

# The Anticipated Arrival of Rodas—Meekness of the Volunteers—Military Operations—Sickness Among the Troops—Insurgents in Colon—Arrest of the Cuban Junta—Communications from Two Highnesses—Seizure of the New York Herald.

Havana, June 26, 1893.

Havana is holding its breath in anticipation of the arrival of the new Captain General, now hourly expected. The continual anxiety in reference to his course has had a depressing effect upon the brave volunteers, and with much meekness and desire for conciliation they await his coming. The Caballas and Morro Castle fortresses are no longer under their control, and the marines of Señor Molocampo, from their grim battlements, keep watch and ward over city and harbor. On the morning of Thursday the artillery battalion (volunteers), commanded by Señor Suarez Virgil, which had been on duty the previous twenty-four hours, surrendered their trust to the marines, and inasmuch the volunteers ceased to be marines, and inasmuch the volunteers ceased to be marines, the battalion which was to relieve the artillery marched as usual to the wharf, and on being informed that its services were not required, quietly returned to the plaza and was dismissed. It is known that it was aware of what was about to occur, and its march on the occasion was, therefore, a mere matter of form. This acquiescence in what deprives them of the greater part of their power results in part from the quiet persistence and sagacity of General Espinar, but much more from fears as to the action of General de Rodas. The Spanish Admiral went to sea on the 21st, in the Hernan Cortes, and though it was given out that he had gone for a short trip to one of the ports on the north side, and that his family was with him, it was well understood that he had gone to meet and have an interview with the new Captain General concerning the situation here. In the state of mind the volunteers found themselves it was not difficult to persuade them that Caballero de Rodas might land at Matanzas or Cardenas, declare the capital in a state of insurrection, withdraw the navy and so place them in a very critical position. They became docile under these representations and interposed no objection to the surrender of the fortresses, only in order to relieve the others of the stigma, waiting until the artillery was on duty, a battalion regarded with no especial good will. This but confirms the prediction already made in these despatches that De Rodas would be received and permitted to enter upon his authority without any trouble. In view of his early arrival the *Gazette* contains a notice from the Secretary's office announcing the anticipated fact and inviting the authorities, corporations, grandees, consuls and others to be present at the Palace for the purpose of welcoming the new authority upon entering his position. The *Diario*, speaking of the matter, says:—"On Sunday, or, at the very latest, on Monday, his Excellency the Governor, Captain General elect, will be among us. He is a distinguished Spanish General, sent by the government of the nation to re-establish peace in Cuba and preserve, at all costs, the integrity of the national territory. We have already said that whoever dares attribute to him this or that project speaks from his imagination or in bad faith, but it is necessary to repeat it, because the enemies of Spain are gratified in circulating the most absurd rumors, with the pernicious intent of creating alarm, marked by the dark stain of calumny. We ought ever to be alert against our enemies, cloaked as they are, and rely on the purity of our intentions and the tranquility of our conscience." Herein the *Diario* gives the Spaniards a gentle hint that General de Rodas comes out as the representative of the government, leaving the conclusion that he must be obeyed to be inferred, and at the same time assures them that they have nothing to fear from their little revolutionary proceeding in driving out Dulce. Whether it speaks by authority remains to be determined.

Another unsuccessful Spanish General arrived here this week, remained for a short time, furnished a card for the newspapers and left for the United States. This was no less a person than General Buceta, who has been in command in Santiago de Cuba and vicinity, and has several times been reported dead—murdered by his own soldiers. He left on the Beaufort for Key West, en route for New Orleans, at an early hour on the 23d. His card appeared on the same day. He stated that on sailing from Santiago de Cuba on the 18th for the capital, he was informed that certain individuals of the corps of volunteers were dissatisfied with his conduct during the campaign. He does not wonder at this for he is dissatisfied himself, but claims that he is not responsible for not being among those whom the armed enemies reserved for the glory of combat. He was under fire with the insurgents ten times, but on each occasion not more than twelve or fifteen shots were fired and those from the depths of the thickets. He intimates that, as others are doing, he might have reported these as great feats of arms only from a persistent habit he has of telling the truth. He refers to some reports of his operations, "herewith enclosed," not of interest, and closes by saying that any person desirous of further information would be well received by calling at the Hotel Europa. In answer to this invitation several ominous calls followed, but the General was on the sea and so disappointed his visitors. The proprietor of the hotel, fearing for his establishment, found it necessary to publish his card also, announcing that the General had left, and so the affair ended. While it is natural enough that an ignorant and badly informed mob should attribute the failure of military operations to the leaders, the fact is that there are other reasons than their incapacity or the prowess of the insurgents in this case for it. From reliable sources, from the Spanish officers themselves, the information reaches us that the cholera, vomito and other diseases incident to the climate, are making havoc among the troops, equal to the most sanguine expectations of the Cubans. Every attempt at operations is followed by a loss of so many from these causes as to create despair in the breasts of the commanders. An official connected with the sanitary department of the army says that, what with killing, wounding, sickness and desertion, there is a falling off of from sixty to eighty per cent among the troops; that the battalions need recruiting and reorganizing, but there are no men for the purpose. Meanwhile the demoralization among the Spaniards and the dissatisfaction with the commanders, communicating itself to the ranks, render ineffective those who remain.

