

# THE EDITORIAL DUEL AT NIAGARA FALLS.

## Cuba vs. Spain—Full Particulars of the "Unpleasantness"—The Cuban Wounded—Arrest of the Parties.

[From the St. Catharines (Canada) Journal, June 14.]

It is not every day at this early season of the year that the people of Niagara Falls can lay claim to having had a genuine excitement—a nine days' wonder. But yesterday an event happened there which has set tongues wagging on both sides of the river, and will doubtless remain the topic of the period until some fresh excitement replaces it.

### HOW IT OCCURRED.

The immediate cause of the hostile meeting which we are about to chronicle is the result of political differences between rival editors. Both gentlemen edit newspapers in New York. One is published in the Cuban interest and is called the *Libertad Cubas*. The other advocates Spanish interests and is named *El Cronica*. It is not astonishing they could not agree, and each wrote what was probably considered by these hot-headed Southerners as insulting articles, which could only be atoned for in blood. It is said that they happened to meet in a New York hotel, and while each was surrounded by his respective friends the Spaniard gave the Cuban the lie, which caused the latter to throw a glass of wine into the Spaniard's face. As a matter of course so flagrant a challenge could have only one settlement, and that was a recourse to the *duello*. Friends were at once named, who settled upon time and place of meeting. Thus they decided should be in Canada, and no less a personage than the Captain General's Lieutenant is said to have come on two weeks ago and selected the ground upon which the fight should take place.

### THE ARRIVAL.

On Saturday the principals and their friends, eight in number, arrived at Niagara Falls, N. Y. The Spanish party registered at the International, while the Cubans selected the Cataract as their headquarters. All things being in readiness two carriages were engaged, and between four and five o'clock on Sunday morning the whole party crossed the (railway) Suspension Bridge. They were accompanied by a guide and an interpreter, both of whom piloted them to a secluded grove in Stamford township, near the whirlpool, where they alighted and prepared for action, the understanding being that the fight should continue till one fell.

### THE MEETING.

The principals, [who are small, swarthy-looking men, walked up to the ground with quick, nervous strides. The seconds immediately marked off the ground, placed the weapons in the hands of their men, and gave the word. The duelists, who were back to back, took six paces forward, wheeled and fired. The first shots passed harmlessly, so did two succeeding ones, but on the fourth the Cuban was wounded in both thighs, the ball glancing from one to the other, making very ugly, but, it is said, not fatal wounds. At the same time the Spaniard came near being winged in the breast, the Cuban's last shot cutting his vest, coat and shirt, but did not graze the skin. The wounded man, after being shot, staggered two or three paces, threw up his hands and fell. He was quickly in the arms of his friends and his wounds attended to by one of the party, who is a surgeon. The drivers of the carriages were then called, but one of them failed to appear for a few minutes, having taken shelter in an adjacent sandhole, so as to be out of harm's way. As quickly as possible both parties got into their carriages and were driven back to their hotels across the river, the affair having only occupied about an hour. They had only just had breakfast before the authorities were apprised of what had taken place.

### WHAT FOLLOWED.

At eight o'clock a warrant for the arrest of the Spanish party, consisting of Jose Fres, Francisco Cizerna, Carlos Garcia and Manuel Pandora, was placed in the hands of Chief of Police Robert Catharine, and at the same time a warrant for the arrest of the Cuban party, consisting of José Gutierrez de la Vega, Carlos Mares, José Puerer de Conta, M. Francisco Quillano Pelister. He arrested the Cuban party at the Cataract, but came near losing the Spaniards, who were just stepping on board the cars. They were all locked up excepting the wounded man, but speedily obtained bail for their appearance before Justice Samway at nine o'clock this morning, when they will have a hearing. It would seem as if by coming to this side of the river that they would not be amenable to United States laws, but by their arrest such seems not to be the case. What punishment will be awarded them is not known, but probably it may not be severe. The village of Niagara Falls is in a tremor of excitement over it, and the affair is almost the exclusive topic of conversation. The wounded Cuban is named Carlos Mares, and his Spanish antagonist Manuel Pandora.