

THE WAR IN CUBA.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP EAGLE.

The steamship *Eagle*, from Havana Nov. 27, reached this port late last evening, having made an unusually quick passage. We are indebted to the purser for prompt delivery of our special correspondence and late Spanish papers.

The Situation—Features of the War—Patriotism and Incendiarism—The Chinese Enslaved—Seeking for Treasure in a Convent—Rodas Economizing—War News—Puerto Principe—Cinco Villas—Miscellaneous.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Nov. 27, 1869.

The genuineness of the proclamation of CESPEDIS, as published in the New-York journals, has been questioned, but nevertheless it was a true copy. Resembling but slightly the wars in Europe, the Cuban revolution bears a strong resemblance to the feuds between aborigines, or those indulged in by the King of Dahomey with his neighbors. The difference is simply that the contending factions in Cuba are possessed of more wealth, talent, resources and refined cruelty than the Indian or African. What has been done worthy of note since the factions began fighting? What important towns have been captured except the ruins of Bayamo or some insignificant hamlet like Villa del Cobre, or Taguayabon? What fortified town has been taken by either party, unless we take into account the stubborn defence made by the Spanish soldiers against their undisciplined and badly armed adversaries? It is useless to look for battle accounts or grand strategic moves; the armies of either party know nothing of such things, and although the Spanish troops are capable and willing to fight a regular battle, their wily antagonists will never suffer them to do so. But this does not prevent the arresting and capturing of rebel sympathizers or the execution of those taken with arms in their hands. All this forms a part of the war in Cuba, and, in fact, is the only war carried on. Patriotism is on the increase or decrease according to what we consider the article, and according to the zeal displayed generally after the arrival of some real or manufactured news, but it resolves itself as a whole into

PATRIOTISM AND INCENDIARISM.

The torch of the incendiary Cuban patriot continues to destroy the property of the Spanish patriot. The patriots on both sides are still as sanguinary and suspicious as ever, and as a matter of course patriotism is all the go. The owners of plantations who fear the fire king are patriotically engaged in cutting cane around the immediate vicinity of their sugar houses, and instead of beginning to cut the cane fields at the corners are now cutting wide avenues through the centre. These tactics are resorted to in order to make the most of the crop. Some planters are coquetting with both parties on the patriotic game, and "Viva España" or "Viva Cuba" pales before the power of the almighty dollar produced by the unrecompensed labor of the slave and worse treated Chinaman, who sacrifice their unpatriotic lives in the service of their patriotic Spanish or Cuban owners. The people of this country consider the Americans, or "Yankees," as they are generally termed, a very mercenary and calculating race, and themselves as quite the contrary. This opinion has generally been considered a true one, but in reality there is not a millowner in Lancashire or Fall River who tries to drive a harder bargain, and who, in the manner of remunerating his servants or workmen, resorts to such trickery as do numerous Spaniards and Cubans. Ask the opinion and listen to the statements of American mechanics who were cheated—yes, virtually swindled—by a very wealthy planter now forming one of the Cuban Junta. Let us inquire and see whether the ultra patriotic on both sides have not been the most cruel and exacting of taskmasters to their slaves, and the answer will be "Yes." This is a species of Spanish-American or purely Spanish patriotism; and God help the country which is or is to be governed by such patriots, born in Spain or Cuba.

THE CHINESE.

That much abused and ill-treated class of our inhabitants, the Chinese, have again been blessed with another order, having for its object the further restriction of their liberty, and pushing them another step toward slavery. The alleged object of the order is to keep them from becoming thieves and vagabonds. There is a great deal of truth in this, and the authorities are, to a certain extent excusable, if the large number of Chinese rogues is taken into account; but when we look at the arbitrariness of the new law, at its utter want of discrimination and its unfairness toward the Chinese, the real motive becomes apparent—that of retaining those poor unfortunates as slaves, and in fact worse. The law begins:

"It being of general interest that the Asiatics who have fulfilled the term of their contract should renew their compromises with the greatest dispatch and liberty possible, in order to benefit agriculture and public wealth, etc. etc., it is ordered that within two months after their term expires they must again bind themselves or leave the island, else they will enter into the public gangs paving the streets, where they gain the elements of subsistence only by their labor."

The Chinaman is not much protected by this order. There is no provision made that the Cuban or Spanish slave driver, the wealthy leech who feeds on the blood of the negro and Chinaman, should pay the ignorant, over-governed Asiatic more than \$4 a month. There is no specification made as to how long the contract is to last; no clauses introduced to allow the Chinese to save enough to return to his country. Oh no! That would not be in accordance with the wishes of the old slave dealers and wealthy planters; this would not suit the Durañonas, Aldamas or Zuluetas. On no! Grind the poor, kill the slave or Chinaman by hard labor, fill the coffers of the Cuban and Spanish patriots, and then over the emaciated frames of their victims let us be merry and shout "Viva España," or "Viva Cuba." Will Rodas protect the Chinamen?

