

The News from Cuba and the Cuban Question.

We publish to-day very interesting advices from Cuba by letter and telegram. The course of the revolution runs on without any remarkable event to hasten the result, and disease among the troops and volunteers is beginning to play the same part with the Spanish forces in the field which it did a few years since during the Spanish invasion of St. Domingo, when thirty thousand men were sacrificed for an idea that, after all, was never vindicated. Our letters from Havana bear date previous to the recent arrival of General Rodas, and besides bearing witness to the fading of the rebellious spirit of the volunteers they make mention of two very important points—the admitted need at every point under insurrection of large reinforcements to the troops, and the approach of an insurgent body to Colon, the centre of the great slave district of the island, and distant but little over one hundred miles from Havana.

Our telegraphic advices give the report of an American engineer from Puerto Principe, near which place General Quesada is operating. He reports that the operations of both sides are trivial in results, but the patriots are becoming bolder and more active—a fact which the Spaniards attribute to the presence of Americans among them. Disease is doing its work among the Spanish troops in garrisons there, while the feeling of terror among the people was inducing many to flee the island. According to this report the Spanish officers in the field state that reinforcements to the extent of forty thousand men are required to put down the revolution. This number Spain is ill able to send, with her exhausted exchequer and her own troubles at home with the democratic pact of Torloosa, the Carlists and the numerous opponents of the new *régime*. At Santiago an American sailor named Speckman, who had formed one of the crew of the schooner Grapeshot, had been captured and shot. The matter has been represented to the government at Washington.

Thus we see that the Cuban question grows in complication and importance, while the administration is likely to have its hands full with the proceedings against the Cuban Junta and the filibusters here. In view of the trouble these are giving the government, and the fizzle of their late attempt to circumvent the law, probably the best thing they can do is to take a new departure with fresh men at the lead. Señor Morales Lemus, with Goicouria, Ryan & Co., are likely to keep the officers of Spain and our own pretty busy, and a new organization here, leading off quietly in another direction, would be able to do much good to their cause. At the same time they could assist the new negotiations which it is whispered Spain is willing to enter upon. The progress that Cespedez and Quesada are making in Cuba, with disease as their ally against Spain, and a few hundred experienced Americans to inspire their movements, indicate that the Cuban republic will soon need new men here for diplomatic purposes.