

# CUBA.

## Continuation of Spanish Cruelties.

### ARBITRARY ACTS OF THE VOLUNTEERS.

#### The Burning of Plantations Continued.

The steamship Morro Castle, Captain Adams, from Havana, the 15th, via Nassau, arrived at this port yesterday. She brings latest mail news of the progress of the revolution. The purser will receive our acknowledgments for favors received.

#### Effect of the Letter from the Jiguaní Prisoners Published in the Herald—Fearful Ravages of Epidemics—Report of Operations Under Valmaseda—Shooting of Jordan's Chief-of-Staff and Quartermaster—Spanish Humanity—Cholera in the City.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Nov. 5, 1893.

The publication in the HERALD of the 18th ult. of the letter written by the unfortunate prisoners who were massacred at Jiguaní, before their removal from the prison here, and in which they implored help from the consuls, has caused some little sensation among those who taste such forbidden fruit as the foreign papers. The voice of the dead men, which the Spanish authorities tried so hard to stifle, still finding utterance, though far from the scene of crime, cheers the depressed Cubans and may be of service in checking the atrocities of the Spaniards, though this latter is exceedingly problematical, as they have long been beyond any sense of shame, and cherish a supreme contempt for public opinion at home and abroad. For some time past Valmaseda's columns have been hard at work, and the only tangible result, as known here, has been the daily arrival of sick and wounded, principally the former, as the cholera, smallpox and vomito, aided by dysentery and low fever, are making fearful havoc in the Spanish ranks. Indeed, sickness has almost entirely cleared out the troops from Aserradero. Three days ago thirty-three were brought in by a schooner, three bodies having been thrown overboard on the passage.

To-day the official paper publishes a report of operations, claiming the complete defeat and dispersion of the enemy and the clearing up of the country beyond Palo Picado and Juan Faron, causing a loss to the insurgents of 120 killed, among whom are Brigadier Tamayo, Captain Gouchet and two Americans named Harry Cleiver (in another despatch Henry Chase), and William Crosland, respectively chief-of-staff and quartermaster general to Jordan. These two were captured alive, but very much worn out with hunger and fatigue, and, in fact, in such a deplorable condition that their humane captors, with true Spanish generosity, fed them for a couple of days to put a little life into them and then knocked it out again, by the usual four shots in the back.

Among the dead in the engagement on the estate Filipinas, near Guanatanamo, mentioned in my last, was the Spanish chief Pancho Perez, cousin to Miguel Perez, who commands a horde of very irregular cavalry, which has done very good service to the government in the Guanatanamo district. It is reported that Colonel Hidalgo, in command of one of the columns, captured two Yankees recently and shot them, but I have been unable to learn their names.

General Valmaseda is very confident as to the results of his operations and believes that he has got the insurgents pretty well surrounded. It remains, however, to be seen whether they will not fight better than heretofore, as indeed I believe they are doing, in which case their numerical superiority may enable them to keep the Spaniards in check. General Valmaseda is eagerly looked for and reports of his landing are circulated at times, but from purely insurgent sources and with the idea of creating a diversion in their favor.

The Spaniards say that in the various engagements which have taken place the insurgents mutilate the Spanish dead which fall into their hands.

On Sunday last a young man named Arthur Castamajon was found on the estate "Esperanza," near Guanatanamo, and on his person letters of marque and various documents and despatches from Cespedes. He was taken into Guanatanamo, tried on Monday night and shot Tuesday morning.

Emigration is completely stopped by the exaction of the \$5,000 bond not to do anything against the national integrity; and even unfortunate women and children, whose husbands or parents are abroad, are not permitted to join them, such is the Spanish dread and dislike of anybody being able to tell the truth about what is happening here.

The public health continues bad, though there has been a change in the weather and north winds have set in. Deaths from cholera continue from twelve to seventeen daily. The last month's average was about ten per diem. Smallpox and yellow fever are also making great ravages.

#### General de Rodas at Trinidad—Pardon of Thirty-seven Criminals—The Municipal Election—Burning of the Estate Sabanilla—The Cholera Decreasing.

TRINIDAD, Nov. 10, 1893.

Last evening at half-past five o'clock arrived here the steamer Cienfuegos from the city of that name, having on board his Excellency the Captain General, accompanied by General Lesca, commanding the forces operating in the Cinco Villas, his chief of staff, the Governor of the diocese, so called, and a number of other officials and distinguished persons. He was received with the usual demonstrations and with much enthusiasm by the Spanish population. To-day he has visited all of the public institutions and other places of interest. At the public prison he celebrated his visit by pardoning thirty-seven of the inmates, whose names had been submitted to him as most fitting subjects for executive clemency. This morning the Governor of the diocese of Havana, who is chaplain of the company of guards accompanying General de Rodas, celebrated high mass in the principal church of the city. It is understood that the Captain General will not go further east as he is expected to be in Havana on Saturday, the 13th.

