

The Official Policy—Temper of the Volunteers— News from Cienfuegos, Trinidad and Villa Clara—The Press in Havana—Issue of Paper Money.

HAVANA, Feb. 22, 1893.

The *Official Gazette* in its issue of Saturday publishes the following under the head of "Superior Political Government of the ever Faithful Island of Cuba" and without signature:—"There has expired already the term prescribed in the decree of January 12 for those that were with arms in hand. None can now aspire to the provisions of the amnesty, but the benefits of pardon always reach every one who abandons the banners of insurrection and presents himself to the legitimate authorities with or without arms. Reason and justice always except in such cases the chiefs, assassins, incendiaries and robbers."

This document occupies the position in the *Gazette* usually devoted to official decrees, and has all the formalities of one, excepting the signature. It, as will be seen, is of that non-committal character which pervades most of the official documents of this government, and may be regarded as the simple statement of a general proposition or an announcement of the policy to be pursued towards the insurgents hereafter. By some it is considered as intended for the Spaniards, who are thirsting for the blood of the political prisoners, reminding them of the customs and policy of civilized people in extending pardon to the repentant guilty of political offences.

As has been before stated in the *HERALD*, there have been entertained for some time past grave fears of an outbreak in the city by the volunteers after the expiration of the amnesty term, and yesterday morning there seemed a likelihood of their realization. As has been before stated, these volunteers comprise seven battalions, commanded as follows:—First, José M. Morales, a Venezuelan by birth, a prominent merchant of forty years' standing; second, Julian Zulueta, a Biscayan, a wealthy planter, formerly a great slave trader; third, Miguel Antonio Herrera, merchant, born in Florida; fourth, Dr. Valdivieso, a Spaniard; fifth, Ramon Herrera, owner of the Antilles line of steamers, formerly a shopkeeper, a bigoted Spaniard from Asturias; sixth, Baron de Kessel, a Cuban planter, long in sympathy with Spaniards and Spanish rule; seventh, Señor Jimenez, linen draper, Spaniard. The last three are of more recent organization and of the most turbulent material.

The Fourth were on duty in town on Saturday and the Fifth in the Caballas fortress; the Sixth relieved the Fourth on Sunday and the Seventh the Fifth. On Monday the Sixth and Seventh were relieved by the First and Second. The Caballas is across the bay opposite the city. Early on the morning of Sunday, the 21st, before daylight, the Fifth were very noisy and uproarious in their demonstrations over the arrival of the Santander from Spain with a thousand chasseurs, and the fact that the amnesty had expired. Many and fierce were the threats against the traitors and also against the authorities if they did not act in the most summary and severe manner. When it was relieved and had arrived at the wharf of the city its commander, Ramon Herrera, shouted, "¡Viva España!" "Death to traitors!" to which the men loudly responded. After dismissal many of the men of the Fifth returned to pay a visit to the Seventh. About the same time an order came from Duice for the release of certain political prisoners, to which the volunteers refused to accede, and a regular mutiny followed, to the great alarm of the commander, who sent word to Duice, stating the fact and representing that he could not respond for the consequences; that they demanded exemplary justice be done to the traitors and that a certain number of the more prominent insurgent prisoners be delivered to them, and if refused this they threatened to point the guns at the Palace, with other menaces. Duice's first idea was to relieve the battalion, but the danger of so doing in its present excited state being represented to him, he refrained. The commander subsequently had an audience with him, the result of which is unknown. It seems, however, to have been satisfactory, as the former returned speedily to the fortress and succeeded in quieting the men for the time.

After being dismissed on Monday morning a considerable number of the Sixth refused to go to their homes, but remained in the Plaza making noisy and threatening demonstrations. Some of them proceeded to the wharf to meet the Seventh returning from the Cabanas. These were on the ferryboat, but not permitted to land for the moment. Noisy vociferations followed, and the Deputy Captain General, who was present, found it necessary to harangue them, reminding them of their duties and stating that all would go right and justice be administered to the enemies of Spain. During his remarks the men, heretofore so abject before authority, undertook to parley with him, and made the following demands:—

First—That summary justice be meted out to the heads of the insurgents in custody.

Second—That no more passports be issued by the government for Cubans leaving the island, which ruins our trade.

Third—That such financial steps be immediately taken as will do away with the pretailing speculation in coin.

