

# CUBA.

## Our Relations with Cuba—Dulce Part of the Spanish Government—Consequent Need of a Diplomatic Representative—Naval and Consular Representatives Powerless—The New Consul General.

HAVANA, April 15, 1893.

The principle that a nation cannot have diplomatic relations with a colonial government is, under the theories of political economy, evident, inasmuch as the latter has not that independent position which enables it to comply with requirements or enforce demands. This truism is, however, based upon the supposition that all powers, as affecting other nations, are vested in and exercised by the home government. The reasons for it cease when the colonial government arrogates to itself—and is sustained by the authority of the nation therein—power to issue, and carry into effect decrees materially affecting important interests of such other nations. Of this character is the decree of Dulce, dated March 24, declaring vessels which may be captured in Spanish waters or on the free seas adjacent thereto, under certain circumstances, pirates; also his arrest of citizens merely upon suspicion, and confining them in a dungeon, without any just cause, as is proved in the majority of instances by their speedy release. Of this character, too, is the arbitrary confiscation of the property of foreign holders, as in case of the Kate Ranger affair, and the establishment of duties, differential and otherwise. True, these things are done in the name of the general government, but they are in use of "extraordinary facilities," a convenient term in most Spanish countries, and in this expressive of the powers inherent in the government of the nation itself, and which cannot be delegated without changing the whole theory of international relation and intercourse. It may be said that the Spanish government is responsible for the exercise of these powers; but meanwhile through them irreparable acts are committed, such, for instance, as the execution of an innocent person. Apologies and reparation tendered cannot restore life, and, with that power which may, in arbitrary exercise of its authority, take it away, such diplomatic relation should exist as will enable foreign nations to protect their subjects. The red tape system which pursues its even, well ordered course in spite of scaffolds and graves is not suited to the condition of affairs on this island, which are not general and not to be judged by ordinary rules. The truth is that the Spanish revolution was the work of a few individuals, rendered easy no matter by what causes, and the provisional government a joint stock concern, in which Serrano, Topete, Prim and Dulce were the co-directors, their authority being equal and co-extensive. True, some of the stockholders and others interested in the institution have, as stockholders occasionally do, with much impudence, presumed to interfere, but again like stockholders they have succeeded in accomplishing nothing. It fell to Dulce's part to look after the interests of the enterprise in Cuba, and he came out with full powers to exercise his judgment and to bind the company. He is, therefore, practically as much a part of the government of Spain as his coadjutors, who are running the thing in Madrid. For the reasons thus embodied the safety of American citizens and the preservation of American interests among others imperatively demand that a representative should be here, holding at least a qualified diplomatic position and with a right to be heard instead of, as now, trusting to a courtesy not always conceded.

It need not be supposed that the preservation of these interests will follow upon a telegram from the Secretary of State to Admiral Hoft, directing him to protect all American citizens. Within the narrow circle of his authority, circumscribed as it is by orders and custom, Admiral Hoft can do nothing or little more; and, again, he is an officer of too much experience and acumen to do anything more than comply with the strict letter of his instructions. He knows very well how United States officers have been treated in the past who have dared to exercise their own judgment in protecting Americans abroad. Well if their action happened to jibe with the popular sentiment and was likely to redound to the credit of the administration, ruthless court martial and dismissed if otherwise; and at his time of life and with his high position he does not care to run any such risk. "Protect all American citizens," coming from the State Department to Admiral Hoft, is baldness and nonsense; nor did the latter need any general instructions of that character to discharge his duty. Innocencio Casanova, whose fair daughter shed tears before General Grant, is not released, despite this energetic action of the administration, nor is he likely to be, until, as the Herald once suggested, the Admiral is directed to await once to his demands of the harbor. As a master of policy, wise, perhaps, under the circumstances, all representations here—save some few which Mr. La Reuntrie endeavored to make, with such unfortunate result to himself—have been of the most honeyed character, and it may well be doubted if they have accelerated the release of our innocent Americans or preserved a dollar's worth of property to an American holder. Something strong and vigorous is demanded here, and this is not only the sentiment of your correspondent but of every American on the island.

