

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

A REPORT FROM THE INSURGENTS.

MAXIMO GOMEZ ON THE INVASION OF THE VILLAS—THE CAMAGUEY DISTRICT—OPERATIONS, INCENDIARISM, AND MANIFESTOES.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, March 10, 1875.

Too late to make any use of it in my last letter, I obtained a copy of the rebel *Boletín de la Guerra*, a sheet about seven by twelve inches, printed on thick white paper, at the printing office of the *Boletín*, in the field, as it is stated in a foot note. This number, which is the twenty-second of the third year, is dated Jan. 30, 1875, and after a notice that on account of official duties Major Ramon Poa, who had been editor of the *Boletín* from No. 1 to No. 21, is absent, it prints the official report of Maximo Gomez concerning the recent invasion of the Villas. This report runs thus:

[Official.]

Invasion Army. Advance Corps, Invasion of the West—The Moran Trocha—Weak Resistance of the Enemy—Gen. Maximo Gomez in the Territory of Las Villas—An Enemy's Column Turns Shoulder—Concentration—Previous Operations.

THE INVASION.

GENERAL HEAD-QUARTERS AT JUAN CRIOLLO, }
SANCTI SPIRITUS, Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1875. }

Citizen Secretary of War:

With the object of carrying into effect the invasion of the Villas, I encamped at Ciego de Escobar on the 2d inst., with the Second Division and part of the First, organizing there two strong columns, one of infantry composed of forces from Potrerillo, Sigüenza, and Artollaoza, under orders of Lieut. Col. Cecilio Gonzalez, and the other of cavalry, composed of part of the "Agramonte," "Camaguey," and "Narciso" Regiments and mounted guerrillas, and of the remainder of the infantry of the Second Division, under command of Brig. Gen. M. Suarez, this column commanded by the undersigned, having appointed Major Gen. J. Sanguily second in command. On the morning of the 4th inst., I sent the first column with orders to immediately cross the Trocha, from Imaro to Moron, at the centre, and with the other column by forced marches I also marched upon the Trocha toward the south, arriving in sight of the enemy's fort on that line on the morning of the 6th.

As had been ordered, the infantry under orders of Brigadier Suarez and Cols. A. Mestre and L. Perez, advanced upon the intrenched position of the enemy, except the section of sappers under Major Gen. C. Roloff, which had been detailed to open a way for the cavalry; all of this operation was carried out with precision and effect. The enemy, surprised and vigorously assailed by our infantry, left the way clear in such a manner that although but twenty yards from the loopholes of the forts, which kept up an incessant fire, we had but four men wounded, three of them slightly. Driven into their intrenchments, and our movement being effected as desired, the infantry took up its line of march toward the Camaguey, according to instructions, and with the cavalry I advanced upon Francisquito, a league and a half from the Trocha halting to supply rations to my troops, tired enough by a forced and painful march through a country destitute of water and pasture. While under fire, all obstacles were overcome in a manner highly satisfactory to our forces, a fact which confers special dignity upon Col. Angel Mestre, Majors Antonio Muñoz, and Angel Perez, and Lieut. M. Galvan, who all came under my personal observation.

Lieut. Col. Cecilio Gonzalez passed through with his column, breaking down the stockade, and crossing the ditches of the Trocha, without firing a cartridge. He scoured the zones of Ciego de Avila and Jicotea, and obtained possession of fourteen machetes, thirty horses, eighteen saddles, bridles, spurs, provision, forage, &c.

Besides Major Gen. C. Roloff, I am accompanied by Brigadier Jose Gonzalez Guerra, Acting Chief of the Second Division; Col. Gabriel Gonzalez, Chief of Cavalry of the First Division; Lieut. Col. Maximilian Ramos, and other officers belonging to the several forces which form my column.

The enemy, while our column was encamped on the Demajagua, struck our trail on the 9th, but was stopped and harrassed in his march by our guerrilla companies, one mounted, under command of Capt. Agustin Betancourt, and one on foot led by Ensign Magin Aloma; both columns inflicted severe losses. The enemy had to counter-march, and thus avoided the fight. This I desired on account of the fatigue of the troops, and, further it being better for our ultimate plans.

During the march we secured one rifle, nine machetes, twenty-three horses, eighteen saddles, some saddle-bags, and a convoy of provisions on the road to Yguara. Tello Sanchez surrendered and joined us.

At the present moment, Lieut. Col. Francisco Jimenez having recovered from the slight wound in the neck received at the time the united invading army crossed the Trocha, I have ordered a general concentration to undertake active operations. The health of the Army is excellent.

The enthusiasm which prevails throughout, leads me to entertain great hopes.

Accept the assurances of my consideration and respect. MAXIMO GOMEZ, General in Chief.

THE CAMAGUEY DISTRICT.

Directly in continuation, the *Boletín* gives the following report concerning the Camaguey District, signed by H. M. Reeve, Brigadier in Chief. This Reeve is an American, who came with Gen. Jordan to Cuba, and served as his orderly. He remained with the Cubans, has taken part in hundreds of actions, and received wounds all over his body. On one occasion he was shot through the neck by a Spanish Sergeant while lying wounded after a fight and expecting a "machetazo," but afterward he crawled into the bush and miraculously escaped with his life. His services among the Cubans advanced him from one grade to another until he was finally chosen to fill the post made vacant by Ignacio Agramonte's death. He has a mother and sisters living in Brooklyn.

The report referred to is as follows:

Camaguey—Attack on Fort Montejo—Destruction of the Railroad—Action of the "Gertrudis"—The Spanish Cavalry Defeated and Dispersed—Capture of Arms, Horses, and Ammunition—Skirmishes.

