

The Late Decree of Captain General De Rodas.

Success of the Patriots in Camaguey.

Spanish Troops Reinforcing that Section.

The Grape Shot Filibusters Turn Up Fighting.

The New Captain General on the Insurrection—His Consideration of the Decree—The Insurgent Successes in Camaguey—Affairs in the Cinco Villas—Spanish Details of the Insurrection.

HAVANA, July 7, 1869.

There are no class of men who have a better appreciation of Talleyrand's famous saying, "Language was invented to conceal our thoughts," than the Spanish officials. Their words are therefore no criterion by which to judge of their opinions and intentions. Were the contrary the fact, the new Captain General would seem like to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors, in the matter of dealing with the insurrection, for he talks in the same nonsensical and foolish way. Instead of admitting in a manly, open way, what everybody knows and what even the Spanish journals here concede, that the Cuban forces are made up of thousands of well armed men, under bold and experienced leaders, holding in their possession the greater portion of the territory of the island, in obedience to a government of their own creation, and capable of holding their own against the Spanish troops and generals in fighting and in strategy, he talks of the impotency of the insurrection, of its being reduced to detached bands, kept together for the purposes of destruction and other words of like import, such as filled the mouth of Dulce up to the moment when the volunteers of Havana, realizing their falsity and the attempt to practice upon them, rose and drove him from the island.

Meanwhile he announces a continuance of the vigorous policy inaugurated by this "superior political government" following upon the expiration of the forty days of amnesty. The decree containing all this appeared in the *Cazette* of yesterday, and is as follows:—

SUPERIOR POLITICAL GOVERNMENT OF THE)
PROVINCE OF CUBA.)
HAVANA, July 6, 1869. }

The insurrection, in its impotency being reduced to detached bands, perverted to the watchword of desolation, and daily perpetrating crimes that have no precedent in civilized countries, personal security and the rights of justice, the foremost guarantees of person and property, imperiously demand that said insurrection be hastened to its end and without consideration towards those who have placed themselves beyond the pale of the law. The culprit will not be deprived of the guarantees of just impartiality in the evidence of his crimes, but without the delay admissible in normal periods, which would procrastinate or paralyze the verdict of the law and its inexorable fulfilment.

As the guardian of the national integrity, the protector of the upright and pacific citizen, fulfilling the duties of my office and in virtue of the authority conceded to me by the government of the nation, I hereby decree.

ARTICLE 1. The decrees promulgated by this superior political government, under date of 12th and 13th February last, shall be carried out with vigor.

ART. 2. The crimes of premeditated incendiarism, assassination and robbery by armed force and contraband, shall be tried by a council of war.

ART. 3. The courts of justice will continue in the exercise of their attributes without prejudice, however, of being submitted to me, such cases as special circumstances may require.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.

The decrees referred to in the first article are those of Dulce following the expiration of his amnesty. They refer to the suppression of the freedom of the press, the re-establishment of the censorship, the punishing of disloyalty (*infidencia*) by council of war, and give definitions of that offence.

Meanwhile the successes of these "detached bands" in Camaguey, through which the Spanish troops are kept couped up in a few towns, scarce able to keep themselves supplied from the sea coast, causes the hurrying off of every available man to that point. On the afternoon of the 3d the battalion of "marine infantry," so called, which came with de Rodas and which he immediately placed in the Cabañas that the volunteers might not seduce them from their allegiance to himself, if perchance he might wish to use them in retaining his power, were hurried off to Nuevitas, accompanied by the Dominican, Puella, who goes to relieve Letona, and, unlike him, has never been accused of too much mercy. On the same steamer, too, went Colonel Benegas, who recently came here to recuperate and has been appointed Governor and Military Commandant of Tunas. The battalion mentioned was to have been sent to the Cinco Villas, but the emergency in Camaguey demanded its presence there. As the men are unaccustomed and the vomito and cholera are making fearful havoc among the troops already there, they will probably do little more than furnish additional food for these.

