

The March on Puerto Principe—News from the Villa Clara District—Insurgent Order to Burn Plantations—Cavalry Needed—Professor Agassiz at Havana.

HAVANA, Feb. 26, 1893.

The point of interest and the one to which attention is now attracted is Puerto Principe, in connection with the march upon that place by the government forces from Guaraia. For many months the insurgents have been preparing for an attempt to move by the direct road from Nuevitas to Principe, but Lesca, their commander, not caring to throw his men against fortifications or to "move on the enemy's works" when it was unnecessary, has quietly avoided them by taking another route. His movements, however, must be understood by Quesada, who can easily throw his whole force in his opponent's front, provided he has an inclination to fight. If not, it may safely be set down that there is no fight in the Cuban insurgents, and that they expect to succeed otherwise than by hard knocks, if at all.

The movement from Nuevitas to Guanaja was to be in connection with the force which left here in two small gunboats, towed by the steamer Comercio, on the 9th inst., as mentioned in a previous letter. Owing to contrary winds and a high sea the latter were compelled to put in at Sagua and Key Frances, and did not arrive at the mouth of the Carabellas river until the 15th. From that point to the hamlet of Guanaja there is but slight draught of water and the passes and channels are narrow and crooked. Four small schooners had joined the expedition at Olbarran, and it required the most strenuous exertions to reach the other side, and this was not accomplished until the morning of the 16th. Here the force waited until three P. M. for the column from Nuevitas; but, it not arriving, the movement was continued toward Guanaja. One or two of the vessels got aground, and gunshot distance was not reached until the 17th, and the bombardment at once commenced. From the first shot the people were seen to flee, and the shells having set fire to some thatched roofs, the firing was suspended and a force of 150 men landed, who found the place entirely abandoned. Shortly after a few individuals came in, stating that the insurgents, anticipating hostilities, had abandoned their position, carrying away their artillery. Entrenchments were found extending through the town fronting the sea, formed by old molasses casks half interred filled with earth and covered with enormous logs of mahogany and cedar. These were immediately destroyed.

The column from Nuevitas arrived on the morning of the 18th, landed at ten o'clock A. M., and the march of the combined forces commenced on the 21st, a small garrison being left in Guanaja, with munitions and provisions.

The troops which recently arrived here from Spain have mostly departed for the seat of insurrection, leaving Havana once more at the mercy of the volunteers. On the 24th a column left for Calbarien, and yesterday 1,000 chasseurs, under command of General Poelle, the Dominican, left for Cienfuegos. While in the extreme east all military operations are suspended, the government seems determined to restore order in the west if possible.

Our news from the insurrection is meagre. Spanish accounts from Santa Cruz, the 21st, say the insurgents are retiring in bands for the mountains and seeking the most remote and unapproachable localities of the country. On the 17th some troops went by sea to Guayabal, returning on the 21st. They attacked and dispersed several bands of the enemy, capturing seven horses, plenty of provisions and a quantity of wax. Six rebels availed of the amnesty. About seventy persons, some of whom were women and old men, wandering about, flying from the enemy, took refuge with the troops and returned with them.

The steamer Villa Clara, proceeding from Santo Espirito, Trinidad and Cienfuegos, arrived at Bata here last evening. She brings dates from the latter place to the 24th. On that day Colonel Morales de los Rios, with his artillery column, arrived, after having, as say the accounts, severely beaten the enemy on the margin of the river Samuli, and recapturing the towboat Cienfuegos, which had been already named General Cespedes. In this action a Mexican general was captured and shot. Among the wounded was a physician. The troops captured guns, pistols, machetes and a considerable quantity of money.

A letter from Calbarien dated the 20th says:—"The insurgents are reported all around us and skirmishes are said to have taken place in other parts of our jurisdiction between them and the government forces, with results not known. So far this place and Remedios are quiet. No communication by telegraph with Havana."

