

PATRIOT ACCOUNTS.

The Engagement at Puerto Padre—Defeat of the Spaniards with Heavy Loss—One Cuban Only Wounded—Defeat of a Column Marching to the Relief of the Spaniards—Patriotism and Bravery of the Cubans.

CUBAN REPUBLIC, }
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF WAR, May 13, 1869. }
The Citizen General in Chief of the liberating

army communicates to the department the following:—

GENERAL QUARTERS IN MUNICION.

Having on the 12th inst. learned that Spanish troops had disembarked near Puerto Padre I went in that direction, concluding that they came to reinforce the garrison of Tuñaa. On the morning of the 14th I marched towards San Manuel, and in Maniabon, where I breakfasted, Citizen General Peralta joined us with part of his forces. I learned there that the enemy was approaching. On descriing the enemy we crossed the river, and I placed the riflemen of the escort, under the orders of Colonel Varona, General Marmol and staff on the right wing and General Peralta with his troops on the left, disposing of the balance—commanded by General Garcia and Colonel Boza—at convenient points. We were not in ambuscade, nor had we even the advantage of the position, as the enemy commanded the highest ground. A heavy shower of rain fell at the same time and rendered a great quantity of our munitions useless for the want of canvas. Despite all, our troops fought so bravely that the enemy soon became alarmed and disordered at seeing the great losses they were suffering, while we had to regret the want of a parque, which prevented the complete destruction of their column.

In this glorious fight our men distinguished themselves to an extraordinary degree, especially the riflemen under Colonel Varona. The enemy's loss was over 100 men in killed, wounded and prisoners. From the latter I learned all that we required with reference to our opponents, and in Vazquez I prepared the way to a complete rout on their part. We waited for the enemy in vain; having become completely terrified, he did not venture to sally from behind the walls where he had taken refuge, and where he was certainly not sheltered from the rain, as I had previously ordered the demolishing of the huts, which might otherwise have served him.

I learned this morning that a column was coming from Tuñaa in aid of their comrades, already a short distance from headquarters. The arms of the republic had on this occasion to reap new glory, if not a triumph, as the enemy fled in the most shameful manner, after a rude attack with machete in hand, directed by Colonel Varona, and thus the enemy was pursued until the Cubans had spent their last cartridge, not only of their own arms, but likewise of those captured from the enemy in the previous fight. This remarkable final attack was made by Colonels Villar and Varona.

In the first encounter, notwithstanding that the Cubans fought open breasted and with admirable serenity, it was only the aid, Eduardo Montejo, that had the glory of being slightly wounded in the leg. In the latter encounter we had a loss of twenty-five killed and wounded. As regards the casualties of the enemy, they were not under one hundred in the first and one hundred and fifty in the second fight. They left sixty dead bodies on the field.

The republic has reason to be well satisfied with the bravery, constancy and the good success with which her sons have struggled on this occasion, compelling the enemy to run away shamefully. The patriotism in this department, vying with the skill and valor of the chiefs, and the feelings of the soldiers, renders it unnecessary to have the fraternal aid that has been offered us by the force of Camaguey. Let therefore return to that district the brigade of Colonel Manuel Boza, one of the illustrious veterans of our army. May he march crowned with laurels. I will answer for it that the soldiers of the East will continue to gain them for the glory and salvation of the patria.

Be pleased to transcribe this communication to the citizen major general of that State. Patria and Libertad. MANUEL QUESADA, General-in-Chief.

Published for the information and satisfaction of all patriots. Patria and Libertad.

FRANCISCO AGUILERA, Secretary of War.

GUAIMARO, May 18, 1869.

Patriotic Address to the Cubans—The Atrocities of Valmaseda.

EL MAMBI, May 27, 1869.

That Cuba has been and is more advanced than Spain is a problem that has been solved more than a quarter of a century. That Cubans are better disposed to receive the benefits of liberty is so certain, that the conduct observed in this war is sufficient to prove it, as it is readily discerned therein which of the two nations is most civilized and worthy of liberty. The Spanish General, Valmaseda, was the foremost who gave vent to his national character, after the encounter in Bonilla, where he was undeceived as to the result—that it did not consist in the power of armaments nor in the number of soldiers. He destroyed and burned the plantations La Fé, Union, Santa Isabel and Barreto. Having unmasked himself, he continued his vandalic march, destroying estates, sacking towns indefensive, such as Cascorro and Guaimaro until his junction with Colonel Loña in the savannahs of Rompe. On leaving Tunas his march was noted for more incendiarism as far as Bayamo, on the ashes of which he has intrenched himself, to continue that war of extermination and desolation with which he believes to be able to conquer anew he that was an oppressed Cuban.

Mark the difference. The Spaniards shoot and burn the Cuban prisoners. The Cubans pardon the Spaniards made prisoners. Civilization, in awarding war to the oppressed against the oppressor, enjoins the sacred duty of being generous with the vanquished, and as Cuba is strong she is generous with her ancient oppressor. It is not weakness that compels her to act thus. It is the moral education of this people that prompts her to it—an education not received from her rulers, but that which has been inculcated by the continuous contact with the American people. The little space we are permitted to dispose of does not allow us all the latitude we could desire. Nevertheless, we will occasionally furnish our readers with the news of the great events which have occurred in our war.

The republican army is covered with glory. The heroic encounters of Maniabon Varquez prove our superiority over the enemy. The result was a loss to him of 250 against twenty-five on our side. Neither our armament nor the discipline of our volunteer patriots afford us the aureola of the much vaunted Spanish militaryism. The strong against the weak are crushed when the former has to deal with a vallant and determined enemy.

Reuniting our ideas and with the object of corroborating the state of our civilization as compared with Spain, we will conclude with the noble expressions which inspired our brave commander-in-chief, on the solemn occasion of saving the lives of 200 spanish prisoners, of which ten were chiefs and officers:—

The savage conduct of your government compels me to make reprisals and to retaliate. To assassinate the aged and even infants and women is of easy execution to your generals. That conduct I condemn in you; but as at this moment I am representing the Cuban republic and her magnanimity, I pardon you in her name. Cuba, in fighting for her liberty, wants to do so as behooves her and is due to morality, to civilization, and, although she is making war against a revengeful and ferocious enemy, it is not less true that she fulfils her duty to morality and humanity. Your generals and me have a judge; terrible, yes, but just. That judge is history, and I am sure that in giving its fiat with respect to our respective conduct will say:—Valmaseda and Dulce acquitted themselves with the Spanish civilization—Quesada did so with the American.

YGNACIO MORA.