In this connection I may again revert to the appointment and confirmation of Edmund Lee Plumb as Consul General here, which affords the most complete satisfaction to all parties. Mr. Plumb's long experience in diplomacy, his knowledge of international law and his energetic and persistent nature, combined with a thorough knowledge of the Spanish character, the last most important of all, leads to the conviction that, as far as possible, American interests will be protected under him, and the only wonder is that he not accept the position at all, circumscribed as he must be by the peculiar circumstances of the case. His coming is anxiously looked for.

## The Mary Lowell Affair—The British Consul Protest Against Her Condemnation—The Deposition of the Mariners on Board of Her.

HAVANA, April 17, 1893.

The British Consul General, the Hon. Alexander Graham Dunlop, has addressed to Captain General Dulce an energetic protest against the decision of the Admiralty Court in declaring the Mary Lowell a lawful prize, and has forwarded to his government a full report of the case, together with the deposition of the crew of the vessel, copies of which I attach. The brig was taken to the arsenal on Thursday, and her discharging commenced soon after. She was found to contain from 4,000 to 6,000 stand of arms, of the most improved pattern, and cannons with several bores, concerning which fabulous stories are afloat.

The following are the depositions made before Alexander Graham Dunlop, her Majesty's Consul General in Cuba, by John Reynolds and James Welsh, seamen, taken on board the Mary Lowell:

On the 15th of March last we were on board the Mary Lowell, which weighed from man-of-war anchorage, in charge of Mr. Walter Wilson, British Customs House officer, between nine and ten o'clock in the forenoon, with the intention of working round the southeast point of Little Ragged Island harbor. The ship's boats were all sealed, and had been sealed previous to our joining the vessel, which was on the 26th of February last. At this time the Spanish war steamer Andaluza was anchored two or three cables from us. The steamer weighed immediately after we did. The wind was light from the eastward, and we made short tacks about every half hour, going about three knots.

The steamer tacked whenever we did, and kept within the distance of half a mile to one mile from us, until about two o'clock in the afternoon, when a vessel now in sight to southward, which proved to be a monitor, and the Andaluza went out to reconnoitre her and returned to her former position near us—in about an hour—say about three o'clock in the afternoon. We then came standing to the southward, the Andaluza was then within hail and offered to tow us round the southeast point of Little Ragged Island; we declined, as we expected to weather it on the next tack. At the same time she made this offer we were not more than one mile and a half off the shore. We stood on to three miles, passing to windward of the Hobson breaker for the first time, and close to it, only just clearing it. At no time during the day had we gone off shore so far.

Shortly after four P. M. we tacked and stood in shore, with our American colors flying. In the meantime the Andaluza had lowered a cutter full of armed men, besides her crew (upwards of twenty in all), and they endeavored to come alongside, after we tacked towards the shore, but were unable to get alongside. Seeing this, the Andaluza came up on our port beam, and ordered us to lower away our sails, at the same time pointing a gun at us. As soon as we understood the order we obeyed it.

We were then far to the northward of the Hobson breaker and lay well up, so as to weather the southeast point of Little Ragged Island, distant about one mile. After the sails were lowered we drifted so close to the rocks that Mr. Wilson had the ship kept away southwest to prevent her striking. In a few minutes the boat came alongside—the port side. The officer in command of the Spanish boat noticed the flag and asked the permission of Mr. Wilson, who was in command, to come on board. Leave was given to come himself alone. As soon as he was on deck some order was given from the steamer Andaluza, and the officer at once called the armed men on board, out of the boat, and they took charge of the vessel, ordering the crew of the Mary Lowell to go on board the Andaluza, which we did. We had scarcely any clothes, as they were left on shore at Ragged Island, the vessel having only weighed to suit her berth. As soon as we got on board we (four) were all put in irons down; in about half an hour we were released, and on going on deck we found that the Andaluza had the Mary Lowell in tow and was steaming away from the land (Ragged Island) at a rapid rate.

