

# Proposed Confiscation to Repay Loyal Subjects—The Prisoners for Fernando Po—Movements Around Villa Clara—Reports About Mayari—German Demand on General Dake—Rumors of Trouble in Porto Rico.

HAYANA, March 15, 1892.

The idea of reimbursing "loyal" citizens for losses sustained in the present rebellion by the confiscation or sequestration of the property of rebels seems to meet with favor by the Havana press, and though it is hardly so bold and outspoken on the subject as certain of the "truly loyal" class in the United States, occasional reference is made to it, evidently as a "feeler" and with a view of familiarizing the public mind to it. It recently called attention to the claim of Don Francisco Monzon, a Spanish trader, who suffered from the Mexican revolution and whose claim was allowed by Juarez—*mirabile dictu*, it might have added. True, the precedent is not complete, as Monzon was a foreigner to the Mexican government; but then it goes to establish the principle that the rebellious should pay for property destroyed during a revolution. At least it seems to think so.

The *Prensa* of this morning claims to be the pioneer in the confiscation idea and expresses its satisfaction that the *Diario de la Marina* and the journals of Matanzas and Cardenas have given in their adhesion thereto. Ever since the manifesto of Cespedes and Aguilera in December last, decreeing confiscation of property belonging to enemies of the insurrection, *similia similibus curantur* is the maxim, says *La Prensa*, evidently thinking that expresses retaliation. It does not advocate absolute confiscation, but rather the sequestration of the property of rebels, their accomplices and emigrants of a certain class pronounced guilty, in order that such property may contribute to the expenses of the State and towards indemnity for losses sustained by the loyal, whether Cubans or Spaniards. The *Prensa* justifies the idea by referring to the course pursued by France during the revolution, and by the "great republic" during the recent civil war.

Ere the reception of this you will have been informed by telegraph of the fate of the political prisoners. Their departure, which was to have taken place yesterday, has been postponed until Wednesday or Thursday next, owing to the fact that the Francisco de Borja, war vessel, selected for their transportation, needed considerable refitting in order to accommodate them. There are many suspicions and surmises as to the ultimate disposal of them, no one believing that they will all be sent to Fernando Po. It is stated that a committee from the commandants of volunteers had an interview with Dulce on Sunday and respectively inquired whether all the political prisoners accused of different offences, as they were, were to be transported, and if their cases had been properly investigated. They stated that it was not their wish that the innocent should be sent away or punished in any manner, while they expected that the guilty would be severely dealt with. The result of the conference is not known. It was brought about by the many distressing scenes witnessed by the volunteers in the parlings between fathers, brothers, sons and husbands and their families, which have made a deep impression on hearts little accustomed to feel. One of the sentinels was so moved by an interview of this character between a father and his four children that he shed tears and let fall his weapon, declaring that no man could be guilty who expressed himself as did the prisoner. The British Consul General recently visited the fortresses to see Mr. Barrenghui, a Cuban, who had been British Consul at Cardenas; Mr. Duggan and others, whom the public believe in no way implicated. If I am correctly informed there are at present none among them who can establish their claims to American citizenship. Senors Embal, Lauza and others have declared their intentions, but have never become fully naturalized, and under the ruling of Mr. Seward are not entitled to the protection of the government save when in the United States.

Although the prosecuting officer has found no cause for continuing the proceedings against the parties who got up the performances at the Villa Nueva theatre which led to the subsequent disorders, they are still in confinement by order of the Captain General. The process was initiated in the civil courts and afterwards passed to the councils of war.

The process against the parties connected with the affair of the secreted arms in Figueras street, by which several policemen were seriously injured, has finally reached judgment. One of them, it is said, has been condemned to perpetual chains, and another to death. Yesterday arrived here the steamer Nueva Almendares, bringing fifty prisoners, whites and mulattoes, from Calbarren and Sagua. They were incarcerated in the Punta prison.

Our news from the seat of insurrection is of the same character as heretofore given. Although Spanish successes are constantly reported they promise nothing of an early termination to the insurrection.