SEEKERS FOR TREASURE.

Captain KIDD is not the only man who left a large treasure buried in the earth, or more probably in the imagination of fools. Havana is also a fine field for treasure-seekers. A Spaniard named SAINTE Y FERRO, has just spent several thousand dollars digging in the yard of the Santa Clara nunnery, where, according to an old family history, a large amount of treasure was buried by a very wealthy Mexican gentleman some time during the last century. Another version is that the sacred vessels and jewels, which were of immense value, and which have not been seen since, were buried by the lady abbess when the English took Havana in 1762, and used the convent as a hospital. The amount searched for is said to amount to millions; the amount found may be calculated at the market value of a cartload of earth. The excavations in the convent have been carried on at intervals since February last, and Mr. FERRO has expended nearly \$15,000. The work has been carefully watched by a couple of priests, who would have been entitled to one-sixth of the treasury, and by some Government officials, who would have claimed one-fourth. The nuns watched the affair with a great deal of interest, but the public was none the wiser, as only the above-mentioned persons, together with the workmen, were admitted into the same inclosure. The convent of Santa Clara is still sufficiently wealthy, notwithstanding the losses incurred by the hiding away of the jewels in 1762, as since that period enough has been gathered to replace the lost treasure. Another over-confident and hallucinating individual has been wandering about the valley of the Tumuri, near Matanzas, searching for treasure hidden by the buccaneers. May he enjoy it with good health when he finds it.

RODAS ECONOMIZING.

All Spanish employes and officials are not rogues by any means, and some of them are honesty itself, trying to do justice to all and at the same time save the national treasury. According to a statement published in yesterday's *Gaceta*, the economies introduced by suppressing superfluous or useless Government offices, have produced a saving of \$229,000 to the country over \$200,

000 were collected by the Custom House in October, although a larger amount of merchandise was received in October, in 1868, when the amount collected was far less. The Intendente is now visiting Matanzas to correct the abuses which were discovered in the Matanzas Custom House, and the commissions of merchants who act as supervisors are producing the best results, for the old adage holds good—it takes a thief to catch a thief; some of these merchants have been the biggest smugglers and defrauders of the revenue until now.

THE SAGUA REVOLT.

The long-threatened uprising of the Sagua jurisdiction, which was to have taken place on the 1st of December, was nipped in the bud by the authorities. Cuban emissaries had been busily at work among the slaves, inviting them to rebellion and bloodshed, and, if they had been successful, the entire jurisdiction of Sagua would to-day be a prey to the torch of the incendiary. For the present the danger has been allayed, and the most rigorous measures have been taken to maintain the district tranquil, and allow the planters to harvest their crops. Whether this plan can be carried out only the future will tell. The Governor of Sagua, on learning of the proposed uprising, marched with all available troops to the threatened plantations, arresting blacks and whites, forming an immediate court martial and executing four whites and seven blacks as ringleaders. A large number whose complicity was not so clearly proven, was sent to Havana. As there are a number of confiscated plantations in the jurisdiction, it is expected that the insurgents will make serious efforts to destroy them. The *Sagua Journal*, in its issue of the 25th, gives the following particulars regarding the conspiracy among the slaves and coolies in that jurisdiction:

"In this district was being prepared a sea of blood. The nativity, an epoch of glory and joy, was to have been converted this year into another St. Bartholemew. We gather the details from an undoubted source. It is no mystery that to-day general confidence is stronger than ever in the courage, acuteness and activity of our Lieutenant-Governor TRILLO. It is not strange, therefore, that all fix their attention upon him, listen to his counsels and follow his steps. At 4 o'clock of the morning of Wednesday, the 17th, Governor TRILLO was seen to emerge from his house with a small escort, directing his course westerly toward Quamedode Guines. Public curiosity naturally was excited to ascertain the cause of so early a morning ride. The reason soon became apparent upon learning of the failure of the terrible plan or conspiracy concocted among the slaves and Chinese of the several surrounding sugar estates, and the fact of some among the investigators being shot forthwith proved how just and quick punishment followed their treasonable acts and how difficult it is to shun the vigilance of the Castillon lion. The hands of more than eight estates had formed a plan to rise, and murder and rob all who might oppose them. The conspiracy, besides being vast, well combined, cruel and sanguinary, was complete in all its ramifications. Each negro was sworn, and as a distinctive badge wore a collar, called by them Santa Barbara.

