

CUBA.

Prisoners in the Hands of the Cubans—Important Successes of the Revolutionists—Great Losses of the Spaniards—Activity of General Jordan.

WASHINGTON, August 3, 1869.

Letters have been received in this city from the leaders of the Cubans, dated the 20th ult. These letters give the following items of news from the insurrectionary districts:—

The recent engagements have placed in the hands of the republican leaders a large number of prisoners, and they are now in a position to prevent the wholesale massacre of Cubans and their friends which have taken place through the power of the volunteer organization, as it is understood that the prisoners in the hands of the revolutionists would be held as hostages for the proper treatment of the Cubans who might be captured in battle. This fact has caused a cessation of the instant execution of prisoners which has hitherto been the policy of the Spanish commanders.

General Quesada has completely destroyed all communication between Puerto Principe and the coast and the telegraphic communication with Havana; and were it not for the unhealthy condition of the city, he would have occupied it some time ago. Every effort of General Letona to open communication has been defeated, and in these attempts the Spanish loss has been treble that of the Cubans. The loss of the Spaniards in these encounters is so great that it is reported the effective force of General Letona at Nuevitas and the entire district does not exceed 4,000 men, while that of General Quesada is near 9,000 men, in good discipline and well armed, and fully prepared for a forward movement when the healthy condition of the country adjacent to the coast will permit.

There have been a number of minor contests in General Jordan's district. In each case the Spaniards have been the aggressors, but in every instance they have been repulsed with great loss, while the Cubans have suffered but little. At Villa Clara the loss of the Spanish was over 200, together with their arms, ammunition wagons, ordnance and provision trains. In another engagement near Trinidad the regular and volunteer troops who had been sent out to take possession of certain "marked" plantations were driven back and the forces almost destroyed. The number of killed and wounded is reported at eighty-five and that of prisoners 300. The number of Spanish troops engaged in this fight was near 1,300, while that of the Cubans, who were guarding the plantations, numbered only 760 men.

General Jordan reports himself and troops in excellent condition, and asserts that his command is equal to three times the same number of those who oppose him. They are well organized, well drilled and fight like demons. His force is daily increasing by recruits from the former slaves and the Spanish regular troops. He expresses entire confidence in success.

Contraband Trade With the Patriots—Skirmish With a Party of Insurgents.

HAVANA, August 3, 1869.

The journals are discussing the increase of the contraband trade between Havana and the rebel forces, and urge strong measures for its suppression.

The steamer Washington, of the Transatlantic Company's line, arrived this morning from St. Nazaire and sailed at two P. M. for Vera Cruz.

A detachment of Spanish troops while engaged in a reconnoissance near Cinco Villas met a party of insurgents. A fight followed, in which thirty of the rebels were killed.

Exchange on London, 14½ a 14½ per cent premium; on United States, sixty days' sight, in gold, 2½ a 3½ per cent premium; in currency, 24 per cent discount.