

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP MORRO CASTLE.

The steamship *Morro Castle*, from Havana, Nov. 13, via Nassau, N. P., reached this port yesterday. Purser R. W. ALBERT has our thanks for the prompt delivery of our correspondence and papers.

Subterfuges and Trickery—The Real Owners of Cuba—The Cardenas Volunteers Defy the Authorities—Privateering—Important Military Movements.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Nov. 13, 1869.

Among the many contemptible and disreputable tricks employed by both parties since this war began, none has caused more damage to the perpetrating parties, than that of calumniating their opponents. A letter was written from New-York to a Captain VEGA, a former Government employe, which was sealed in a very loose manner, so as to call attention, and be detained at the Post Office. Luckily the letter reached its destination, its contents being such as would have caused VEGA's immediate death if it had fallen into the hands of the Spaniards. VEGA, a thorough Spaniard, was asked to be very severe apparently toward the Cubans, so as to make the Spaniards more hated, and in order to merit the continual confidence of the Government, and also to take very good care of the secreted arms. VEGA published the letter, and the writer in New-York, who signed himself JOSE I. PENAR, was foiled. But the Cubans are not alone in tricks of this kind; the Spaniards are equally rogulish, and try their best to trump up charges of disloyalty, or some other crime, against persons they merely consider dangerous. Numerous arrests are made continually—some on information from New York. A prominent Government official informed your correspondent, while in company with an American friend, that a Cuban prominently connected with the New York Junta was selling the Government continually very important information. At any rate, it is certain that the Government has numerous spies here and in the United States, recruited principally from the dregs of the Havana and New York population. No decent Spaniard will place himself in connection with the Police, and naturally no decent Cuban will, although he may pass as such.

WHO OWNS CUBA

and who controls its affairs was decided months ago. Some few offended individuals are, however, yet under the belief that the Spanish Government, with its Judiciary, are the parties in power, and not the real arbiters of Cuba's destiny, the ever-memorable volunteers. That these volunteers have contributed largely toward preserving the island for Spain until the present cannot be doubted, but they have also arrogated to themselves the functions of public accuser, judges, juries and hangmen. One day we hear of them assassinating some citizens, under the pretence that said citizens were Cuban sympathizers; another day we hear of them shooting prisoners, giving the shallow excuse that said prisoners tried to escape, while at other times they, *volens volens*, ship off a Captain-General. Their latest exploit has just taken place in Cardenas, where the volunteers defied the laws, setting the decisions of the Supreme Court and the order of their superior officers at naught, inaugurating a reign of terror among the peaceable inhabitants of the town, and finally carrying their point. It appears that some seven months ago the Police of Cardenas arrested two Cubans named MORA and PARODI on suspicion of being implicated in the Cuban revolution, and after some hard swearing and voluminous testimony fabricated to order, they were sentenced to eight years' imprisonment merely to satisfy the personal spite arising out of a love scrape brought forward by their accusers. Like all other Cubans, they naturally rejoiced to hear of the landing of filibustering expeditions, and this fact told severely against them, having been magnified before the Court, although the only remark made by PARODI was, "I presume some more expeditions will be landed." The Judge who sentenced them was dismissed on charges of corruption, and the papers in the case were sent to the Supreme Court, which, after a long delay annulled the judgment of the lower Court, and ordered the prisoners to be set at liberty immediately, instructing the judicial officers in Cardenas to carry this decree into effect. They presented themselves at the jail for this purpose, when the volunteers not only refused to permit them to enter, but also threatened to kill said officials, a threat which they prepared to execute, had some volunteer Colonel not interposed. By this time the entire volunteer element of Cardenas was under arms, and, like wild Indians, went in search of the Judge who ordered the release, and of the lawyer who had defended the prisoner, as they said, to make them a friendly visit, and give the rest of the Judges and lawyers an example of what their conduct in analogous cases would be. Warned in time, these gentlemen saved their lives by a rapid flight. A commission was sent to Havana to confer with the authorities, but accomplished nothing, owing to the absence of the Captain-General. On Wednesday the Governor of Matanzas went to Cardenas, and partially ended the disturbance, having held a review and delivered a flattering speech intended to be conciliatory. The volunteers listened to it, but still refuse to let the prisoners go, insisting on a trial by Court Martial, the tribunal to be composed of themselves, and determined to carry out this plan at any cost. Thus the matter stands at present until the return of RODAS, when it will undoubtedly be decided to let the volunteers have their will.

PRIVATEERING.