These demands, savoring so much of vengeance and the slop, did not meet with that respectful attention their merits would seem to demand. The General showed that the second could not be complied with, as it was against the customs and theories of all civilized nations. Quiet was partially restored soon, and the battalion was marched to the Plaza and dismissed, the straggling members of the Sixth having been meanwhile induced to retire and a guard having been stationed to keep the Plaza clear. This was removed, however, in a short time.

The volunteers, as is stated, in these demonstrations were much influenced by the decree which appeared in Saturday's issue of the *Gazette*, heretofore mentioned, and which, as they considered, extended the amnesty indefinitely. This was, however, subsequently explained to their apparent satisfaction.

In the afternoon Duice had an interview with the commanders. His Excellency emphatically rejected all interference in the course he had determined upon, both military and political. The legality was upon his side, and in his efforts to suppress the insurrection in his way he relied upon the sympathy of other nations and aid from Madrid. He stated that the courts of justice were the proper authority for the investigation of offences heretofore committed, and to them they must be left. He was determined in his policy, and if the emergency arrived he should repel force by force.

The balance of the day passed quietly, though much alarm was felt and renewed exertions made in preparations to get away.

Our news from the seat of insurrection is much of the same character as heretofore given, tinged by Spanish sympathies and indicating a long continuance of devastating war.

The steamer *Kapido*, arrived at Batubano, brings dates to the 21st from Cienfuegos. It is represented that the volunteers continue in persevering pursuit of the patriots, but to little use, as the latter have the advantage of horses. An encounter recently took place near Carthagena, in which they had eleven killed and a considerable number wounded. They had captured the tugboat *Cienfuegos* by obstructing the river channel with logs. She was employed in transporting provisions up the stream, a distance of fifteen miles, to the head of navigation.

News from Calbarien the 20th states that a party of robbers, rather than rebels, had sacked several stores in the country, particularly in Mayajigua, when the small government force there had exhausted their ammunition in an encounter, and nine of the men had gone over to the enemy upon being assured that their lives and property should be held sacred. But in the evening they were handcuffed and then a general pillage commenced. They burned the books and even the archives of the church and police. The nine volunteers succeeded in making their escape and arrived in a boat at Calbarien, from whence a force of fifty men was immediately despatched to Mayajigua. They found only an advance guard of five rebels, who fired and wounded a soldier and were all killed by a return fire. In the town the enemy had disappeared, though numbering some hundreds. Forty prisoners from Remedios had arrived in the steamer; others escaped.

The *Diario* has dates from Trinidad to the 19th. The rebels were seizing all the horses in the jurisdiction. The shopkeepers of Guisaca Miranda had been compelled to abandon their stores, owing to insufficient protection, and were unable even to save their books and papers from the grasp of the rebels. Arms are wanted for the volunteers. Governor Patiño, in a circular dated the 15th, states that Lieutenant Colonel Boscones, with his column, having learned that the rebels had established their headquarters in Guayabal Bajo under Martinez, after a march of three hours arrived at a forest which could only be entered one abreast. They came upon the enemy then and replied to his fire. They lost four men. A mile farther on they came to a ranch where were a hundred rebels behind a natural parapet. They took this, killing seven insurgents and dispersing the rest. The troops had one killed and two wounded. Another account represents that a considerable number were presenting themselves for pardon. Vice Consul Cavada had not been shot as reported, but his hand had been much reduced and the command taken from him.

The *Peniz*, of Sancti Spiritus, of the 19th, contains the Governor's order for conscription with a view to afford rest to the volunteers. All citizens and able-bodied men from the age of seventeen years are required to enrol. The organization is to be in companies of fifty men each, who are to select their leader and their subalterns. They will be mostly engaged in local service. Those who are known to contribute otherwise towards public order will be exempt.

The *Pressa* has Cienfuegos dates to the 21st inst. It says:—"On Tuesday the insurgents entered Palma, which they pillaged, sacking all the tiendas. The war is against Spaniards, the property of all others being respected. There is but one column—of artillery—in this jurisdiction (it has muskets, acting as infantry), though there are men enough for two divisions now. The artillery came upon the insurgents at the baths of Cerillo Montero, and caused them some loss, but, as usual, they dispersed, while the troops, for want of cavalry, were unable to pursue. Another encounter had taken place at Esperanza, near Villa Clara, with singular results, the insurgents numbering 300. All

the stores, continues the account, are abandoned. The enemy is making havoc in the jurisdiction. Many of the shopkeepers, Spaniards, are made prisoners. The country population, for want of arms, is flying to the town. The same paper has accounts from Las Lajas. The rebels have plenty of horses, the Spaniards none. The rebels numbering 1,500 occupied the place for three days, shouting *viva independencia*, &c. They burnt the archives of the country justices and police and the uniforms of the Guardia Civil. They tore the Spanish flag to tatters and then tied it to the tail of a horse. They seized all the arms and horses found, and destroyed the telegraph and railroad bridge.