The rallying cry was to have been given simultaneously at all the estates on the 24th of December next, or New Year's Eve. The first step was to have been, murder all the whites on the different places, and afterward join the insurgent hordes. It seems the leaders had devoted the necessary time to the maturing of all their plans, and were waiting with calmness the appointed day. Governor TRILLO's presence among them must have seemed like the sword of the destroying angel. There was no time for prevarications. The terror consequent upon complete surprise caused the truth to appear. Twelve of the ringleaders were shot in presence of the hands of the different estates, and several were arrested and now await the action of the tribunals.

WAR NEWS.

The planters in the vicinity of Remedios can only grind under the protection of large guards, composed of troops and volunteers. An insurgent chief writing to one of his friends says that in order to protect the cane it will be necessary to place a soldier behind each stalk. A correspondent writing from Puerto Principe says:

"We hardly see any insurgents, but we hear a great deal of them. The health of the city has changed for the better, and provisions are cheap in comparison to the prices obtained in July. Chickens can now be bought at from two to three dollars, eggs ten cents each, while plantations are only five cents for two, and sometimes they give three; but I fear that the lubricating medium is giving out fast, there being no chance to earn anything, as there is nothing to do, and many families are already suffering. The situation becomes daily more complicated, and no one knows how it will end. The formerly gay city enjoys what may be termed an unenviable peace, as it resembles that of the grave or that apparent silence before the final catastrophe which we expect in a house where some one is on the point of death. In vain will you seek for somebody to bid you good night at nine in the evening, unless it may be at some frequented street crossing."

The fact is, people in this section are thoroughly frightened and cowed, fearing their own shadow. They know not at what moment the city may be attacked from without and that it has not been destroyed from within by fire, is only due to the exertions made by the young men from Puerto Principe, who could not see their mothers and sisters exposed to be homeless, not even for the sake of military necessity, and they are right.

THE CINCO VILLAS

will shortly be the scene of bloody conflicts. The troops massing there, together with those expected from Spain in a few days, and perhaps reinforced by a few battalions of volunteers from Havana, will be sufficient to draw a regular cordon across the island. The insurgents will be compelled to move in an easterly direction and leave the country to their enemies, or else they will be compelled to fight. Should the latter be the case, the days of the insurrection in that part of the country will be numbered, as the insurgents do not possess the slightest chance against their well-armed and disciplined antagonists in a drawn battle. In the very centre of the Trinidad Valley, the insurgents burnt the cane of the Beker plantation; other incendiarisms are reported. The telegrams from General LESCA announce the killing and surrendering of a few insurgents, but no movements or encounters of consequence. Among other properties burnt were the Beker mansion, about a mile from Trinidad, the Quiros settlement, within two miles of town, and the cane on the Papayal, the Crecayban and Abajo plantations.

Colonel FORTUN had three skirmishes with the insurgent chiefs CONSUEGRA, LORDA and SALOMI HERNANDEZ; according to his story, thirteen insurgents killed and nineteen prisoners rescued; one Spanish soldier killed. Colonel HIDALGO had an engagement at Arroyo Blanco; his statement gives three rebel camps destroyed, six killed and two wounded; Spanish loss, three soldiers wounded.

Colonel HEREDIA announces an engagement with the rebels between Oro and Maira. He announces having killed the insurgent General JARIER PARAN and the insurgent Majors and Captains PADRO BARRERA, ANDRES BARRERA, CARLOS PARAN, GREGORIO RAMIREZ and CLEMENTE RAMIREZ. HEREDIA forgets to say whether he had anybody killed or wounded. More forgetfulness, of course. Major SANDORAL says that he has captured half a dozen Cubans.

A column commanded by Colonels REBULL and TORRERO left Santiago de Cuba and attacked the insurgents at Santa Barbara River; result, according to REBULL, five insurgents killed, unable to count the wounded, one officer and six soldiers wounded. A column from Camarones had an engagement with 250 insurgents at the Ramon, destroying their encampment; several killed and wounded. According to the latest telegrams received, FRANCISCO BARROS, compromised in the Sagua attempt, was tried by court martial and executed. JOSE PRADOS, a recruiting agent of the insurgents, was tried and convicted in Villa Clara, meeting the same fate.

The insurgents attacked the settlement of Canar, near Cienfuegos, defended by a few volunteers, who managed to inform the commander at Cienfuegos of their danger. The insurgents succeeded in burning one house, when they were driven off with a loss of three killed and two prisoners.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The directors of the Cardenas and Tucare Railroad have made the Government a present of the amounts due them for carrying troops and Government freight, and also offered to construct two barracks for troops at a cost of over \$25,000.

A deposit of counterfeit postage stamps has been discovered in Havana.

ESTEBAN PARODI and JOSE M. MORA, the two young Cubans on whose account the volunteers of Cardenas provoked the late riot, and who had been absolved by the Civil Courts, have been submitted to a court martial.