

Another Decree of the Captain General.

HOW THE WAR IS TO BE CONDUCTED

Patriot Official Reports of Operations.

Protest of Quesada Against the Brutality of the Spaniards.

Treatment of Penitent Insurgents—Decree of the Captain General—Comments of the Spaniards—Reinforcements for the Regiments—Reports from the Seat of War.

HAVANA, July 12, 1869.

The following decree of the Captain General was first published in the *Aurora* of Matanzas and afterwards reproduced by the *Prensa* here. It has been sent to the authorities of the various jurisdictions throughout the island:—

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, FIFTH SECTION, }
HAVANA, July 8, 1869. }

CAPTAIN GENERAL OF THE EVER FAITHFUL ISLE OF CUBA:—

The extraordinary crisis through which we are passing, the necessity of correcting certain abuses, resulting, perhaps, from a mistaken zeal, and which render difficult the work of pacification which I have proposed to myself, and the desire that all those who exercise an independent command should be guided by public opinion, impel me to lay down certain rules, in which is indicated the line of conduct which I propose to follow.

Wars are always lamentable; but civil war is apt to take on a character of unlimited ferocity. A generous indulgence and nobleness should ever be exhibited by the strongest. It may happen that some men, hitherto deluded or deceived, finding themselves among the insurrectionists, may present themselves for pardon to the chiefs of columns or authorities of the government. In such case they are faithfully to be respected in their persons and interests, and I shall hold those to the strictest responsibility who permit that they be maltreated or insulted. The conditions of this insurrectionary war against the common patria demand prompt and exemplary punishment, and therefore my predecessors have, with justice, imposed the death penalty upon those apprehended with arms in hand. Nevertheless civilization and the prestige of Spain, before the judgment of other nations, impose the duty of being as sparing as possible in the shedding of blood, and this sad extreme should only extend to the chiefs or men proved to have committed the crimes of incendiarism or assassination. In other cases prisoners should be forwarded for my disposition. All functionaries under my authority are to take care that the lives, houses and property of all people, without distinction, be respected, punishing with severity all those who do otherwise. No person is to be imprisoned on mere suspicion and without proofs of criminality, and in case any are imprisoned legal proceedings are to be instituted immediately. Great care is to be taken, in any case, in proceedings against foreigners, that no legal requisite be omitted, in just regard to what is due to their nations. Owing to a mistaken consideration notorious acts of cowardice are frequently concealed. On this point I will be inexorable, and I will exact a strict account of the chief who shall tolerate the slightest fault without informing me, without prejudice to the chief's taking upon himself the provisional judgment which the case may call for, such as arrest, suspension of command, &c., which any person may become liable to.

The greater part of the hardships and reverses which are suffered in the war are due to carelessness, want of skill, absence of vigilance and non-compliance with orders, and it is to be understood that he will be submitted to a court martial who is surprised; who, by his bad dispositions, loses more men in action than should be; who allows a convoy or part thereof to be taken from him, unless it be proven that he made all possible effort to save it. The want of discipline will be punished with rigor, and when the case requires it a summary court martial will be resorted to; and I shall be inexorable in punishment with those chiefs who permit insubordination, it being understood that all the orders issued upon this subject remain in full force. Chiefs should be watchful in the maintenance of their troops, in order that they may not lack equipment, shoes, munitions and necessary armament. Troops who consume much ammunition betray cowardice; therefore accustom the soldier to fire little, and do it well. Reports should always be truthful and without containing more details than are necessary for imparting the facts. Lastly, let those who distinguished themselves by acts of valor be recommended, regardless of friendships and favoritism, with the certainty that true merit will surely be rewarded, as also the just ambition of those chiefs, officers and troops that may distinguish themselves.

I charge your Excellency to circulate these instructions to the authorities in your jurisdiction and to commandants of columns, in order that the greatest publicity be given them, notifying them that I will always exact the strictest accountability for their fulfilment.

May God preserve your Excellency many years!

CABALLERO.

This decree, which is but another and strong evidence of that pacific policy predicted in these despatches soon after the arrival of the new Captain General, is received with loud commendations by the foreign population here. The Spaniards, however, though receiving it quietly enough, do not like it. They say, "Dulce carried the policy of conciliation to its fullest extent, and it only served to give an impetus to the insurrection which has been the cause of all our disasters. The time for it, if it could ever have been used with advantage, is past." Though thus condemning the course of Rodas, there is so little unity of purpose, so much division among the Spaniards at present that no demonstrations are possible, and the Captain General will be left to his experiment.

The steamer *Pelayo*, from Santiago, Nuevitas and other ports, arrived last night, with a number of soldiers selected from the different battalions to make up the requisite number of the *Guardia Civil*, who are to be stationed on the plantations and roads of the *Vuelto Sobago*, &c. Reports from *Puerto Principe* state that General Letona is at the point of death from sickness, but his assassination is suspected.

News from the insurrection is of no interest, operations being to a great extent suspended by the heat and the sickness. A telegram has been received here from Colonel Acosta Alvear, operating in the jurisdiction of *Santi Espiritu*, stating that he had surprised a large camp of rebels and caused them great loss in killed and wounded, besides the complete destruction of their camp. The *Santa Clara Alta*, of the 9th, contradicts the report that the insurgent chief Lerda has been captured and shot.

An officer recently returned from the headquarters of *Lesca*, in the *Cinco Villas*, very severely criticises that officer for his carelessness of his men and the constant sacrifice of them in operations which, while they give an idea of energy and activity, are not of the least practical importance.

The following appointments have been made by the Captain General:—Don Manuel Vallecjo Miranda, Lieutenant Governor of *Baracoa*; Don Julian Gonzalez Parrado, Lieutenant Governor of *Guantanamo*. Both these officers are commandants of infantry.

The materials of the paper *El Pais*, formerly published here in the Cuban interest, have been sequestered and rented to *La Voz de Cuba*.