

Effect of Valmaseda's Appointment to Command the Eastern Department.

General Quesada's Address to the Spanish Soldiers.

The Power of the Press on the Fate of Cuba.

We have received by the steamship Eagle, Captain Green, which left Havana on the 25th ult., the latest mail advices from Cuba. The purser will receive our thanks for favors received.

Independent Cuba—The Robert E. Lee Project—The Spaniards Not to Be Haulished from the Island—Their Interests Identical with the Cubans—Only Certain Leaders to Be Haulished—Proposed Gradual Emancipation,

HAVANA, Sept. 25, 1893.

In a recent communication your correspondent spoke of a class of Cubans, not represented by Carlos Manuel Guespedes, though at the same time inimical to the Spanish government, whose desire and purpose it is to establish here an independent State, with General Robert E. Lee or some other prominent American at its head—something akin to absolute power—for the space of ten years. Since writing that further information, and on important points, of the ideas of this class—composing, as is claimed, the greater part of the wealth and intelligence of the island—has been furnished him.

With all their hatred of the Spanish domination the men have no desire to expel the Spaniards from the island. They have no revenge to seek, and imagine that with the departure of the Spaniards would go from Cuba by far the greater share of its commercial and industrial energy. Nor would it be

The planters would leave so many negroes and them that they would be in a great majority, and so another Hayti might be the result. The men have so shaped themselves here that has ceased to be a question between Spaniards and Cubans; it has become one of life and death, of preservation or destruction. Whatever the result of the strife in the field, the moral effect of the insurrection on the island in the relations of person, commerce and agriculture can never be put down. The government, though it scatters every armed insurgent, will not have conquered peace. The torch and dagger will take the place of the musket, and night forms a better cover for the bravo than trenches to the soldier. Say they:—"In this age, when government bases its power solely on force, reason leaves its subjects; when justice is perverted revenge supplants legal redress." Let reason resume its way among the residents of Cuba and it will be easy to reconcile insular and peninsular. Their interest is in common, and opposed to Spanish rule, whose course has ever been to send the venial and the vile here to rob all alike. Spain's steady march towards weakness and decay, her known incapacity for maintaining a government at home, are poor evidences of her capacity to rule a people for their interest 4,000 miles away.

With the achieving of independence there would not be more than 200 who would have to leave or run the risk of a worse punishment. These are the leaders of the volunteers—those men who really hold the power of the government in their hands, who prevent the legitimate representatives from shaping their course by the rule of right and justice, who are the responsible parties for all the outrages on person and property, for the midnight arrests of innocent persons, for the assassinations so alarmingly numerous all over the island, and in short for all that which now causes Christendom to stand agape in contemplating this civil strife. Certainly for the mere chance of preserving the interests of these few the great mass would not care to risk their all.

With the government once established it is calculated that immediate and unparalleled prosperity would result. With the certainty of a stable government as a base industry and enterprise would have a fair field for development; taxes, which have heretofore crushed the people, would be reduced more than one-half, the products would be increased, and robbery would be stopped, each citizen free and content and not in the leading strings of the present, commerce would flow in upon us, our would be filled with Northern visitors, feeling

valued, religion would exercise her legitimate functions and Cuba become great and happy. Such are the anticipations indulged in by this class of Cubans over their project of placing General Lee at the head of affairs here.

As to the question of emancipation, an elaborate plan has been prepared for its gradual accomplishment in such a manner that the labor system shall be thrown into confusion, no loss accrue to the white, while at the same time the interest and benefit of the negroes will be looked after. The plan may be sketched as follows:—The emancipation is set down for ten years. It is proposed that the present owners be recompensed for the value of their slaves by the government as follows:—Assuming each negro to be worth \$300, the government shall issue its bonds for that amount, bearing interest at eight per cent and payable by tenths, commencing after the third year, so that the bonds shall be cancelled at the end of the thirteenth year. The owner shall pay to the government one dollar a month for his slave during the first year, two dollars for the second, three dollars for the third, and so on—increasing one dollar each year—so that in the last year ten dollars per month would be paid. The owner shall in like manner pay to the negro half a dollar a month for the first year, one dollar for the second, and so on, increasing his pay half a dollar a month each year; so during the tenth year he would receive sixty dollars.

At the end of four years the government would have received \$120 per negro, and would then have to pay sixty-four dollars, which is one-tenth of the principal and six years' interest on that one-tenth. The payments during the years can be seen by a glance at the following table:—

Year.	Paid to Government.	Paid to Slave.	Paid by Government.
1870.....	\$12	\$6	—
1871.....	24	12	—
1872.....	36	18	—
1873.....	48	24	\$08
1874.....	60	30	65
1875.....	72	36	65
1876.....	84	42	66
1877.....	96	48	66
1878.....	108	54	66
1879.....	120	60	66
1880.....	—	—	66
1881.....	—	—	66
1882.....	—	—	66
Totals.....	\$600	\$330	\$600

—so that the amount paid to the government by the owner during the first ten years would be the same amount paid the owner at the end of the thirteenth year. Placing the slaves at 600,000, the government will receive by the end of the fourth year \$72,000,000, and be required to pay the sum of \$39,600,000—leaving a balance of \$32,400,000 in hand, the interest of which could be expended for cost of management.