In Matanzas a telegram was received on Sunday from the village of Pedrosan, sent by the commander of the forces in operation there, stating that several officers had presented themselves for pardon.

The steamer *Nuevo Almandares* from Remedios, Laguna, &c., brought here seventy-five prisoners. Letters from Nuevitas, of the 19th, say:—"We know nothing of late of military operations in the interior. While writing, the government is embarking all the artillery, mountain howitzers, cavalry and staff officers, on board of lighters and steamers. It is supposed they are going to Granja, about twenty-five miles west of this place. The balance of the troops are to start inland for some point. Granja is about thirty-six miles from Puerto Principe, over a road mostly open, and the supposition is that an attempt is to be made to raise the siege of the latter place from that point."

The Gettysburg is still here; officers and crew well. The *Fox de Cuba* is having a hard time with the censor, most of its leaders being erased. Last evening it had an interview with the authorities on the subject and it did not appear up to nine o'clock. Its tone is materially changed from what it has been heretofore.

Señor Udaeta, who, in the early stage of the insurrection, was Governor of Bayamo, and is alleged to have gone over to the insurgents, was recently brought here with other prisoners from the country. He has published a card, begging the public to suspend its opinion till his trial comes on. The documents, inaugurating process against him in Bayamo by order of Valmaseda, are now in the hands of the military court, and the judgment will be rendered at an early date.

The marines have ceased to do duty on shore since the arrival of the regulars, they needing rest after their long time of double duty.

The final meeting of merchants, proprietors, &c., on Sunday, resulted as expected in the unanimous determination to guarantee the issue of 8,000,000 in notes by the Banco Español. The mass of the people are urgently calling for notes of five dollars to facilitate small retail trade and do away with speculation in gold.

News from Santiago—Popular Feeling—Negro Bands—Condition of the Country.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb. 10, 1893.

A casual correspondent, writing from Santiago, says:—

Far from things being settled. They are worse than ever, and there will probably be a massacre of the Cubans by the Catalans if affairs are not arranged soon, as the ill feeling between the two daily becomes more intense.

Yesterday the chiefs of the insurrection went to Puerto Principe to come to an understanding, and are meanwhile sending back many of the negroes they had taken from the estates.

There is at present a band of the worst lot of negroes in the country committing all kinds of depredations. Add to this cholera all over the country and the prospect is anything but envious. There are also cases in town. Yesterday six died and on the previous day nine, but the doctors will not admit that it is cholera.

The country around Santiago is comparatively clear of insurgents, but planters are kept from working by fears of renewed incursions from them, although I think their fears in good part groundless, as there are now parties of paid volunteers kept by the planters in the different districts for the protection of the estates, who, whenever they can get a chance, whip the rebels.

Another correspondent, a miner, writing from Cobre, under date of the 6th of February, says:—"Santiago is pretty quiet to all appearance, but it is 'war to the knife' round about it, for all that, and the interior is all in revolution. In an encounter between the Spaniards and the insurgents a few days ago, near Caney, the Spaniards were sadly beaten and repulsed with great loss by the insurgents, who were commanded by General Marcano. Colonel Macanas, who commanded the Catalonian troops, alarmed at the destruction of his forces, retreated to Caney somewhat crestfallen, and would not return to Santiago lest the smallness of his army might call forth unpleasant remarks. (Do you remember my last letter to you about the brave coward, Colonel —? He did not like that, I believe.) However, he took a secret opportunity of sending forty wounded men into the city under cover of night, that their arrival might not be observed. They were men from this colonel's column who, from bad food, insufficient clothing and want of proper care, have succumbed to Asiatic cholera and brought upon us a calamity which, I fear, must now spread."

Palma has been taken by the insurgents, and the whole garrison made prisoners. Four hundred Peabody guns which were discovered there were carried off in great triumph by the Cubans.