occupants of the Mexican island, that they are not guilty of any crime for which, by the laws of civilized nations, they should suffer death. They may have been and probably were guilty of crimes for which Government ought in good faith to punish them; but the President is resolved that they shall be protected against any punishment but that which the tribunal of their own country may award.

SOME FACTS ABOUT CUBA.—No census of the population of the island of Cuba has been taken by the Government since 1841. From other sources we find that its population in 1846 was 898,752; of whom 425,767 were white; 149,226 free colored, and 323,759 slaves. In 1841, according to the official census, the population was 1,007,624, of whom 418,291 were white; 152,838 free colored, and 426,495 slaves. Of the colored free population at that time 64,784 were black, and 88,054 mulattoes. The number of mulattoes among the slaves was 10,974. There was a transient population of some 38,000 not included in the total given above. There were at the time 222 schools, at which 9,082 free children received instruction; of these 640 were colored. Out of the total number 5,325 paid for their instruction; the others were taught gratuitously. We are unable to say whether the present condition of the island is in these respects in any degree meliorated.

In 1847 statistics were published by the Government, in which the island was described as having a surface of 45,530 square English miles, the contiguous Isle of Pines,

and some smaller ones, making a total extent of nearly 48,000 square miles. The length of the island, in a direct line from east to west, is 680 miles; the widest breadth 335, the narrowest 26 miles. From the southern point of Florida to the northern point of Cuba is 113 miles; from Cuba to the nearest point in Yutacan is 132 miles, of Hayti 49 miles. From Jamaica Cuba is distant 89 miles. In 1849 its exports from Havana and Matanzas were, of sugar, 949,748 boxes; of coffee 371,894 arrobas; of molasses, 97,373 hogsheads; of cigars and tobacco (from Havana alone) 1,273,837 pounds. Of Matanzas, the white population was in 1846 estimated at 10,039; the free colored at 2,788, and the slaves, 4,159.

PRUSSIA.—There has been an attempt to assassinate the King of Prussia. The assassin fired from a stooping or half kneeling position within a few feet of the King's person, and the ball striking the lower part of his arm, which was slightly raised, passed out at the elbow. The man was instantly seized by the bystanders and proved to be a discharged sergeant of Artillery and a native of Potsdam. He had been confined in the hospital at Spandan as a lunatic, and had subsequently exhibited signs of insanity. He is closely guarded and deprived of all means of committing self-destruction. The King has suffered but little ill effect from his wound.

FRANCE.—The measures of the Government daily become more vigorous. The socialist success in the late Paris elections has alarmed the friends of order, and for the present has strengthened the hand of the Executive. The old political divisions are nearly lost sight of in the struggle that has at last commenced between the socialists and the whole body of the middle classes. Like the Girondists of the first revolution, these classes have started the revolutionary spirit which is now directed against themselves. Their perpetual attempts at a healthy republicanism are thwarted by the levity and anarchical risings of the mobs of the large cities, and the reaction is despotism. The impression seems universal that France is on the verge of a second reign of terror, more bloodthirsty and devouring than the first; for the rage of the Jacobins against law and order was blind and unguided, and was exhausted by its own spasmodic efforts, while the Red Republicans are sustained and united by the complacency of theory. The real democracy of the country consequently look with less disfavor on the ambitious designs of Louis Napoleon, for an iron-handed military government is a better alternative than the ferocious tyranny of the Calibans of Communism.

The Legislative assembly though resembling the Girondists in their present position seem determined to avoid the error of that faction,