

The Humbled Cause of Brigadier Lesca's Return—Reported Capture of a Spanish Convoy by Quesada and of a Rebel Guard by Palacios—A Large Insurgent Force in the Great Sugar District—No Troops in Havana to Send to the Field—More Sequestrations—A Proclamation of Cespedes Noticed by the Volanteers.

HAVANA, August 14, 1893.

It is stated in reliable quarters that Brigadier Lesca did not come to Havana on account of his health, but that, despite the popularity which the Cuban affair and his constant bulletins gave him, has been recalled by the Captain General, because of the repeated complaints made against him from his own troops, because it is stated he was absurdly reckless about the lives of his men, no matter how trivial the occasion, and from the Cubans, because he persecuted them, it is said, in a most cruel manner, without allowing his prisoners the benefit of any trial, and stripping them of everything they possessed, by the most arbitrary means imaginable. The command on this account will probably be turned over to Colonel Goyeneche, who is not only a gallant soldier, but represented to be a man of judgment and of kindly feeling.

It is rumored that the newly appointed Governor of Nuevitas is also to be removed ere long for similar causes, because the Captain General continues determined to have justice meted out to all alike, and promptly listens to all that have any justifiable cause for complaint to make.

The recent appearance of a large rebel force near Macagua, Navajas, &c., thus extending the insurrection to the territory where the sugar plantations are most numerous and valuable, has created considerable alarm here, and this was increased by the report that a party of insurgents had again appeared in Sagua Grande and attacked the Chapelgortis volunteers, whose commander is reported to have been made prisoner. On this account part of the battalion of Napoles and some militia left Matanzas the other day. As it is apprehended that those insurgents have communication with some that are in Havana every precaution has been taken so as to be prepared at any moment, and therefore orders have been passed to keep the guard houses open at night and to be ready at a moment's signal.

The demands from the interior for more reinforcements do not cease, which puts the government to great straits, as no troops have come from Spain for some time, and none can be expected for the present. It has been impossible to complete the battalion of mobilized volunteers that have lately been enlisting, because some of the former body have returned from the interior, and in the public streets speak very unfavorably about the treatment they received. They are said to go so far as to declare that since they left Havana they have never received a cent of their pay, and that while in campaign they were almost starved. The fact of several wounded and mutilated men hovering about the streets adds to the distrust of the glowing accounts the newspapers give of the campaign.

The Captain General has again sent for the volunteer commanders for them to induce some of their men to go to the field, as the colored militia had done, leaving their families behind, the more so as they (the volunteers) were more strictly in duty bound to defend the honor of Spain. It was decided to cast lots among all the battalions, in order to form one for the field; but then another difficulty arose, which was that the men would only place themselves under the orders of their own commanders and not under those of any army officers. However, it is said that of the Fifth battalion 200 men are willing to leave, and they will be sent merely to garrison the town of Nuevitas. Don Ramon Herrera, the colonel of the Fifth, is going with his family to Spain, giving out that he will get the government to send out more troops; but his men want to prevent his leaving, because if he only went on that errand he would not take his family with him.

A proclamation of Cespedes has been read here, wherein he offers quarter to those volunteers that were formed before the independence cry, which are the First, Second, Third and Fourth battalions, but to the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and the artillery volunteers, formed since, he will give no quarter should any of them fall into the power of the insurgents. This incident has not escaped the notice of the volunteer battalions. The Chiclana battalion of regulars went to Sagua because they would not serve under the orders of General Puella. It is stated that in consequence of some encounters they had with the rebels, and, what with disease and desertion, their ranks had become 370 men minus, and having been induced to return they embarked back to Nuevitas, and finally appeared again in Principe. One of the great difficulties the Spanish army has to contend with is the want of Spanish guides. They have to avail themselves of Creoles, are invariably misled by these and led into dangerous ambushes.

The meetings of the Havana Railroad Company have not yet ended, and the discussions are naturally drawing to government favor. As the government has sequestered the shares of Aldama, Delmonte and others that were the principal and largest shareholders, it naturally commands the majority of votes. An attempt was made to appoint Gonzalo Castanon as manager of the above road, but it was nunsuited, because there are resolutions on the records of general meetings of the shareholders having been held previously expressly prohibiting certain innovations to be made. This has incited the chairman (for the government) to a volley of abusive language to many of those present, stating that not a few of them were as criminal as Cespedes himself.

The properties of the following Cubans have been sequestered:—Don Joaquin Garcia Anzarica, of Havana, absent abroad (although a bona fide American citizen), Señors Francisco Serrano, Jesus Maria de Leiva y Borgea, Cleto de la Torre, Toribio de la Torre, Francisco de la Torre y Batista, Amador de los Reyes, Miguel Geronimo Cardet, Rafael Maria de Leiva Loreto Vassallo, Manuel Guerra Almiguer, Jesus Rodriguez de Aguilera, José Lisabet Justo Aguilera, Jesus Carballo, Miguel Aguilera Juan Carretero, José Antonio Maniño, Eugio Barmiento and Fidel Alvarez, all citizens of Holguin.

Colonel Ramon Fajardo has been appointed to the Comandancia General and Governorship of Matanzas, in place of Colonel Domingo Leon.

The following does honor to the Captain General:—His Excellency called together the Syndics of the City Council and presented to their view a whip besmeared with blood which a young colored girl (a slave) had brought him, complaining of the ill treatment she had received at the hands of her mistress, without any redress or investigation on their part. His Excellency remarked to them that on any recurrence of the kind, no matter if it were a lady of the highest standing, such conduct should be punished, and that he would hold said Syndics responsible in the event of their concealing it.

A recent telegram received from New York, preparing us for an early visit from Don Juan Manuel Macias, the President of the Junta Cubana, has created a mingled sensation of surprise and curiosity, leading every one to form conjectures suitable to his own feelings; and the incident has reached such bounds as to lead some good folks to believe that he is coming to make a treaty of free trade with Cespedes, which is to include the unobstructed and wholesale importation of fine beef cattle. The only reason that can be found for such an event is that ever since this Cuban rebellion occurred, now nearly a year ago, no native cattle have come from the interior, nor are they likely to come for another year hence. The result is that a pretty active import trade is being carried on from abroad, which would be immensely increased were it not for the exorbitant import duty still in force thereon.

There is an account in town received from Manzanillo stating that the two brass cannons and other war material seized by Colonel Palacios, near Palma Soriano, were in the custody of an ordinary guard and therefore not in that of General Jordan, as is given out by the informant of *El Diario de la Marina*, nor in the custody of any number of insurgents that could have resisted the large forces sent by General Valmaseda to combine that wonderful capture. It is not improbable that by some treacherous act or other Palacios got the information which enabled him to make the capture by a ruse.

We have to-day dates from Santiago de Cuba to the 8th without any intelligence of great interest. The news from Principe reaches to the 11th. The cholera had disappeared. More than 200 head of fine cattle had been brought in by foraging parties of volunteers, and a double train from Nuevitas had arrived on the 9th with supplies, only five cars being loaded for the commissariat with four cannons, a quantity of powder, other war stores and some provisions.

The steamer Pajaro, which brings the above intelligence, has on board an American gentleman named Dr. Summons, among four more political prisoners, all heavily chained in irons! She also brings, besides many families (sixty passengers), eighty-one slaves, 122 troops, one colonel, one commandant, seventeen other officers and fourteen mariners. Most of the troops are young, healthy fellows from the army in Santiago de Cuba, and nobody knows the drift or motives of their leaving the campaign nor of their coming here.