

CUBA.

Official Views of the Insurrection—Private Correspondence of General Lersundi—Policy of the Government—Assurances from Washington.

The following telegrams, which passed from time to time in cipher between the late Captain General of Cuba, Lersundi, and General Mena, commanding at Puerto Principe, throw some light on the insurrection, the policy of Spain toward the island and the attitude of the United States:—

TELEGRAM NO. 5.

To the CAPTAIN GENERAL from the Commanding General at Puerto Principe. Received at Havana Nov. 1, 1863.

Yesterday the insurgents entered into Cascorro from Las Tunas, and it is said they will attack Guaimaro, which point I cannot reinforce without exposing myself to serious consequences. Last night I ordered the war steamer to leave Nuevitas for Maniti with orders that a column from Las Tunas should reinforce Guaimaro, which telegraph line was still cut. Four days ago a body of twenty-eight men made their appearance at Santa Cruz. I sent four parties to pursue them. Great agitation is noticed here, and it appears that instructions are being awaited from the committee of that capital and from that of Bayamo; they are on the alert for news which may be considered by them favorable to the cause, and great silence prevails. Loño has not obeyed my instructions. I ordered him to clear the Guaimaro road first, to finish up the insurgents at Tunas and afterwards to march on Bayamo, and nothing has been done. If he is at Tunas he can gain no advantages with the troops which the insurgents have left him. If he has marched on Bayamo, leaving enemies on his flank, he has only encouraged them and compromised this jurisdiction, which I consider much exposed. If I could only dispose of 200 men I would clear the road from Guaimaro to Tunas.

NO. 6—LERSUNDI TO MENA.

The tranquillity of that place is perhaps more important to-day than that of any other part of the island. Within five days you will have breech-loading guns, which will multiply by four or five your effective force, and then it will not be easy for the insurgents to move without being immediately repelled. When they arrive take all the necessary steps for security. If there are any old soldiers arm them and pay them. Don't delay or stand on any consideration. It is necessary to conquer at all hazards. The United States government is all right with Spain, and has told our Minister that in the matters of this island, it would act as a friendly nation. In New York and New Orleans nobody troubles himself about the island, nor does any one dream of expeditions. Our government will send troops and everything necessary to preserve Cuba. The telegram from the Minister of War shows the prudence with which he will proceed in matters relating thereto. At the same time you receive the new guns for that garrison I will send those for Loño, and you will take great care to forward them to him without exposing them to the slightest danger. For each of the guns you will receive 400 cartridges, but do not allow them to be wasted. I also send instructions for use. By steamer I send two pieces of mountain artillery for Loño. You will send them to him from Nuevitas. I also send two for Manzanillo. Here are good spirits and tranquillity. Just tell me one name of a member of the Junta and I will find the trail.

NO. 6—MENA TO LERSUNDI.

The whole island is on the qui vive as to the concessions from the government, and this question will settle whether the people will aid the rebellion or put it down from one end of the island to the other. If the government satisfies their desires without freeing the negroes they will be content to remain under the Spanish flag; that is if Cuba be made like the other provinces of Spain, with the same privileges, &c., and the negroes be emancipated gradually. On these conditions even Cespedes and Aguilera will continue faithful to the country, and every other Cuban, except some who are in favor of annexation, and I am assured that if the Captain General grants their aspirations that hostilities will cease. To make this exposition, the planters, merchants and landholders wish me to call a meeting of them; they are afraid that Prim may sell the island, and their only hope is in Lersundi. When I call the meeting can I assure them the fulfilment of their aspirations? I wish to tell them the truth, so that they can never say they have been deceived. I think the best plan will be to send the artillery to Manzanillo, for, as I judge, they would be stopped at Tunas. All quiet here, the people expecting that the Captain General will grant them reforms. I can count on the necessary elements to preserve the order of this city, and shall preserve it at all hazards.

Your Excellency's telegram concerning manifesto of Provisional government to arrive on 30th, and which grants concessions to this province, has been received. I will publish same to day.

NO. 7—LERSUNDI TO MENA.