Dates from Santiago de Cuba are to the 10th. The *Expositor* of that city, in its issue of the 16th, contains what purports to be a copy of an order issued by the insurgent General Gomez to Colonel Perez, the text of which is as follows:—

LIVERING ARMY OF GUERRA.—I have just had an interview with Citizen General Maximo Gomez, who directs that you leave the French planters unmolested, and that you proceed to the destruction of other sugar estates, in order that the owners do not obtain any crops wherewith to pay the volunteers that are sent against us from Santiago. You can, therefore, commence the work forthwith, respecting the fields of cane and other produce, but burning the habitations and girdling machinery, in fulfilment of said order. *Patricio V. Llanusa.*

FELIX VICARIO.

RAWSON, Jan. 24, 1893.

Dates from Manzanillo are to the 20th. Colonel Adrian left with his column on the 18th, escorting a convoy of munitions and provisions for the troops of Ynlaseca at Bayamo. From Palmas to Yara the troops were much harassed. The *Diario* gives two versions of the result. The first that on the route Adrian divided his force into four divisions, taking one course with the three and leaving the fourth with the convoy, directing it, if attacked, to make a sham defence and then abandon it. The rebels soon appeared, and the troops were not slow to obey the orders they had received. When the rebels had got possession of the convoy the other three divisions of troops fell upon them with great impetuosity, leaving many dead on the field and dispersing the remainder. The other version is that the troops arrived safely in Yara, and that while there eighty rebels presented themselves for amnesty and "the brave troops" (the mobilized volunteers of Matanzas) fed on them and left but few alive. The column was expected to return to Manzanillo in fifteen days. A sortie was made from the latter place on the 20th by a small force, which returned the next day without having met a single enemy.

The government seems to be in great need of cavalry and the papers here are calling attention to the fact. The *Progreso* of the 25th has a communication which says it is imperatively necessary to repeat in a loud voice and to print in large type that which every boy can discern, viz.—that with an enemy mounted, familiar with the ground and always ready to fly because afraid to confront our troops, it is and will be of little use to think of pursuing with infantry and attempt to push him forward in the direction of our main forces. It is very easy for our governors to make requisition and obtain more horses than are required for the purpose, especially in the jurisdictions lavaded. All the sugar estates have an ample number of horses, which, before being passed over to the insurgents, ought to be delivered to us in order that the immense estates might be protected. The horses once obtained, there are plenty of infantry to ride them without requiring instruction in horsemanship. This matter is urgent—it is vital—it even concerns the health of our infantry, which would not be compelled to make so many forced marches in this fearful climate were they provided with horses. Even when they reach the enemy the chiefs succeed in balking pursuit." In the same article the correspondent advises the placing of a price on the heads of the insurgent chiefs. It says:—"The most liberal governments have not hesitated to place a price on the heads of robber chiefs, which has always yielded the best results. Immoral combinations, instituted for immoral purposes, are easily dissolved by means of corruption. If pardon and reward be offered for these chiefs, dead or alive, those barbarians who, not from a love of patria (which they are destroying), but from an attachment to plunder, will serve us better for money than they would others in the mere hope of robbing."

The effort to cast odium on the insurgents by representing them as bandits and incendiaries is as persistent as it is untruthful. Undoubtedly much injury has been done upon both sides. The rebels destroy the estates of Spaniards who are contributing of their means to suppress them, while everywhere the troops are not slow in following their example toward the property of the Cubans. It is worthy of remark that if the insurrection were as near its close as the Spaniards insist there would be no occasion for a corruption fund as suggested, certainly the most usual weapon in the hands of a Spaniard, and from which they can hope for quite as much as from their arms.

Twelve more prisoners, seven whites and five colored, were brought here by the civil guard from Santa Maria del Rosario on the 23d and taken to the Cabanas fortress. Among the former was a so-called Mexican general, either Inclan or Suarez. In the course of the 24th more came in, and were safely lodged in the forts.

The new British Consul here, Mr. Dunlop, expresses surprise that the representations of the Consuls, as affecting the interests of their respective citizens, are not listened to by the Captain General, and states that he shall make such representations when his duty demands it whatever their fate.

