

Insignificance of Spanish Operations—Official Report of the Passage from Bayamo to Las Tunas—The Proposed Evacuation of Puerto Padre Reconsidered—News from Puerto Principe—Description of Spanish Soldiers—The Bishop of Havana Ordered to Leave—Various Items.

HAVANA, Oct. 14, 1869.

One of the best evidences that the Spaniards are doing little or nothing in the field toward the suppression of the insurrection may be found in the extraordinary exhilaration manifested over small successes. The recent passage of a convoy from Bayamo to Las Tunas is an example of this. Valmaseda, with 600 well disciplined troops and 200 volunteers, magnificently armed, and two pieces of artillery, succeeded in escorting 200 laden mules through the country, a distance of eighty-one miles, and immediately we heard loud shouts of triumph reverberating from one end of the island to the other. The following official report of the redoubtable Count will show the importance of the affair. It is under date the 2d instant:—

Notwithstanding the difficulties that presented themselves to supplying Las Tunas with provisions and ammunition, it was decided to do so, as the garrison was much in need of them and confidence could be placed in the courage of the troops. With this end in view the affair was begun with 400 men of the regiment de "Espana," 200 of the battalion of "Cazadores de San Quintin," 200 volunteers and two pieces of artillery, under the command of Colonel Don Jose Maria Velasco, and, although the enemy harassed the convoy, which consisted of 200 mules, they did not succeed in capturing anything, but were always repulsed and dispersed with great loss, so that the whole convoy arrived at its destination safely. Observing the result of this enterprise, it was resolved to complete the supplies and a second convoy was ordered. The enemy, no doubt, taught by the severe lessons given him during the passage of the first, did not fire a shot, and the place is now supplied for two months.

Information is also given by Valmaseda that the different columns which operate in that department have had various skirmishes in Fotuto, Yagua, Buena Vista, Cabezadas, Bueycito, Hatillo and Bijara, causing thirty-three deaths and the capture of thirteen prisoners. Among the bodies on the field were those of the Chiefs Tamayo, Mainer and Varga.

A correspondent of the *Diario de la Marina*, writing from Gibara on the 7th, says that on the 1st the steamer Pelayo arrived there, bringing a communication to the commandant from the superior authority, announcing that the said steamer would proceed to Puerto Padre and bring away the families, fruits and supplies from that place, preparatory to abandoning it. On the 5th the steamer returned, bringing the families, but not the fruits and supplies, as these were upon the estate San Manuel, the roads to which were in a very bad condition, on account of the rains. News of the abandonment of this place, which had been held at so great a sacrifice, caused the greatest sorrow and depression, which was relieved by the arrival of the Barcelona on the 6th, bringing news that the order had been countermanded and that the place would continue to be garrisoned by the "Guia de Madrid," whereupon great rejoicings took place. On the 3d inst. the regiment mentioned went to Tarey, where it had a skirmish with the insurgents, killing two and capturing a quantity of small arms.

From Puerto Principe, through Spanish sources, we learn that a force of 100 men, under the command of Eduardo Lazaro, were recently despatched to the "Ceiba" estate to take prisoner D. Javier Varona. They found him, part of his family and D. Juan Guzman. The two men were arrested and the ladies "invited" to accompany them to Puerto Principe. On the morning following their arrival the troops began their return march, but were so hotly pressed by the insurgents, who came from all directions to cut off the retreat, that they were compelled to place the ladies in the house of San José del Tinima and continue the march without them. The male prisoners were brought in safety to the city. Says the account:—"Many of the enemy were killed, but of the Spaniards but one was killed and nine wounded."

Three young men had returned to Principe from the insurgents and applied for pardon. They were received with many expressions of joy and favor by the authorities. The *Kunal* of that city says:—"It is reported that the sergeant and four soldiers who deserted the Spanish colors were shot by the insurgents." Why, is not stated; but it is worthy of remark that the balance of desertions is largely on the Spanish side, very many of the troops and volunteers in the field having gone over to the insurgents.

In Sancti Spiritus Captain José Pacheco, with thirty-five men, had an encounter with forty rebels, killing three, including their captain, Cadalso. Other skirmishes, in the same district, are reported, but they are of no interest. The Spanish papers say that twelve persons in Iguara, six in Gibara and two in Bando have applied for pardons.

During the two or three months of the fall the eastern part of the island is subject to constant and very heavy rains, which render all military operations impossible. All accounts state that these rains are falling now and the country is flooded.

An antagonism of a serious character has sprung up between the Bishop of Havana and the first authority of the island, which is about to result in the once again expulsion of the former from Cuba. There have been various versions of the affair afloat. It was said that his reverence proposed to attend the Ecumenical Council, but had been stopped, first, because he had failed to account for certain moneys belonging to the six heirs of a wealthy lady who died here some time since, amounting, in the aggregate, to \$132,000, and which had been entrusted to him; second, because he had been implicated in some insurrection, probably Carlist. It seems now, however, that he is to be banished, and it is alleged against him that, declining to obey the civil authorities, he refuses to make certain reports touching the parishes required of him by law. On being informed that he must leave he refused to go, when the political Governor told him if he did not he would be sent away by force. It is reported that he has threatened to excommunicate the Captain General—an operation which the sturdy son of Rodas would probably survive.

It is reported to-day that Señor Castañon, editor of *La Voz de Cuba*, has been ordered to leave the island, owing to a severe article which appeared in the issue of that paper of the 11th, strongly reflecting on the government and volunteers, because the latter have not accompanied the reinforcements arriving here to the field.

It is known here that Valmaseda has arrived at Manzanillo, en route for Santiago de Cuba.

On the 12th sailed the steamer Triunfo for Nuevitas and Gibara with 300 troops.

An American engineer, writing from Cardenas, states that he is refused a passport to go to the United States unless he gives a bond in the sum of \$5,000 to do nothing against the national integrity of Spain. The matter has been communicated to the Captain General, who states that the authorities in that place are laboring under a misapprehension, and promises to rectify it.

The volunteers of Trinidad have asked to go to the field.

The official *Gazette* announces that in consequence of the insurrection and its interference with the work the time for the laying of the cable between the Antilles, Mexico, Panama and coast of South America has been extended for one year by the Regent.

The papers say little of the republican movement in Spain, but that little is strongly condemnatory.

His Excellency the Captain General has been indisposed for a few days past, and fears were entertained that he had the fever. They were, however, without foundation, and he has recovered.

The property of the following persons residing in the jurisdiction of Holguin has been confiscated:—José Rafael Perez, Jose Riveron Proenza, Diego de Feria, Elias Leite Vidal.

The following disposition has been made of political prisoners:—To be tried by council of war, D. Justo Gonzalez, Ascencio Gonzalez and Moreno Matias Macias; to be sent to Isle of Pines, Moreno Ramon Gonzalez.

Recently a young Cuban, walking near the baths in Calle San Lazaro, was accosted by a volunteer, who approached and remarked to him as follows:—"Mambasi, give me a light." The "mambasi" being an opprobrious name applied to the insurgents, the other responded, "You dirty Spaniard, save your money and buy matches;" whereupon the volunteer drew his pistol and shot him dead. Colonel Calderon y Kersel, a colonel of one of the regiments here, happened to pass along at the moment and arrested the murderer, who is now imprisoned.