

**Outrages by a Civil Guard—Cubans Murdered with Impunity—Excitement and Anxiety About President Grant—Spanish Expedition from Sagua la Grande—Large Insurgent Force at Palmira—American Citizens Warned—Review of Firemen.**

HAVANA, March 10, 1869.

There has existed for many years in this island what is known as the Guardia Civil or Civil Guard, a police organization, whose duty it is to preserve the peace and to bring to justice transgressors against the law. Those upon duty in the country are mounted, riding about at their own discretion or that of their officers, and, if composed of bad men, holding the people entirely at their mercy. Of late this body, taking advantage of the disturbances of certain localities, have been committing great outrages, and numerous complaints of them are being made to Havana. They are all Spaniards, and, of course, the objects of their wrath are the Cubans, whom they are shooting down in defiance of the authorities here and elsewhere. The case of J. L. Inda, an engineer on the estate of Señor Casanova, shot down by them, as mentioned in my last, will be remembered. Yesterday morning information reached here that three young men, named Olevarés—two brothers and a cousin—on an estate near Union, in the jurisdiction of Matanzas, had been shot by this body. They arrived at the estate and searched it for arms—finding two Spencer carbines and a quantity of cartridges. The young men were arrested and taken to Union and there placed in the stocks. They protested loudly against this injustice, as the arms had been in their possession for a long time and had nothing to do with the insurrection. They were kept until the next morning, and were then informed that they were to be taken to Alacranes, a distance of two miles. When about half a mile on the road they were shot down.

The Marquis Villalva, a planter of great wealth, residing in this city, also received information yesterday that his overseer, named Miguel Reyes, had been shot by this police. He had no connection with the insurrection, and was working on the estate with the knowledge of the *Capitan del Partido*, or Chief of Police, and under assurances of protection. He left a wife and several children. These and other acts of a similar character are causing great consternation throughout the country, and engineers and others are flying to the city, abandoning their work. Some of those who have been shot had *salvo conductos* from Dulce. In the city and forts volunteers still refuse obedience to orders, save such as are agreeable to them. Yesterday Dulce ordered the release of a prisoner, and the second battalion of volunteers, on duty at the Cabanas, heretofore known as one of the most orderly, refused to deliver him. The matter was reported to the Captain General, who, though suffering from illness, rose and called for his uniform, determined to go in person to enforce his orders. He was after much effort persuaded not to do so, and the *Segundo Cabo*, General Espinar, went in his stead. He addressed the volunteers, reminding them that they had been organized to maintain order, and they were creating disorder. He was, however, unable to obtain the release of the prisoner until he had represented that the man was innocent of any offence and had been imprisoned by mistake. They told him that under these circumstances he could go, but he must tell the Captain General that no prisoners could be released without his accounting to them.

The advent of the new administration in the United States has caused considerable excitement and anxiety. The Cubans are hopeful of help in some manner from Grant, and the Spaniards, while professing to be extremely confident of the continued friendly neutrality of the United States, are a little fearful. Some curious rumors of Grant's declarations and intentions are afloat, and queer stories are told. For example, I have been assured with great positiveness that a telegram was received on Saturday by Dulce from the Spanish Consul in New York simply saying, "*La Isla de Cuba, para España, esta perdida*" ("The island of Cuba is lost to Spain"). This and nothing more. My informant adds that two operators present when the despatch was received and knowing of it have been placed *incommunicado*, in order that it might not become known.

The *Diario* of yesterday says the forces with which Lieutenant Governor Trillo left Sagua la Grande for Tiana amount to 700 men, composed of a part of a company of the line and the balance of mobilized cavalry, volunteers and Civil Guards. On the 6th they came upon a plantation on fire and they made every effort to extinguish it. They afterwards encountered a band of 1,000 rebels from Cienfuegos and Villa Clara and completely routed them, killing thirty, including the leader, Monteaguo, and taking many flags, arms and horses, while the loss on their side consisted of a lieutenant named Gorostegui, killed, and two soldiers wounded.

The Civil Guard stationed in Santo Domingo, jurisdiction of Sagua, and thirty volunteers, recently had an encounter with 100 rebels, wounding many and killing six or seven.

The *Republico* of Pinar del Rio of the 7th says the mobilized company which joined the force of Commandant Blanco had returned to Mantua and Guane, from which they were to march to the capital of the jurisdiction and were to leave for Guanaja. The Governor permits the farmers to have one piece of firearms to every gang of ten slaves or coolies, besides the customary machetes for field labor.

A letter from Palmira, jurisdiction of Cienfuegos, dated the 4th, says,—“The rebel force which appeared here on the night of the 15th ult. numbered 1,600 men, well armed and commanded by Adolph Cavada (who is styled their commander-in-chief), Juan G. Diaz Villejas, Manuel Gonzalez Acevedo, José Apren, Carlos Serice, Antonio M. Entenza, Luis Arredondo, Ramon Hernandez Pilo and Augustin Villejas. Juan Villejas is a general, the others captains. There are also several other chiefs and officers. They attacked the stores and took what they wanted. They committed many small depredations, destroyed the telegraph wires and machinery of the railroad. At midnight they left, taking the road to the baths of Ciego Montero. At dawn the following morning 350 troops arrived from Cienfuegos under Señor Salinas, Military Commandant of the Jurisdiction. Juan Diaz Villejas is one of the principal planters here. He was Collector of Tithes for many years; Serice is also owner of a sugar estate; Entenza is a wealthy planter; Acevedo owns a large cattle farm; Hernandez has a tobacco plantation; Arredondo owns a small sugar plantation, and Villegas (Augustin) has a hacienda and a sugar estate.”

There is attached to the column of General Letona, operating in Cienfuegos, 125 cavalry and two field pieces, with accoutrements. The number of rebels in the entire jurisdiction is estimated at from 8,000 to 10,000 men.

The *Trinidad Correo* of the 6th contains an official

citation from O. Mendes, Fiscal of the Military Commission in said town, to Francisco Cayula, ex-Consul United States; Otto Schmidt, late Consul United States; John O'Burke, Juan Spoturno, Rafael Balsa, Hilario Yagas, Alonzo Archa, Juan Bruno, Tomas Diaz and N. Garcia, charged with being leaders of insurrectionary bands, and ordered to present themselves within thirty days at the infantry barracks, in default whereof they will be declared outlaws by council of war.

On Sunday morning last the monthly review of the Havana firemen took place on the Champ de Mars. The commander of the battalion (for such it is), Pedro Tome, addressed the men in a discourse which was received with much enthusiasm.