

CUBA'S TRIBULATIONS.

The Golconda-Cristo Expedition.

Further Interesting Particulars—Correspondence and General Orders.

How Affairs are Mismanaged—Golconda's Broken Promises.

Were the secret histories of the various attempts to fit out expeditions in the United States for the relief of the heroic bands of liberty-loving Cubans written by an unbiased pen doubtless some startling narratives of intrigues, jealousies and criminal sacrifice of the cause of Cuban independence to personal advancement and enrichment would be laid bare. With the exception of that fitted out by General Jordan and his associates all were characterized by gross mismanagement on the part of more or less of the officers having the work in charge.

The particulars of the attempt made by Ryan and others, under the direction of gentlemen who are styled the Junta Cubana, to reinforce the patriots in the Antilles are still fresh in the public mind, and it does not require a very keen perception to discover that all the vicissitudes to which that command were subjected, and which resulted in complete disaster, were owing to jealousies existing among the leaders, a lack of concert of action and very serious mismanagement. After the last *fiasco* at Gardiner's Island the friends of Cuba began to despair of success in getting another expedition to sea.

But after the admirable manner in which Louis E. del Cristo, on the 25th ultimo, eluded the vigilance of the federal authorities and put over 400 men at sea hope revived and the Cubans again put forth renewed efforts for strengthening the hands of their brethren in arms. In the *HERALD* lengthy details of this last expedition have been given exclusively, but there yet remains more to be given, which is derived from our correspondent in the expedition.

As has already been stated in previous accounts General Domingo de Golconda, shortly after the failure of the Catharine Whiting attempt, was empowered by the Junta to fit out another expedition, and \$150,000 was placed at his disposal. His desire was first to centre about him all the Cubans in the city willing to leave and participate in the fray. They were subsequently called together in a building at the corner of Twelfth street and Third avenue, where his views and intentions were fully explained. The encouragement met with by him led to an order for the recruiting of a force which was subsequently known as the "Battalion de Cazadores de Hainey," under the command of Colonel L. E. del Cristo. The name of the gentleman who had served with distinction in Mexico, and also as the leader in the popular rising against Spanish tyranny in 1862 in the Vuelta Abajo district, was familiar to all Cubans, and they were inspired with a true military spirit. The recruiting became quite brisk, and as the steamers weekly conveyed from Cuba numerous refugees the battalion was rapidly filled up. Notwithstanding the instructions given by General Golconda to enlist none but Cubans and a small detachment of artillery he accepted all men fit for service, irrespective of nationality. Early in September he had the finest organization ever enlisted in this city for foreign service, among whom were several prominent South Americans who had before met the treacherous Spaniard.

During the progress of enlistment General Golconda left for the South and established his headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., with the object of enlisting a regiment of veterans from the Confederate armies, which was considered necessary to oppose the forces of the enemy that might be encountered at the point of his embarkation and during his march to the interior. If an idea can be formed from the letters of the Commander-in-Chief, he was sanguine of his ability to succeed in his cherished scheme. Having given the details of the cruise of the steamer, it may be of interest to enter more fully into the details and reproduce the general orders issued during it.

Immediately before his departure for the South to recruit the veteran regiment General Golconda addressed the following letter to *Cristo*:

EXPEDITIONARY DIVISION, REPUBLIC OF CUBA,
GENERAL-IN-CHIEF.

The exigencies of the service compel me to leave this city, and wishing that the service should not suffer any detriment whatever, I order you as the highest in rank to assume command of all the forces garrisoned in the vicinity of this city, and that they receive orders to embark immediately. You will be very careful that this shall take place according to the verbal orders I have given you, and letters of instructions enclosed in this communication. I expect that you will perform this commission with the same uprightness as you have executed other difficult commissions. Be watchful that your subordinates fulfil strictly the orders that may be communicated to them, impressing upon them the importance of the movement they are about to make, and upon which in a great part depends the success of the enterprise we have in view. Secrecy, discretion and punctuality are expected from you, and your part from your subordinates. According to General Orders No. 1, that I enclose you in this, you shall be the senior in rank, and, assuming this position, you only will be held responsible for what may occur. *Fuero y Lateral.*

DOMINGO DE GOLCONDA, Commander-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, August 10, 1893.

