

# CUBA.

## Increasing Activity Among the Insurgents.

## The Spaniards Preparing to do Something.

## ANOTHER GUSHING PROCLAMATION

The steamship Eagle, Captain Green, from Havana the 18th, arrived at this port yesterday with latest mail news. The purser will receive our thanks for favors received.

**The Fighting at Mogote—The Spaniards Making No Headway—Confirmation of Landing—Details of the Insurrection—Ramored Capture of a Mexican Man-of-War.**

HAVANA, Dec. 18, 1897.

It is evident that the insurgents in the jurisdiction of Santiago de Cuba are fighting with more obstinacy and success than they have since the war began. Indeed, the Spaniards seem to make no headway against them there, notwithstanding their oft repeated boasts of victories and the consequent closing up of the insurrection. They succeeded after a hard struggle in gaining possession of one point in the extended line of fortifications known as the Mogote, but held it only a few days, and retired just as the insurgents were reinforced by 2,000 men, who, without the firing of a shot, reoccupied the positions which their enemy had captured with so much blood and treasure. A private letter from Santiago de Cuba confirms these facts, only expressing the opinion that the "Mogote" has been occupied by the Spanish troops in no part. As says the letter, "it is stated that the troops have fallen back on St. Luis, but though it is evident some movement of the Spanish force has taken place, not understood, this is not credited." The letter also confirms the landing at the mouth of the Baconao river. The fever had broken out in epidemic form among the regiment recently arrived, called the Marine infantry, and the deaths were numerous.

The week just passed has not been prolific of incident. The chiefs and officers of the Catalan volunteers who arrived on the 15th have been duly feted.

The First battalion of Havana volunteers has gone to the Pinar del Rio to relieve the Second, which for the past thirty days has been recreating amid the canefields of that agreeable locality. It has done no fighting, but has signalized its stay there by shooting ten men charged with the assassination of two local volunteers some time since. The papers here simply mention the affair without giving any particulars—always a suspicious circumstance in Spanish journalism when any shooting has been going on. The following details have been furnished me:—Twenty men of the town of San Luis, in the Vuelta Abajo, were arrested, charged with the murder mentioned. On investigation no proof whatever could be brought against them. The commanding officer then informed them that if he did not find out who were the murderers he would shoot them all, and in accordance with the threat he ordered four of them to be taken behind a wall. By orders the soldiers fired over their heads, leaving the impression with the others, who heard the shots, that they had been killed. Another four were taken in the same manner, when some of the remainder declared they were not going to be shot for a crime they were not guilty of, and so testified against ten of the party, who were shot in reality.

The Segunda Cabo, General Carbo, from the Cinco Villas, telegraphs of one or two encounters and that insurgents in considerable numbers are presenting themselves. The insurgents recently attacked the small place Las Tunas, in Santa Espirito. They were driven off, but it has been thought necessary to send an additional force there, and the volunteers of Santander, recently arrived, left for that point on the morning of the 18th.

A letter from Trinidad the 15th says:—"Affairs continue much the same in this locality, worse if anything, as the Cubans do more fighting than formerly. Various encounters are reported in Remedios, in one of which twenty-one deaths and twenty-four wounded of insurgents are reported. The estates Nazareno and Relugio in that district have been burned. In Laguna an insurgent chief and 200 men had presented themselves to the authorities.

Owing to the exigencies of the service the volunteers of this city once more are garrisoning the forts, with the exception of the Catanas.

At a meeting of the plantera watch took place at the gubernatorial palace on the 15th, a proposition to establish a naval police for protection of estates, to be paid for by a contribution of not more than three per cent on net products, was adopted by acclamation. The property of Donna Maria Luisa Cespedes, wife of Don Aurelio Letamendi, now residing in New Orleans, has been confiscated.

The following disposition has been made of political prisoners:—Sent to Centa, D. Federico Marino; obliged to change residence in island, D. José de Jesus Lima; placed at liberty, D. Juan Valdes and Tomas Garcia.

A Sagua paper has a story of a Mexican man-of-war being captured off St. Jago de Cuba by the Fernando el Catolico. The former fired into the Fernando, as says the account, but the return fire damaged her machinery, and she was taken, with all hands. The story, doubtless, grew out of the detention of the Haytian steamer Marianne, mentioned in a previous letter. A commission from various parts of the Cinco Villas has arrived here to do honor to General Lesca prior to his departure for Spain.