

THE CUBAN FILIBUSTERS.

Activity of the Cubans in This City—Relief Sent to Colonel Ryan—How the Fourth Was Spent on Gardiner's Island.

Since the arrest of a majority of the prominent leaders and the collapse of the recent attempted expedition the agents and officials of the Cuban Junta in this city have gained wisdom by experience and are conducting their operations and movements on a much more effective though less demonstrative principle than formerly. It is now a matter of the most extreme difficulty to glean the slightest information relative to their plans. All the persons connected with the movement are now released, either upon absolute discharge, upon bail or upon their own recognizances, and they are again "at work like beavers." Many of their councils are held at private residences; the officers who were arrested are reassembling their men, and the indications are that before many weeks the Junta will send off an expedition from a port south of New York under circumstances that will preclude the possibility of arrest or detection, and in such a manner that the first news the American public will learn regarding it will be either its successful landing on the shores of the "ever faithful isle," or a desperate struggle with Spanish forces to achieve such an object.

Colonel Ryan still has upward of 200 men with him on Gardiner's Island; and the fact that relief and rations have been sent to them is proof that the Cuban agents in this city are not inactive and have not abandoned their project. Last Saturday a number of the officers recently released from Ludlow street jail left this city on their way to join Colonel Ryan.

On Tuesday of last week one of the men of Colonel Ryan's command, who left this city with the expedition, summarily and clandestinely severed his connection with the Cuban patriots on Gardiner's Island and arrived in this city on Saturday. His name is Arthur Johnson, residing in Henry street, and he was among the number of recruits who were quartered at Cooper Hall, Jersey City. His statement of the progress of events among the "cruisers" is as follows:—

THE STATEMENT.

On Saturday evening, June 26, we were called down from our quarters, two at a time, enjoined to secrecy, a countersign given to them, and about forty of us were told to rendezvous at Elm Park, Staten Island. We were ordered strictly not to recognize one another on the passage, but to keep as far apart as possible. When we went there we expected to be provided for at some hotel, but instead of that we had to remain out in the fields and had no blankets. It began to rain, and we were very miserable. About two o'clock on Sunday morning a tugboat came along with about 200 men on board and took us on board also. That tugboat was the Chase. The vessel then steamed down towards Sandy Hook, but afterwards turned back, and went past Brooklyn up the Sound. We cruised for about twenty hours in search of a steamer that was to take us to sea, but could not find her. The steamer Cool, which had joined us meantime, was sent to New London for provisions, and Colonel Ryan, in her absence, ordered us to make a landing on Gardiner's Island on Monday morning. It was then reported that the Cool had been captured with all the provisions on board. The men grew disheartened at this information, and went into the interior of the island, making themselves as comfortable as possible, and capturing everything that they could make use of. Fish hawks and clams were there in abundance, and the men used large quantities of the younger birds and the clams as food. In this way we lived, putting up a few tents and making brushwood huts for shelter, until Thursday, July 1, when a tugboat came up to us, sent on by the Cubans in New York, with ten days' rations for 200 men on board. The provisions consisted of "hard tack," corned beef and pork, coffee and potatoes, and were all landed by the aid of a small boat belonging to the tug and a fisherman's smack. We then lived pretty high up to last Sunday week. A man named Frederick Bussy had been sent down to New York on business, and he returned on that day (July 4) with a barrel of whiskey and 162 tin pails or cups to drink from. Mr. Gardiner, who lives on the island, also sent us down ten gallons of whiskey for the celebration of the Fourth of July. Mr. Gardiner joined with us in the celebration, together with his two daughters, who have just returned from Europe, and we celebrated the Fourth in the woods in jolly style. Speeches were made by Major O'Leary and by Lieutenant Arnold, a young man who claims to be a son of Lieutenant Governor Arnold, of Rhode Island. All of them spoke of political affairs and the Cuban cause, and Colonel Courier also made an address, in the course of which he made some allusion to the late war in which he served as a Union soldier. There was quite a number of Richmond, Va., men present, nearly a full company, under command of Captain Harrison, and they took offence at Colonel Courier's remarks. A good deal of murmuring and hard words followed, and for a time it looked as though there would be trouble, but Colonel Courier finally explained and qualified his remarks, and it was all settled quietly. Colonel Ryan also purchased three sheep from Mr. Gardiner and had them roasted whole in the woods over a slow fire, as a sort of Fourth of July barbecue for the men. The liquor was distributed freely and a large quantity of it was made into milk punches. The same evening some of the men, laboring under its effects, came into the camp and quarreled with some of the officers, who had also been drinking. During the evening a large number of the officers gathered in a sort of commissary tent and were drinking and became noisy. I, with a young man named Wilson, belonging to Captain A. Minnen's company, were near this tent, watching these officers through the bushes, when Colonel Courier came out from among them, having caught sight of us, and with a pistol in his hand threatened to shoot us. Wilson faced him squarely, and told him he dared not do it, and after a while Courier cooled down. Courier was a good deal liked among the men at first, but now they are down on him. We were getting tired of being there so long without any comfort, and so five of us—Johnson, Miffin, Welsa, Sheridan and myself—went to Colonel Ryan and asked him if there was any chance of getting off the island. We said we had enlisted to go to Cuba and wanted to go there or be put ashore. He said he would give us means to get off the island, but when we afterwards called on him he put us off with excuses. Finally, on Tuesday, the 7th of July, we took a yacht, which a fisherman had left anchored a short distance from the shore, and landed in Connecticut. The citizens told us the nearest town was Sag Harbor, and we walked there and scattered. I came on to New York by rail last Saturday. When we left they still had five or six days' provisions on hand from the tug.

All the men like Colonel Ryan very much, and would risk their lives anywhere under him as they have the greatest confidence in him. He was always kind, civil to them, and did not get drunk as other officers did. It is customary to mount guards every night around the island to give warning of the approach of suspicious vessels. When night comes on Colonel Ryan and Colonel Courier secrete themselves in a kind of hole on a hill at the upper end of the island, from which they can look all over the Sound. They have regular roll call and sometimes parades of the men. One evening "Special Order No. 1" was read complimenting the young man Arnold for bravery, and announcing his promotion to a first lieutenantcy. It appears that when the Chase was seized by the revenue cutter Arnold, Bussy and Collins were on board, and after the revenue cutter had taken them in tow, they quietly slipped to the stern of the ship with a trunk containing important papers belonging to Colonel Ryan, the flag of the regiment and the officers' uniforms. They dropped the goods into a small boat trailing by a rope at the stern, jumped into her and cut her adrift. When they had got about fifty or a hundred yards off the guards discovered them and fired on them, but without injuring any of them, and they finally reached the island safely.

The greater number of the men are disheartened, but Colonel Ryan assures them that he is confident of being able to take them safely to Cuba. He has with him now certainly not less than 225 men.