HEAD-QUARTERS AT SAN ANTONIO, Jan. 29, 1875.

Citizen Secretary of War:

According to orders received from the chief of the Department, I commenced offensive operations against the eastern part of this territory. On the 23th of last month I camped at Arroyo Hondo, with the Second Brigade and the "Agramonte" Regiment of Cavalry, and having learned that the garrison of Fort Montejo was accustomed to leave the fort during the early part of the evening, I determined to surprise it, and for this purpose Col. Gregorio Benitez, with forty men, advanced with secrecy, while my head-quarters were moved to a convenient distance from the fort, in order, with my escort and cavalry, to cover the expected attack.

It appears, however, that the enemy, alarmed at some noise, hastened to get into their intrenchments. Col. Benitez and his followers threw themselves upon the gate or door of the fort, and while endeavoring to force it open were fired upon by the Spanish soldiers; but our men thrust their guns into the loop-holes of the fort and poured a deadly fire into the interior. While this state of affairs existed I came up, and, deeming any further efforts on the part of the assailants useless, ordered them to retreat, which operation was effected in good order. The enemy suffered considerable loss, but we could not calculate theirs. Our own losses consisted of one officer and seven privates killed, and one officer and twenty-one men wounded. On the 31st I was joined at San Antonio by Col. Marcos Garcia with the First Brigade, and the day following I ordered Major Carlos Agüero with a section of infantry to march against the railroad. This officer has since informed me that he has destroyed two lengths of the line, and caused the interruption of all trains, without any loss to his troops, although the operation was carried into effect in sight of two small forts, which only made signals of alarm.

On the 16th inst., encamped at La Gertrudis, and while preparing to effect an operation in the vicinity of San Miguel with the Agramonte Regiment, under orders of Col. Rafael Rodriguez, my pickets reported

that a force of the enemy's cavalry, about eighty in number, was advancing toward our encampment. I immediately gave orders for our forces to lie in ambush in an angle of the plain, and for two of our pickets to allow themselves to be pursued, in order to draw on the enemy to a spot suited to the fight. But they advanced with timidity, and scarcely had their vanguard come in sight of our forces when they turned their horses' heads, and our forces then charged upon the whole body of the enemy who took to flight, without the least resistance, abandoning their horses and dispersing in the neighboring mountains. The mounted men were closely pursued, and were overtaken about a league off. The enemy left behind them in their flight twelve bodies, among them that of Major Brevet Capt., N. Garriga, and Lieut. Ramon Recio, a traitor of infamous antecedents. We captured sixteen rifles, 8,000 cartridges, fifty-two horses, seven laden mules, belonging to the convoy; hammocks, blankets, and other effects. A picket of our cavalry, which a few hours afterward reconnoitred the field, captured the Spanish Sergeant Quintin Buzon. Col. Marcos Garcia and Gregorio Benitez, took part in the action referred to. On our part we suffered no loss whatever. On the following day Capt. Aurelio Valdes, with a small force, fired upon Fort San Miguel, in order to urge the enemy to pursue, but without effect.

On the 16th I ordered a section of infantry under Major Federico Mousset, to lie in ambush near the Eastern Trocha, and they succeeded in capturing nineteen mules intended for a convoy, and killed four soldiers. On the 18th Major Fidel Cespedes, with a force of sixteen mounted men, charged upon a guerrilla company of the enemy, in the Camaguey zone, and pursued it as far as the Carrasco bridge, under fire from Fort "Punta de Diamante." According to reports, they caused the enemy a loss of two killed and many wounded. On the same day the same officer, while operating near Camaguey, captured and put to death the assassins Pablo and Ceferino Fuentes, capturing two firearms, two machetes, two horses, and fifty-two cartridges. Major Rafael Rodriguez, operating near the railroad with forces from the First Brigade, detained a number of gangs of laborers, and took away all their tools. Lieut. Marcos Tamayo, near the Eastern Trocha, captured a small convoy and got four rifles. Major Andres Diaz, with a picket of the "Agramonte" Regiment, set fire, on the 27th inst., to the cane-fields of the "Montejo" Plantation, which was just about commencing to grind. The enemy has abandoned the forts of Magarabomba and Corralito. I repeat, &c.,

H. M. REEVE, Brigadier in Chief.

The *Boletín* keeps on with a copy of Gen. Maximo Gomez's address to the inhabitants of Las Villas:

"VILLARENOS! TO ARMS!—At the head of the triumphant hosts of the Central Department, I am now among you. The sacred voice of honor and duty calls upon you to enlist in the ranks of the soldiers of liberty, the defenders of the right, the unwearied laborers for the redemption of an oppressed people. Come and join your brothers and leave the tyrant who threatens to drag you into inevitable ruin. The destiny of nations already points out the cessation of the rule of Spain in America; the independence of Cuba is a fact. To arms! inhabitants of the Villas! the dawn of victory salutes you! Divine justice has pronounced its fiat! Do you desire a rapid triumph? Act with decision and bravery! To arms! To arms!"

MAXIMO GOMEZ.

This unique sheet concludes with an editorial, from which I translate the following paragraph only:

"It is painful, indeed, to turn into smoke with our own hand the delicate fruits of a prodigal nature, but blood and fire are necessary to snatch from crime its wretched victims. Humanity demands that the burning sweat of violence shall no longer bathe the darkened faces of unhappy beings who still groan under the weight of their chains, and the invading Army of the West will fulfill this noble duty."