

CUBA.

PROGRESS OF THE INSURRECTION.

Bitterness of the Matanzas Volunteers.

The Course of Events Throughout the Island.

Insubordination of the Matanzas Volunteers—They Demand the Surrender of a Prisoner—Return of Regular Troops to Havana—Reception of the Comandante—Another Gross Outrage on the American Flag—Miscellaneous Local Items.

HAVANA, April 6, 1893.

The details of the affair of the Matanzas prisoner, whom the volunteers of that city demanded should be delivered up to them, are as follows:—M. Despon is a native of Matanzas and was formerly a member of a volunteer organization, all the Cubans in which, save himself, deserted to the insurgents. Naturally, this action caused great excitement among the Spanish volunteers, and, though he remained faithful, he was regarded with intense dislike; they, in their blind wrath, visiting their hatred upon him. He was arrested, but an investigation showed him innocent, and he was released. He was afterwards induced by his friends, who feared his assassination, to leave the place, and he sought refuge aboard an American brig about sailing. The volunteers ferreted him out, finding him concealed in the folds of the sails, and he was imprisoned. The matter coming to the knowledge of the authorities here, General Dulce sent orders for the prisoner, with the process against him, to be forwarded to Havana. The order was complied with, he being sent at a late hour of the night to avoid any demonstration. The following day the volunteers surrounded the Governor's house and demanded the surrender of Despon, threatening the Governor's life, which caused him either to leave the city or conceal himself in it. The accounts concerning this differ. The volunteers ultimately withdrew, and a committee of fifty-eight men, two from each company, were selected, and with their arms, proceeded to Havana to demand the surrender of Despon from the Captain General. On their arrival his Excellency received them in anything but a pleasant humor. He told them that the prisoner having been declared innocent after investigation he could not again be placed in jeopardy of his life, and severely reprimanded them for their absurd insubordination in coming armed upon such an errand. To the latter they responded that their own safety on the road required that they should carry arms. Several interviews followed, and Dulce ultimately appointed Colonels Miguel A. Herrera, Iminez and Rizo to proceed to Matanzas and settle the matter with the volunteer officers. They succeeded in doing so, and a committee from these officers yesterday waited on the Captain General to express their belief that an impartial investigation had been made, and their consequent satisfaction, and apologized for their action in the matter.

This affair is but another one of the many evidences of the insubordinate spirit constantly being manifested by the citizen soldiery of the island, and which is exciting grave apprehension. A significant fact in this connection is the return here yesterday of a column of 600 artillerymen under Colonel Morales de los Rios, which went out from Havana some two months since, and have been operating in Villa Clara and Cienfuegos. They were immediately placed in the Cabanas and Morro, where their presence will enable General Dulce to control those fortifications and render him more independent of the volunteers than he has heretofore been. In reference to the insurgents they say, with something of a ludicrous bewilderment, that they were unable to find any. It is now announced that they will soon return to the field. They left Santa Clara on the 4th, and arrived here quite unexpectedly and dreadfully worn. They were promptly welcomed by the Spanish volunteers and population. The former received them on the wharf, accompanied with bands of music. One of the columns was the bearer of a fine large insurgent flag, which was trampled upon on the wharf, and was afterwards dragged along the street in their march, which, though contributing little to the suppression of the rebellion, seemed to cause much satisfaction.

As you have been advised by telegram, the coasting steamer Comandante has been recaptured, and was brought into port yesterday morning. On the 27th ultimo the Spanish war steamer San Quintin, a small paddlewheel boat, with one gun, left here in search of her, steering for Nassau. After cruising for three days she discovered her near some point in that island. On perceiving the pennant those on board of the Tara, as the vessel had been renamed, changed their course landwards, for Great Stirrup Key, supposing that the small depth of water there would prevent the war steamer following. It seems, however, that the gunboat Luisa (formerly the tugboat Ana), Captain Pardo, had accompanied the San Quintin. As soon as the insurgents saw her they took to their boats, being near the land. A shot from the war vessel sank one, by which six were drowned; six contrived to reach the lighthouse and the same number were captured, which is all accounted for. Of the latter three are said to be Spaniards, who were forcibly detained on the vessel by the captors. The San Quintin arrived at six A. M. with the prize in tow, with these three men and one Chinaman; the other two were held on the Luisa, which remained in hopes of picking up the fugitives. It is evident from the appearance of the vessel that her cargo had been removed. At twelve M. yesterday a council of war was instituted on board the war steamer Blasco de Garay, to inquire into the affair of the capture and to settle as to the guilt or innocence of the prisoners.

I have been furnished with the following details in reference to this vessel and her recapture:—The party on board the Comandante, on perceiving the Luisa, opened her valves, hoping to sink her; but this was prevented. The goods originally on board of her, shipped for Cardenas and Colon, had been transferred to a schooner. The English authorities had sent a war vessel after the latter. The police was for a time actively engaged in searching for the runaway captors, but without success. The Luisa, which still remains there, has on board three of the men, held there for the purpose of recognizing the others should they be caught. Two of these are Cubans, named Teodoro Nunez and Francisco Gonzalez, and the other is a native of Curazero. Cuban accounts say that the object of the captors of the Comandante was to take the arms and money of the government on board. In regard to the arms they attained their object, having sent them to Nassau and delivered them to the Cubans there. The money had been sent by the government previously. There is no truth in any of the accounts of the Spanish press. No boats were put out. All save the Spaniards who had been forcibly detained escaped previously.

