

Departure of General Lersundi and Admiral Chaon for Spain—Visit of the 'Ex-Captain General' to a United States Admiral—The Proclamation of General Dulce Anxiously Awaited—Speculations Regarding Its Effect Upon the Insurgents—Reported Battle, and Rebel Victory on the Salzo River—The Liberty of the Press to Be Enlarged—Miscellaneous News.

HAVANA, Jan. 5, 1892.

Ex-Captain General Lersundi and Admiral Chaon sailed to-day for Spain. The steamer on which they embarked was accompanied some distance outside the Morro by tugs and small boats containing the friends of the departing Captain General. His return to Spain is regretted by a large number of our citizens.

This morning General Lersundi, previous to his embarkation, paid a visit to Admiral Hoff on board his flagship, the Contocook. He was received with the usual ceremonies. This is the first instance known here of a Captain General going on board of a foreign man-of-war.

The inaugural proclamation of Captain General Dulce is awaited with much anxiety by Spaniards and Cubans, both parties being in the dark in regard to his future policy. The Cubans express the opinion that the revolutionists at Bayamo will refuse to listen to any propositions for a compromise, and the Spaniards are convinced that the troops now on the island, reinforced by those on the way hither from Spain, will speedily put an end to the revolution.

A report is in circulation that the revolutionary Generals Santisteban and Lopez had a battle on the 22d ult. with Colonel Lono on the Salzo river, and defeated him, capturing two flags and forty-two prisoners. The insurgents acknowledge a loss of sixteen killed and thirty-six wounded. This news comes solely from rebel sources, and is daily contradicted by the official despatches received by the government here.

General Dulce to-day gave orders that the most ample latitude be allowed by the government censorship for the publication and forwarding of telegraphic news. Other important concessions, enlarging the liberty of the press, are expected to follow.

It is reported that the liberal journal *El Pais*, which suspended a short time ago, will resume publication in a few days.

The United States steamer *Gettysburg* arrived here yesterday, and was ordered by Admiral Hoff to sail for Nuevitas to protect the interests of American residents.

The cable steamer *New England* arrived here yesterday. She has not yet succeeded in picking up the lost cable.

The sugar market is very quiet. No. 12 Dutch standard is quoted at 8½ reals per arroba.

Exchange on London, 11¼ a 18 per cent premium; on the United States, sixty days' sight, in gold, 6 a 7 per cent premium.