

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

Céspedes' Letter to the Cuban Agent in New York.

General Count Valmaseda, chief of the Spanish troops now operating in the Eastern Department, being encamped with a force of more than 2,000 men in the beautiful city of Bayamo, recently endeavored to gain military possession of the territory occupied by the forces of the Cuban chiefs. With that object he detached a garrison of 500 men to the town of Jiguaní, and another of 200 to the village of Guisa.

Thereupon the citizen General Donato del Marmol received orders to advance upon Jiguaní, while the citizen General Modesto Diaz with his forces harassed a Spanish column of 1,000 men, who were protecting a convoy on its way from Manzanillo.

This column was very successfully harassed by General Modesto Diaz.

General Marmol, fulfilling the orders of the General in-Chief, fell upon the garrison of Jiguaní, attacked them in the streets during three consecutive days, and obliged them to entrench themselves in the only public square of the town, firing upon them with two cannons in the meantime from a hill close by, and assailing them in hand to hand combats, he and his followers, on the very entrenchments of the Spaniards.

The arrival of an auxiliary force of 500 men, despatched by Valmaseda, obliged Marmol to retreat upon the hill already mentioned, whence he continued the fire until the arrival of another Spanish column, 300 strong, when, having exhausted all his ammunition, he had to retire with his troops to within a league of the town. Generals Gomez and Figueredo (Feliz) accompanied General Marmol in the assault. His losses were 20 killed and wounded; those of the Spaniards 200. This favorable disproportion is to be attributed to the position selected by Marmol for his cannon, to the courage of his troops, and to the terror of the Spaniards whenever they are attacked with the *machets*.

General Modesto Diaz having in compliance with orders harassed, as far as Bayamo, the column which guarded the convoy, was immediately despatched with a force of 1,000 men, armed mostly with the *machets*, to attack the garrison of Guisa. The first encounters took place at a league from the village, and the enemy, driven into it, took refuge in the church, in which they were kept in a state of confinement and besieged during three days; the reinforcements despatched from Bayamo by Valmaseda to relieve them were defeated, and the enemy finally compelled to raise a flag of truce. The advantage thus gained, however, was subsequently lost, because shortly afterward a detachment of 500 men arrived, and, with great loss, succeeded in advancing to the village. Thereupon General Modesto Diaz had to retire, and did so with insignificant loss.

On another occasion, the same General, accompanied by Generals Gomez and Aguilera, attacked a column of 800 Spaniards, on their way from Bayamo to Manzanillo, and so completely routed them that they were obliged to return to the place whence they started. The Cubans had one killed and five wounded; the losses of the enemy are unknown.

General headquarters at Santa Rita, March 12, 1869

C. M. DE CESPEDAS.