All children born after a specified time to be free, it being the duty of the owner of the mother to provide for its wants until the end of ten years.

Quesada's Address to Spanish Soldiers.

SPANISH SOLDIERS—For the second time I address you. The liberating army, crowned with glory throughout the island, the resources we are constantly receiving from ultramar, the multitude of men who hasten to take up arms, the soldiers of the Spanish ranks who seek the clemency of the government of the republic, all will prove to you that the triumph of the holy cause of liberty is a consummated fact, and that Spain will have to withdraw her forces from a land which for so many centuries she has oppressed. Tyranny has found its grave in the island of Cuba with the fall of the Bourbons.

Slavery, the shame and disgrace of every civilized country, has disappeared forever, and the republic, with its glorious liberty, appears to regenerate the people and to relieve it of the heavy chains of despotism.

The Spanish government, convinced of its impotence, with a civil war which devours it, with its exhausted treasury, unpopular among all the nations of the globe, now feeds its fury on the sons of heroic Cuba and assassinate without pity prisoners of war. Horror and shame! The descendants of Cid, the champion, and of Pelayo have degenerated greatly and forgot in their fury the rules of warfare adopted in all civilized countries.

I, who love my country, but who detest spilling the blood of the conquered and who have placed in my ranks hundreds of Spaniards, I write you to hasten to unite yourselves to the army of the free. The Cuban people do not hate the races; but alone desires to be independent and it shall be; desires to be free and no human power shall prevent it.

Your chiefs make you believe that in our ranks we assassinate prisoners; they describe us in the darkest colors; they cause you to believe that we hate every one who is Spanish. These falsehoods are the works of the bad cause they defend; the work of the droid our brave soldiers inspire in them; the result of the unpopularity in which they find themselves. But three days ago volunteers presented themselves to me. The same now hold honorable positions among our ranks, and I could mention many instances of the kind to you. I know well you are victims of a brutal government; I know you love the republican form, but you are afraid of

your oppressors. Fly from those vile ranks, sullied by crime and injustice, and come where we shall receive you as brothers—here, where we breathe the pure air of liberty; here, where all men are equal and do not bend the forehead before the presence of a king or a sullied queen. If I write you in this manner it is because I consider myself strong; because I have under command a numerous army of brave men, and because the liberty of Cuba enjoys the sympathy of all civilized countries.

Present yourselves to our pickets; they have orders to receive you and to take you to headquarters. If you would be free and live with honor; come to our ranks; it is not yet too late.

The General-in-Chief of the liberating army of Cuba,
MANUEL QUESADA.

The Nomination of Valmaseda to the Command of the Eastern Department—Attempted Suicide of a Prisoner—The Cholera—The Press on Annexation—Whereabouts of Insurgents—The Sugar Crop.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Sept. 18, 1893.

The nomination of General Valmaseda as commander-in-chief of the Eastern Department, in the face of the recent massacre of prisoners near Jiguaní, for which he is admittedly responsible, has caused much excitement and dissatisfaction here among all, save the bigoted Spaniards, and is regarded as convincing proof of the little weight which Spanish authorities give to public opinion. There are several prisoners now in jail here, and among them Don Pedro Salcedo, who incurred the odium of the Spanish element by a series of brilliant articles in the *Diario*, liberal in their tendencies. The *Bandera Española* being unable to refute them, raised a cry against Salcedo as an insurgent; and the result is his arrest and imminent danger to his life. Another Cuban prisoner named Beltrán, hearing that he was to be sent to Valmaseda at Bayamo, in a fit of desperation endeavored to commit suicide with the handle of a broken spoon. He is now lying dangerously ill in the hospital.

General Latorre, on surrendering his command to his successor, publishes a long manifesto in the newspaper, recounting his good deeds and better intentions, the losses inflicted upon the insurgents by the forces under his command, and the executions which have taken place. He places the insurgent losses at upwards of 800, and the executions, in due form of law, at forty-two. He makes no mention of persons shot without trial and without law.

The cholera seems to have established itself here. The average number of deaths is about eleven daily. During last month it was nine. This gives a death rate of ten per cent per annum of the population. In the Military Hospital there are upwards of 500 sick and wounded, mostly the former. This is about one-sixth of the forces whose headquarters are established here.

Like its Havana colleagues, the Spanish organ here has published a long leading article on annexation, which it declares inadmissible and ruinous, and says:—"The only salvation for the country is to remaining under the glorious flag of noble and generous Spain."

Nothing is known of the insurgents or their whereabouts, but it is presumed they will turn up when least expected. Our latest news from Manzanillo reports everything quiet there, though arrests of peaceable citizens, without charges, continued. Indeed, the proclamation of De Rodas, forbidding such arrests, seems to have given a new impetus thereto.

