

CUBA.

Fears of a Negro Rising in the Island.

DREADFUL CRUELITIES PRACTISED.

The Garrison of Mogate Still Held by the Insurgents.

The steamship Morro Castle, Captain Adams, from Havana the 4th inst., arrived at this port yesterday. She brings the latest mail advices. The purser will receive thanks for favors received.

The Negro Element in Cuba—Fears of a Rising—The Cruelties Practised by Both Sides—Sufferings of Insurgents—General Lesca Relieved—Operations in the Field—Burning of Estates—Arrival of Troops—New Issue by the Spanish Bank—Disposition of Political Prisoners—Sequestrations.

HAVANA, Dec. 4, 1899.

There is a growing feeling among those whose duty or interest it is to watch the progress of events in this island that the negro element, in one form or another, will, and at no distant date, enter into them more prominently and directly than has been dreamed of. Without, as a mass, possessing the intelligence of the slaves in the Southern States, owing to their different mode of treatment, they begin to realize their thralldom, and not only this, but their power. Those who have studied slavery in the United States know with what subtlety and quickness ideas spread among its victims of the African race. The same thing is observant here, and from the many free negroes of the island, and still more from their brethren in arms under the banners of the insurgents, has come to them a knowledge which may cause an outbreak soon which shall appal the world. Should this take place it will probably be primarily in favor of the insurrection, which, in so far as its power lies, has struck off their chains; but let it be shown that the insurgents have no immediate prospect of success and they may await the action of the Spanish government when once its authority is restored. Should such action be quick and determinate, well; otherwise, they will rise as one man, and every white person will become objects of their rage. Let it be understood that this is the expression of a feeling beginning to be entertained. It is, thought, moreover, that they are guided by an intelligence of a high order, but under the profoundest secrecy. A color of truth is given to these ideas by the recently discovered conspiracy among the negroes near Sagua, the main incidents of which are familiar to the readers of the HERALD. The Spaniards naturally enough endeavor to create the impression that it had nothing to do with the insurrection, and that the purpose of the negroes was to rise, kill every white man and declare themselves free. It is far more probable, however, that they were acting under insurrectionary influence and in keeping with the claim of the Cubans that the laborers all through the island are disaffected towards the Spaniards and ready and prepared to assist in the destruction of property which has been inaugurated. The worse than savage cruelty with which these conspirators were treated, which cruelties were purposely exercised in presence of large numbers of slaves, will have an effect very different from that intended, as it will only exasperate them the more, and at any moment we may learn of hundreds of estates abandoned and destroyed, even in those localities where the least danger is apprehended.

Herein I have only intended to open the eyes of your readers to at least a possibility, leaving to the no distant future to stamp the ideas as erroneously or correctly entertained. There recently arrived in Santiago de Cuba from the seat of operations a German gentleman who had accompanied the Spanish troops to the field, having in view the writing of a book concerning the insurrection. He was for a time prisoner among the insurgents, and declares that the cruelties practiced on both sides would hardly be believed. As examples he mentions the case of two insurgents who were condemned to be shot, instead of which the volunteers cut them to pieces with knives, perpetrating the most horrid and indecent cruelties upon the unhappy victims while still alive. On the other hand he mentions the trial in a cabin of two captured volunteers; being condemned the chief pushed them out of the door, calling to his negro soldiers, "Boys, amuse yourselves!" and in a moment they were set upon with knives and cut to atoms. He confirms the suffering among the insurgents for want of clothing, and says that young women are compelled to go about in a state of nudity. He believes the Cubans weary of the insurrection, and an amnesty was offered by the government and they could be assured that its terms would be carried out, peace would be restored at once. As it is the volunteers and troops shoot those who present themselves in defiance of the government and its orders. The gentleman professes himself well treated by the insurgents, who permitted him to depart as soon as opportunity offered.

