

CUBA.

The steamship City of Mexico arrived at this port yesterday from Havana. She brings the latest mail advices detailing the progress of the revolution.

Excitement Over the Political Situation in Spain—The Resignation of Serrano—Prim Dictator—Talk of Independence—The Expedition Against the Cienega de Zapata—Its Failure Predicted—Movements of the Captain General—The Insurrection—Municipal Elections—Rumored Action of the British Government Concerning Cuban Vessels.

HAVANA, Nov. 9, 1869.

There is much excitement here concerning the political situation in Spain. Though the usual care is taken to keep matters secret, it is understood that a telegram was received here on Sunday evening announcing that Serrano had left the regency and Prim been made dictator. Only the *Voz de Cuba* of the papers here makes any mention of the news. In its issue of the 6th it says:—"Among the rumors circulated since yesterday to which we cannot give credence is one that the Regent of the kingdom has renounced his elevated charge. This adds to the general anxiety, and the attention of the public is for the moment distracted from the affairs of the island and fixed on the Peninsula." Following this, *La Voz* strongly deprecates the mystery thrown around the political situation, and insists that in times like these publicity is much less deleterious than silence. Following upon this are other rumors concerning the establishment of a republic in Spain, the antagonisms of the officials in the island here growing out of the convulsions at home, the probable attempts of the Spanish element here to get up an independent government, all tending to throw the public mind into a state of chaos and create the greatest anxiety and alarm. The telegram referred to purports to come from Señor Don Manuel Calvo, a long time resident of this island, where he acquired a large fortune. He has been for many months in Spain, and seems to have devoted most of his attention to affairs here. At a meeting of the Casino Español (Spanish Club) held last evening, the many services of this individual were under consideration and much praise and obligation were awarded him. He was spoken of as one who had made a large fortune in the island "by favor of Providence," which would seem to indicate that the Great Ruler looks favorably upon the slave trade, a thing not generally believed. By the way, it is more than intimated that the proceedings among the patriotic sons of Spain who comprise this club are not all of the rose-water order, that many of the members despair of seeing good emerge from the existing convulsions in Spain and are in favor of striking out for themselves, while others regard such sentiments as treasonable to the last degree, and in response cry out *Insurrectos!* which is not complimentary to a son of the Cid.

Touching the insurrection *La Prensa* is not sanguine of the success of the expedition against the Cienega de Zapata mentioned in my last. In its issue of the 6th, it says:—

Considering the month of the year in which we are and the character of the Cienega, we believe that the first exploration will demonstrate the necessity of confining operations to watching the roads out of it and the better policy of leaving to February or March and to chiefs and troops more fitted for it the entrance into this swamp. It adds, we consider it right to make these remarks, for in case of failure we know what interpretation the Laportantes will put upon it.

La Prensa is entirely sensible in these remarks, and they are significant moreover as among the first, if not the only attempt that has been made by the press here, to criticise military operations. Though the Cienega de Zapata proper is the low marshy section comprising the western end of the jurisdiction of Cienfuegos, yet this name is given to a large extent of country extending to the north and western coasts of the island. While for miles the only means of passage is by laying boards from bog to bog, taking them up and replacing them as the condition of the ground requires, there are within its boundaries lofty mountains in which are found extensive caves, having various outlets miles apart, extensive valleys and deep ravines within which are hidden recesses penetrable only to the natives. Here, too, may be found open spaces of large extent where the soil is most fertile, where vegetables are grown with little or no labor and the fruits of the tropics grow spontaneously and in never ceasing profusion. Small stock was formerly to be found in great quantities, but this has been considerably decreased by the insurgent bands during the past twelve months. Of cattle, however, there is the greatest plenty, too much, with the natural increase, ever to be exhausted. It will be seen, therefore, at a glance how hopeless is the task at any season of the year or with any class of troops to root out the insurgents from this locality. It may, perhaps, be safely stated that a band of 600 men could for years even defy all the power of Spain, though they might be rendered useless for good in securing the independence of the island.

Dates from Cienfuegos announce the arrival and enthusiastic reception of the Captain General, with his staff. He had visited Santa Clara and returned again. It is stated here that he has relieved several officers in the Cinco Villas for incompetency or want of energy.

The steamer Nuevo Almendares arrived yesterday morning from Sagua and Caibarien. General de Rodas was expected in the former place and great preparations were in progress for his reception. On the Friday previous a column, composed of volunteers and the Guardia Civil, went out in search of cattle for consumption. About a league from the city they encountered a large party of insurgents, headed by Miguel Ramon. A fight followed which resulted in the death of six volunteers. The insurgents suffered considerable loss and were compelled to abandon their encampment. In Trinidad have been broken up the four encampments known as Las Lomas de Siplabo; 150 horses were captured and a large quantity of provisions, the insurgents and the number of families which had collected there being entirely dispersed.

There is a report in circulation that in the Cinco Villas a considerable number of Spanish troops have deserted to the insurgents, one statement placing it at 400 and another much higher.

The municipal elections took place here on Sunday. The following, constituting the ticket nominated by the City Governor, were elected, there being no opposition:—Excelencia Señor Conde de Cañongo, Señores Dons Mamerto Pulido, José Olano, Antonio Alvarez y Galan, Joaquin Demestre, Ignacio Maria Zangroniz, Nicolas Troncoso, Manuel Martinez Rico, Jose Maria Avendaño, Emilio Montella, Augustin Saavedra, Vincente Hernandez, Juan Conil, Juan A. Colome, Ignacio Sandoval, Francisco F. Ibañez, Señor Conde de Lagunillas, Señores Dons Julian Alvarez, Pedro Montalvo, Nicolás Martinez Valdivieso, Francesco Calderon y Kessel, Segundo Rigal, Jose Sarra, José Baro, Gabriel de Amenabar, Bonifacio B. Jimenez, Juan Francisco Tabernilla, Señor Marqués de Almendares, Señores Dons Domingo Bañudo, Ramon Diaz, Joaquin Guayabens and Dionisio Ochoa.

These are elected by the 300 voters of Havana, and of the thirty-two the Captain General, under the law, selects any sixteen to comprise the Ayuntamiento for the ensuing year.

The following named prisoners were recently brought into Sagua:—Don Miguel Padron, Don Miguel Labrada, Don Pedro Ulet y Delgado, Don Andres Moreira, Don Estéban Moreira, Don Policiano Moreira, Don Cornelio Ulet, Don Sebastian Diaz, Don Tomás Menendez and ten Asiatics.

It is said that official information has been received here that the British government has given directions that all vessels flying the Cuban flag shall be permitted to enter any ports of its colonies and remain twenty-four hours without being molested.

The mail steamer Puerto Rico arrived on Sunday evening the 7th, with Colonel D. Miguel Moreno, commandante, twenty officers and 550 troops of the battalion of marine infantry. They disembarked on Monday morning and were received by the Seventh volunteers, with the usual honors.