

Increasing Discontent Against De Rodas' Administration.

The Atrocities of the Volunteers to be Investigated.

The steamship *Mariposa*, Captain Campbell, from Havana the 12th inst., arrived here yesterday. She brings news of interest up to date of sailing.

Opposition of the Spanish Residents to Intervention—Their Suspicions of the Regency—Circular of the Spanish Clubs—Gumbrells Against Rodas—The American Squadron—The Fight at Tunas—Interesting Details—Recruiting—Destruction of Estates—The Next Crop—Political Prisoners—Sequestrations—Spanish Reports.

HAVANA, Sept. 11, 1899.

The Spanish residents of Cuba are loyal to the monarchy and patriotic, but they seem to have no great liking for the Regency. Indeed, they suspect it, and most of them, still believing that the insurrection can be put down, are shaping their opposition to any project which it may entertain for the sale or relinquishment of the island. This opposition manifested itself more particularly in the Spanish Club, *Casino Español*, and four rather startling propositions have been most favorably received within its walls and beneath the mask of social intercourse. As for example:—The establishment of an independent government, to remain in entire harmony with the people of Spain, monarchs, because successful revolutionists, until the election of a king or some other event which shall happily terminate Herrero's reign.

A circular addressed to all the volunteers of the island proposing the establishment of club organizations throughout the island, to be in relation with the Havana Club has been sent out. It is anticipated that the Captain General will endeavor to put a stop to political discussions in this and other clubs, and then come what may, perhaps a trip to Spain for his Excellency—*¿la Dulce*. The recent trip of Rodas to Matanzas is now said to have had some connection with this matter, and he was advised by the Governor there and other leading officials that in case of any proposition for the sale of the island or the recognition of belligerent rights to the Cubans, there would be great and uncontrollable disorders among the volunteers. To prevent these or to suppress them it was proposed to arm all professedly loyal persons, whether Cuban or Spaniard, but it was not accepted, as being too difficult and too dangerous. That his Excellency is thoughtfully alive to the gravity of the situation, in view of the possible action of the United States, there is no doubt. Whether he will be able to meet it or no is problematical. The Spaniards look with dread upon the extensive operations going on in the North for fitting out the squadron designed for these waters. Last year American war vessels here excited their laughter; and well they might, as they compared the insignificant gunboats with the magnificent frigates of Spain, England and France. But they have ceased. The north wind brings down the sound of hammers, and they say it presages a hurricane. Meanwhile they prepare to meet it. May be anticipated. So the action of the United States should be at least cotemporary with the arrival of her squadron, if at all inimical to Spanish domination on this island.

The great fight at Las Tunas—as described in my correspondence of the 9th—continues the subject of conversation, and, though no further information has been received, in the mouths of Cubans and Spaniards the story takes a thousand curious shapes. That a number of prisoners were burned when the prison building was fired to prevent its falling into the hands of the insurgents there is no doubt. The Captain General is naturally very indignant at this. A Spanish officer present at the battle says the Cubans approached the intrenchments with great bravery, but rather like a mob than an army, without any pretensions to line of battle. Before daylight on the morning of the attack a body of Spaniards, dressed precisely like the insurgents, with the lone star in tin upon their hats, went out, and, coming upon the Cuban encampment, commenced shouting, "*Viva Cuba Libre!*" "*Viva Independencia!*" "*Viva Céspedes!*" mingled among the men, and with their knives stabbed to the heart many of them when sleeping or unsuspecting of the presence of a foe. They were not discovered until the gray of the morning, when they fled, hotly pursued, to their intrenchments. The sergeant, as he rode behind the works, gaily exclaimed, "They smell me!" and he was much applauded. Happily truth and poetical justice go hand in hand in furnishing a sequel to the story; he was killed during the day.

There is no doubt that great ruin and desolation have come upon Tunas and its inhabitants. Many of the latter, driven from their homes, are wandering about the country destitute, and in danger from both Cubans and Spaniards. Some were trying to make their way to Puerto Padre.

Recruiting for the battalion intended for the field and known as *Guías de Rodas* goes on very slowly. Some 450 men have been raised in Havana and in Matanzas, and other places some 200 more.

In Nuevitas recruiting is going on among the blacks, and eighty had been enlisted at last accounts. General Puella, commanding in Perto Principe, had but small satisfaction of his black allies, who joined him soon after his arrival, and on account of his being a negro, as they soon afterwards fled, taking with them a considerable number originally in the Spanish ranks.

