

CUBA.

Cuban Account of the State of Affairs—The Insurgents Again Approaching Santiago—Puerto Principe Still Besieged—Enthusiasm of the Cubans.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, March 21, 1869.

The tidings received here from the districts in insurrection are satisfactory to those who love the liberal cause. The liberating forces are again pushing their operations in the vicinity, and with the small number of troops here, barely sufficient for garrison duty, the Catalan volunteers are beginning to feel less enthusiasm and confidence in their ability to extinguish the revolution.

Five days since a train left here with supplies for the Spanish garrisons in San Luis, El Cristo and Palma Soriano, under escort of 200 troops, but after several days' absence were compelled to return without relieving the garrisons in question. It was found that bodies of insurgents were near Yaiyabé and Hongolosongo in sufficient strength to prevent their advance.

At this writing the insurgent General Gomez is at Hongolosongo, awaiting reinforcements to attack Villa del Cobre, distant some four leagues from this city. General Figueredo is reported to be at El Ramon, with 5,000 men and four pieces of artillery, intending to bar the passage of Valmaseda, and Generals Marcomo, Diaz and another (name not remembered) are in the neighborhood of Bayamo, whence their operations are directed against the already decimated forces of Valmaseda. The position of the Spaniards is said to be precarious.

Not long since forty Spanish soldiers deserted with all their arms and accoutrements, quitting the garrison of Palma Soria to swell the ranks of the insurgents. Of course the Spaniards and their sympathizers are anxious to conceal such events, but the truth prevails at last.

The column commanded by Colonel Lopez Camara, after several fights, entered Mayari, but the insurgents are encamped at Bucury, whence small detachments issue daily to harass the troops. Lopez Camara lately made a requisition for steamers to return to Santiago de Cuba in, because he was afraid to go by land, as the patriots stopped his march. But inasmuch as there are not sufficient steamers here for the transportation of the 800 men composing his column the steamer Guantanamo was sent with two cannons, ammunition and a few more soldiers. If, however, they are finally compelled to travel by land, they certainly will suffer much ere they reach here.

From Puerto Principe we hear that General Quemasda, commanding at the siege of that place, had fought the Spanish troops in their march from La Guanaja, causing to General Lesca a loss of not less than 300 men killed and 200 wounded and left upon the field. As nearly as we can ascertain it seems that the troops finally succeeded in entering the city, though by circuitous routes and always avoiding a meeting with the heroes of Camaguey, who, since the victorious battle of the 21st and 22d of February, are all united into one single army corps. The Spaniards are again besieged in Puerto Principe and in need of the necessaries of life. The government admits a loss of thirty-nine killed, including two officers, and 105 wounded, which is a reassuring confession, taking into account that they hitherto have never admitted losing but one killed and two slightly wounded.

This community has been greatly shocked at the incarceration of two ladies belonging to the family of Don Leopold A. de Arteaga, merely because some of their relatives had joined the insurgents. Within three days the government has seized all the fire-arms and knives in the possession of the inhabitants, without exception, thus leaving them defenceless against any sudden danger. But it seems that in the eyes of the authorities all persons are insurgents. The enthusiasm which the insurrection has created among the sons of Santiago de Cuba is indescribable, and, far from diminishing, is increasing. Many are the preparations being made to receive worthily the liberating army, and numerous young men daily escape to join its ranks. It is said that recently at Nimanima and Ascuadera there have landed as reinforcements for the patriots several good friends in red shirts and caps, à la Garibaldi. If so, they are welcome.

No more is heard of the cholera, and we trust, now the day is close at hand when the tri-colored flag shall float in our harbors, the harbinger of the glory and happiness in store for this privileged land.