

SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

Arrival of the American Squadron—Great Renovation—Salutes—Attack by General Jordan on Five Garrisoned Plantations Simultaneously—Troops Sent to Reinforce the Detachments—Flight at Contramaestre—Court Martial on Prominent Citizens.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, July 16, 1899.

None of the journals of this city contain any official accounts about the movements in this jurisdiction, which fact leads to the belief that since the 6th inst. the detachments and flying columns have not had any encounters worthy of notice, though there may still be a few marauding parties in this part of the territory.

During the past week two events occurred that occupied public attention. One was the arrival on the 11th of the American Admiral Hoff, with a squadron composed of the frigate Albany (or Contoocook), the monitor Centaur and the gunboat Gettysburg. The other incident was the attack made simultaneously by the rebels on several sugar plantations.

The American monitor has naturally awakened great curiosity here, it being the first time such a war ship entered this port. It was imposing to witness such a powerful engine of destruction here. The squadron saluted the plaza, and the customary salutes were exchanged by the battery of the Punta Blanca. The Admiral's visit to the Governor was returned on the following day, Wednesday. The interviews were of the most flattering character. Of course all sorts of conjectures were formed as to the object of this visit, and there were not wanting persons who even thought that the town had to surrender in consequence of reparation of some agrarios.

As regards the attacks of the rebels, the Governor ordered the immediate occupation of the estates endangered, and the command of the forces sent was entrusted to Colonel Cámara. The enemy commenced the attack at an early hour of the morning, believing that he could surprise the detachments stationed on the plantations, none of which exceeded twenty-five men. The rebels attacked five estates simultaneously, over an extent of eighteen miles, with a force of 600 to 800 men, but they were vigorously repulsed, and they left everywhere dead bodies in heaps. Lieutenant Otal, with eighteen men, compelled 200 rebels to flee from the Santa Isabel, killing fifteen of the enemy, who were left in the courtyard. After this the whole force of the enemy retired. They were commanded by Jordan and Marciano, and it is said that the latter and a son of E. Marmol were wounded. The troops had two deaths, including Don Felix Machaco, a native of this city.

Yesterday 150 troops of the Hens battalion arrived from Mayarí. One half are convalescents from cholera and vomito.

Last night we learned that a party of incendiaries of the Cobre band burnt the houses of Don Manuel Masferreroli's cattle farm.

It is stated that the small column of 200 troops, under Commandant Cabilzal, sent to Bayama a few days ago, had safely arrived there without any obstacle till their appearance at the river Contramaestre. Here they were attacked by upwards of 1,000 rebels, under General Jordan, but, despite their superior numbers, they could not stand the fire for more than ten minutes, when they dispersed, leaving several dead and one prisoner, while they only caused a loss of two wounded to the troops.

Six of our most respectable citizens—O. Y., J. A. C., J. A. P., R. E., A. A. and D. C.—have been a fortnight imprisoned, accused and tried by court martial; but the court not having found any proofs against them they have been released from solitary confinement.

Doña Isabel Ferrer de Cisneros died several days ago, to the regret of the community of this city.