

Valmaseda Heard From—Operations of Troops—The Sequestration of Property—Rumors of Expeditions.

HAVANA, May 1, 1869.

Valmaseda has been heard from. For some months past shut up in the city he had captured with so much éclat, and compelled to rest in inglorious indolence, he sends forth to the world and to the ever detested and never sufficiently to be despised insurgents the following proclamation:—

INHABITANTS OF THE COUNTRY.—

The forces which I expected have arrived. With them I will afford protection to the good and summarily punish all those who still rebel against the government of the metropolis.

Know ye that I have pardoned those who have fought against us, armed; know ye that your wives, mothers and sisters have in me found the protection they admired and which you rejected; know, also, that many of the pardoned have turned against me. After all these excesses, after so much ingratitude and so much villany, it is impossible for me to be the man I was heretofore. Deceptive neutrality is no longer possible. "He that is not with me is against me," and in order that my soldiers may know how to distinguish you, hearken to the orders given them:—

Every man from the age of fifteen upwards found beyond his farm will be shot, unless a justification for his absence be proven.

Every hut that is found uninhabited will be burned by the troops.

Every hamlet where a white cloth, in the shape of a flag, is not hoisted in token that its inhabitants desire peace will be reduced to ashes.

The women who are not found in their respective dwellings or in those of their relatives will return to the towns of Jiguaní or Bayamo, where they will be duly provided for. Those who fail to do so will be taken by compulsion. These orders will be in force on and after the 14th inst.

BAYAMO, April 4, 1869. Count VALMASEDA.

It is evident Valmaseda does not consider the insurrection over, and, like Mena, at Puerto Principe, and Loño, at Las Tunas, he desires the presence of the women to protect him. Whether the government will approve of this order to the troops to shoot down those who may happen to be from home, the establishment of the principle that a man is bound to prove himself innocent, the burning of uninhabited houses and wholesale war on women is a question. From its antecedents it probably will.

According to Spanish accounts 4,000 families have presented themselves to General Valmaseda for protection. He had ordered General Ampudia to make the following communication to the Captain General:—"Inform his Excellency that I have the enemy so disconcerted that he does not know where to go, dying terrified; that columns of 200 men are ample for pursuing the remaining factions. Many are the surprises made by the five columns sent out, and the killed of the insurgents exceed ninety. A large quantity of arms, munitions and horses have been taken. Among the killed are Colonel Gracia, two brothers of General Acosta, and two aids of Cespedes named Agullera. Modesto Diaz, Carlos Manuel and Pancho Agullera owed their safety to a mere chance."

Government officials continue active in sequestering the property of absentees, and large properties have been seized. As stated a few days since, an embargo was served on Mr. John Nenninger, of the house of C. Burnham & Co., and Vice President of the Cuban Cable, for property supposed to be held by him, belonging to Fernandez Bramosio, a lawyer, now in New York. It appears, however, that Señor Bramosio, anticipating the action of the government, had transferred all his property to Moses Taylor, therein complying with all the formalities of the law, and Mr. Nenninger replied in unequivocal terms, stating that he had no relations with Mr. Bramosio and that he represented the legal tenure and interest of Mr. Moses Taylor, an American merchant, in certain property referred to. It is said that the individual who presented the notice was heard to mutter the word "clever!" as he left the office. Señor Bramosio's estates, thus transferred, are estimated at \$800,000.

We have had during the week a variety of startling rumors regarding expeditions, but they seem to be without foundation. The armed tugboat Union recently captured two out of several English wreckers, operating on some wrecks near Cape San Antonio. The *Prensa* says the capture included twenty seamen. The fact was stated in the *Diario* in a manner to lead to the conviction that an expedition had been captured. Some excitement was created in the better informed circles here recently by the fact that the volunteers refused to release a prisoner named Belisario Alvarez y Cespedes, a relative of Carlos Manuel Cespedes, arrested on the 22d of March at Gibara, tried, found guiltless and ordered set at liberty on the 27th ult. Dulce went over and a great row followed. The man was released, but the volunteers were very much dissatisfied with the matter, and threatened their Colonel, Zulueta, who did not appear when they went on duty again yesterday, and doubtless a new commander will be appointed. On the occasion of the disturbance, one of the volunteers made a very sensible speech, claiming that a spirit of insubordination had been infused among them by insurrectionary influences. In the Cerro, an outskirt of the city, near the Tulipan Railroad Station and the Bishop's Garden, an artillery volunteer recently assaulted the house of Señor Montalro, at half-past ten o'clock at night, and shot a white servant, who died in a few hours. In searching for the owner he outrageously insulted the lady of the house. Señor Montalro managed to escape and gave the alarm to the watchman, who secured the volunteer. An investigation is taking place, and the wife of the volunteer, apprehending the death penalty, refuses all food and is in a dying condition. The gunboat Matanzas, cruising off Guanaja, reports that in Punta Prieta, three miles in shore, he found seventy rebels. He sent ashore twenty men, who routed them, causing considerable loss.

The *Voz de Cuba* says the police recently surprised a house in Aguila street, where were concealed a quantity of arms. Yesterday morning the battalion of Chasseurs de Reus left by train for Batabano, en route for the insurrectionary districts. The Montezuma sailed this morning with troops for Gibara. Colonel Patiño, late Governor, has arrived here with his sons. He is going to Spain, and is said to be greatly disgusted with affairs in the interior.