The sugar crop is finished and will show a deficit for this port of about 2,700 hogsheds against last year, or about 1,600 tons. The prospects for next crop are very dubious and will depend altogether on the turn of political events.

The Cuban Question.

[Translated from the *Voz de Cuba* of Havana of September 25.]

Not only do the newspapers of the United States advise Spain to cede to that republic one of her most cherished provinces, neither are the London *Times*, *La France* and *La Patrie* of Paris the only papers which advise the same course; and finally not only do the republican papers of Madrid, accustomed to renounce everything which opposes the realization of their exaggerated ideas, that our country should have the boldness to perform itself, the amputation of one of its most important and essential limbs, but newspapers of a very Spanish character and at the same time very conservative ones, publications which have attained a high position and which exercise a great influence on the public opinion; organs of parties, and we may almost state of whole provinces possessing immense interests in the island of Cuba, also advise Spain to sell or make over this province.

Of all these papers the one which has attracted our attention and surprised us, and whose attitude causes us a painful surprise, is the *Diario*, of Barcelona, which on account of its old standing, influence, moderation and good practical common sense, is read with interest throughout all the Catalan provinces and in many other parts of Spain, besides abroad, where we are satisfied it is highly appreciated.

That paper, against which surely imputations of venality cannot be cast, which here are so lavishly distributed by the representatives of a certain school, publishes, in one of its last numbers, an article signed by its editor—Don José Mañé y Flaquer, entitled "The Cuban Question," and in which, after examining and repelling different solutions to the problem which is being solved at this date, writes the following words, which we republish with sincere regret:—"In our opinion the only alternative left is to cede the province to the United States in order to grant over to them our Antilles."

We have neither time nor sufficient coolness to contradict, as it deserves, such an absurd affirmation, but we would consider ourselves wanting in our duty, as Spanish journalists, should we delay one moment in expressing the considerations which that observation suggests to us, and to which we have resorted at the commencement of these lines.

We have already expressed it. Susceptible in questions of honor to the point that honorable men should be, we shall never incur in the faults of other writers that of accusing as acting under the impulses of miserable influences or of basely intentions all those who think differently from us, and we shall not attribute the opinions of *El Diario* neither to any hope of compensation nor to leagues, intrigues and machinations by our mortal adversaries.

We are besides acquainted, since a long period back, with Mr. José Mañé y Flaquer and cannot suppose he would abandon his well-tried independence, and we cannot believe that the most popular newspaper in Catalonia, the ancient and well established *Brusi*, will lend himself to serve as an instrument to the enemies which Spain has on the New Continent. Considering this, how are we to explain the new attitude of this *Diario*, and what is more serious still, the transcendental change which a part of the public opinion, both in Spain, as also in other European States, has suffered or is suffering?

The explanation is not difficult, in our opinion at least.

It happened thus when the insurrection broke out at Yara. Neither the knowledge of the causes which had permitted it to present itself, or the discovery of the conspiracy which, almost in the face of every one, was being diffused in Cuba, or the works of the laborers at Washington and New York first, in the South American republics afterwards, and later in England, France and finally in the very Spain itself, were sufficient to awake us from our lethargy and cause us to overcome the apathy and the skepticism which controlled us.

We repeated, 'tis true, to the aggression, with the energy proverbial to our race; we repelled force with force, and to the simple threat of some hundred traitors the whole island answered, rising in arms, and Spain sent disciplined soldiers and numerous battalions to aid them. Thanks to our efforts, not one single moment did our enemy have the advantage, notwithstanding his condition in circumstances, climate and season. Our very neglect, the convulsions of Spain—all seemed to favor him considerably, and he is to-day so exhausted for want of forces and resources that at the simple announcement that a new campaign is to be commenced there is no one who doubts of his total extermination.

Unfortunately the same has not happened in the exterior, and the traitors who see here before our volunteers and soldiers lose more ground every day. The moment can now be fixed when they shall disappear from this province. They are, however, showing a bold face in foreign countries, and never falter a moment in their intrigues; and what is still worse, they incline the public opinion both in Europe and in America, in favor of a solution which would be the ruin, the loss of prestige and the eternal dishonor of Spain.

To those who, like us, know the great weight public opinion bears to-day in the destinies of all countries, we state nothing, while we show them the danger. To those who obstinately persist in closing their eyes, and do not understand, or rather do not wish to understand its legitimate influence, we beg them most sincerely to open them, and to consider that it does not suffice to make sacrifices without number, and to combat, as good and loyal men on the field of battle; but that it is also necessary to struggle in the arena of ideas, and to conquer in the same our common adversaries.

The danger of Cuba is not in it to-day, but outside of it. It is not to be found in its fields, but at the courts of Europe, at public meetings, at congresses, at diplomatic cabinets, in the editions of newspapers who daily distribute millions of their numbers full of ideas which are contrary to us, of affirmations which are false, of solutions which are prejudicial to us.

There the field of combat has passed, and there we are to pass also, if we do not desire the victory we are sure to obtain here, to prove fruitless. The means are not difficult, and to-morrow we shall endeavor to demonstrate them.