The English steamer *Tyne*, which sailed for Vera Cruz on the 23d instant, took more than a hundred passengers, mostly Cubans. Mexico has been considered better and cheaper than going to other parts where the Spanish language is not spoken.

Professor Agassiz, the celebrated naturalist, arrived on the 24th from Philadelphia in the steamer *Yaxoo*. He is about exploring the formation of the ocean bottom off Cuba, with a view to make comparisons with those already formed off Florida. A small steamer belonging to the coast survey has been placed at his disposition for the purpose. He had an interview with General Dulce, who paid him all possible at-

tention, offering him every facility in his power for the furtherance of the enterprise. Governor Gardner and family took passage in the steamer *Beaufort* for Ferdinandina. General's Steedman and Cassidy are still sojourning in Havana. Spanish gold is down to 1½ a premium.

The Feeling in Havana—Suspicion of General Dulce—Imprisonment of American Citizens—The Remedy—A Young Irishman Executed—News from Nuevitas.

HAVANA, Feb. 27, 1893.

The troubles in Havana, which culminated at one time in the slaughter of innocent persons in the theatre and coffee houses by the brave Spanish volunteers, and which are still threatening, had their origin, second only to the intense enmity between the two peoples in the distrust of the Spaniards as to the policy of General Dulce. In spite of his announcement that the severest measures would be adopted it is perfectly well understood that just as little killing as possible will be done outside of the field of battle. It is unquestioned that orders have been given to the troops to take no prisoners with arms in their hands. So the Captain General distinctly announced to the volunteer commanders in his interview with them on Wednesday last that executions after trial and conviction will be avoided as much as possible. Indeed, Dulce is so compromised to this course that he must follow it or be guilty of the most glaring inconsistency. The "Cadiz programme," of which he was one of the originators and ardent supporters, without abolishing the death penalty, strongly leaned in that direction, and he desires to carry out its spirit in this respect as far as practicable, and, being like General Grant, a "very obstinate man," he will be very apt to do it.

Again, he fully realizes the effect upon the outside world of a sanguinary course. As he said in one of his decrees but recently, "Such acts (executions) are always misinterpreted," and in this age he does not care to have his name stained by such excesses as Spanish history records of the past. The Spaniards of the island, reckoning among them the greater part of the volunteers, have no such scruples, and are eager to inaugurate an era of blood. They know that Dulce is opposed to this and will avoid it if possible, and so are cautious, threatening and savage. During the week that is past a fair share of his time has been taken up with endeavoring to conciliate the volunteers and bring them to reason. He had one interview with a considerable number of sergeants, the spokesman of whom frankly informed him that they had no confidence in him and in his punishing traitors as they deserve. He succeeded in quieting them, and they left after crying "Viva Dulce!" but it may be questioned if they are satisfied.

A constant suspicion is felt, and every move of the authorities is carefully watched for fear that some leniency will be displayed. The steamers *Ansoaio Lopez* and *Isa de Cuba*, of the Cadiz line, are to sail on the 25th, the former, which was to sail on the 24th, having been for some reason detained. Both vessels are lying just under the Cuban fort, under the pretence of taking in coal. As this is regarded as showing an intention to smuggle some of the Cuban prisoners on board and take them to Spain, and an eager watch is kept on both vessels. Constant rumors growing out of these suspicions are rife, and the city is kept in constant excitement.

Though thus insubordinate a General Dulce seems entirely confident of his ability to control the volunteers in the last resort. The arrival of the troops from Spain, as stated by telegraph, caused many a fearful heart to beat more freely, and the remark was often heard, "Their coming has prevented a massacre;" but the Captain General, with scarce time to recover from the fatigues of their voyage, sends them to the field of operations, entrusting the city entirely to the volunteers. What the result may be is uncertain. The anxiety is great and constant, and a disastrous outbreak may at any time take place. The patrols which since the disturbances have guarded the streets have of late been removed, and should such a thing occur the perpetrators will have full swing. The announcement that General Casallero de Kalas will replace General Dulce as Captain General of Cuba is regarded as a trick to keep the volunteers quiet, in the hope of a severer policy by the successor of Dulce.