The Municipality of Havana have passed a vote of thanks to the provincial deputation of Barcelona for the prompt organization and embarkation of the Catalan volunteers, and ordered that a record of the action be perpetually kept on the minutes of the corporation.

The *Voz de Cuba*, in its issue of yesterday, states that Señors Antonio Fernandez Bramosio, Francisco Ferrer y Diago and Nestor Ponce de Leon have disposed of their possessions in the island, and it expresses the belief that a large number of absent insurgents will follow the same course.

The railroad between Macagua and Alvarez being nearly completed the communication will be opened very shortly. This constitutes a step of importance towards the much desired uninterrupted communication between Havana and the principal towns in the Central and Eastern Departments. This new branch approaches the junction from Villa Clara to Cienfuegos.

The steamer Rapido, due at Matanzas on Friday last from Espiritu Santo, Cienfuegos and Trinidad, and whose non-arrival caused some apprehensions, shipped a column of troops at the latter place, under General Becets, for Santiago de Cuba.

Information of another outrage upon the American flag has reached here from Calabari; but these are becoming so common that, aside from the first feeling of indignation, they have ceased to excite interest. The facts as stated by the American Consul at Calabari, Mr. Stone, are as follows:—The bark Lizzie Major cleared from Havana on the 5th of March for New Orleans via Calabari. On the 27th of March, having left the latter place, and being on the high seas opposite this island, she was stopped and boarded by the Spanish war steamer Fernando el Catolico, and two Cuban passengers, named James A. Hannibal and Ramon Rivas, taken from her. Mr. Stone, the Consul, has protested very energetically against the action, and has reported the matter to the Consul General here. It is hoped that the United States government will act with an energy and promptness in the matter corresponding to the celerity with which it surrendered Messrs. Biddle and Mason at the demand of England. It is probable, however, that the passengers mentioned have both been shot before this.

It is reported by the Spaniards that the war steamer Guadalupe has captured a schooner with arms and munitions on the south side of the island.

The Lieutenant Governor of Guanabacoa, on the opposite side of the bay from Havana, has ordered away some eleven youths, ranging from fifteen to twenty years of age, suspected of disloyalty. The passes furnished them recommend vigilance on the part of the police wherever they may be.

Her Majesty's ship Heron has returned from Calabari.

rien, whether she went to inquire into the capture of the British schooner *Jeff Davis*. The material facts were ascertained to be as heretofore published in the *HERALD*, and proper representations have been made to the British government. The Consul understands that the vessel has been delivered up and sailed for Nassau. What action is to be taken in reference to the two passengers taken from on board and shot does not appear. The steamer *Marsella*, now armed as a war ship, and a lowboat, mounted with cannon, arrived here to-day from Nassau. The sum of \$50,000 has recently been subscribed by the public in aid of the volunteers.

Although we have now a double cable to Key West there is so far but one instrument at work in receiving and sending messages, and this one, under the very peculiar arrangement in the office here, is closed to the public from three o'clock P. M. until seven, to its great injury and detriment. Owing to the amount of business crowded into the few working hours the press despatches are occasionally thrown over to the following day. There are other very annoying evils in the administration of the office, principally owing to the jealousy and shortsightedness of the government, to which at present I do not care more particularly to revert. A change which would bring about an improvement in the very stupid manner in which matters are conducted in the cable office, no matter what its character, would be gladly welcomed here.

I learn that ten gunboats are expected here from Spain. Thirty additional have been ordered in the United States.

The artillery column which arrived here yesterday will go at once to the Vuelto Abajo.

It is publicly given out here that the volunteers expect to make "a jolly time" on the arrival of the Catalan volunteers, and insinuations are made that this insures a massacre.

La Voz de Cuba of the 6th states that great economies and reforms are soon to be introduced into the government offices here; that they have been already proposed, and that the government therein will not as heretofore limit itself to removing a few clerks and porters and appointing the same number of higher officials. In which *La Voz* is sarcastic. In its issue of the 2d it recommends the managers of railroads to discharge the Cuban employees, and suggests that the government and all enterprises employ none but native Spaniards.

It is noticed here that certain Madrid papers assure the public that General Concha is coming to take command here. If so, the old scenes, in which Americans were shot in files, may be renewed.

The steamer *Rapido* arrived at Matanzas on Monday evening from the southern ports with twenty political prisoners.

Excursion of Troops—Fight at Cartagena.

SAGUA LA GRANDE, April 2, 1893.

Part of the Second company of the Chasseurs Battalion of Castilla, with the aid of the Guardia Civil, commanded by Captain Saravia, made an excursion some days ago and attacked the rebels on the plantation Americano, where they killed two, the rest of the band fleeing precipitately without carrying away the dead.