From the Cinco Villas, the second point of interest at present, Lecca telegraphs of the capture of a chief named Gonzalo Gonzales, who was surprised in his house and shot; of the surprise of a party of insurgents on the estate Progreso, killing two and wounding one, and of the capture of nine of the party who burned the estate Cubano. They were shot amid the smouldering ruins.

There would seem to be little probability of the volunteers taking the field, notwithstanding the rumors so generally rife upon the arrival of de Rodas. The *Voz de Cuba* publishes the communication of "A Volunteer" who states that eighteen companies of volunteers could cover all the towns of the Cinco Villas, and adds, "We are not aware of any project of sending the Havana volunteers to the field, nor do we see the necessity of so doing." Undoubtedly the great mass of them agree with the editor. The Captain General has ordered that all employees in this island now furloughed assume their respective duties within a fortnight or be considered relieved.

The Captain General has notified the Admiral that the Administrator of the Gas Works in Santi Espirito has discovered two tin pots, with powder, hermetically sealed by brass wire and covered with tar. The coal dust adhering thereto made them look like lumps of coal. The *Voz* advises a thorough investigation, as powder can thus easily be introduced through the consignees of the coal.

A telegram, said to have been received here two nights ago from Madrid, stating that Dulce had been named Colonial Minister, and that General Espinar had been relieved from his office as Segundo Cabo, has caused much excitement and speculation here, as those instrumental in the removal of the former are considerably anxious as to the course he may pursue.

Federico Magaraza y Lersundi, captain of infantry, has been named Governor of Nuevitas.

Colonel Manuel Menendez has been named Governor of Trinidad.

The Sequestration office has published its balance sheet to June 30. The total number of persons whose property has been embargoed to that date was 540, but only a few of these have given any result. The total amount paid into the Treasury for May is \$40,195. There was on hand at date of balance sheet \$25,582. The balance received had been expended in advances to sequestrated plantations and office expenses.

The Grapeshot Filibusters—They Capture the Garrison of Bartequiri—Figueroa in Large Force Near Santiago—Joy of the Spaniards at the Arrest of the Cuban Junta.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, July 2, 1869.

The "six or eight" filibusters of the Grapeshot expedition which, according to Spanish reports, remained to be accounted for, have announced themselves in a manner very disagreeable to the "truly loyal" of this vicinity. By some unexplained means their numbers became increased to 100 men, and, guided by an outlaw named Policarpo Ratan, they took prisoner the captain of the *Partida* of Yateras and shot him. By stratagem they afterwards captured the garrison of Bartequiri, numbering twenty-two men. Troops left Baracoa and Guantnamo to attack them, but the result is not yet known.

The insurgent General Figueroa is in large force in this neighborhood, and since the 29th ult. fighting has been going on. The results are studiously concealed, but it is certain the rebels have not been driven back, as the troops are concentrating at Cristo, on the Maroto Railway. Cholera has broken out among them, and it is feared will again invade the town. It is reported that Figueroa is to have a grand celebration on the 4th of July.

Since the outbreak of the insurrection nothing has so much pleased the Spanish element here as the recent news of the arrest of the Cuban Junta in New York. It reached here on St. John's day, and immediately out came the red and yellow flags, the volunteer bands and an extra of the *Luz de la Patria*. Volunteer reviews were had.

and a lot of *gorriones* (sparrows) brought from Havana were let loose in the plaza, to the great contentment of everybody, particularly of the hawks, who have already finished the consignment. The sparrow is the emblem of the Catalan volunteer, *ergo* they pray *Deus avertit omen*, and keep all such ferocious birds as hawks (or American eagles) from harrying the Spanish cocksparrow. The excitement culminated in a procession at nine P. M. to the house of the American Consul. The American and Spanish flags, linked together, were borne in the van, and behind came a band of music, with a promiscuous crowd following. The Consul was serenaded, and *trios* were given for Spain and America. Many of the Catalans expected that an American man-of-war would arrive within a few days, bringing Morales & Co. to figure at the Santiago slaughter house.

Since the death of the five men mentioned in my last, there have been no more executions; but several important arrests have been made, including that of Don Gonzalo Villar, one of the first lawyers of Cuba.