A telegram was yesterday received from Cienfuegos stating that the troops under General Letona had an encounter with the rebels, killing 170, including some chiefs. According to recent accounts from the city of Cienfuegos the engineer, Colonel Modet, had arrived there in obedience to orders from Pelaez, having turned over his command to Lieutenant Colonel Getrias. He has been thus relieved and will be sent to Havana on account of having placed Capote, 1ere (and not the son, the insurgent chief, as before reported), at the disposition of a court martial, which decreed his death, instead of shooting him on capture, as ordered.

*La Voz de Cuba* of the 13th, under the heading "It is strange," says:—"The public for some time past has known absolutely nothing of what has occurred in a portion of the jurisdiction of Villa Clara or what steps have been taken by the new Lieutenant Governor, Montaos, to suppress the insurrection which had broken out there to an alarming extent. We say in one part only, because in the other Lieutenant Governor Trillo, of Sagua, is operating in the field, pursuing the rebels as far as Villa Clara." General Letona arrived at the latter place on the 10th, without having encountered any obstacle. He had divided his column into three divisions. Telegrams report encounters, as usual, favorable to the Spanish cause. In one of these 175 insurgents are reported killed. Of course a senseless exaggeration.

We have news from Sagua to the 10th. The planters are complaining loudly of their inability to send their produce in safety to the railway station. They ask for detachments to be placed along the line to prevent the cutting of the rails. On the 9th a Polish general and his men had destroyed the telegraph station at San Marcos and part of the railway. Nothing known of the column under Trillo. Encounters in this jurisdiction and Remedios are reported, but of no interest.

The Pelayo, which recently arrived here, brought two insurgent flags from Gibara, which place it left on the 11th, taken in a fight with the rebels, known as the "Thunder Company," in which twelve were killed and a number of horses and arms captured. The column of Benegas, in the jurisdiction of Holguin, left for Aurias on the 6th, and established its headquarters there preparatory to commencing operations.

According to the official circular of the commanding general of Santiago the rebels lost from eighty to ninety men at the taking of Mayari, including the wounded and prisoners, besides 300 mules and horses, many arms, provisions, cigars and rum. The Spanish loss consisted of one killed (Captain Martinez, of the Corona regiment) and eleven wounded. The troops, as stated, numbered 600, and the insurgents 2,000. The insurgents expelled from Mayari propose to make an attack on Holguin.

Rumors of landings on the north coast are rife. From a reliable source I learn that a steamer recently landed a large quantity of arms, including "volcanic" rifles, so called, on the coast in the jurisdiction of Sagua. A landing of filibusters on the 5th at Bayaniguas is reported.

The Spanish war steamer Africa recently visited a British brig at Punta de Sul, cleared for Vera Cruz, with some thousands of rifles. Not being in Cuban waters she remained near, watching her. A suspicious number of people is reported in Key Romano, and the war steamer Venedito has gone there from Nuevitas to find out the meaning.

It is reported here that the Consul for the North German Confederation, resident in this city, is shortly to receive from his government a despatch, for the ostensible purpose of handing a copy of it to General Dulce, as Captain General of the island of Cuba, relative to an immediate investigation demanded by that government as to the maiming of two German gentlemen by the military of Havana on occasion of the disgraceful outrage committed in the Louvre Coffee House.

Many of the schoolmasters of public schools and teachers in colleges in this island are being removed and their situations filled by persons chosen by the authorities, inspiring entire confidence to the government.

*La Voz de Cuba* of the 13th inst. states that the Cuban *Laborantes* are having manufactured in New York different kinds of "infernal machines," in the form of apples and oranges ("as false as themselves," says said journal), and other explosive projectiles and grenades, wherewith to assassinate their *amigos*, the Spaniards. "We know," adds the *Voz*, "that the authorities are not only informed of the existence of these fruits, but also that of the tree which produces them."

The Banco de Comercio has consummated an arrangement with the Banco Espanol, satisfactory to both establishments, which enables the former to pay all claims on demand, in full, for which a pre-fixed time had been conceded to depositors.

We learn from Porto Rico, under date of the 5th inst., that there existed a secret conspiracy for the purpose of making another attempt to revolt. The new Captain General, Señor Laureano Sanz, had issued an address to the inhabitants, giving them to understand that the government was fully aware of and prepared for it. Don Carlos Rojas, director of the local administration, was sent to Madrid on special service. A subscription had been initiated, at the invitation of the municipality of Santiago de Cuba, for the relief of the destitute in the Eastern Department of Cuba.