I desire to know the effect of my telegram announcing the arrival of the manifesto and circular of the government with regard to the concessions. It is evident that Cuba will be represented in the Cortes and that steps will be taken for gradual emancipation. I have seen letters from the Minister which confirm this, and, moreover, if Prim's telegram is not sufficient to quiet those inhabitants what do you wish to say to them without alarming them? I know from Madrid that the inhabitants of Cuba will be treated with justice, and they have every reason to believe that their desires will be satisfied. The sale of the island is impossible. The whole nation would oppose it and I should never resign myself to it. Outside of this I cannot anticipate the security of affairs unknown to me, and to the nation alone does that belong. Puerto Principe and Bayamo are not the whole of Cuba, nor will they decide whether the island shall belong to Spain or no. There are in the country great conservative elements to resist and fight. I remember very well that at the cry of "Hurrah for Ferdinand VII." the emancipation of Mexico was effected, and I shall never consent that at the cry of "Viva España" that of Cuba is realized. Finally, between yielding to threats and fighting, I prefer the latter. Let them say at once if they only want a pretext and let us go to fighting. No one has been more opposed than myself to the tributary system. You know it and the whole country knows it, and I hope that my past efforts will be regarded. I have to notify you that there are in that place certain parties compromised with the Cespedes party; and it would not be strange if to certain exigencies on his part it would not prove desirable to respond with the safeguard by compromise which I cannot and should not risk. Let them quit hostilities and the provisional government will grant them more than they desire. Make use of this telegram with the proper prudence, but maintaining always due and very high behavior on the part of the army and the dignity of the nation. As I am about sending Loño the new guns I will also send him two new pieces of artillery. It is very probable that the people of Cascorro are feeling after the beating which they received from the troops of Loño; and I have no doubt he will pursue the enemy everywhere they dare to penetrate.

Quiet at all points here.

The Cuban Expedition from Fernandina.

[From the Florida Union, Feb. 10.]

Several Cubans arrived in this city on Thursday morning last, a part of them registering at their hotel from New York and others from Honduras. They were very gentlemanly, well educated and conversed freely upon general subjects; but nothing could be learned from them as to their business in this city. On Sunday morning the party was increased by the arrival of twenty-three others, making in all about forty-five of them, registering from Honduras and Havana. Immediately after they had breakfasted the entire party proceeded to Dibble's wharf, where they were promptly met by the steamer Henry Burden, which they had chartered for Nassau, N. P. The whole company were very reticent, and nothing was known concerning their destination previous to their departure except by the agents of the steamer and the Custom House officers. There has been much speculation as to their purposes, which remain an absolute mystery to every one.

Aid to the Cuban Revolution—Committee of Cuban Ladies for the Succor of the Sick and Wounded Patriots—Proposed Measures of Relief.

The association of Cuban ladies in New York held its first meeting on the 6th inst., and nominated the following ladies as a permanent and executive committee in this city for the purpose of providing resources for the succor of the sick and wounded of the patriot Cubans now fighting for the independence of their country:—President, Mme. Rosa P. de Yzquierdo; Vice President, Mme. Eufemia B. de Macias; Treasurer, Miss Manuela Yzquierdo; Secretary, Mme. Emilia C. de Villaverde; Assistant Secretary, Miss Carmen Yzquierdo; Committee—Mme. Isidora Hansen Clark, Mme. Mercedes P. F. de Arcila and Miss Inez Henriques de Leon.

As soon as the committee was appointed it began its active labors, and, among other plans, it proposes to give a grand concert at Steinway Hall on the 9th of March next. The ladies have waited personally upon several artists of this city, by all of whom they have been favorably received, with assurances of readiness to assist in an entertainment for the benefit of the Cuban patriots. Preparations are now on foot to make it worthy of the noble cause in whose behalf it will be given.

The meetings of the committee are held two or three times each week, in parlor No. 3 of the St. Julien hotel, Washington place, which has been placed at their disposition by Major W. W. Leland. The committee will continue its labors as long as the war in Cuba may last, it being the intention of the Cuban ladies to appeal to the charitable and kindly feelings of the American people in behalf of their suffering brothers. Tickets for the proposed concert can be obtained at the committee room or from the individual members of the committee, who hope that their efforts may be favorably received by all friends of liberty.

At the last meeting of the committee, which was held on the 13th instant, all the ladies wore upon the left arm a knot of black crape fastened with a steel star, as an expression of grief for the foul assassination of the Cuban leader, Augusto Arango, by the Spanish troops at Puerto Principe, and at the close of their meeting they waited in a body upon Dr. Arango, of this city, a brother of the deceased, and who is a member of the Porto Rico committee of New York.