

# CUBA.

## Particulars of the Relief of Puerto Principe.

## Activity of the Insurgents at All Points.

## THEIR POSITIONS AND NUMBERS.

The steamship George Cromwell, Captain Vail, from New Orleans 3d and Havana 10th, arrived at this port yesterday, bringing a number of passengers and our Cuba mails to the 9th inst.

**General Lesca's March to the Relief of Puerto Principe—Engagements with the Insurgents—The Fighting and Losses—Insurgent Accounts—Affairs at Villa Clara—Capture of Mayajigua—Miscellaneous Items of News.**

HAVANA, March 9, 1892.

If Spanish accounts are true the insurgents under Quesada, in the jurisdiction of Puerto Principe, have been unable to oppose the march of the troops under Lesca from Guanaja. The former have been variously estimated at from 5,000 to 15,000 men, well armed and with artillery, and under a leader who, during years of service in Mexico, acquired the reputation of a brave and dashing fighter. The troops opposed to him numbered not far from 2,000. The Spanish accounts make the force even less. With all the disadvantage of the offensive in a rough, wooded and hilly country, in the face of an enemy numbering from two to four times their number, they marched a distance of thirty-six miles in four days and relieved a city which has been besieged for months. It is true that the information of the march is through Spanish sources, incorrect as ever in detail, no doubt; but if, as seems to be probable, Lesca in any manner has reached Puerto Principe the great inferiority of the insurgents, even under the most favorable circumstances, to the troops is demonstrated.

The account, as published in yesterday's evening edition of the papers here and reproduced this morning, is as follows:—Brigadier Lesca left Guanaja on the 21st, and arrived in Puerto Principe on the 25th. On the first day out and when not far from Guanaja the troops were attacked by the rebels, the point being the hill Sierra Cubita, and again on the 23d, in Paredones, the defile between the hills of Limones and the mountain of Tuabaquez. Both times the rebels were repulsed and driven back by the artillery and at the point of the bayonet. The *Voz de Cuba* says the first fight lasted for five hours, and took place in a locality where the artillery and grenades were useless. The troops were compelled to pass over the trunks of trees, to cross ditches and carry entrenchments, and yet at every point they made their way. After the fight on the 23d, when a very difficult position was carried, Lesca gave his troops a few hours for repose and then pressed on. The rebels once more showed themselves, but disappeared at the first fire of the mountain pieces. As given by the papers, Captains Mazzo and Escobar and thirty-one of the troops were killed and 106 wounded. (Private accounts from Cuban sources report thirty-three officers and 300 men killed.)

Behind the entrenchments taken at the point of the bayonet heaps of dead were found, principally caused by the grenades. All the bands of Camaguez, says the *Diario*, had gathered to oppose the troops and the rebel force amounted to between 4,000 and 5,000 men, while the troops under Lesca were but 1,500. As the troops entered the city they were received by the garrison with anxious demonstrations. Several columns had been sent out to reconnoitre in the vicinity; the enemy did not appear. Lesca immediately on his arrival sent a column of 500 men to Santa Cruz for provisions. These arrived safely after a skirmish, in which two soldiers were killed. They were to start on their return on the 3d. Prior to the appearance of the papers last evening a report had been generally circulated through the city that the troops under Lesca had been defeated and compelled to return, their leader wounded. This statement is still insisted upon by the Cubans and the Spanish reports pronounce it entirely false. This was thought to be confirmed by the announcement, made through the city papers, that General Poello, with his command, including the garrison of that place, had left Sancti Spiritus for Puerto Principe on the 6th, as his force was originally not intended for that place.

A letter from Cienfuegos the 6th says:—Generals Letona and Pelaez went out this morning at five A. M. with 2,400 troops, including 400 cavalry, to inaugurate a campaign and give the rebels a blow if found. The headquarters of Letona, who is very active, will be at Villa Clara, to protect all the country around and act in concert with the troops at Sagua, Trinidad and Sancti Spiritus.

The *Diario* of the 6th has additional information in reference to the victory of the Spaniards on the border of the river Jamují, previously reported. The insurgents had 300 killed and a considerable number of wounded. The Mexican reported shot was not an insurgent general, but a brigadier, and to save his life he revealed the whereabouts of the main body of the enemy, he serving as the guide to an inaccessible stronghold, which resulted as above stated. The artillery column, under Morales de los Rios, who achieved this victory, were a few days since in possession of the whole line of railway.

The volunteer cavalry, under Colonel Stefani, and half of the Simancas battalion, recently from Spain, arrived at Cienfuegos on the 4th.

News from Las Cruces, in the jurisdiction of the last named, has been received to the 2d. The place is incommunicated. A letter of that date says:—The worst class of marauders are all around us; troops have arrived at Buja, but as soon as they move the marauders will reappear. The largest bands are on the margins of the Sagua, near Ilicotea; another is in Cupeya, between San Juan and Potrevillo, and another in Cruces and Camarones.

The *Trinidad Imparcial* of the 6th says:—"So far from the insurrection being ended it has increased, because the troops on foot pursue men that run away rapidly, being provided with good horses. Far from the rebels hiding themselves in the mountains, as appears from the Havana journals, they make free excursions all over the valleys and daily approach nearer the suburbs of the city. On one estate they have lately demanded rations for 2,200, and they carry off arms, horses, mules and everything that they require. Not long ago they received 2,000 carbines, and they threaten to attack the city as soon as the troops leave it."