In regard to the imprisonment of American citizens, most of these grow out of the foolish suspicions peculiar to the Spanish race, to ignorance of the law and of formalities. Once incarcerated it is much easier for a Spanish official to let the victim remain than to lay aside his *resaca* and cigarette to look into it. At the same time Dulce, who seems to have an insane dread that the Consuls will exercise some "diplomatic facilities," will listen to nothing from them, and the unfortunate American is dumbfounded, entirely innocent of any guilty intention, may be left to rot, unless by some happy accident or through some Spanish friend at Havana is called to his case. Egress is not difficult under such cases if the "troops" are understood and the money is sufficiently lavished.

But recently a sample case occurred. Mr. Dalley, an engineer, an American citizen, arrived here on the 16th from Matanzas, having thought it prudent to leave on account of the disturbances there. He was desirous of going to New York, but was unable to get his passport through want of knowledge of the requisite formalities. The Consul, who had already been snubbed for his efforts to render assistance to his countrymen in such emergencies, could do nothing. As the result Mr. Dalley went on board the steamer without a passport hoping to get off unharmed. Upon the examination by the officer of the passengers he was arrested and thrown into prison. He wrote to the Consul, who was powerless to assist him, and only through certain Spanish friends was he enabled to have his case properly represented and himself released. Under the system adopted here both American and all other foreign citizens are liable to arrest at any moment and are entirely without redress. What is needed is that the Consul General, when his communications regarding American citizens and their interests are not attended to, should hand to the Admiral a copy of his communication to the Captain General, and after waiting a reasonable time for a reply, the Admiral should be instructed to require an answer in twenty-four hours and wait for the same on the port; if no reply is received, to take the requisite action in the case.

The American brig *J. D. Lincoln*, Merriam, master, arrived here from Sierra Morena on the 25th, loaded with molasses. On clearing the vessel at the Havana Custom House, as is usual with foreign ships that load at any of the ports in the vicinity, unprovided with a Custom House, the authorities refused to let her go, on the pretext that the captain had infringed the late superior order declaring all such ports as closed. It appears that the vessel loaded before any such order had arrived at Sierra Morena, and, even if the captain had been aware of it before he sailed, it would have endangered the vessel and such part of the cargo she might have on board, had she remained at the place of loading. The captain has filed his protest accordingly. As the Consul is not recognized by General Dulce, nor in any way supported by Mr. Seward, it now remains to be seen whether the authorities will make themselves liable to the claim, which this case will naturally establish, or let her finally go, after many days of detention, to the detriment of the parties concerned. If Mr. Seward will not take a proper stand on behalf of the persons of American citizens, might he not at all hazards protect their trade and interests?

The latest advices from Trinidad are to the 22d, when the city was reported to be quiet. Some prisoners had been brought in from Juncos.

From Nuevitas we have dates to the 25th. John Barry, an unfortunate young Irishman, who had resided in the United States, a cooper by trade, had been working on a sugar estate, near Gibara, recently came here. He was made prisoner and was shot next morning without trial.

Quite a pleasant accident took place there on Washington's birthday. There were three Spanish war steamers in port. The Gettysburg hosted all her hunting at sunrise. The Spanish vessel was a so bedecked, the stars and stripes at the main. The Gettysburg fired twenty-one guns, which was joined in by the *Blasco de Garry* with the same number. Mr. Gibbs, the Consul, gave a dinner, to which were invited the officers of the Gettysburg and the Spanish vessel named and the commander of the port.

I learn that an extensive estate near Puerto Principe has been burned by the troops who went to it for cattle. They took the sugar and a number of oxen. On their return they were attacked by the Cubans, who retook the booty and caused them a loss of forty.