

Military Operations at a Stand—Valmaseda Wants More Men—Arrival of Puello—Address to Valmaseda—The Colored Militia Snubbed by Rodas—Equitable Disposal by Rodas of the Political Prisoners—More Sequestrations.

HAVANA, July 28, 1898.

The elements and disease hamper all military operations for the present on the part of the belligerents. The troops are at a standstill, seeing their numbers decimated by the climate alone. It would be premature, therefore, for General Rodas to go to the interior, as he at first promised himself; *partidas* volantes are ever and anon roving near the great cities both in the Eastern and Central Departments. A band was but the other day at Calbarien. This keeps the Western Department in continual alarm. Now and then a plantation is set fire to. If Spanish accounts were always to be credited we could believe some of the reports, which never attribute these acts to the troops alone. It may be that the insurgents do burn an estate occasionally not far from the capital town, so as to warn the Spanish party and show what may be expected hereafter if the attempts to keep the Cubans under the old yoke be continued. But in most cases it is done from pure vengeance on both sides; on the insurgent side, however, it appears to have been deferred until the crop time was past. The war is not likely to present any other feature for two months more; neither of the combatants will be able to achieve much before September or October. In the interval the insurgents will be best employed in drilling and preparing, for they may be sure that the Spaniards will certainly take the offensive then with great vigor. Those Cubans who can be satisfied with nothing but "independence or death" will see much carnage and devastation. *La Voz de Cuba* even now asserts that 4,000 to 5,000 volunteers are more than enough to occupy and rule the country now dominated by the rebels in the Cinco Villas; and thus the troops would be left free to "exterminate" the roving bands, clear the jurisdictions of Remedios, Trinidad, &c., penetrate the Central Department and combine operations there with the forces under Puello and Valmaseda. It adds a suggestion to the military authorities, viz., to send them.

Puello has safely reached the jurisdiction of Puerto Principe. We have no reliable accounts by which to know that he has entered the city. Valmaseda has asked for 1,000 more troops. He cannot safely leave Bayamo, to join Puello, until they arrive, although it will only require some hundreds to man the fort he has built there.

The "situation" continues to drag on. Cuba is still as far from Spain as she ever was, yet not an inch nearer to the United States. The press every now and then admits that affairs look gloomy, and occasionally allows that the insurrection is more formidable than they have been prepared to confess. *El Diario de la Marina* of the 20th inst., in an able article on this important subject says:—"To dominate situations it is necessary to know them well and to appreciate with exquisite coolness those details that offer a special character. * * * Four months after the rebellion broke out we said that what was taking place in Cuba had not occurred in other places of America which had suffered even fifty years of bloody civil war, and however painful it may be to confess it there is no doubt that the evil from day to day takes colossal proportions."

General Valmaseda intended to have visited the Captain General within this week, but the "situation" has compelled him to defer it. His friends here have prepared a monster address to him which has already over 1,000 signatures. There is an addenda of a subscription, to present him with an "obsequio"—the maximum contribution is not to exceed ten cents.

The white and colored infantry militia of *disciplinados* have lately garrisoned Fort Principe, within the bay here; three companies of the whites and five of the other were notified to prepare for the field; yesterday they received counter orders, for it appears that they were to go in sections, picked out from each company; but they were not willing to adopt this arrangement, desiring to go in perfect companies. General Rodas, finding his commands combatted, said they should not go at all, which may be just what they wished for.

The official Gazette contains the following:—

SUPERIOR POLITICAL GOVERNMENT,

PROVINCE OF CUBA,

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, HAVANA, July 24, 1898.

In view of the recording writs of processes received from various jurisdictions of the island and the result of the corresponding actuaciones his Excellency the Superior Political Governor has decreed:—

1. That the following individuals be placed at the disposition of the Captain General, to be subjected to a council of war, in consequence of being comprehended in the decree of the 15th of February last:—

Silverio Padilla, Tranguillino Garcia Machado, Rafael Lulian, Jose Dominguez, or Julian Mendive (mulatto) and Tirso Silvestre (mulatto).

2. That those following be transported to Spain and placed at the disposition of the Supreme Government:—Frederico de Armas y Sanchez and Manuel de Armas y Sanchez.

3. That those herein named be domiciled in the Isle of Pines, under the vigilance of the authority:—Gabriel Ayala, Salvador Dominguez and the mulatto, Jose Gertrudis Herrera.

4. That Vicente Perez, Manuel Molono, Francisco Fernandez, Agustin Vidal, Rafael Godoy and Antonio Garcia be released from imprisonment, they reserving their right to proceed against Antonio Dominguez, wheresoever, and in accordance with law; the aforesaid Antonio Garcia remaining under the vigilance of the authorities.

Published by order of his Excellency for general information.

CESAREO FERNANDEZ, Secretary.

We hear of no arrests here, nor have any political prisoners been "exhibited" or sent in from the country, as was the case in Dulce's time, if not every day at least every week. The city is exceedingly quiet and perfect tranquillity prevails in the suburbs. General Rodas continues his almost daily perambulations dressed as a civilian, with only an aide-de-camp in attendance; sometimes his Excellency takes a ride on the Paseo and the principal streets in the evening.

The properties of the following individuals in the interior have been sequestered:—

San Antonio.—Valentin Abreu, Andrés Simon Diaz, Vicente Marqueti, Mus Rabasa y Sanchez, Pedro Perez Leon, Manuel Abreu, Carlos Garcia, hijo.

Noron.—Manuel Aguilera, Félix Carrazana, Eligio de Castro, Oriaco de Castro y Prieto, Manuel Aricaga, Antonio Valdés Morales, Estéban de Varona, Francisco de Varona, Pedro Nolasco Zayas, padre; Pedro Nolasco Zayas, hijo; Ramon Flores, Francisco Quesada, José Maria de Quesada.

Nuevitas.—Melchor Agüero, Carlos Martel, Pedro Céspedes, Agustin Maspay, Francisco Sanchez, Juan Guillerer Primelles, Fernando Aguilera, Antonio Bedre, Antonio Zena, Bienvenido Primelles, Antonio Zena, Pompilio Silva, Vincente Agüero, Rodolfo Agüero, José Maria Abreu, Melchor Silva, padre; Adolfo Barreiro.

Santiago de Cuba.—Antonio Pacheco.

Santa Clara.—José de la Luz Ruiz, Clemente Garcia, José de Jesus Santos, Domingo Torres, Fernando Martinez.

It is said that the government intends to subject all Spaniards, from the age of fifteen to sixty years, to a general conscription; but whether this will be carried into effect remains to be seen.

Among the many economies adopted by the government of Spain, the ecclesiastic estimates in this island have, for the first time, been included. The incomes of the Archbishop of Santiago and the Bishop of Havana have been reduced to \$12,000 per annum respectively, and the other high functionaries of the Church proportionately. The \$3,000 annual "subsidy" hitherto granted in aid of the College of Jesuits in this island (Havana) has been withdrawn.

It is now reported that Señor Quiros, the renowned police chief, having friends who used their influence with the first authority, has been allowed to remain here as chief of the secret police.