So little interest was felt in the municipal election of this city, which took place on Sunday last, that a sufficient number of those entitled to the elective franchise to constitute an election did not vote. This is owing to the fact that here, as elsewhere, the candidates are selected by the authorities, and when once elected are entirely controlled by them, rendering the whole thing a farce.

Information reached here yesterday that the estate Sabanilla and a cattle farm in the vicinity have been burned by the insurgents. No operations of importance have occurred here of late. The insurgents are as numerous as ever in the jurisdiction and likely to continue so, as they go on the principle of "live to fight another day." The *Imparcial* of this morning states that in a fight in Cienfuegos recently the chief Leon was killed.

We have had northerly winds of late, which have had a most beneficial effect on the health of the city, and the number of deaths from the cholera and fevers has sensibly diminished.

#### Reported Government Success in the Eastern Department—Letter of Marque from Cespedes—Details from the Insurrection—Opposition of Volunteers to the Authorities—Assassination of Innocent People—Cuban Reports—Number of Insurgents—Quesada's Army.

HAVANA, Nov. 13, 1893.

Government successes, regarded as important, are reported through Spanish sources. An official account of operations in the jurisdiction of Santiago de Cuba and vicinity appears in the *Bandera Española* of the 6th. It states that despatches have arrived from Casanova under an escort of thirty cavalry, announcing that the several columns, proceeding from that jurisdiction and from Bayamo, to whom was entrusted the hunting over of that section lying between the Contramaestre and the Canto, had accomplished their mission with the most happy results, beating and dispersing the enemy and killing more than 120, among whom were the Brigadier Tamayo, Captain Gouchet, Harry Cleiver and William Crosland, the last two Americans and on the staff of Jordan. The troops were very active, being kept in constant motion in order to prevent the return of the insurgents to those places from whence they had been driven out. They were separated into small detachments in order to operate more effectively against the parties into which the insurgents had subdivided themselves. It was proposed to compel the families which had taken refuge in the Sierra to come to town and place themselves under the vigilance of the authorities. Says the report:—"In Las Yaguas and Filipinas have hid themselves the small number of insurgents which remained after the brilliant fights on the road to Vinculo and on the coffee estate Sidonia, in which they suffered the greatest loss." As usual the Spanish papers, even in the face of official reports, greatly exaggerate the successes. The *Havaneses*

Report of the 4th places the insurgent loss at 300, and the Havana press assumes that number to be correct. That journal adds that in Ramon was found a hospital, with sick, doctors, druggists and nurses. Two hundred families had presented themselves to the authorities, and the road from Bayamo to Santiago de Cuba is now opened. There was much enthusiasm among the volunteers, and after a successful fight the members of two different battalions rushed into each others arms with manifestations of the most frantic delight.

Among the insurgents captured in the jurisdiction of Santiago de Cuba is a young man named Arthur M. Castamajon. He was found upon the "Esperanza" estate, near Guanatanamo, and upon his person a letter of marque and other papers from Cespedes. He was, of course, shot. This document was forwarded to the Captain General, and has been published in certain of the Spanish papers. It is as follows:—

CARLOS M. DE CESPEDES, President of the Republic of Cuba.

In use of the facilities in me vated by the authority of the revolution I give this letter of marque in favor of Arthur M. Castamajon, who by these presents is authorized to arm one or more ships, and to capture those of the enemy on the sea, and when in possession of one or more of these ships the citizen Arthur M. Castamajon will proceed to put a crew in them and arm them for war under his command, the forces and crew of which shall be composed of at least one-third part Cubans and two-thirds foreigners.

One ship being armed and manned, the citizen Arthur M. Castamajon will proceed in the character of a privateer, under the banner of Cuba, against all ships that fly the Spanish flag, being strictly subject to international law as established and recognized by civilized nations.

Given under my hand and seal on the 8th day of July, 1893.

The President, CARLOS M. DE CESPEDES.

Secretary of War, F. T. AQUILERA.

This patent is personal, and not transferable. The citizen Arthur M. Castamajon will communicate his operations to this government by every opportunity which presents itself.

Señor Castamajon, herein mentioned, was a young man about twenty-five years of age, and though a native of this island had passed by far the greater portion of his life in the United States. He was essentially an American in all his habits and characteristics. He was a civil engineer by profession, having been educated in Philadelphia, where many of his friends reside. He served during the war in the Engineer and Quartermaster's Departments, mostly in the Western Army, and after the war was employed by General Ingalls when that distinguished officer was stationed in New York. He was a young man of much intelligence, speaking several languages with great fluency, but was much too careless of habit, frank and open for a conspirator. His untimely end will be deeply regretted by a large circle of friends and acquaintances in the States.