On the 16th of March last we arrived at Nuevitas, and were subsequently examined there before the Spanish authorities. We remained on board the Andaluza prisoners at large till the morning of the 21st, when we were transferred on board the Blasco de Garay, and left Nuevitas in her on the 24th of March, 1893, arriving in Havana harbor on the 24th. We remained about six days in the Blasco de Garay, and on one occasion, while she was coaling, we were put in irons for one night.

On the 30th of March we were placed on board the

Gerona, in Havana harbor, and remained prisoners between two guns on her maindeck for about ten days. We were then allowed to go at large until the evening of the 13th of April last, when we were set at liberty, and a boat from the Gerona landed us in the town of Havana. Since we have been in Havana we have each been examined once before a judge on board the Gerona. And we hereby solemnly declare that, both during that examination and also during the previous one at Nuevitas, the evidence we gave went to prove that the Mary Lowell was not taken further than one mile from the shore of Ragged Island, and concurs in every particular with this declaration.

With respect to the Spanish decision on the case of the Mary Lowell, written in the Andor's report in Spanish and dated the 13th April, 1893, and verbally translated to us by the English Consul, in which we are represented to have said that at the time of seizure of the Mary Lowell by the Andaluza:—"One said that she was one mile and a half from the coast, but he could not affirm it; another between three and four miles, another at three miles, and another at one mile, and another at the island."

We hereby declare that this alleged report of any portion of any evidence of ours is an entire mistake on the part of the Spanish judge or interpreter, we don't know which. And we declare this solemnly, although we may have signed papers placed before us for signature by the Spanish officials, after having had them hastily read to us either in Spanish or English or both. If anything was said to us about three miles or four miles as being our distance off shore we meant to reply to a query respecting Great Ragged Island and not the distance from the shore of Little Ragged Island. Our remembrance of this is perfectly distinct, and we do not acknowledge as true the assertion in the Spanish report respecting any discrepancy in our several testimonies.

## Burning of the Hotel de Inglaterra—British Mail Schooner Seized at Sea—Arms Making in Havana—Sequestration of Private Property.

HAVANA, April 17, 1893.

The fire at the Hotel de Inglaterra, facing the Parque promenade, broke out at midnight and commenced in the pantry or office on the ground floor. The flames rose with extraordinary rapidity and soon extended all over the house, devouring all but the stone material. Fortunately, there were very few lodgers in the house, it being now the dull season for hotel keepers, and no loss of life has been reported, the inmates having managed to escape to the neighboring terraces. The Louvre Cafe, next door, filled with liquors and affluent spirits, escaped by a miracle, although the building's roof suffered slight damage. The aggregate loss sustained is roughly estimated at less than twenty thousand dollars. There are not wanting persons who insist that the fire was the act of some incendiary.

The English mail schooner Ellen, in ballast, from Kingston (Jamaica) to Santiago, carrying the mail of the 17th was boarded by the merchant steamer Barcelona on suspicion, and thoroughly searched. The British Consul is investigating the matter.

A cannon was brought recently to the palace yard, said to have been made at the arsenal of this city by American armors, and it is further reported that more of these guns are being manufactured there, as the most modern improvements in the cannon referred to have been exhibited to the view of the Captain General.

General Puella arrived on the 12th in Remedios, and was to leave next day for Calbarien.

The Captain General has issued a decree directing that all documents for the transfer of property of every kind, merchandise and produce for exportation shall be submitted to the government for approval; and all the real and personal estate of the persons known to compose the Cuban Junta in New York is declared sequestered.

At Nuevitas on the 11th the insurgent chief, Benjamin Perez, recently made prisoner on the estate Caridad, was under trial by court martial, and in all probability will be shot forthwith.

At Manzanillo a Spanish coast guard was sentenced by a council of war for carrying powder to the enemy.

## Government Tariff for Supplies—Arrival of Artillery.

Cienfuegos, April 15, 1893.