To Citizen Colonel LUIS EDUARDO DEL CRISTO, Chief of the forces garrisoned in New York and its vicinity.

The following is General Order No. 1, instructing Colonel Cristo to assume command:

GENERAL ORDER NO. 1.
LIBERAL ARMY OF CUBA,
EXPEDITIONARY DIVISION,
GENERAL-IN-CHIEF.

Absenting myself from this city, Citizen Colonel Luis Eduardo del Cristo is in charge, to command in chief all the forces collected in this city and its vicinity. All officers and men will render obedience to him either on land or aboard of the vessel in which they may and themselves. They will respect and obey him in all he ordains or commands. They will be of the best service of the country.

DOMINGO DE GOLCONDA, Commander-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS, New York, August 10, 1893.

On receiving this order Colonel Cristo assumed command and at once entered upon the delicate duties of preparing the expedition for sea. When about 600 men had been enlisted it was known that the steamer *Lillian* was prepared to take her departure from New Orleans for Cedar Key, and immediately he gave orders to the command to be prepared for embarkation early in September; but the great storm on the coast of Louisiana occurred soon after and she was so disabled that she had to return to that city for repairs. The command were again ordered to be garrisoned, although the morale of the men suffered somewhat from the disappointment. The influence of Cristo upon the men soon re-established confidence, and on the 23d September Cristo received a verbal order from parties in this city to take final departure, which was promptly complied with. On the arrival of the expedition at Cedar Key, and the appearance there also of Golconda, the following order was issued:

GENERAL ORDER—NO. 1.
HEADQUARTERS, CEDAR KEY, Oct. 2, 1893.

Having approached this camp I assume chief command of the expeditionary corps, to which command I have been appointed by the Citizen President of the republic. I herewith appoint Citizen Colonel Luis Eduardo del Cristo second in command of the expedition. I also appoint as General Adjutant of the division Brigadier General Samuel G. Williams; I also appoint Chief of Staff Colonel Wright Schumberg, Citizen Juan Clemente Zenea will be recognized as Private Secretary, and also secretary of the campaign, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; as First Adjutant and interim, Louis Parry; as Second Adjutant and interim, Louis Radice; as Third Adjutant and interim, Jose Lamar; as Fourth Adjutant and interim, Antonio Aguerre, and as Fifth Adjutant and interim, Ignacio Ariza.

DOMINGO DE GOLCONDA, Commander-in-Chief.

Official—JUAN CLEMENTE ZENA, Secretary.

On the same day the following order divesting Colonel Cristo of his command was promulgated:

GENERAL ORDER, NO. 2.
LIBERAL ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA,
CEDAR KEY, Oct. 2, 1893.

The following order will be observed for the organization of the expeditionary division that departs from Cedar Key to-morrow:

First—The expeditionary body shall be composed of one division from the battalion of infantry under the command of Colonel Luis E. del Cristo; one company of artillery under the command of Robert Dobins; another company of artillery under the command of Captain Mercer; having this force under the immediate command of General Samuel G. Williams.

Second—The exploring company under the command of Captain H. C. Puryear; the body of engineer officers under the orders of Colonel J. H. Keane, and the body composed of individuals that are not attached to any organized corps of the division will go under the command of Colonel Melvor, who will immediately report to the general commanding the department.

Third—Lieutenant Alberto Golconda, of the Engineer Corps, is relieved from the same with the knowledge of the Commander-in-Chief, to operate hereafter as Assistant General Inspector.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

DOMINGO DE GOLCONDA, Colonel and Chief of Staff.

Official—To Colonel L. E. CRISTO.

Colonel Cristo, seeing that the Commander-in-Chief had broken faith with him, at once issued the following general order to his command, taking his farewell with the intention of returning home:

GENERAL ORDER NO. 3.
THE LIBERATING ARMY OF CUBA,
AUXILIARY BRIGADE, COLONEL-IN-CHIEF.

Major General Domingo de Golconda, Commander-in-Chief of the expedition, having arrived he herewith assumes the command. The Battalion Cazadores de Hainey will remain until further orders from the Commander-in-Chief, under command of its present commander, Colonel Carlos Mayer, as per my general order No. 2, given at headquarters in New York.

