

CUBAN NEWS.

Letters have been received in this city from the leaders of the Cubans, dated the 26th ult. These letters give the following items of news from the insurrectionary districts.

The recent engagements have placed in the hands of the republican leaders a large number of prisoners, and they are now in a position to prevent the wholesale massacre of Cuban insurgents and their friends which has taken place through the power of the volunteer organization, as it is understood that the prisoners in the hands of the revolutionists will be held as hostages for the proper treatment of Cubans who may be captured in battle. This fact has caused a cessation of the execution of prisoners, which has hitherto been the policy of the Spanish commanders.

General Quesada has completely destroyed all communication between Puerto Principe and the coast and the telegraphic communications with Havana, and were it not for the unhealthy condition of the city, he would have occupied it some time ago. Every effort of General Letona to open communication has been defeated, and in those attempted the Spanish loss has been treble that of the Cubans. The loss of the Spaniards in these encounters is so great, that it is reported that the effective force of General Letona at Nuevitas and the entire district does not exceed 4,000 men, while that of General Quesada is near 9,000 men, in good discipline, well armed, and fully prepared for a forward movement when the healthy condition of the country adjacent to the coast will permit.

There have been a number of minor contests in Gen. Jordan's district. In each case the Spaniards have been the aggressors, but in every instance they have been repulsed with great loss, while the Cubans have suffered little. At Villa Clara the loss of the Spanish was over two hundred, together with their arms, ammunition, wagons, ordnance and provision train. In another engagement near Trinidad the regular and volunteer troops who had been sent out to take possession of certain marked plantations were driven back, and the forces almost destroyed. The number of killed and wounded is reported at eighty-five, and that of prisoners at three hundred. The number of Spanish troops engaged in this fight was near thirteen hundred, while that of the Cubans who were guarding the plantations numbered only seven hundred and sixty.

General Jordan reports himself and troops in excellent condition, and asserts that his command is equal to three times the same number of those who oppose him. They are well organized, well drilled, and fight like demons. His force is daily increasing by recruits from the former slaves and the Spanish regular troops. He expresses entire confidence in success.

HAVANA, Aug. 3.

Dates from Carracas to the 24th ult. are at hand. The Federal forces were preparing to attack Gov. Putgar at Maracaibo.

Advices from St. Thomas to the 27th ult. report the United States steamer Seminole in port there.

The journals are discussing the increase of contraband trade between Havana and the rebel forces, and urge strong measures for its suppression.

A detachment of Spanish troops, while engaged in a reconnoissance near Cinqua Villas, met a party of insurgents. A fight followed, in which thirty rebels were killed.

THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

NEW YORK, Aug. 3.

The Sun asserts that the administration of President Grant has opened negotiations with the present Government of Spain for the independence of Cuba. Gen. Sickles has already presented the subject to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Madrid, and two bulky telegrams have been received at Washington in consequence. The proposition which Gen. Sickles has laid before Marshal Serrano and his associates is as follows:

First. Spain shall recognize the independence of Cuba under the government of Caspedes.

Second. Cuba shall pay to Spain an indemnity for the resignation of the rights hitherto exercised by the mother-country, the amount of this indemnity to be specified in the treaty.

Third. The indemnity, whether fixed at one hundred millions, fifty millions or twenty-five millions of dollars, to be in bonds of the Cuban Government, payable with interest at the expiration of a convenient period.

Fourth. These bonds to be guaranteed by the United States; an armistice to be proclaimed between the patriots and the Spanish troops in Cuba immediately upon the execution of the treaty; the Island to be evacuated by the Spanish forces as soon as the treaty is ratified by the representatives of the Cuban people; and the guaranty of the bonds approved by the Congress of the United States.

Fifth. If the terms are not at once accepted by the Spanish Government the United States will without further delay recognize the independence of Cuba.