

EXAGGERATED ACCOUNTS OF THE FIGHT AT LAS MENAS—SUFFERING FROM FEVERS—HEAVY RAINS.

HAVANA, May 18.—The report previously received from both Spanish and insurgent sources greatly exaggerate the proportions of the fight at Las Menas on the 3d inst. More trustworthy accounts, now at hand, reduce the affair to a skirmish. The Spanish and rebel troops in the interior are suffering equally from fevers. It is said that many of the latter are dying from want of shelter and medical attendance. Trains are again running on the Puerto Principe and Nuevitas Railroad. Cane grinding has been interrupted in some localities on the north and south coasts by heavy rains. The United States gunboat *Panobscot* arrived to-day.

MOBILIZED NEGRO TROOPS—REPORTED BURNING OF THREE TOWNS.

Another battalion of mobilized negro troops left to-day for active service in the field. The announcement by telegraph of the failure of Schepeler & Co. in New-York causes some uneasiness in commercial circles here. The *Diario* of to-day contains a report that the insurgents have burned the towns of Sabanicu, Cascorro, and Guaimaro; but the *Fox de Cuba* doubts the truth of the report.

SENTENCE OF THE OFFICERS AND THE PASSENGERS OF THE SCHOONER GALVANIC.

The Naval Court has sentenced the captain and mate of the captured schooner *Galvanic* to six years imprisonment, and the 23 passengers captured on board of her to eight years.

THE STRENGTH OF THE CUBAN ARMY.

Col J. B. Stockton of Oil City, Pennsylvania, the bearer of the address which Gen. Cespedes recently sent to President Grant, publishes a statement of the present strength of the Cuban army from which we take the following extracts:

I have just been in many of the camps of the Republican army on the Island of Cuba, and obtained from the official records the total strength of the Liberal forces on the 28th of February, when the consolidated reports for the months of January and February were completed. The whole strength of the army of the Cuban Republic on that day stood as follows:

Men armed with muskets and guns of all calibers..	24,403
Men with inferior arms—pistols, sabers, &c.....	6,832
Men drilling in instruction camps, and partially armed with machetes or sugar knives.....	42,252

Grand total 73,487

One word just here in regard to obtaining news from the republican armies in the city of Havana. If one asks a resident of that city, "What news from the insurgent camps, or from the war?" he will invariably reply: "We haven't anything; but the steamer will be here at such a time with New-York papers, and then we shall know all!" And that is so. Nearly all the news received in Havana from the republicans comes by way of New-York. The Captain General seldom gets anything east of Corral L'also, and never further than Villa Clara, by land.

In the matter of artillery the Cubans are sadly deficient, and all their artillery is included above in those armed with pistols, sabers, &c. They had tried wooden cannon in various styles, and a smile would have come over the faces of those kings of ordnance, Dahlgren and Rodman, could they have witnessed their scientific and practical tests. One cannon, made of the hardest wood and banded with iron, burst at the fourth round. One of iron pipe from a sugar-mill, cased with wood and fastened with iron bands, burst at the eleventh round. Another iron tube, with four inches of cement, encased with heavy wood and wrought iron bands, fired twenty-four shots and burst. So they go on from step to step, not without toil, not without suffering, not without want—but, thank God, not without hope also.

The Spanish authorities have already sent, according to their own reports, 40,000 men, with splendid arms, east of Matanzas, and they are hemmed in and confined to the seaport towns, in reach of their navy, by these 24,000 Cubans, the number who have arms that will carry a ball further than affords the street; and allow me to say that fully one-half of these muskets and shot-gun, are such as one finds thrown away in this country every day! Look for one moment at the extent of the territory the Cuban forces hold—all east of the jurisdiction of Colon, with the exception of the large seaports and a few villas easily adjacent—and then say whether 1,400 men could hold it against the force the Spaniards have there! The occupation of this great extent of country, which is done in order to keep the Spanish troops from concentrating while the two forces are so unequally armed, and at the same time in order to allow blockade runners to enter interior ports and unguarded harbors with arms and ammunition, necessarily compels the Cuban forces to act in small bodies. Consequently there are but two officers with what might properly be termed an army. But holding the interior of the country, and with their well regulated corps of scouts, the Cubans could, in an emergency, concentrate a pretty large force in a very short time, and that, too, at any point desired. It was upon this very point of distribution that a little unpleasantness recently arose between Quesada and Cespedes, the Washington of young Cuba. But that was momentary, and is all over now, and Quesada himself acknowledges and applauds the wisdom of Cespedes in preventing the Spaniards from bringing any very large body against them until they are better armed.