

CUBAN NEWS BY MAIL.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP EAGLE.

The steamship *Eagle*, which left Havana Oct. 10, reached this port yesterday, her purser has our thanks for the prompt delivery of our correspondence and files.

Increased Vitality of the Revolution—Actions of Banao and the Canto—Destruction of the Former Place—Spanish Military Arithmetic—Inability of the Regulars to Assume the Offensive—Miscellaneous News.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Oct. 16, 1899.

The revolution in this island, far from diminishing in importance, shows signs of increased vigor, and rebel assaults on Spanish military posts are of much more frequent occurrence. Whether, however, these attacks, so totally at variance with all preconceived notions of Cuban tactics, are inspired by a desperate determination on the part of CESPEDES and followers to secure a victory or two before the entrance into active campaigning of the newly arrived levies, or whether they are due to the better organization and discipline of the insurgent army, is still an open question. That the Cubans are much better soldiers now in every respect than they were six months ago cannot be doubted, and the recent assaults by the several revolutionary leaders prove, in the most emphatic manner, that the Spaniards have no longer to beat the bushes for concealed *mambises*, but encounter them not unusually on the very threshold of their fortifications.

The most important of the engagements which have recently taken place have been fought at Banao, and in the vicinity of Count VALMASEDA's famous line of the River Canto. At the first mentioned place the insurgents, numbering 800, attacked the fortified position of the Spaniards who were garrisoning the post. The arrival of reinforcements to the relief of the small garrison—which according to Spanish accounts was only thirty strong—disconcerted the attack of the insurgents and caused them to retire, not, however, without first having set fire to the principal part of the town, which was rapidly destroyed. The Spaniards are naturally very indignant at the fire-loving propensities of the revolutionists, and are very persistent in their appeals to Heaven for vengeance on the "destroying Vandals," as they call them.

The action which took place between the Canto and Salado Rivers was something more than an ordinary skirmish and considerably less than a battle. The Spanish account of the affair states that the Spaniards, numbering some 2,000 men, under command of BENECASTI, were attacked by upward of 8,000 rebels, immediately after crossing the Canto. The action was desperately fought, and the Cubans are said to have lost heavily. The fight lasted over four hours, at the end of which time the Cubans retired with a loss of killed and wounded amounting to over 500 men. This estimate is largely exaggerated, as will be seen from the enormous disparity existing; the Spanish losses—estimated at some twenty killed and wounded—are only twenty-five times less than those of the insurgents. To explain away the seeming improbability of this Munchausenish account of the action, it is *naïvely* stated that the great havoc caused among the rebels was owing to the marvellous precision with which the Spanish artillery was served.

BENECASTI succeeded in arriving at Las Tunas with the convoy under his charge, and the rebels, nothing daunted by the terrible loss inflicted on them, actually had the audacity to attack Count VALMASEDA's celebrated base of the Canto. Spanish official bulletins kill, wound and exterminate, by *consejos verbales*, something like 5,000 insurgents per month, and, consequently, the whole rebel army in Cuba—estimating it at 25,000 strong—has been killed, wounded, annihilated and resurrected twice during the progress of the revolution. Rebel leaders, or as the Spanish phrase goes, *cabeceillos*, are exterminated at the average rate of three per diem, or 1,095 a year. If we are to accept this statement of the ultras, made through Spanish official documents, as true, the natural conclusion to arrive at is that the army of CESPEDES and AGUILERA is abundantly supplied with officers, and that if these latter bear any decent proportion to the rank and file of the Cuban forces, they must possess a much more tremendous army than 2,000,000 of population,—rebels, ultras, all included,—is at all likely to furnish.

The rapid suppression of the rebellion by the Spaniards, so often promised, appears yet so far distant that no conjecture can be formed as to its termination. The troops that arrive are being rapidly hurried off to the seat of war, and DE ROSAS evinces a determination to finish with "Vandalism" in the shortest possible period. Until the arrival of more troops from Spain no important offensive operations on the part of the Spaniards can possibly take place. In Puerto Principe PUELLOS hands are tied, and all his energies are devoted to maintaining intact his communications with Nuevitas. The running of trains on this line are said to be quite uninterrupted.

Accounts received here from Cuban sources state that a combined movement was made recently by the Spanish forces from various points surrounding the seat of the rebel Government, Guaimaro. The insurgents defied the contemplated assault by marching out and attacking a strong body of Spaniards, whom they defeated, thus frustrating their plan of concentration and laying siege to the much-coveted rebel capital. The Cubans cannot be imbued with any great fears for its safety, else they would not be guilty of the imprudence of sending 8,000 men to disturb VALMASEDA in his peaceful possession of the Canto. Probably they believe, however, that in that locality is the place where Guaimaro can best be defended.

In the Ciego Villas numerous skirmishes have occurred, the details of which are not worth repeating. The telegraph will have informed you of the execution of a revolutionary leader, TETLO MENDOZA, at Santa Clara. If not such is the fact.

QUASIMODO.