

# SPAIN.

**Cuban Matters—Official Information Received by the Minister of War—Dulce's Resignation and Its Effect—Unsatisfactory News from the Ever Faithful Isle—What the People and the Members of the Cortes Think—Sketch of Caballero de Rodas—Strange Rumor.**

MADRID, June 3, 1869.

The Captain General, of the island of Cuba, in a communication dated the 15th of last May, states that the commanding general of the forces in the Eastern Department of the Island of Cuba, Count Valmaseda, has come up with the rebels several times and has killed ninety of them, among whom are the chieftains Grau, two brothers of the self-titled General Acosta and two aid-de-camps of Cespedes, and has taken possession of arms and warlike stores. The Commanding General of Cuba says that on the 23d of April last, that the refugee rebels were wandering about the positions called Ramon, which are about fourteen leagues from that city, beaten and pursued by our moveable columns; but he determined to attack them, which he did, and, although they were strongly intrenched, they dispersed after the first shots, leaving in the power of our troops a self-titled colonel and commander and other prisoners. This feat, although it has not afforded all the material advantages desirable, yet has had great moral influence, causing the surrender of 150 rebels and making the others understand they will always be pursued by our soldiers. General Pelaez writes from Santa Clara, on the 4th of last month, that the cavalry colonel of militia of Guinez attacked the rebels near Siguanaca, killing ten and taking possession of arms and horses. The communications received from the Department of the Centre does not fail to be satisfactory. Several families, convinced of the good proceedings of the authorities and Spanish troops towards those who present themselves, have abandoned the hill country, and have placed themselves under our protection. General Letona states that the works on the railroad between Nuevitas and Puerto Principe have received a great impulse, and that on the 4th of the present month a train drawn by a locomotive went out slowly in order to perfect the last repairs. The said General took Centa after a trifling resistance, spiked five cannon found there, and destroyed the defenses and trenches made by the rebels, ninety-nine of whom surrendered themselves.

On the 3d, Brigadier Lesca's vanguard, while conducting a convoy to Puerto Principe, found a trench which stopped the pass in the centre of the wood of Alta Gracia. This trench was taken by storm by two battalions. One was of the Arragon regiment and the other by the regiment of the Queen. Our loss was a field officer, subaltern and five soldiers, two

officers and twenty-eight soldiers being wounded. By this relation it is easily understood that the rebellion is approaching its conclusion, and that the few symptoms of its existence do not consist in its resources, but in the deceit in which the country people are enveloped and made to believe that they will be shot whenever they present themselves to Spanish authorities or the military chiefs, and that this falsehood is vanishing before the humane conduct observed towards those repentant rebels who surrender themselves.

Despatches were received yesterday by the government from General Domingo Dulce, stating as follows:—

Commission of Chiefs and Volunteers of Liberty have asked me that I resign the command to my second. I have resigned. Let General Caballero de Rodas come here immediately. I sail from Havana day after to-morrow.

HAVANA, June 2, 1869.

DOMINGO DULCE.

HAVANA, June 2, 1869.

I have taken charge of the military and political command of this island. It is urgent that the Proprietary General arrive here immediately.

ESPINAR.

The government is in a quandary. The people are excited and expectant of some great calamity that has occurred in Cuba, and no one dare give utterance to their fears or frame their lips to say that which they would like to say. It is a pitiable sight indeed to behold a nation struggling to speak and every man dumb. Such is the sight Spain presents to-day. Not even the most hydrophobic radical republican or Carlist has a word to say. Though every journal quotes the telegrams and say that though the news is pregnant with forebodings, they know not what to make of it. The members of the Cortes asked the government what it all meant; that if it was convenient to the Executive power the Cortes would like to know something more about these portentous telegrams. Poor Admiral Topete, with something like a groan of despair coming hollowly from his bosom, rose up and said:—Gentlemen Diputados, for your information I will read the telegrams, after which you will know about it as much as the government knows. The above telegrams were read; then explanatorily Topete gave his personal opinions about them, which amount to no more than that "we all know the high noble qualities of the Captain General Dulce, and we may rest assured that the noble patriotism of our noble volunteers of liberty in Cuba is unequalled; but further we know nothing." Is it not a sad thing to see a country like Spain tasking itself to suffer for fifteen days, compelling itself to wait fifteen days for the mail, when two or three telegrams would explain all in two or three days? If Spain had only a NEW YORK HERALD, that short, unsatisfactory, portentous telegram would never have been sent without explanations enough to satisfy all accompanying it. A rumor is current to-day that Dulce has had something to do with the rebels, and that the volunteers did not like it, and they therefore, without any ceremony, ordered him to leave.

Caballero de Rodas left Madrid yesterday for Cadix. To-morrow he will leave that port on the steamer Almansa for Havana. Five thousand men will leave in two or three days after him for the same destination. This "Gentleman of Rhodes," for that is the interpretation of his euphonious name, breathes fire and fury, and cruel murder glares out of his cruel eyes. Said he, slapping his hand over his heart, "I will have nothing to do with either Spanish or Cuban republicans, for was not the gentleman of Rhodes born a gentleman?" Imagine this man of destiny sailing now to Cuba from that saying of his. The first Caballero de Rodas was the grandfather of the present one. The new Captain General is a soldier of ability, and he is supposed to know military business better than any other man in Spain. He is about forty-two years old, of short and stout proportions, not grossly stout by any means. He is full of energy; fiery, quick in action, prompt to decide. Dulce has a more cunning brain than Caballero de Rodas, but the latter is by far the best soldier. Rodas is supremely proud and cruel. His large, vitreous eyes, could not be kindled by the light of mercy. His very face, though heavy at the first glance, stamps him as a man who could execute extremest measures without remorse. His lips, though not thin, are always drawn closely together, and his chin is exceedingly protrusive; impertinently so. He has a very fixed look, and when he meets a man in the street he always endeavors to stare him out of countenance. The soldiers and people call him the "Butcher," on account of his cruelties in 1854, and last year at Maengos and Cadiz. He rather likes the name than otherwise, and the oftener he hears it the more protrusive his chin gets and more vitreous his eyes appear. You will probably hear something from him when he has arrived at Cuba.

The government are not all satisfied with the recognition of the Cubans as belligerents by the Peruvians. Very little has been said yet about it.

A telegram from London yesterday announced that 800 Americans were about to immigrate to Spain for the purpose of forming a colony. General Robert E. Lee and several other Confederate generals are among the number.