General Pelaez has ordered that the moment a force arrives at any of the towns a fair tariff of prices for the articles of prime necessity be enforced by the rural police.

The nine insurgents who lately compelled the small garrison of the little Jaxua "castle" to surrender, and afterwards abandoned it, have not yet been found.

The steamer Rapido brought a complete battery of mountain artillery of four rifled guns.

## Movements of the Troops—A Spanish Trader Shot for Disloyalty—Shooting of a Cuban.

VILLA CLARA, April 14, 1893.

A company of the Tarragona regiment, with a portion of our volunteers, have returned from an excursion, without encountering any enemy. Two companies of Napoleon's regiment from Sagua arrived from the Santa Rosa estate.

Don Genero-o de la Vega, a trader of the town of Santa, was shot for disloyalty by one of the Remedios columns. Don Manuel Acostu y Bencomo, pursued by an armed force for rebellion, was shot while attempting to escape.

## Reported Capture and Execution of Justo Aguilera—Refugees Around Gibara.

GIBARA, April 10, 1893.

Many insurgents have been captured. Among these was Justo Aguilera, lawyer, and president of the revolutionary junta of Holguin, who was surprised on the 5th and shot next day. This has "consternated" the rebels. Seventy more have been surprised on various occasions and shot—some were of note and their acts notorious.

Colonel Benegari has now 17,000 men to protect who have come to see him out, and he asks for reinforcements.

## Arrival of Troops—Twelve Hundred Men to Fill Loaves—Arrest of Delia Aguilera—Fight with the Insurgents—The Peruvian Monitors—Summary Execution.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, April 12, 1893.

The steamer Cienfuegos has arrived with the Battalion de Leon on board, say 1,000 men, more or less, also 200 artillerymen and thirty horses. Brigadier Buceta also arrived, but, I believe, goes back on Monday, his services not being required here.

A great dinner was given to the officers of the troops which arrived per Moctezuma, at which General Latore presided. Afterwards the General was escorted home by a picket of volunteers and a band, and patriotic shouts were raised and music played till eleven at night. The Moctezuma brought some 250 officers and men of infantry from Havana. They are the first reinforcements received here since the commencement of the insurrection, as 1,000 recruits that were received were to fill up the vacancies in the Cuba and Coronas regiments.

A native of Mayari, named Delia Aguilera, lately arrived here with his family, under safe conduct from the commander at San Luis. It appears that he was tried at Mayari, in his absence, and condemned to be shot, and the Catalans here are clamorous that the sentence should be carried out, asserting that he murdered one of their countrymen in Mayari; on the other hand, it is positively asserted by people who have means of knowing that he was not concerned in that massacre, and, in addition, he has a good character to back him, while the fact of his having voluntarily and openly come to Cuba goes far to show that his conscience is clear on that score.

The route of the insurgents at the Isabela coffee estate, on Saturday last, was complete. The forces under command of Captain Suero had no idea that the insurgents were there, but merely went there to get a guide to pursue their march to Moron. They stumbled against the advanced picket of the insurgents, who fired on them and alarmed the main body, which, however, was taken completely by surprise, and after firing but a few shots fled precipitately, leaving nearly 200 horses, hats, clothing and ammunition, and losing thirty dead. The troops had only two men wounded. One report, which, however, lacks confirmation, says that Donato Marmol was killed, or rather escaped desperately wounded, and died in a neighboring cane piece.

The steamer Barcelona, arrived to-day, reports the safe arrival at St. Thomas of one of the Peruvian monitors. The other was still at Samana.

The Moctezuma saw a steamer yesterday off Cape Marie in company with a brigantine. The steamer showed American colors. Both were standing in to the land. The steamer appeared a river boat, had one funnel and no masts.

Yesterday morning a white man, coming into town from the direction of Cuney, answered the sentinel's challenge by shouting "Cuba libre." The sentinel advanced to arrest him, when he drew his machete, but took to flight without using it. He was, however, caught and tried yesterday by court martial, sentenced to death and shot this morning.