

The Perit's Expedition.

Startling Incidents of her Late Voyage to Cuba--Mutiny and Death--An Engagement with the Enemy--Men and Armament Landed for the Patriot Army--Her Return to New York.

[From the New York Sun, May 31.]

The Perit expedition, which left this port for Cuba about a month ago, was one of the most successful which ever landed at the "ever faithful isle." The steamer, having accomplished her mission, returned to this port on Saturday evening, with some passengers on board who had witnessed the disembarkation of the troops, and from one of the number we obtained the following interesting facts in connection with her voyage:

THE PROGRAMME.

The steamer took out about four hundred and fifty men, together with a large supply of arms and ammunition, including some batteries of artillery. By a previous arrangement, which indicated a high degree of strategic wisdom, it was decided that the vessel should stop at the most available point in the Bahamas, or on the coast of Cuba--the point to be selected according to the emergencies which might arise. A number of officers of Céspedes's army had been instructed to keep a look out for the expedition, but this fact was communicated to the Spanish, and troops were sent to intercept them. Owing to this circumstance, the volunteers failed at the first landing to meet the expected guides.

WHISKEY, MUTINY AND DEATH.

The men were treated excellently during the voyage, but there were a few troublesome spirits among them, who fought with each other on trivial subjects connected with the expedition. One of these men succeeded in obtaining a large bottle of whiskey, which he drank in one day. Under the influence of the liquor he became, as might be expected, almost ungovernable, and he challenged a number of his comrades to fight. The quarrel soon spread, until it was followed by a mutiny, important enough to demand the interference of the officers, but not of sufficient proportions to excite apprehensions of a formidable revolt. While it was at its zenith, a non-commissioned officer rushed to the scene, and, having made his way among the combatants so as to divide them, he exclaimed, "If any man comes beyond this line he dies!"

Suiting the action to the word, he leveled his revolver, and held it ready for use. The mutineers, startled by his threat, remained quiet for a moment, and then resumed the disorder.

The non-commissioned officer repeated his threat. When one of the volunteers, defying him, rushed past the fatal line, a shot was fired from the peace-maker's revolver, and the mutineer fell dead! Order was then restored, and it remained undisturbed as the calm of death. When Gen. Jordan, the commander of the expedition, heard of the result of this pistol shot, and the valor of the soldier who fired it, he promoted him at once to the grade of captain.

A SHOT AT THE PERIT.

No other incident of importance occurred until the steamer reached the coast of Florida and was rapidly sailing for the northern portion of Cuba. Then one of the officers discovered a Spanish man of war coming towards the vessel, and when he announced the fact the passengers became very excited over the prospect of having an engagement with the enemy at sea. Knowing the brutality of the Spaniards, some one suggested that a black flag should be hoisted, but the suggestion was repudiated by all the rest. At this moment a shot was fired across the bows of the Perit from the Spanish vessel, and Gen. Jordan caused the American flag to be hoisted, and it was recognized by the Spaniards, who did not repeat the hostile salute. The man of war then sailed for the Perit, evidently for the purpose of searching her, or to inquire about her destination; but Gen. Jordan perceiving her object, ordered all the lights on the steamer to be extinguished, a mandate which was instantly obeyed. Then, favored by the darkness of the night, the Perit took another course and escaped from her watchful pursuers.

AN ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ENEMY.

The Perit subsequently reached her destination, and anchored a short distance from the landing place on the Cuban coast. Here she was joined by another expedition, consisting of a large steamer, whose arms and men were transferred to her. The work of removing the munitions of war then commenced, and it all safely conveyed ashore. Soon after the volunteers landed they were met by a detachment of Spanish cavalry, and an engagement ensued, in which three Americans were killed. The bodies were interred on the field. The main body of the troops having defeated the Spaniards, proceeded to join the army of Céspedes. They are reported to be in high spirits.