

Affairs in Cuba—Progress of the Patriots.

Our latest despatches from Cuba are on the whole encouraging. The insurrection, instead of being stamped out by the arrest of the Cuban volunteers that left this city, goes on with as much vigor as if no such check had been received. For some reason or reasons yet unexplained the Spanish authorities have detained the American mail steamer between Santiago de Cuba and this country. Probably when details reach us we shall find it only another instance of that high-handed and arbitrary way in which Spain has hitherto conducted this war. The unfortunate Cubans who, right ly or wrongly, are suspected of disloyalty are treated with extreme severity, being hurried away, even when in ill health, to Bayamo, there to be tried summarily before one of the military tribunals. The sequestration of estates still goes on, proving that the wealthy planters are deeply embarked in this cause. Little fighting of any consequence has taken place, the policy of Generals Cespedes and Jordan being to harass the Spanish troops, cut off their convoys of provisions and such small parties of soldiers as stray from the main body. A small body of patriots lately surprised the garrison (four thousand strong) of Puerto Principe by an assault upon the town before daybreak, and retreated in good order, carrying with them fifty thousand dollars' worth of provisions. But cholera and vomito are causing far greater havoc among the raw troops from Spain than all the efforts of the patriot leaders. The Spanish ranks are being thinned rapidly, and the difficulty of filling the vacancies caused thereby is daily becoming greater.

The government journals are now more fully alive than ever to the critical position of affairs, and are calling upon all ranks to volunteer, but the call is badly responded to. The Governor of Trinidad has pressed into the service all Spaniards between fifteen and sixty years of age, and it is proposed to extend this order to the whole island. The government is afraid, however, to entrust the creoles with arms, and as to the negro militia, they have threatened repeatedly to go over to the enemy should they be compelled to exchange garrison duty for service in the field. Quite in keeping with this threat is the news we publish to-day that sixteen of them—a first instalment—have already deserted. Urgent solicitations for fresh troops have been sent to the government in Madrid, and Brigadier Leteure y Rios has gone to Spain for this purpose, as well as to impress upon the government there the really critical position of affairs on the island.

Altogether the news from Cuba is reassuring to the friends of liberty, and, as might be expected, the patriots there rejoice to hear of Carlist insurrections and the many difficulties fast gathering round the Spanish government. Now that the question of the sale of the island seems finally set at rest the Cubans are prepared to fight out their own independence. Every week finds them better organized and fitter to take the field. The very atrocities of the Spanish volunteers have done much to strengthen the insurrection by fomenting among the natives a spirit of hatred against a government that countenances such ruffians, and by enlisting more warmly in behalf of Cuba and her freedom the good wishes of every American.