

The War in Cuba—A New Captain General.

From Havana, by way of Key West, and Madrid, by way of London, we have the important special cable telegrams which appear in our columns to-day reporting the progress of the Cuban revolution, the latest actions which have taken place between the patriot forces and the Spaniards, the condition and prospects of the regulars, with the change of policy and executive colonial rule necessitated in Madrid by the tenor of the despatches from the seat of war. The conflict continues with unabated vigor. The filibuster volunteers who landed from the Salvador were immediately marched to the scene of action, and it must be noted in connection with their arrival that a British war vessel joined the Spanish cruisers in their attempt to seize the Salvador on her return. Men, arms, ammunition, clothing and food had reached the bay of Nipe in safety, and the Cubans had completed the erection of an eight gun battery, fully armed, which commands the entrance to its waters, so as to protect sympathizing strangers and sweep off enemies. The range of the guns and accuracy of the gunners were immediately tested on a Spanish war steamer which attempted to enter the bay, but was compelled to retire with her hull pierced in two places. Steaming to the port of Manati for assistance, she was there reinforced by a gunboat, took a number of soldiers on board, and returned to Nipe, where a regular engagement took place, at the close of which the Spaniards were landed, and, having made a detour from the line of march first indicated, suddenly seized these guns, the filibusters being apparently compelled to abandon the battery. It was only in appearance, however, for they returned in double quick time, made a magnificent charge with the bayonet, retook the cannon, and drove out the invaders, killing forty-five and wounding one hundred of their men—a very sharp action, and attended with important present results. Fire being continued from the Spanish steamer the position was endangered for a time by conflagration, but the defenders succeeded in saving the war material and guns. Foreigners took a prominent part in the command of the Cuban van as well as in the ranks, the Spaniards revenging themselves sadly by instantly shooting one of them, a Prussian, when a prisoner in their hands. Other engagements, of equal severity, followed, attended with results almost similar, after which the Spaniards were forced to give up the attempt of provisioning Tuñas, forced to forward their wounded to Nuevitas and sound a retreat to Puerto Padre. They were there joined by one thousand of their comrades, under General Ferrer, who has assumed the chief command of the Spaniards. The war will be waged to the bitter end, as the Cubans are jubilant, united, active, generally healthy, and battling for their homes, national liberty, individual security and free hearths. Valmaseda has been driven from Bayamo by Marmol, and even his capture is reported.

How long will this war continue? How will it result, in the desolation and barbarism of a magnificent territory, or its freedom? Such questions interest the American people to an extent nearly equal to that in which they interest Spain, and this, as we know and are told from Madrid, is to an extent almost vital to the country. Changes have been made in the government of the island. Captain General Dulce has been relieved at his own request, and General Cabellaro de Rodas, Director General of Artillery and at one time a royalist commander, appointed in his place. General Dulce is in ill health. We are not at all surprised at this, in view of the scenes by which he has been of late surrounded. He has seen the Spanish soldiers dying off with cholera by the hundred, in want of food and uniforms, shoeless in many instances and discontented in all. He was unable to supply the demands of the commissariat, coal could not be had for the complete working of the navy, and the provisional government had decreed the abolition of the slave trade. The office, thus embarrassed, impoverished and dangerous, is scarcely of value to a Spaniard of the old school. So Dulce leaves at a moment most critical as to the future of the island. Can General de Rodas, a man of iron will, save it to Spain? We doubt it.