

Joy in Havana Over the Release of the Spanish Gunboats.

The Fight at Mogate—Continued Activity of the Insurgents.

Gladness in Havana—Release of the Gunboats—Spanish Accounts of the Fighting at "Mogate"—Engagement Near Trinidad—Céspedes' Orders—Burning of the Cane and Tobacco Fields—Advice to Correspondents—Arrival of Troops.

HAVANA, Dec. 11, 1869.

Spanish Havana is twice glad. First, that the erudite President of the United States thinks the Cubans not entitled to a recognition of belligerent rights, and second, that under fear of the approach of the Spanish iron clad and the gunboats have been released, for such is the prevailing impression. Indeed, the entire action of the government at Washington is considered in antagonism to its sympathies and interest as well as those of the people, but brought about through the menacing attitude of Spain. The news is regarded as bringing with it a practical termination of the insurrection, though it is not known that the energy of the authorities in sending troops to the field has at all abated. Business men and others are, however, very confident, and manifest no alarm at the threatened destruction of the cane fields, which they deem impracticable to any great extent.

From Santiago de Cuba we have the Spanish report of the fighting at Mogate, which, while as usual claiming a great victory, is most unsatisfactory in its details. The account appears in the *Bandera Español* of Santiago de Cuba, and is dated from Arroyo Guerra, November 22. It states that two brilliant actions had been fought on the 20th and 21st, which proved fatal to the insurrection. Nothing further is mentioned of the second day's operations. The first is described as follows:—Colonel Camaro had been encamped at Santa Rita, on the bank of the Rio Grande. He had expected resistance at this river, but met with none. At an early hour on the morning of the 20th he left his camp with a column of infantry, a company of engineers and a mounted battery, numbering in all, 600 men. At half-past ten o'clock he came upon the pickets of the insurgents on some table land which commands the Arroyo Guerra. Here the Cubans had determined to make an obstinate resistance, and had accumulated all the means of defence which their abilities and resources offered. They had constructed a formidable parapet with a fosse and *cheveux de frise*. The pickets fired and retired, and soon after the troops advanced to the works and the firing became general. The artillery being brought up and placed in position, twenty-six shots were fired, which compelled the insurgents to abandon their position. Following this a reserve force attacked the left of the Spaniards, but were routed by a bayonet charge, and, as says the account, "they were hunted like wild beasts for more than an hour." In their camp forty dead bodies were found. The fact that nothing is said of the fighting on the second day, and it being known that the insurgents hold a number of positions in the vicinity, lead to the conclusion that a different result followed the operations of that day.

Fighting is reported in the mountain pass near Trinidad. A column of 250 men, says the *Imparcial* of the 8th, went out in search of the insurgents, moving in a circle, and for a long time finding none. On their return, near Cangrejo, they heard firing near at hand and a reconnoitring party was sent out. It was discovered that the insurgents were in two positions on either side of a small valley, the ground of which had been filled with stakes. Eight of the party got separated from the others and got between the two fires and two of them were killed. The column advanced and took the positions, in which were found cabins enough for 500 men. Two wooden cannon were found, one of which had burst and the other was useless. The ground was saturated with blood, but no killed or wounded were found, they having been carried off by the insurgents.

The same paper in another issue states that a column which had gone out came on to a party who were trying to burn a barn attached to the residence "Lleonco." They fled and the troops followed. On arriving at Guarabo it was found that a sentinel stationed there had neglected his duty. The captain commanding the column reprimanded him, when he raised his piece and shot him dead. The man was arrested and the column commenced its return. Arrived near the city it was challenged by the outpost, to which the prisoner returned, "*Fuera Cuba Libre!*" and was immediately killed by the soldiers. The inside party opened fire, and the result would have been serious but for the coolness of the commanding officer, who succeeded in making himself known.

The *Voz de Cuba* publishes a résumé of the casualties in the Cinco Villas during the month of November. There were, according to this, 161 insurgents killed, among them one important chief. Many of those wounded had afterwards died in the hospital; 131 had presented themselves for pardon; 482 horses, many arms and large quantities of provisions and supplies were captured. The Spanish loss is placed at five men killed, two officers and fifteen men wounded, and fifteen horses killed or wounded.

Dates from Cienfuegos and Villa Clara respectively announce the arrival in those places of the Segundo Cabo, General Carbo. The "Cazadores de Valmasada," which have been serving in the Cinco Villas, have been ordered to Manzanillo, where they will be under the command of him after whom they are named.

By the steamer Columbia was brought here for circulation, but seized by the government, a printed document signed by the Republican Committee in New York. The papers here publish extracts from it.

By the Columbia also came letters to many Cubans signed by General Domingo Golcueria, asking for money to support the insurrection and requesting the recipients to send their answers under cover to the American Consul at Nassau, who will forward them. Many of these have been given to the Captain General, in order to show the loyalty of those receiving them. It is probable, however, that they were quite as much influenced by fear that this mail had been tampered with. In commenting on this the *Diario* says:—"The United States government cannot and will not permit one of its consular agents to convert himself into an instrument of the insurgent Cubans; and it has given too many proofs of its impartiality for it to be possible even to suspect that it will tolerate such an abuse."

Parties writing to this island would do well to exercise the utmost care and caution, as it is known that the mails are tampered with, and they are likely to implicate their correspondents here, where the slightest word is oft accepted as proof positive of disloyalty to the government.

The steamer San Francisco de Borja arrived here yesterday, with 822 soldiers and forty-five officers of the Battalion of Cadiz. Another steamer is signalled, with volunteers, for whose reception extravagant preparations are in progress.

As I close this despatch a Trinidad letter of the 8th is handed me, which says:—"The insurgents have commenced to burn the plantations, and from the looks of things at present there will be very little sugar shipped from here this year."