

THE CUBANS AWAKE AGAIN.

The Last of the Goicouria Expedition--The
Conduct of the War--Reorganization of the
Junta--New Men and a New Policy--
United States Ships Taking Army
Supplies on Board--Getting
Ready for Sea.

It would seem that the eyes of the Cuban leaders, both at the seat of war and here, have at last been opened to the fact that to break the power of the Spanish and to win their independence they must inaugurate a more vigorous policy. The bushwhacking manner of fighting which has characterized the operations on the island since the outbreak at Yara is no longer suited to the exigencies of the situation, and the mobilization of the insurgent troops into brigades and divisions, under capable commanders, is rightly considered indispensable to success. The patriots are no longer inexperienced. The severe work of the last year has fitted the loose bands which contended against the Spanish regulars and volunteers for more vigorous efforts. The want of experienced American officers to command the insurgents and give better direction to the aims of the patriotic government is acknowledged to be one of the principal causes of the feebleness displayed so far in the prosecution of the war. The bungling inefficiency of those who have hitherto acted for the youthful republic in this country checked instead of advanced the cause. Expeditions that would have greatly aided the patriots in the field were fitted out at much expense, only to be stopped at their departure or captured before reaching their destination, merely through mismanagement and that bane of all revolutionists, the anxiety of incapable persons to obtain prominent command and consequent distinction.

The Cubans are now aroused to these facts, and already has the work of reorganization commenced. The ablest and best of the leaders are actively engaged in clearing away the wrecks of their former hopes and preparing for more active, more sensible and determined efforts to furnish material aid to the army in the field. The Fabian policy will not be observed for the future in the conduct of the war on the island; but vigorous and determined assaults will be made upon the Spanish positions. Colonel Cristo, who, if left alone, would have made the last (Lillian) expedition a success, has returned to this city, defeated but not discouraged. He will soon be heard from again in the cause of Cuba. The men of his expedition were released by the British authorities in Nassau on the 19th of last month, and have since been cared for. Colonel Cristo gives some information concerning the capture of the Lillian and the collapse of the expedition, which has not yet been published. The steamer was released from custody on the 18th ult., and Captain Harris—who is now here on waiting orders—received orders to leave within ten hours, but was refused the necessary coal. Under these circumstances he was compelled to use a part of the cabin as fuel and left within the prescribed time. When his fuel was nearly exhausted he met two schooners, sent with coal to the Lillian, and had succeeded in transferring from the hold of one of them to his bunkers about twenty tons of anthracite, when the English gunboat Lapwing appeared and immediately opened fire with round shot on the defenceless Lillian. None of the shot—about twenty in all—took effect, but the work of transferring the coal had to be abandoned. Captain Harris had therefore no other course left than to put into Nassau, which he did, and had the mortification to witness the seizure of his vessel. The officers and crew were sent ashore, and then the thrifty Britishers pillaged and ransacked the ship from stem to stern. Presents for President Cespedes, worth \$500 in gold, and all the baggage of Colonel Cristo, valued at \$400, and that of the other officers was stolen. The thieves were masters of the situation. Previous to the arrival of the Lillian at Nassau the first time the 350 men who formed the expeditionary force were landed at Criedero Key, and thither the Lapwing went and captured them while they were on board schooners sent to their aid. The schooners, with their living freight, were towed into Nassau. After some delay in the harbor the men were landed and discharged. They are now at several points on this coast and well cared for by the Junta. Colonel Cristo left Nassau on the 18th ult. for New York, it being evident that the expedition had failed. Whatever blame attaches to other parties concerned for the Lillian fiasco nothing can be said against Cristo. Until that unlucky and presumptuous patriot Goicouria interfered with him he managed the expedition with admirable tact and ability. The Lillian is still in the harbor of Nassau under embargo by the British.

Rumors were rife at this city last night of fresh expeditions and more enlistments of men, but they are without any foundation. There is nothing of the kind going on just now. Should any such movement take place the readers of the *HERALD* will be the first to be informed of it. These sensation rumors arose, in all probability, in consequence of the change in the personnel of the Cuban Junta and the arrival of a number of prominent patriot officers. The most important event which has occurred in some time is the reorganization of the Junta, which took place on Sunday last. In order to concentrate the efforts of all the Cuban residents here, and to prevent blundering in the management of their affairs in the future, the following named gentlemen have been appointed to direct the energies of the friends of the infant republic in the United States.

President of the Junta—Miguel Aldama.
Vice President—Hilario Cienfuegos.
Treasurer—Carlos del Castillo.
Comptroller—Francisco Fessen.
Ways and Means (Chairman)—T. M. Mora.
Supplies and Commissariat (Chairman)—M. Marquez.

Secretary—T. M. Mertrea.

This strong Cabinet is assisted by such prominent Cuban citizens as J. Gonzales, A. Arango, J. Armas, T. C. Zenea, T. Vallente, J. Rysamonte, R. Queruda and others. M. Bassora remains in his old position, and Señor Alfaro goes on an important mission. This settlement does not interfere with the official representation of the republican government in this country, no change being contemplated in that respect, at least for the present. The new Treasurer of the Junta was formerly director of the Havana Savings Bank. His palace was seized by the Spanish, and he himself was sent a prisoner to Fernando Po, from which he escaped with many others. He is said to be very wealthy. The president was a wealthy planter, and still retains a goodly supply of gold. The comptroller was also a wealthy banker in Havana. The other members of the Junta are men of wealth and ability. The Cubans in this city are much pleased with the change and look forward to brilliant results. There can be no doubt that a determined effort to place the entire Cuban forces on a par with their antagonists in the matter of arms and equipments will soon be made under the direction of the Junta. In fact, it is now evident that the Cuban question is approaching a solution, whether favorable to the patriots or Spanish remains to be seen; but the indications are that something more than moral pressure will be brought to bear upon the Dons to compel them to leave the "Ever Faithful Isle" in a hurry.

The last batch of five gunboats built at Mystic arrived at Delamater's yard, foot of West Thirteenth street, yesterday. They will, with the entire fleet, be ready for sea within three weeks at the furthest. Those from Mystic have not yet received their machinery, masts and propellers. The Navy Department has them under surveillance and is keeping a close watch. That the chances of their ever leaving our harbor on their murderous errand are extremely slim may be seen in the haste with which several vessels of the United States navy are being made ready for sea. The *Milantonomoh*, at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, is now ready, her officers having joined her. She will sail in a few days for Cuban waters. The *Swatara*, at Brooklyn, and two other vessels are commissioned and are taking stores on board as rapidly as possible. The *Tallapoosa* arrived at this port on Monday evening, and, anchoring alongside the *Albany*, which has been lying for some time in the stream, at once began to take in stores. It is very significant that these stores are not for the navy, but are army supplies. The *Albany* was under orders to sail for Cuba last night. It is whispered in naval circles that the administration intends to send a land force to Cuba, and certainly these movements point that way. One thing is evident, and that is that some decided action has been determined on by President Grant, and that the country will soon be electrified by a declaration of Cabinet policy in accordance with the wishes of the people.

Baron Maurice de Munagetta, ex-Captain on the staff of General Jordan, who was taken by the Spaniards in the late engagement, but released through the interference of the Austrian Minister at Madrid, arrived yesterday in the *De Soto* from Havana. The late commander of the Cuba, Captain Higgins, arrived from Washington last night and is stopping at the Pierrepont House, Brooklyn.