

The Havana Press on the Volunteers—Insinuations of Cowardice—The Expeditions from the Coast of Florida—The Lillian Sighted off the Island—News from the Insurrection—Burning of Banao—Death of Angel Castillo.

HAVANA, Oct. 13, 1892.

The fact of the supineness of that large body of armed Spaniards in this city known as "the volunteers," while their brothers are fighting under great disadvantages to preserve the national integrity, is beginning to attract attention, even among those most bigoted Peninsulars who can see nothing wrong in what is Spanish. This feeling, strange to say, has found vent in the columns of the *Voz de Cuba*, whose editor, himself a volunteer, has always been an ardent supporter and defender of that organization. An editorial on this subject, which appeared in a recent issue, gave rise to the statement that the editor, Señor Castanon, had been ordered from the island, and the statement is still persisted in, though he did not sail by the Spanish mailsteamer which left last evening, as anticipated. As this editorial is significant as confirming the idea that the Spanish residents of this island, with all their patriotism, do not care to go to the field, and as showing some little want of confidence in the early suppression of the insurrection, I translate the more interesting portions of it:—

Within a few days we shall have seen arrive fresh reinforcements at the ports of this island. Not long afterwards others will follow them in succession, and thus they will continue to come, without interruption, until we say to them from here that we need no more. Yes; soon, very soon, shall we feel the immense satisfaction consequent on their being among us, and, when we go out to meet them with rejoicings and receive them with friendship to our open arms, we shall hear from their lips that they have only left their native land in order to come to our assistance. But what shall we, who are resting so quietly in Havana, say to them if by chance they should ask us why it is that we are so quiet while our brothers and theirs are fighting in the field? What account shall we give them of the 20,000 and more men who within a few months landed at the same wharf—of the brave Catalans, the Vascongados and Mallorquinos whom they saw leave the wharves of Spain with envy? Are we not afraid that they will desire to know how many volunteers of Havana are with them; how many battalions, or, at least, how many companies were there which accompanied them, serving as guides and demonstrating that valor and decision is not lost in this land, no matter how long a stay we make in it? Shall we answer them that none have gone, and that even now none intend to go with them? Shall we excuse ourselves by stating that we have armed six or eight battalions, to which we have given the name of "The Mobilized," and which, by dint of subscriptions, we manage to pay, and that we cannot now get a sufficient number to form two more companies to bear the names of Valmaseda and Rodas? Finally shall we say to them that at Guamero, four days' journey from Havana, two of which are by land, there has ostentatiously, with hardihood and defiance, for the past eight months, waved the flag of the traitors, who hold their sessions, issue their decrees, print their papers and exercise all the acts of petty sovereignty, when two or three battalions would suffice to drive them out by kicks of the foot? Representatives and Ministers, break up their press, cast to the wind their papers, and drag their flag through the mud.

\* \* \* The Spanish soldiers—who also are volunteers, for they come here by their own will solely—if perchance they should land on a day of full parade, and could admire the instruction, martial air and discipline which with pride we observe, even in the last of the battalions and companies of volunteers, would they not think within themselves and say, What are these 10,000 men doing here, so well armed, so active, so well drilled in the management of the gun, so obedient to the voice of command from their officers, so exact and precise in their movements, and who so much resemble brave veterans? Would they not attribute their absence from the field to timidity, and would they not believe that the sun of the tropics had frozen instead of heating their blood?

Let us avoid at all hazards that such a disgraceful suspicion of the Havana volunteers should enter their minds. The moment is about to arrive when we can show to the whole world that the citizen forces of the capital of Cuba, besides constituting an element of order, are a powerful element of combat, which knows how to preserve order in the streets and whip the enemy in the field; that the quiet victory, if thus it may be called, which they have obtained, imposing fear upon traitors, is not sufficient, and that they know how to obtain one more brilliant in battle, and, as they are admirably united among themselves, they will be so with those the Peninsular provinces send them; and finally, if they did call these latter to their aid, it was not through fear, but only in order to finish the sooner.

Strong, stinging words these, and written by one who is himself a volunteer; yet the organization will probably continue to guard Havana and let the Peninsulars do the fighting. Of the expeditions reported sailed from the coasts of Florida and other points in the United States we hear nothing, good evidence that thus far they have escaped the vigilance of the cruisers. The British brig *Amelia*, Captain Goco, which arrived here on the 12th from Cardiff, reports that when about 120 miles east of Matanzas she met the *Lillian* steaming eastward at a tremendous rate. The *Amelia* passed in close proximity to her, and her men and guns could be plainly seen. Probably she will lay in wait for the Spanish *Correo*, which sailed from this port last evening.

News from the seat of insurrection continues meagre. The papers have published extended accounts of and comments on the burning of the village of Banao, in the jurisdiction of Puerto Principe, by the insurgents. The facts, as given by the *Voz de Comercio* of Sancti Espiritu, in its issue of the 9th, are as follows:—On the 5th inst. the insurgents burned the villa of Canao. In the midst of the tumult which excited them they entered the house of Don Florencio Maria, a petty magistrate, who was absent in Las Tunas. Not finding him, they seized upon his weeping wife, who had her two children, of ten and twelve years, encircled in her arms. She resisted a separation from them with most agonizing screams, and the "Mambises," unable to tear them from her, killed them with machetes, cutting one of them in twain. The official account states that the place was burned by 800 insurgents, who were repulsed from a fortified house by ninety men. After burning the town they left it and were followed by the troops, who killed several of them and captured some arms and horses. Several small encounters are reported in Sancti Espiritu. Twelve persons had presented themselves for pardon.

The *Trinidad Imparcial* of the 10th states that the death of the insurgent chief Don Angel Castillo is officially reported. It took place in an encounter between the insurgents and troops, time and place not given. It states that after the trenches occupied by the Cubans were abandoned eighteen dead were found in them.

Lesca had arrived at Trinidad, almost incognito, had remained one night and then hurried away to Cienfuegos.

There had died most unexpectedly at Trinidad his Excellency Don Felix Izagay Borrell, Gentleman of the Grand Cross of Isabel the Catholic, of the Bedchamber of her Majesty and Colonel of Cavalry. If I mistake not he was the father of the Regent Serrano's wife.

In Santa Clara has been executed the insurgent chief Mendoza, condemned by a council of war. Some insurgents have presented themselves to the authorities in that city.

A great inundation recently took place in Sagua la Grande, caused by the heavy rains. The cornfields and many houses in the country were destroyed.

The sale of the household furniture, carriages, &c., of Señor Alzama, set down for the 15th, has been indefinitely postponed.

The pro, erries of the following persons, resident in Santa Clara, have been embargoed:—D. Jose Rojas,

Enrique Machado Camoa, Eduardo Machado Ramon  
and the mulatto Diaz Sanchez.

---

## Rumors of the Landing of an Expedition at Mariel.

HAVANA, Oct. 10, 1892.

As I close my despatches I learn there is a report in general circulation that an expedition has landed at Mariel; but it is not probable that point would be selected for disembarkation. The wires are said to be cut from that place, and there has unquestionably been some disturbance there which has given rise to the report.