That the Cubans are making very strong efforts to obtain some vessels with which to annoy the Spanish merchant marine and also the small class of men-of-war, is proven by the following translation of a patent to Mr. ARTHUR CASAMAJON, who was killed near Guanatanamo, and on whose person the parchment was found:

CARLOS M. DE CESPEDES, President of the Cuban Republic, in virtue of the faculties with which he is invested, issues these letters of marque in favor of ARTHUR M. CASAMAJON, who, in accordance therewith, is authorized to arm one or more ships and to capture those of the enemy on the sea. Once in possession of a ship, said ARTHUR M. CASAMAJON will proceed to man and equip it as a man-of-war, with a crew composed of at least one-third of Cubans and two-thirds foreigners. Having a ship so manned and equipped, the citizen ARTHUR M. CASAMAJON will inaugurate the operations of a privateer under the Cuban flag, against all vessels carrying the Spanish flag, subjecting himself strictly to the Neutrality laws established and recognized by all civilized nations. Given under my hand and seal on the 8th day of July, 1869.

The President, C. M. DE CESPEDES.

The Secretary of War, F. V. AGUILERA.

This patent is personal and untransferable. The citizen CASAMAJON will communicate his operations to this Government at every opportunity which presents itself.

THE WAR.

Only two engagements of importance have taken place, but smaller skirmishes, where from three to ten insurgents are reported killed, occur daily. Only on very rare occasions is the number of killed Spaniards given, and this takes away a great deal of the authenticity which we might give to the war bulletins. The first engagement, or rather series of skirmishes, began near Bayamo and continued until St. Jago de Cuba, the Spanish detachment cutting its way through the numerous Cuban bands, this being the first time that the troops have been enabled to march from St. Bayamo to St. Jago. The Spanish forces consisted of the combined de-

tachments of VALMASEDA, and the Cubans were under command of JOURDAN, the engagements taking place at Comarca, Fray Juan, Ramon, Palo Pirado and the Sierra. The result was in favor of the Spaniards at Palo Piasco and Ramon; Comaria and Fray Juan were drawn battles, and at Sierra they received a severe drubbing from JOURDAN. The Spaniards captured the Cuban hospital at Ramon, with about a hundred sick inmates and its accompanying staff of physicians and nurses. According to Spanish accounts, the Spaniards killed three hundred of their opponents in the several engagements. The Cuban Generals MASO and TAMAYO were taken prisoners, and immediately executed. Among the foreigners killed are Captain GROUCHET, of the artillery, a Frenchman; of the Americans, HARRY CLEVIVEY or CLANERY, the chief of JOURDAN's Staff, and Major WILLIAM CROSLAND, Chief Quartermaster. Of the Americans and other foreigners landed by the *Perrit*, about forty still remain, the rest having been killed or disabled, and a few having deserted. Of the *Grapeshot* expedition only two remain.

The Cubans are still in force on the Contra-maestro River, and are encamped near and about the Cauto, their lines extending to Yaguajay and Fillipinas. VALMASEDA cannot effect any movement of importance against the Cubans unless the Spaniards manage to subdue the insurgents in the Cinco Villas, where CAVADA, the Fire King, is giving them plenty of work. LESCA, knowing that all these small skirmishes are of very small importance, demands that all the troops coming from Spain and those organizing here be sent to him, so as to enable him to stretch a line across the island, and, if possible, drive the insurgents before him. BERNARDINO ROJAS was executed in Trinidad. Among the engagements in the Cinco Villas have been those near Ciego de Avila, in the Feliciano Mountains, where an American, named HENRY OFMEY, was captured, who claims to be in the employ of Mr. MILTON, or MISTURN, of New-York. The total number of insurgents killed in the Cinco Villas during October has been 160; while 101, among whom three leaders, have surrendered to the Government. The loss of the Spaniards is estimated at seventy killed. To accomplish this result seven to eight thousand Spaniards were needed. At this rate it will be a long time before the revolution can be subdued. Even the firemen of of Cienfuegos have taken the field, but matters must be managed differently by the Spaniards if they desire to win, than in the manner of the loudly-heralded movement in the Cienaga de Zapato, which has proved a complete failure. The troops and volunteers have the Cienaga entirely surrounded, and are guarding it well. The insurgents who were there had left two days previously in squads of ten and twelve, and had joined the forces near Cienfuegos. The troops will retire in a few days and the insurgents will return, a fact very disagreeable to LESCA, who cannot do what he proposes with an enemy in the rear, and communication left open to the insurgents from St. Jago to the City of Havana. The Gloria and Soledad plantations at Cartagena, near Cienfuegos, were fired by the insurgents. Within a few weeks the cane will be dry and in splendid condition to burn. When that day arrives we may look out for the torch of the incendiary, and then there will be rapid strides made toward converting Cuba into a wilderness.

QUASIMODO.