The military operations, as reported, are of the same indeterminate character as heretofore. The appearance of a body of insurgents in Colon, between Palmillas and the city of that name, has created considerable alarm among the planters, as some of the most important plantations on the island are in that locality. Palmillas is but 125 miles from Havana and but six miles from Macagua, the present terminus of the railroad. The press here reports an engagement between the former two places, in which four or five insurgents were killed. "The Pole" is known to be in the vicinity with 1,500 well armed men. The *Diario* reports that a small column while marching in the jurisdiction of Colon captured two spies, who were immediately shot. A gentleman from that locality states that one of these was an innocent ploughman, taken from the field and slaughtered because he did not know where the insurgents were. A telegram from Leaca to the Captain General, dated the 23d, contains all the information furnished us through official sources of operations in the Cinco Villas. It says:—"The military commandant of Sagua informs me that Captain Iriarte has beaten a numerous party of insurgents on the Gonzales cattle farm on the Santos road, causing them fourteen killed and capturing fifty-four horses, sundry arms and war materials." The fact that the line has been down for the past two days doubtless accounts for our having nothing more of the same stereotyped character.

The arrest of the Cuban Junta in New York has vied with the anticipated arrival of De Rodas as a subject for conversation in the city during the week. The more intelligent, who are few, give it the importance it deserves, while the mass were jubilant or depressed in accordance with their sympathies. Many of the Spaniards considered it a prelude to sending the entire body here for trial, and it was seriously stated that the flagship *Gerona* and the iron-clad *Victoria* were to be sent to New York to bring them hither. Indeed, it is reported that several Spaniards proffered the request to the Captain General that war vessels should be sent for that purpose. It is doubtful, however, if so great stupidity can dwell even in Spanish minds.

The Spaniards give Minister Roberts credit for what they deem this masterly stroke and it has given rise to the following telegrams which appear in the papers here:—

Havana, June 19, 1893.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF SPAIN IN WASHINGTON:—

The Spanish residents in Havana congratulate your Excellency for your worthy and energetic conduct in favor of the national integrity of this island. In their name—Julian Zubera, Jose L. Echaniz, Felipe Perez, Miguel Antonio Cabarga, &c.

REPLY.

WASHINGTON, June 20, 1893.

SIR:—I beg of you in my name to make known to the Spanish residents there that I feel grateful from my soul for their patriotic felicitations, and to add that they will always find me ready to sustain the national integrity in the island of Cuba and to defend with dignity the flag of our dear Spain.

LOPEZ ROBERTS.

Evidently the Spaniards consider that Lopez Roberts holds your "let us have peace" administration by the nose, and perhaps he does.

The investigation in the murder of Mr. Robinson, of Matanzas, by the volunteers of Corral Falso, is progressing. A brother of the victim was recently taken on board the British iron-clad *Defence* at the former place, he fearing violence from the volunteers. A riot between some volunteers and the peasantry recently occurred in Wajay, a few leagues from this city. An affray took place, in which several were wounded. The affair would seem to have no political significance.

General Puello, late Commanding General of the forces operating in the jurisdictions of Santi Espiritu, Moron and Remedios, arrived here on the 20th, he having been relieved by General Leaca. He seems to have retained the good will of the Spaniards, as he was serenaded in Trinidad and has not been molested here. He had an interview with General Espinar soon after his arrival, in which he represented the imperative necessity for reinforcements. In conversation with a friend he stated that 5,000 additional troops were needed in the Cinco Villas.

The Captain General has received the following telegram, dated Madrid the 23d:—

His Highness, the serene Regent of the kingdom,

orders me to manifest to your Excellency that he appreciates, in the most cordial manner, the felicitations your Excellency sends him on your own behalf and that of all classes in that island. He is gratified at the favorable news made known to him, and hopes from the patriotism of the troops, volunteers and others, that they will continue, with untiringly, in their work of pacification, which he doubts not will be very soon attained in the whole territory. Signed by the Secretary of the Agency.

On the other hand, his Highness José Morales Lemus, President of the Junta Cuba, doubtless equally serene, notwithstanding his recent arrest, has mailed circulars here addressed to "the Spanish residents in Cuba," exhorting them to give up the struggle and join the Cubans in throwing off the yoke of Spain. He says:—"You have just demonstrated your conviction that a metropolis, whose conditions of existence are essentially distinct, cannot govern with propriety a country 4,800 miles away." He reminds them of their supposition that independent Cuba would hurt them from her bosom and strip them of their property, adding, "The Cubans, your sons and brothers, whose sentiments are but too well known to you, are too far advanced in civilization not to comprehend that such an act would be in the present amount to a moral suicide." There are reports of several landings on the south side, but nothing definite concerning them can be obtained.

Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Halliday Columna, commandant of cavalry, has been appointed Governor of Santi Espiritu.

Mr. Ferguson, a Scotchman, who was formerly engineer on the estate of Aguilera and was imprisoned about three months ago, has been released by Governor Ampudia, of Manzanillo, on condition that he do not leave the place.

William Stedman has been authorized to act as United States Consul at Santiago de Cuba until the government extends to him the usual exequatur.

On the arrival of the *Columbia* on the 23d the *HERALD* was suppressed by order of the censor and the copies for the news depots were seized. Naturally everybody was desirous of finding out what was in it, and of course succeeded in doing so. The stupidity of the authorities in this matter touches the sublime. Copies of the paper were sold for a dollar each as a consequence of it.

The government is exercising the greatest care that no transactions of a commercial nature shall be had between residents of the island and the "disloyal" abroad. As an example of this, upon the writs for moneys sent the notary is required to endorse that the document is of no effect in foreign countries, which is made "known in fulfillment of the orders of the City Governor as president of the administrative council of properties embargoed of sundry individuals."