General Lesca, the well known and popular commander of the Cinco Villas, has been relieved, and will be succeeded by the Segundo Cabo, General Carbo, who leaves for Cienfuegos to day. This action grows out of no dissatisfaction with General Lesca in his operations but from some difficulty of another character. It is stated and with show of reason, that General de Rodas is desirous to have the prominent positions in the island filled by the "Unionistas" members of his own party, and this removal primarily grew out of this.

The character of field operations remains the same. The Spanish journals report the capture of Mogate the strong, insurgent position in the district of Santiago de Cuba, but the entire absence of all details and the bombast concerning the "national integrity" and "glories of Spain" certain to be paraded when nothing has been done, render it very improbable. Vaimaseda has ordered every person belonging to the Moviliagados (engaged in protecting estates) to provide themselves with a certificate signed by his Excellency, giving the name and estate; also to wear certain insignia upon their uniforms, in default of which they will be regarded as insurgents. The Havana papers of the past two days publish reports of engagements in that district which have already appeared in the HERALD.

From Manzanillo it is reported that all the bridges in the jurisdiction have been repaired by the military and that all traces of the insurrection were fast disappearing. Troops were moving about, but were accomplishing nothing of importance.

In Trinidad all the estates have commenced grinding and the greatest activity is manifested; more than the usual number of hands are employed to cart and carry the cane, in order that should the season be shortened by fires as much may be accomplished as possible. The insurgents had made several attempts at burning cane; but no great damage had been done, though in a few cases work had been suspended for a few days. A tile factory near the city had been burned by them. Detachments were moving about, but without finding the insurgents. The usual number of encounters are reported in the Cinco Villas. The *Pabellon* of Cienfuegos announces the destruction of three additional estates, names not given. This of date the 29th ult. Recently the insurgents pulled a number of spikes from the railroad to Villa Clara and the train, coming along rapidly, run off, killing one Chinaman and severely bruising many on board.

The force in operation against the Cienega de Zapata has withdrawn, "convinced that there is not even a nucleus of the insurgents there." The Captain General has ordered that from the proceeds of the sequestered estates \$3,000 per month be paid to the Governor of Bayamo to enable him to attend to the wants of the suffering families in that jurisdiction.

The "Volunteers of Madrid," which arrived here on Sunday last, sailed yesterday morning on the steamer Barcelona for some port on the north side, probably Nuevitas. A disturbance arose among them during their stay here, and seditious cries were uttered by some of them. It is evident some cause of complaint has created much dissatisfaction among them.

On the 1st arrived here the war steamer Isabel la Catolica, having on board twelve officers and sergeants and 652 men of the First battalion of marine infantry and 129 soldiers, taken from the force in Porto Rico.

The "Voluntarios de Covadonga," from Asturia, are expected to arrive this morning, and very extended preparations are in progress for their reception.

The *Voz de Cuba* announces that during the first days of December 4,000 men will disembark in Cuba, provided with all essentials and composed of two battalions of volunteers and one of marine infantry. This is the patron saint's day of the artillery of Havana, and will be celebrated with the usual ceremonies in the Church of the Merced. A meeting of estate owners, called by his Excellency the Captain General, took place in the palace on Thursday morning, when matters of importance, not made public, were considered.

Adolfo Moliner, a planter, resident of Havana and of the first families, was sent to Spain by the last correo, the 30th, at two hours' notice. The action of the authorities caused considerable surprise, as he was an intimate friend of General de Rodas. Udarta, late Governor of Bayamo, sailed in the same steamer.

New orders have been issued in reference to passports, and henceforth no person will be allowed to land without one. A prominent Wall street sugar broker, who arrived here on the Morro without the requisite document, was, with his daughter accompanying him, ordered to prison, there to remain until the steamer sailed on her return trip. Fortunately he carried a letter of

introduction to the political Governor, which, with ordinary inducements to underlings, freed him from his embarrassing position.

The crew of the Thomas J. Frazer, mentioned in my last as having been arrested by volunteers of Regla, will probably be released in a few days. An investigation showed that they had been on a spree and that one of them wantonly threw a bottle at a policeman, who followed them up to their vessel, striking one of them upon the ear with his spear. None of the men were injured as was reported by the captain. The Consul, Mr. Hull, is interesting himself in the case.

