

Operations in the Eastern Department—Reported Defeat of Troops—Desperate Bravery of Insurgents—The Rainy Season Set In.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, May 14, 1863.

The news of operations in the surrounding country, as officially reported, is extremely limited. The commanding officer at Cobre announces the defeat of a small party of rebels at the coffee estate "Refugio," and the colonel in command at Aserradero reports the death of two insurgent chiefs (of no special note) at the Santa Clara. On the other hand, rumors of encounters in which the troops have been worsted are very current. It is known that some four days since twenty-four soldiers were brought in here wounded. The government accounts make no mention of any action with loss to the troops. The current version of the affair is that Donato or Eduardo Marmol, with a force of insurgents, was surrounded by the Spaniards, and remained so for three days, when, driven to desperation, they attacked the troops on three sides and succeeded in cutting their way through, with great loss on both sides. Yesterday the report of a severe struggle in Intenico reached here. A fight took place during a tremendous rain storm, in which the insurgents showed great bravery, attacking the Spanish macheta in hand. Four officers and some soldiers have been brought in wounded. No official version given.

Arrivals from Brazos de Carito report that district quiet. The weather is very bad, the heat being intense and the rains falling heavily. This must materially affect the health of the troops and military operations generally. Grinding must also become paralyzed, and from all appearances there will not be more than one-third the average crop shipped from Santiago de Cuba. Guantanamo will, however, be quite up to the average, if not beyond it, although cholera has made great havoc on some estates.

The North German corvette Victoria, ten guns, came in on Wednesday, the 12th inst., and exchanged the usual salutes. She will remain here a week and then proceed to Port Royal, Ga.
