

# Affairs in the Eastern Department—The Capture of Mayari—Heavy Spanish Losses—Valmaseda Shut up by the Insurgents—Excesses of the Spaniards.

From an interesting correspondence addressed by a resident of Santiago de Cuba to a friend in New York we make the following extract:—

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, March 30, 1852.

The column which, under the command of Colonel Lopez Camara, lately marched to Mayari, had on its way various encounters with the insurgents headed by General Marcato. This officer understands ambuscade warfare and Fabian policy most perfectly, and the Spaniards themselves confess that he outwits them at this game. Camara spent fourteen hours in performing the last ten miles of his journey from the numerous ambuscades he was exposed to. Behind every tree and rock, from the top of every hillock, the patriots kept up a constant fire. He lost altogether eighty-five to ninety men, among them a captain and two lieutenants killed, and on arriving at the village a desperate resistance was made, which lasted five hours and cost the Spaniards the loss of seventy-six men, among whom was a captain whose wife is a native of Santiago de Cuba. Marcato retired when he had completely exhausted his ammunition. If the patriots had arms and ammunition in abundance, not a Spanish soldier could traverse the country. On his way back to this city, Camara met with similar losses, and, although the government have done their best to conceal them, bringing in the sick and wounded at night that the people might not see them, they are well known. The muskets, cartridge boxes and other equipments belonging to soldiers who die in the field are also secretly brought into the city, but there is always some one to watch and see.

Yellow fever also begins to make havoc among the troops. On one day twenty-two men were taken to the hospital, of whom seventeen died. This sickness is a formidable ally of the Cuban patriots, and it will doubtless show all its force during the coming summer months.

A small body of sixty or seventy men, who, taking a circuitous route and disguising themselves as insurgents, succeeded in making their way from Bayamo, where Valmaseda is shut up, to Manzanillo, was met on their way back by Modesto Diaz and completely routed, losing nine prisoners, twenty-one killed and many wounded.

The forces under Generals Figueredo and Donato Marmol are encamped at Ramon, near Cobre. A body of 200 of these was detached towards the Puerto de Bayamo to capture a convoy composed of fifteen pack mules that was going from Cobre to Palma, escorted by eighty men (infantry) and twenty-five cavalry. Figueredo attacked the convoy, and after fifteen minutes firing captured it. The escort not being able to defend it, fled, after losing six men killed, eighteen wounded and four prisoners. The convoy carried provisions for the garrison at Palma.

In these several encounters the patriots have suffered few losses on account of the nature of their warfare, for which they find great facilities in the thickly wooded plains of Cuba. Their greatest loss lately has been at Mayari, where they had ten killed and twenty-one wounded. In the meantime the government, despairing of vanquishing the insurrection by other means, is rendering itself guilty of barbarities worthy only of the dark ages and of the reputation for cruelty and despotism which the Spanish government enjoys.

A Mr. Arteaga was imprisoned a few months ago on suspicion. No evidence being found against him, he was set at liberty and went off to the insurgent camp. His unhappy family are now suffering from the cruelty of the authorities, who ordered them to leave the city within the period of twelve hours. But the unfortunate people had not the means to go abroad, and in consequence Mrs. Arteaga, a respectable aged lady, and her daughter, a young girl of eighteen, were publicly led through the streets, surrounded by guards, to prison, where they are yet detained like common criminals.

Agollo Rodriguez, a native of this city, was sick on a farm in the vicinity of Jiguan. This young man was among the insurgents two months ago, but through ill health retired to that farm. He remained there all this time confined to his bed till the moment in which Valmaseda's column passed there, twenty-five days ago. Through conversation with the servants the Spaniards found out that Rodriguez had been in company with the patriots, dragged him from his bed, though he was suffering from fever at the time, and shot him dead.

Francisco Puente y Aguirre, with three companions more, were accused at Mayari of having given succor to the insurgents in the shape of provisions and ammunition. Nothing was proved against them about the ammunition, and as to the provisions, all their crime was that when the insurgents passed through Puente's estate he gave them food and cigars. But this was sufficient, and they were all shot on the plantation.

The day before yesterday a poor negro was publicly executed because it was said that during the procession on Good Friday he tried to raise up a tumult and cried "*Viva Cuba libre!*" No tumult took place, and as for the cries, they were heard all over the population.

A body of troops left here three days ago to attack the encampment at Ramon but could not get further than six miles from Cobre, being met by considerable forces under Figueredo, and was obliged to retreat. From an officer belonging to this corps I learned the following fact:—A colored man named Batista, who had been with the insurgents and was one of the few who availed of the amnesty, was found by the troops on the road, and, being searched, a letter was discovered on his person, in which a brother of his told him that the mobilized volunteers had been on his plantation and robbed him of all he possessed, including his clothes. This incensed the soldiers, and they sent on the poor man with their bayonets and murdered him.

The slightest suspicion is enough to cause a man's house to be searched, his papers examined and himself dragged to prison. Not even foreign citizens are exempt from this danger, and as there are no foreign war vessels in the harbor the officials have not even this check upon their unruliness. An American man-of-war is much needed here to protect the lives and property of American citizens.

On awaking this morning the inhabitants of Santiago de Cuba were apprised of a lamentable event. A son of Luis Tejada, a young man of eighteen, was, with his father and an elder brother, in the insurgent camp. He was taken and brought to this city. Several days ago a rumor was heard that he was to be shot, but no one could believe that such rigor would be displayed towards a youth of such tender years. The report, however, was too true. At half-past four o'clock this morning, when it was yet dark, and the streets deserted, the poor boy was dragged from his prison and silently led to the Campo de Marte, where he suffered death. A few early risers, who were going to market, were the only spectators of the deed, and they all agree to the heroic courage and fortitude of the boy. Two or three times on his way to the execution he cried out "*Viva Cuba libre!*" and the soldiers attempted forcibly to reduce him to silence. His strength did not fail him a single instant, and before receiving the fatal discharge he said:—"I die for Cuba. I die happy. They wanted victims, and they chose me. My death will not prevent Cuba being free and independent." He died like a hero. The officials say that they wished to pardon him; but on being examined he repeatedly said "If I am killed and come to life again I would still hate and fight against the barbarous Spanish government."

# Another Spanish Outrage on the American Flag.

NEW YORK, April 24, 1852.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

On the 1st inst., while the American schooner *Ella*, M. Pennell, of Machias, Maine, was off Surrup bay, Great Bahama Bank, in British waters, a Spanish war vessel fired a gun across her bow, compelling her to heave to. An officer and force of men were then sent on board, who demanded to see her papers, as also to search her. Finding nothing of a contraband character on board, they then retired and allowed her to proceed. The schooner was all this time in British water, and had the national flag flying when fired at. When compelled to heave to she was boarded without being asked where she was bound to, as is customary in such cases. Will you be kind enough to inform me by what laws of nations the Spanish naval officers were authorized to perpetrate this indignity on the flag of the United States? If our vessels are to be searched, or even stopped on the high seas with impunity, it would be best to inform American seamen of the fact.