On the 1st the column under Colonel Araoz arrived at Cartagena, and in an encounter near Valadora killed six of the enemy, while the troops had one killed and none wounded. Colonel Salinas arrived in Cartagena and marched for Salado, where he killed three of the enemy in one of the encounters on the way.

The Fight at Hernando—Insurgent Attack on Mayajigua.

SAN JUAN DE LOS RINCONES, April 4, 1893.

The *Heraldo* contains a copy of a communication from Lieutenant Colonel Moreno to the Captain General giving a brief account of the triumph obtained in Hernando on the 15th ult. by Commandant Herrera, "with only 300 men, after a fight of two hours against 3,000 rebels that were partly entrenched. The latter are represented to have suffered a loss of no less than 136 killed and a big number of wounded, besides three cannon and other arms taken from them." This account requires the insurgent story before a "fair average" of the facts can be got at.

An attack was recently made upon Mayajigua by a party of insurgents, who were kept at bay by a small party of volunteers until the arrival of two companies of the mobilized Fifth from Yaguajay, when the rebels fled.

Change in Command at Villa Clara—Two Thousand Insurgents Still in the Field.

VILLA CLARA, April 1, 1893.

Engineer Colonel Portillo has now command of this district. General Latona's order of the day, dated the 17th ultimo, contains some wholesome measures to prevent the troops from maltreating animals and appropriating effects or cattle belonging to private individuals. The *Diario de la Marina* states that there are still some 2,000 rebels in this district.

Arrival of Troops—Citations for Treason—Occupation of Sagunera.

CIENTFUEGOS, April 4, 1893.

The troops which arrived from Batabano, consisting of part of the Aragon Chasseurs, 100 regular cavalry and sixty engineers, in all 700 men, under the command of Brigadier Ferrer, left by sea for Manzanillo.

Colonel Gonzalez Estefani, of the cavalry militia, recently appointed Lieutenant Governor of this district, has taken charge of his duties and issued an address to the inhabitants and the volunteers.

The military court summons Antonio Terry, Leandro Junco, owner of the plantation, Divertido, Esteban Lima and Rafael Garcia, employees of said estate, to appear before that tribunal on a charge of rebellion. Manuel Sanchez Acevedo, Andres Javier Martinez (son), Rafael Arbelo, Miguel Salian and Leoncio de la Campa have been acquitted.

The occupation of Sagunera by the Spanish forces is reported. The insurgents had created the impression that it would be energetically defended, and no less than 4,600 were concentrated under General Pelaez to attack it. A great battle was expected, but upon the arrival of the troops it was found abandoned. The place had been very considerably fortified; many of the houses had been set fire to by the rebels before their departure. A small garrison was left in the place. The balance of the troops returned to Cienfuegos and other points.

Change of Command in Trinidad—Spanish Force in the Place.

TRINIDAD, March 31, 1893.

The late Governor and Military Commandant of this district *ad interim* has been relieved by Señor Miñano. On the 29th he issued an order for the surrender of all firearms used by private persons within four days.

Colonel Patisso has gone on an excursion with the companies of the Simancas regulars.

General Becets and his veterans were, on arrival, welcomed with enthusiasm, and received in the same manner by the volunteers, who gave a dinner to the officers.

The battalion of the Leon regulars now here numbers 1,010 men. In the steamer *Rapido*, from Batabano, arrived 1,300 men.

Insurgent Force in the District—Execution of a Leader.

ESPIRITU SANTO, March 23, 1893.

The greatest rebel force seen within a circuit of thirty to fifty miles was 1,600 men. Of these 600 were negroes, armed with "machetes." They were whipped near Jatibonico by fifty regulars of San Quintin and sixty volunteers of the Orden. The enemy had ten killed. The troops took two prisoners, many horses and the correspondence.

The base of operations of the three columns of General Puello and Colonels Chinchilla and Acosta will be Arroyo Blanco, twenty-seven miles east of this place.

To-day José Fernandez Elvira, who styled himself "Comandante General de la Insurrección" was publicly shot.

Concentration of Troops at Manzanillo—Insurgents on the Road to Bayamo.

MANZANILLO, March 29, 1893.

The column of 600 regulars of the España and Italian battalions has arrived, and were hostilized at three different points, where the rebels were entrenched. Their strongholds were taken, and, on flanking and attacking their front at the point of the bayonet, killed twenty, among whom was a colonel and a captain, besides wounding a number.

The battalion of Antequera regulars arrived in the steamer Cienfuegos from Batabano, and will go forward to Santiago via Bayamo to-morrow. These were sent by General Valmaseda to share in an operation of "great importance" in combination with other columns. General Latorre awaits them in Santiago.

The number of troops to escort the convoy amounts to 1,678 men.

Supplies for General Valmaseda—Insurgent Forces near Bayamo.

BAYAMO, March 25, 1893.

To-day a column of 600 men of the España and Italian battalions left for Manzanillo to escort, on its return, a convoy of provisions and munitions. General Valmaseda ordered the landing of the Antequera battalion of regulars at Manzanillo because a large number of rebels exist between that city and Bayamo.