The *Diario* has dates from Yaguajay, in Colon to, the 25th ult. It says:—The energetic attitude of Don Jose Carbo saved the town from the horrible scenes, which occurred in Mayajigua. About 250 marauders had formed a plan to sack the town and kill all the Spaniards in it. A part of them resided in town watching the movements of the Spanish population, but the latter got wind of their purpose and were fully prepared for the worst, and by the firmness of Carbo they were saved. The same bands attacked Mayajigua the following day (the 15th). Some of the volunteers then, after a sham defence, went over to the enemy, and they jointly entered the town, headed by Rojas. They sacked the town, taking seven Spaniards prisoners, whom they maltreated in the most barbarous manner, wrenching their beards off, gouging out their eyes, cutting off the small bones of their fingers and finally cutting them up with machetes. In Yaguajay a company of 130 volunteers had been on duty night and day for twenty days. They had one cannon made by the engineer of Carbo. Subscriptions were being made for organizing volunteers. On the 5th the column under Colonel Mendunia returned to Jaquety, Grande, after a three days' march. They traversed fifty leagues, mostly in the jurisdiction of Cienfuegos and partly in Colon. They found no rebels.

The *Republico* of Pinar del Rio contains no news from the Vuelta Abajo, and the *Diario de la Marina* argues that this is a favorable sign. The latter paper has dates from Consuacion del Sur to the 27th ult. The smallpox was creating great havoc, and measures were taken to prevent its spreading.

A well informed Spanish gentleman states that there is not the slightest doubt that Cisneros has landed between Sagua la Grande and Calbarien with 300 men of different nationalities, with a large quantity of arms and some steel cannons. News from Gibara to the 4th says a large party of rebels, composed of men of the worst antecedents, were roaming about in the jurisdiction of Illeguin, which had induced a large number of country people to seek refuge in the former place.

The hamlet of Mayari is about ninety miles from Santiago de Cuba, very near the Bay of Nipe. News from the latter place say that 5,000 troops were reported to be there. All the Spaniards, not exceeding fifty in number, had been massacred. On the 24th 1,000 troops of all arms left St. Jago for that place. They were commanded by Colonel Perez Camara, of the engineers.

News from Sagua la Grande is to the 4th. Lieutenant Governor Trillo had gone to Viana, in Calahazar, at the head of the Fourth Havana Battalion of Order and other forces. Many bands of rebels from Remedios and Villa Clara were marauding in the vicinity. After disposing of these the troops are to run over that jurisdiction.

Passengers by the French steamer Panama arrived here from St. Thomas on Sunday, the 7th, report having met the two Peruvian monitors in the channel of Piedras Key, not far from the lighthouse of Paredow Grande, towed by two steamers under the same colors and loaded with coal for the monitors. They were watched and followed at a short distance by the Spanish war steamer Fernando el Catolico. They appeared to take a direction for St. Thomas, as if for coaling, and it is supposed that they would then continue the course coastwise as far as Montevideo. The Cubans will not believe this.

After the ladies of Havana had inaugurated a subscription in aid of the volunteers, the stronger sex made another, headed by General Dulce, who subscribed for \$1,000. Several of the merchants, planters and others signed their names for \$2,000 each, and then the smaller sums followed.

The most that could be obtained from each com-

pany of volunteers for the field, on examination, on Saturday, the 6th, was three. Ten from each company were needed. This is regarded as a trick of Dulce's, to snub them.

Inspector General Clavijls has since issued a public notice to the effect that it having been resolved to send a battalion of volunteers to the field for the jurisdiction of Remedios, the officers and men belonging to separate companies and desirous to form part of said battalion are to apply for enrolment forthwith.

The Commissary of War is advertising for Spanish seamen to enter the service of vessels in port or harbor service, offering them twenty-five dollars per month wages, besides \$7 50 for navy rations.

An American sailor was arrested the other day in Puentes Grandes (a hamlet four miles from Havana) because his department originated motives for suspicion.

Don Miguel Embil, Don Carlos del Castillo, manager and founder of the savings bank, are among the unfortunate Cubans destined to be sent to Fernando Po.

A commission named by the "conservative committee" of Matanzas has come to congratulate Mr. Henry C. Hall on his promotion to the office of Consul General at Havana.

The sugar crop in the Western Department shows an unusual abundant yield, and, provided the roads are kept free and the estates be properly protected, the result will show it.

A Cienfuegos letter of the 6th says:—"There is nothing to be done yet here in sugars. No house will engage to sell for stipulated delivery. The planters are receiving but very slowly. It is only to-day that the train went up to Cruces. That from there towards Sagua is yet cut, before reaching Las Lajas, so that several planters' goods can go to Sagua and are kept back; but by the next ten days the trains will be kept up, by being protected by the troops at the different depots. We can expect a fair stock of sugars, as vessels are not very plenty, and there will be more disposition hereafter to sell. We have seen samples of scarcely good refining, for which eight reals was asked. Next week perhaps they may be got at seven reals."