

LETTER FROM HAVANA.

Correspondence of the Traveller.

HAVANA, Dec. 29.

DISHONORABLE WARFARE OF THE SPANIARDS.

The methods the Spaniards use to carry on the war against the Cubans is most shameful. While the volunteers cruelly murder peaceful citizens everywhere in and about the towns throughout the island, the Governors of districts, like Colonel Bonche at Las Tanas, on hearing of the defeat of their troops, rave and rage, and take revenge by roasting by wholesale Cubans imprisoned for trial; or like Colonel Trillo at Sagua, on receiving mistakeable reports of imminent rising of negroes on the neighboring plantations, indiscriminately flog and bayonet freemen and slaves, white and black, and even shoot the owner, as he did shoot Señor Coppinger, an American citizen, on the spot, who went thither from this city to look after his estate, Santa Teresa. At San Jose, on the line of the Nuevitas Railroad, after the revolutionists had captured, at the commencement of the fight, twenty-one of their foes, a white flag was raised, and an interview was agreed upon between Bernabe Varona, the chief of the insurgents' band, and the commander of the Spaniards. Four Cubans, under an officer, came out of the ranks to meet an equal number of the enemy, and when within range, two of the former were killed by a volley fired upon them from the line of the latter, who now say, with their usual hypocrisy, the discharge was made without orders. Perhaps they meant to shoot in that way Colonel Varona, who was candid enough to believe the Spaniards would treat a rebel decently. The fight was resumed, and Varona completely defeated the enemy.

GENERAL LESCA.

The high officers of the Spanish army, when they get badly wounded, are allowed to go back to the metropolis under false pretences, as it will be discouraging to see them die from the bullets of the revolutionists. Some of these "big men" have been sent to Spain after experiencing the heat of "the rebellion." Brigadier General Amable Escalante, of the staff of Gen. Pina, being among them. Immediately after the Spanish revolution was somewhat secured, Escalante was despatched to this island in order to frighten the Cubans, who, loving him for his liberal ideas, were acquainted with his recognized bravery. But he soon was wounded and taken back to the peninsula "in the sick list," and being an accomplished gentleman and consequently a decent man, he made important disclosures on his death bed at Madrid as to the cruel treatment of the Spanish authorities towards the Cubans. Gen. Lesca, who was lately commander of Cinco Villas or Central Department, was wounded and brought to Havana, whence he will leave for Spain at the first opportunity. Spain does all in her power to conceal everything unfavorable to her.

PUERTO PRINCIPLE.

For some time past Gen. Puella, Governor of Puerto Principe, has been urging the Captain General of the island for a permission to evacuate that city, as he cannot keep it any longer, the whole district being in the possession of "the rebels." But Puerto Principe, being an important place and the headquarters of the district of the same name, he has invariably received orders to make a sally and to destroy the insurgents, who give so much trouble in that vicinity. On the 11th inst., Governor Puella being induced by officers under him to comply with those repeated precepts, rallied all the forces he could muster and left for the field, carrying with him some pieces of heavy artillery, but hardly had he marched over two miles, when he began to be harassed by the insurgents, that swarmed all around the city. He kept on his way, however, until convinced of the impossibility of advancing any further, since the small bands, who pursued his flanks and rear, lessened considerably his forces. Losing fifty and odd men in his journey of four miles, without being able to see the enemy, he returned under the same difficulties to the city, where he is shut up again now. Reinforcements will be immediately despatched to the place, as his position is considered almost hopeless.

SUGAR CANEFIELDS BURNED.

The readers of the *Traveller* must be warned by your correspondent as to the high price of sugar in years to come, beginning by the next, since this island that is one of the largest, if not the largest producer, will only yield about one-half of the usual crop. The insurgents pursue in earnest the policy of destroying cane-fields of confiscated plantations, in order to deprive the government of the income it expected to draw out of the confiscation decree. On the other hand the slaves, considering the blame will be thrown upon "the rebels," burn the estates of their owners, in order not to work twenty hours a day, as those unfortunates do at this grinding season. Many have been set on fire for that reason by the negroes. The loss to the proprietors is counted by millions of dollars, and the government agents make it still larger, by shooting some of the suspected slaves.

MASSASOIT.