The Captain General has authorized the Banco Español (Spanish Bank) to make an additional issue of \$5,000,000, based on the proceeds of embargoed estates. This makes in all \$20,000,000 issued by this bank and without interest.

As I close this despatch the steamer Isla de Cuba and another are entering the harbor, bearing troops. The family of the Captain General comes in the former vessel.

The following disposition has been made of political prisoners:—Sent to Peninsula, De Blas Artiles; to the Isle of Pines, José Beilido de Luna and Juan Miguel Borreto.

Obliged to change their domicile in the island:—Mariano Bonachea, Mariano Bobadilla, José del Castillo, Perfecto Montero, Gonzalo de Cardona, Federico Ruiz, Antonio Borroto, Manuel Marco, Anselmo de Paula Arias Pardo, Tomás Montegudo, Antonio Maria Morales, Hermenegildo Perez, Ramon de Rojas, José de Leon, José Maria Forteza, José Valdes Arca, José Corro, Francisco Martinez, Juan Izquierdo, Pardo, Miguel Fandeno Ramos.

The property of Guines has been sequestered:—Nicolas Alvarez, Felipe Montero y Gonzalez, Francisco O. Rion, Francisco Penichet, Ignacio Ayala, Juan Rournié, Emilio Espinosa, Andrés Rodriguez Collas, José Trujillo Armas, Antonio M. Gomez, Simon Rodriguez, (a) Vazquez, Próspero Denis, Justo O'Halloran, Blas Trujillo, Ricardo Zamora, José Penichet, Antonio Penichet, Eloy Perez Ortiz.

The Attack on "Mogate"—The Insurgents Holding the Position Still—The Mendacity of Government Reports—Attempt at Assassination—Vaimaseda's Promises—The Prevailing Mortality—Landing at Nipe Not Confirmed.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Nov. 27, 1899.

Notwithstanding what the government may say to the contrary, there is little doubt that the insurgent position at Mogate remains untaken, and is proving the Sebastopol of the war in this department. Camara's assaults have all been repulsed, and that chief has been twice in town to communicate with Vaimaseda, leaving almost immediately, the latter time (yesterday) with positive instructions to take the place. It is impossible to obtain any details concerning the affair. The Spaniards admit a loss of sixty wounded, though the majority of them have not been brought into town. A few wounded men are sent in every day, and as, apart from Camara's operations, there is little going on; they are doubtless from his command. The government has published two despatches, but, as usual, they are only remarkable for their unblinking mendacity.

There have been no atrocities by *ladrones facciosos* reported lately, and the only robberies going on are of mules and horses by the defenders of the national integrity, who in their anxiety for its preservation entirely forget their own. On Tuesday, the 23d, a deliberate attempt was made in Cobre to murder two Englishmen in broad daylight by two volunteers. They concealed themselves in the bush and fired three shots at the Englishmen as they passed, but fortunately without effect. These would-be assassins were afterward recognized, and are at present in Cobre prison, though as the persons they attempted to kill were only Englishmen, they will doubtless be released soon.

General Vaimaseda at a recent meeting of the land-owners stated that the insurrection and the current month would end together. These assertions which are being repeated by the Spanish officials in Havana and to either end of the island, are doubtless to create an impression in the United States previous to the meeting of Congress, but whether by de Rodas in the capital or Vaimaseda here they will hardly deceive anybody.

The mortality from diseases of a cholera character was 315 from the 1st up to the 25th inst.—or say 12.5 daily. Probably about the same number died from smallpox, vomito and other causes. Six or seven officers have been buried this week, including Captain Villegas, brought in wounded from Santa Rita, as reported in my last.

The Spanish war steamer Fernando el Catolico went ashore at the mouth of the harbor, at Guanatanamo, but doubtless will soon be got off.

The landing at Nipe, mentioned in my last, is not confirmed.