VOLUNTEERS—Before leaving you let me tender my sincere thanks for the abnegation and constancy with which you have supported the work that has fallen to your share during the days of misfortune. The chiefs who will lead you to Cuba have been elected by your General-in-Chief, and are worthy to guide you. I charge you to observe the same discipline and, if possible, the same affection towards them that you have shown towards me. *Adios, volunteers!* may God guide you and lead you on to victory now that I can no more realize the aspiration of my whole existence. *Adios, my L.*

who have been your chief and will always remain your friend.

HEADQUARTERS IN CEDAR KEY, Oct. 2, 1893.

The promulgation of this order at once demoralized the command, and as they had not yet embarked a mutiny was at once apparent. General Cristo was at once restored to his command, and confidence restored. The expedition sailed, as already recorded, and encountered no enemy.

General order No. 3, issued on board the *Lillian* at sea October 6, 1893, relates to the discipline on board, and cautions the command as to its action in the event of being attacked by a Spanish cruiser.

General Order No. 4 appoints Captain James Ogilvie as chief of ordnance, and Lieutenant William S. Dyer adjutant of ordnance, who will report to Captain Ogilvie.

On the 7th the council of war in which the views of Cristo were approved by the officers, and, with the exception of fourteen, was held, and it was decided to change the destination of the vessel. Immediately after another order was promulgated, again placing General Williams over Cristo. The order reads:

GENERAL ORDER NO. 5.
EXPEDITIONARY DIVISION, REPUBLIC OF CUBA,
ON BOARD *LILLIAN*, Oct. 7, 1893.

Having resolved to change the place to which the expedition was bound, the Commander-in-Chief of the Expeditionary Division orders the organization formed under the following basis:—General Samuel G. Williams will assume the command of the companies of artillery that are now under the command of Captain Dobins and Captain Mercer, as also of the battalion of "Cazadores de Hainey," leaving this latter under the immediate order of the citizen Colonel Luis E. del Cristo, the corps of engineers under the command of Colonel Keane, the exploring company under the command of Captain Puryear, and the body of officers without commission under Colonel Melvor. This order will be immediately communicated to the headquarters of the said department.

The chief of staff of Colonel Cristo was formed under the idea of establishing a brigade under his command. The change that has taken place compels the appointments of the officers to be cancelled. They will be transferred to the command of Colonel Melvor's corps of officers not commissioned.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

WRIGHT SCHUMBERG, Colonel and Chief of Staff.

Official—LOUIS MOSEFOW, Captain and Adjutant.

Subsequently another general order was issued detailing the order of embarkation. It provides that the exploring corps, under Captain Puryear, shall take the advance, followed by a company of artillery, and last, the infantry, to cover the landing of the munitions of war. The point of contemplated landing was named in this order; but as there is no certainty that the embarkation has been effected it is injudicious to mention it here.

In this connection it is proper to state that the correspondence purporting to come from Nassau under date of the 16th, published in a morning two cent paper, is entirely unreliable. The writer, under date of the 16th, states that the vessel after her release landed her forces near Puerto de Carlas. This is simply absurd in view of the fact that the *Lillian* was not released until that day. The graphic account of the cruise of the steamer *Feazer* is also the imagery of a fertile brain, as she did not participate in the expedition, and is likely still lying at her dock in New Orleans. The statement that the *Lillian* was chased by the United States steamer *Lone Star* and the Spanish man-of-war *Churrucho* is equally false, as not a vessel of any kind was sighted during the entire cruise with the exception of the British brig *Amelia*.

It is believed that the *Lillian* by this time has succeeded in her glorious mission. After her release the only difficulty to be encountered was a lack of fuel, but it was the intention of the general to proceed to some of the Keys, after taking the men from Rag Key, and cut a sufficiency of wood to enable her to proceed, should the Nassau authorities refuse to coal her.

It is known that Colonel Cristo is somewhere in the city; but, having become heartily disgusted, he has not conferred with the Junta, and as evidently retired to his privacy to await the proper time to redress his grievances. His farewell to his command, however, shows that he does not despair of final victory over the Spaniard, and that his heart is in the right place.