

SPANISH OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

SKETCH OF THE LOPEZ EXPEDITION, BY ONE OF ITS MEMBERS.

His Excellency the Captain General has permitted the insertion, in the official gazette, of the following account of D. Francisco Alexander Laine, one of those who comprised the piratical expedition:

In the Plaza of Havana, Aug. 36, 1851, the Ser. Fiscal, accompanied by my secretary, proceeded to the Castle of the Presidio, where was confined D. Francisco A. Laine, who, being sworn, offered to testify to the truth, as follows:

Being asked his name, religion, &c., he said—I am named F. A. Laine, aged 26 years, a native of Alquiza; C. A. R., executor of my mother's property.

Being asked when he went from the island; if his passports had been verified, and to what port; he said that he sailed on the 4th of Feb., 1849, with passports for San Francisco, going first to N. Orleans.

Being asked if he went to California, or remained in the United States, he said that, not having received, in N. Orleans, the letters which he expected, and feeling short of money, he had given lessons in Spanish and mathematics for a livelihood.

Being asked if subsequent to this time he had returned to Cuba, he said he had not.

Being asked if he knew Narciso Lopez, and what was the nature of his relations with him, he said that, when Lopez returned from Cardenas, in 1850, he had some conversation with him respecting some Cubans, whose names he did not remember, but who he believes are all dead, excepting one Sr. Lono, and that he had no employment with Lopez, or relations with him, except in the course of friendly correspondence, which was lost with his letter book, at Las Posas, and which was afterwards found by one of the Galician officers.

Being asked to tell what he knew of the designs of Lopez in this expedition, what was his force, who were his officers, and what happened after leaving New Orleans, until the landing on this island, he said, that the expedition which started in the steamer Pampero numbered 600 men, exclusive of some who joined the steamer in the Mississippi river; but the captain having made known that it was impossible to carry all, a portion returned, leaving on board 400 men, who were all who disembarked at Morillo; that the object was to go first to the river St. John, there to effect a junction with a force of artillery which was waiting there, and then to land at some point in the central department; but, having touched at Key West for stores, Lopez received information that Pinar del Rey, and almost all of the Vuelta de Abajo had revolted; that it was then resolved to land somewhere in Vuelta de Abajo; that, by a mistake of the pilot, they were taken before Matanzas, and were obliged to return by Havana, in search of the port of Orugosa, where they proposed to land, but were prevented by the frigate Esperanza; that the officers were Narciso Lopez, a Hungarian, Mr. Pragay, Col. Crittenden, and two others named Llinds and Clinton; that the captain of the Cuban company, to which deponent belonged,

was Hldefonso Oberto, who was killed at Las Posas; that the design of Lopez was to establish a Cuban republic, counting on an insurrection in the country, and the good will of the troops.

Being asked what occurred after his landing until brought here, he said that they disembarked on the shore of Morillo at 11 o'clock at night on the 11th inst., without any opposition beyond four or five discharges, which dispersed some countrymen of Morillo; that they found the shore deserted, the store open and forsaken, and having left something less than two hundred men under Col. Crittenden, in charge of the unnecessary arms and provisions, the remainder of the expedition under Lopez, advanced to Las Posas, without meeting anything except a few countrymen, who fled when they saw the advance; and that upon arriving at Las Posas they found the town abandoned, nor were they able to make the inhabitants return, notwithstanding the offers made to them; that the day following they were attacked by the troops of the Queen, who, in the end, were forced to retire, leaving them in possession of the place, with the loss of Col. Pragay, a colonial whose name he had forgotten, Capt. Oberto, and some fifty killed and wounded; that finding they did not encounter the expected sympathy amongst the people, and were attacked by the very troops whom they expected to join them, they resolved to resort to the mountains, and with this object started for Pinar del Rio, but by the error or treachery of the guide were conducted to the coffee estate of Frias where they had another encounter with

the troops, which resulted in the loss of four or five men, which with what were before lost, reduced the force at Frias to 220 men, including 12 or 14 wounded; that with these they passed to Brujo, and spending the night in union, went to Martitorenea or Candelaria, where, on the 21st, in number not exceeding 200 men, when breakfasting, they were surprised, attacked, and dispersed by the troops of the Queen. A hundred or more hid themselves in the forest, one-third without arms, where they remained for four days without any food except a horse, some corn, and wild plantains; that then arriving at a road the deponent left the rest, in order to write to his mother, and that for this purpose he went to a hacienda, where were some officers of Galicia, who told him that it was not necessary to write at the moment, as they were ordered to give quarter; that he was delivered to Brig. Gen. Rozales, sent to Bahía Honda, and thence to this city.

Being asked what resources the expedition relied upon both in the United States and in this Island, who were their principal agents and correspondents there and here, he said that almost all the resources were from Mr. Legur, who according to Lopez, had given \$75,000 to purchase the Pampero; that sundry cannons and arms were purchased at a sale of government remnants; that the cartouches, &c., were purchased through merchants in New Orleans, whose names he had forgotten, under a receipt from Lopez; that he had heard money had been sent from the Island, and many valuable jewels, which various young persons had come to the island to receive; and that although they had believed that, in this island, there were other resources, yet after they had received none; that the agents in the United States were Segur, Cuchins & Co.; that these were the only promoters of this expedition; that Lopez had constantly said that they could not count on metallic aid in the Island, without the co-operation of the Junta in New York, which had disagreed with Betancourt and Agüero in respect to the mode of organizing the expedition; that the junta referred to is composed of various other Cubans besides those mentioned, of whose names he was ignorant; that all of which he has said is true, &c.

FRANCISCO A. LAINE.

Signed before me—

BLAS VILLALBA.