

## CUBA.

The steamship *De Soto*, which left Havana on the 4th inst., arrived at this port yesterday with mail advices up to date of sailing. Purser McManus will accept our thanks for favors received.

**The Release of the Hornet's Crew Regarded as a Violation of Treaty Stipulation—War Vessels in the Port of Havana—Arrival of the Powhatan—Reported Landing of the Lillian Expedition—Disposition of Political Prisoners.**

HAVANA, Nov. 3, 1897.

News of the release of the *Hornet's* crew reached us yesterday and has caused much dissatisfaction, as it was hoped they would be declared pirates and treated as such. The *Diario de la Marina* quoted article fourteen of the treaty of October 27, 1763, between his Catholic Majesty and the United States of America—referring to the arming of vessels in the territory of the one for war against the other—placing the more important parts in very large letters and seems to think the stipulation violated. As anxious as the Washington administration has shown itself to serve the Spaniards it may be doubted if anything short of hanging all the Cubans in the United States and sending down an expedition here to accomplish the work they seem unequal to will satisfy them.

There is at present quite a formidable array of Spanish war vessels in the harbor here, quite enough, it is thought, to prevent any impertinent interference on the part of Uncle Sam in the little game of slaughter now going on in the Ever Faithful Isle. On the evening of the first arrived here from the Canaries the frigate *Almanza*, forty eight guns, and 200 sailors in addition to her regular crew. Besides her there are here the iron-clad *Victoria*, the frigates *Gerona* and *Lealtad*, first class vessels, and several smaller ones.

The flagship of the North Atlantic squadron, the *Powhatan*, Rear Admiral Poor, arrived here on Sunday last. On the following day the Admiral, in company with his Excellency Edward Lee Plumb, Consul General of the United States, paid a visit of ceremony to General De Rodas, which visit was returned on the following day by the General of Engineers, D. Rafael Clavijo y Pio, accompanied by the Chief of Staff, in the name of the Captain General.

As an evidence of the improved condition of affairs here in a business point of view, brought about by the conviction that the insurrection is near its termination, I refer to the comparative quotations of the stock of various monetary and public institutions of the city and island. The Spanish Bank, which until until recently and for a long time stood at 4 per cent premium, is now at 17; Banco Industrial, lately at 25 discount, now at 15½; Bank Commerce, late 80 discount, now 54; Júcaro and Cardenas Railroad, late 30 discount, now 8. Money on first class paper is now loaned by the Spanish Bank at six per cent.

A considerable number of planters who had intended to commence grinding before the condition of the cane would fairly warrant it, with a view of making all possible before the expected crash came, have given over the idea and will commence at the usual time.

From the *Cinco Villas* we learn that a train of cars has been burned by the insurgents, between Cienfuegos and Santa Clara. That portion of the battalion called "*Guías de Varadero*," raised here and intended for service under the immediate command of the count of that name, has been recently hurried off to Villa Clara, as has also a detachment of Guardia Civil, in as large numbers as could be spared. It is surmised that the expedition from the *Lillian* landed before the vessel proceeded to Nassau, and that it has appeared in the vicinity referred to.

By telegram received here the 31st General Leaca states that a number of unimportant encounters have taken place within his command, between the troops and patriots.

Señor Chacon, chief of the forces, stationed between Puerto Padre and Maniabon, recently attempted to pass between the two points, accompanied only by his orderly. He was shot in the head and neck by insurgents and instantly killed. The orderly was wounded, but made his escape. The following appears in the *Oficial Gaceta*:—

It appearing from papers in the cause against Don Augustin Quintero and family, accused of a crime, that the Captain of Police, of San Jose de las Lajas, Don Rafael Roa, did not proceed with impartiality in the progress of the case, and it being proved that he has endeavored to injure said family; and, moreover, it appearing that there are other grave charges against him, the Captain General has ordered that he be dismissed the service, and he will be liable for all other legal consequences.

This is significant to the extent that it shows that the charges of *malfechanza* will no longer screen sub-officials in perpetrating outrages on innocent people.

The following have been tried and found guilty for disloyalty by council of war during the past month and sentenced to imprisonment as mentioned:—

Pedro Ulet Delgado, six years in this city; Julian Jose Acosta Delgado, four years; Augustin Morrell and Nicolas Garduza, two and one years respectively, in Matanzas; Manuel Lopez Sierra, Joz. Lorenzo Castañeda, six and seven years, Havana; Negro Cayetano, Negro Eduardo Merlo, Julian Vezdivo, Nieve and Caudoso, ten, two, four, six and two years, respectively, in this city, and Alonzo de Cepeda, two years, in Puerto Principe.

Commander Coxon, of her Majesty's gunboat *Phaeton*, died here last evening of yellow fever. The vessel had been for some time at Port Royal, where her officers and crew had suffered much from the disease.