Dates from Mansanillo state that the expedition from that city up the Cauto river had arrived at the landing of that name, whence the officer in command makes his report. He had left 15,000 rations at Guanaco for use of troops there. The channel of the river had been examined with great care for the distance of twenty-five leagues, and the trenches and other works on the banks which had been erected to impede Spanish vessels occupied by the troops. No fighting had taken place, as the insurgents ran away from his column.

The *Voz del Comercio* of Santi Espirito of the 2d says that between the 12th and 31st of October 119 of the commands of Cabada, Diego, Dorado and Gomez had presented themselves. The same paper announces that with the arrival of the Batallones de Fizarro, Hernan Cortes and Cazadores de Valmaseda, a new distribution of troops is to be made in order for the more effective prosecution of the war in that jurisdiction.

The *Rebelion Nacional* of Cienfuegos, in its issue of the 10th, announces the burning of the following estates by the insurgents:—La Gloria of D. José Ignacio Hernandez, La Soledad of D. Antonio M. Cabrera, both in the district of Carthagena. More than the usual number of encounters are reported, from various localities, evincing much activity on the part of the operating forces.

The mutiny of the Guas de Valmaseda near Cienfuegos recently turns out to be of more importance than was at first supposed. It is now stated that the authorities found it necessary to shoot some seventeen of them before discipline was restored.

We have another example of the disobedience of the volunteers to the constituted authorities. In the city of Cardenas, eleven months since, Estaban Farold and a Señor Mora were imprisoned, charged with treason. They were tried by the court there and sentenced to a term of imprisonment. The matter came before the superior tribunal here, by whom their release was ordered. Upon the arrival of the order the volunteers opposed its execution and imprisoned the Mayor, who was endeavoring to remonstrate with them for opposing the orders of the legitimate authorities and all the members of the court, whose duty it was to carry out the behests of the superior tribunal. A deputation of the volunteers arrived here on Tuesday last to represent the matter to the Captain General. He was telegraphed to in his absence and directed that the matter be held in abeyance until his return. It is understood the volunteers charge the court in Havana with having yielded to undue influences. The Governor of Matanzas, within whose command the city of Cardenas is, recently visited that place, accompanied by a number of officials and a squadron of the first battalion of volunteers of the former place. He was received with brilliant demonstrations and made a patriotic address. The occasion of the visit is not mentioned, but it doubtless had some reference to the troubles there.

In a recent despatch I mentioned the shooting of a number of innocent persons in Colon by the members of an organization called the "Chapegorria." The details have since been furnished me. These people resided between Bemba and Colon, and were cited to appear at Roque. Arrived there they were placed in the stocks and kept for some time. Afterwards a detachment of the "Chapegorria," under an officer named Echegarria, who was the administrator of an estate near there, took them to a point between Bemba and Quintana, on the railroad switch of the estate "Fermila," and, without any form of trial, shot them down. Their names are as follows:—Jose Diaz Arguileles, Jacinto Olivera, Leoncio Gonzalez and two sons, Cleto Daniel, the two brothers Farnos and Ignacio Camejo. This occurred on the 20th of October.

Accounts through Cuban sources state that there are 15,000 insurgents in the Cinco Villas, in addition to about 3,000 under Rufio, the Pole, in the Cienaga de Zapata; that many of these are well armed, and that they are fully capable of making a successful resistance to all the troops there or likely to be sent; that much depression is felt on account of the failure of expeditions from the United States, as more arms are greatly needed. It is further stated that Quesada has 8,000 well armed and thoroughly organized men; that they have never met the enemy, as for months they have been going through the severest drill; that the campaign on their part will soon open, and with the greatest confidence of beating back the forces of Valmaseda, great numbers of whom are dying off with cholera and other diseases.

The following political prisoners have been ordered set at liberty:—Don Jose Rodriguez Valdes, Don Juan Salvador Sarmiento, Don Cipriano Rivero, Don Fructuoso Napoles, Don Gayino del Pozo, Don Clemente Medina, Dona Maria de los Dolores Flores, Don Jose de Armas; Asiaticos, Federico y Anselmo; negro Juan Cubano; Dona Nicolasa Almansa, Dona Isabel Acosta, Don Rafael Tendero, Don Jose Hernandez y Cordoba, Don Jose Hernandez y Alenah, Don Tomas Inza Uchoa, Don Federico Onas, Don Margarito Fernandez, Don Francisco Rodriguez, Don Luis Onas, Don Manuel Alvarez Fernandez, Don Cristobal Fernandez, Don Leandro Lina, Don Jose Zamora, Don Ramon Ortiz, Don Pio Fernandez, Don Francisco Garcia Alvarez, Don Jose Lugo, Don Pedro Nolasco.