**Affair with Colored Insurgents—An Expeditionary Brig Blockaded—Loss of Colonel Lesca.**

NUEVITAS, March 12, 1892.

On the 9th a party of the detachment which garrisons Paga went out and attacked a band of insur-

gents, composed of a number of colored firemen, who deserted some months ago from Puerto Principe and went over to the revolution. This force is under the command of Colonel Porro, a white man, and they are the best troops in the district. They were on the estate of Don Francisco Acosta, near Atalaya hill, on the other side of the bay. They were led by Don Luis Zayas Bazan, a white man, and were on a foraging expedition, gathering cattle for the insurgent forces. They had collected about 400 head, and their carts were loaded with provisions, when the troops fell suddenly on them, wounded many and killed four, including Bazan. The band, which had blockaded the district for some time with impunity, was completely dispersed.

The Spanish war steamers Africa and Ulloa have just come in from their cruise. The officers of the former state that the war steamer Andalusa is blockading the American brig in Ragged Island. She has eighty Cubans on board, mostly students from Paris and other cities; also four thousand rifles and six cannons of various kinds, plenty of munition and also money. The steamer which was to have gone for the Cubans had not appeared, but was sticking in Nassau. She was to have received \$50,000 for putting them in Cuba. Her non arrival has intensely disappointed the students.

The insurgent chief Don Anjel Castillo has been promoted, and now commands the divisions of the two military districts of Puerto Principe and Nuevitas. Don Manuel Artacaga has been arrested for having retreated and not showing fight on the occasion of the landing of the Spaniards at Guanaja.

It is believed here that the bad management and the route selected by Brigadier Lesca for the movement of his column from Guanaja has caused him great losses, which would have been still more serious had the insurgents opposed to him been prepared and properly provided with ammunition, of which they were quite bare. At the time of this encounter, the insurgent General Quesada was near Puerto Principe, but sick in bed.

Unless more troops be sent here from Havana, the planters will be prevented from going on with their crops, and the insurgents' band will do more damage to the estates than has yet been done.

**Spanish Reports of the Mayari Affair—Quiet in Santiago—Crops—A Dominican Cruiser.**

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, March 8, 1892.

The expedition to Mayari, which left here on the 25th ult. under command of Colonel Camara, afterwards joined by a small force which left here by sea on the 1st inst., was so far successful that it arrived at Mayari and took possession of that town, but apparently the ultimate result will be of as little importance as any of the preceding operations. From the time the troops passed Brazo de Cauto until they arrived at their destination they were subject to a continuous fire from ambushes, through which they lost one captain and six men killed and ten wounded, as reported by themselves. They entered Mayari without fighting, and the statement of the execution of Spaniards there by the insurgents under Monzon was fully confirmed.

Twenty-one men, including, it is said, two priests, were the victims. Provisions were found to be exceedingly scarce there, and a steamer has been despatched to-day with supplies to the Bay of Nipe. The town is perfectly quiet and the excitement, principally originated at the time of the expiration of the amnesty by the Spaniards, has entirely subsided. The sanitary condition of the place has improved and the deaths from cholera, which at one time amounted to twenty-nine in a day, have now dwindled down to two or three. The Board of Health now issues clean bills.

The situation here has decidedly improved and grinding has become general. Large quantities of coffee continue to arrive daily, and I am informed by intelligent people that the damage done by the insurgents in this district, though large, has been greatly exaggerated. It consists principally in the carrying off of negroes, and as the best from each estate have been taken their loss at this season is severely felt. Planters are very firm since the rise of sugar in London and New York, and if they can realize their crop at the prices they ask it will go far to cover their losses. Some twenty-five estates are already grinding, and from want of tonnage a stock begins to accumulate in town. Deliveries are slow. Planters ask four dollars for good refining. Coffee in fair stock. No transactions. American provisions very scarce, especially lard. Owing to the extreme scarcity of money transactions must be limited. Hams, beef, &c., without demand.

Information has reached here that the steamer Telegrafo was released from St. Thomas and is now cruising for the revolutionary party of St. Domingo, having, as is stated, already taken several small prizes.