

# CUBA.

## Further Particulars of the Battle of Las Tunas—The Defeat of the Spaniards—Chivalrous Conduct of the Cubans—Number Killed and Wounded on Both Sides.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10, 1869.

Letters from Cuba, via Key West, received yesterday give the following account of the battle near Las Tunas:—On the 16th ult. a reconnoitering party was sent out by General Quesada numbering 300 men. On the afternoon of the same day this force was attacked by largely superior numbers, but succeeded, with a loss of fifty-five in killed, wounded and missing, in regaining the main body. The commanding general immediately prepared for an attack, which did not take place until the 18th. On the morning of that day General Valmaseda was reported as approaching with a large force of cavalry, artillery and infantry, and preparations were immediately made to receive him. Shortly after sunrise the Spanish forces made their appearance and immediately commenced the fight with artillery. The artillery made but little impression on the Cuban army, when the infantry were brought up and a charge upon the Cuban position was ordered. The Cubans reserved their fire until the Spaniards came within range, when the order to fire was given, and it was so effective that the Spanish line was thrown into disorder and compelled to fall back under protection of the artillery. After some three hours the attack was renewed by Valmaseda's entire force, numbering, as was reported by deserters, over 4,000 effective men, more than one-half regular troops. The Cuban force was about 6,000, of whom 4,000 were well armed.

The contest lasted five hours, when Valmaseda was forced to give way and fall back on his fortifications at Las Tunas. The loss of the Cubans was in killed seventy-two, among them several officers, whose names are not given; wounded severely 107, slightly wounded 150, missing forty-seven; while that of the Spaniards is reported in killed and wounded over 600. Two hundred of their dead and wounded were left on the field. There were nearly 400 deserters and 270 prisoners captured. The deserters report that General Valmaseda had all his available force in this engagement, and had thirty-two pieces of artillery of the most approved character, six of which were 24-pounder rifled Parrott guns, with two regiments of cavalry and six brigades of infantry. The Cubans had only thirteen pieces of artillery, of small calibre, with no effectively equipped cavalry. The result of this battle, which has been the first of importance since the commencement of the revolution, causes great rejoicing in the Cuban army and among those on the island who sympathize with their movement.

A letter from Havana states that the government exercises the most rigid surveillance over the telegraph and mails, so that nothing is permitted to be sent by telegraph giving accounts of military operations excepting that furnished by the government. Every private despatch passes through the hands of a Spanish official.

The same letter says:—

The Captain General is in constant dread of the volunteers, and fears they will drive him out and seize the government and declare the island independent of Spain. General Lesca, who has been here for some time, is known to be in the interest of the volunteers. The outrages increase fearfully, and are of a character too revolting to be believed.