From the Cuatro Villas, Sancti Spiritus, Moron, Puerto Principe and other points, encounters are officially reported, all with the same character and with the same result; that is, favorable to the Spaniards.

The *Diario* has information from Manzanillo to the effect that a column, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Juan Lopez del Campillo, composed of troops and volunteers, attacked the insurgent chief Modesto Diaz in his formidable intrenchments near the River Yara, took them and routed the rebels, killing fourteen. The pursuit continued for some days and until they took refuge in the Sierra.

The destruction of estates continues. The insurgents have burned several belonging to the Ysnagras, near Trinidad. They have given large sums to support the volunteers and forces employed in guarding estates.

The insurgents recently came to the estate of Mr. Terry, near Cienfuegos, and carried off twenty-six negroes, twenty-three Chinamen, the overseer and others of the place, but did not burn it.

Before his departure for the North, and under Dulce's administration, Señor Soldado obtained permission to keep some twenty five or thirty armed men on his estates near Matanzas. These recently endeavored to excite the negroes to rise, and the thing coming to the ear of the Chief of the Guardia Civil he went to the estates and killed nine of them. They were mostly Canary Islanders.

The planters of Colon and Jaguey Grande believe that it will be impossible to make the next year's crop of sugar, as all the negroes leave the estates as soon as the insurgents appear in numbers enough to protect them. To prevent supplies falling into the hands of the insurgents a decree has been issued forbidding the transportation of any box or bale, containing arms or ammunition, without a permit from the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of the jurisdiction. The sale of machetes is prohibited, except to proprietors of estates, under certain restrictions. The station masters on the railroad are required to examine all boxes coming to their respective places, and report to the Administrator of the road. Shippers are made responsible and required to place their names on the boxes.

Orders have been issued to the employers of the railroad to pay particular respect to such of their number as are volunteers. As most of them are Cubans, this is likely to cause much dissatisfaction.

The property of the following named gentlemen, of Cardenas, has been conditionally embargoed:—Juan Garcia Salva, Ricardo Mathiu, Juan Perez del Castillo, Rafael de Zayas Ochoa and Manuel Diaz Gonzalez. That of the following gentleman has been released:—Santiago Laurence, Cayetano Pascual.

The Superior Political Government has made disposition of political prisoners as follows:—To be subjected to council of war—José E. Coloma. To be exiled to Ceuta—Carlos Diaz Molina, Andrés de la Torre. Exiled to Melilla—Antonio Flunack y Gariol. To be sent to the Peninsula and placed at the disposition of the general government—Domingo Acosta, Pantaleon Alfonso, Manuel Alfonso and Antonio Aloma. To change his residence—Isidro Rivero.

Insurgents in El Arriba—Organization of Volunteers—Reported Defeat of Jordan a Canard—Wounding of the Spanish Commander—Reported Disaffection of Marmol—Legal Proceedings Against Valmaseda and Palacios—Robberies by Spanish Officers.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Sept. 4, 1899.

Through the emigrants who have arrived here from the El Arriba district we learn that the insurgents in large numbers are in possession of said district. They also report having heard on the 1st and 2d instant salutes with cannon by the insurgents in honor of news favorable to their cause received from the United States. There is also a current report here of the death of the two brothers called Marciano, who as chiefs served in the ranks of the insurgents. It is said they were assassinated by six of their subordinates, who, having presented themselves and proposed to the Spanish Captain Ampudia, ~~promised to spare their lives, to kill the last two~~

referred to. Captain Ampudia acceded to their request, and a few hours after they returned with the news that they had consummated the assassination. This news, however, is not positive, although the volunteers hold it to be a fact which is proved. Officially nothing is known, though the death of Donato Marmol has several times been announced. We, however, see him in new engagements, to the dissatisfaction of the Spaniards, who believed him to be dead.

On the evening of the 1st inst. two prisoners, one white and the other colored, arrived here, brought by two of the mobilized. They were taken to the Government House, and it was quite a novelty to hear the opinions and the delight of the Catalan volunteers, who believed they would be shot the next morning. Some were of opinion that they should be immediately shot and dragged along the streets; but great was their dissatisfaction when they learned that they were not prisoners of a political character and would be released the next day.

A new company of volunteers is now to be organized here, to be denominated "Flankers of the battalion of order." The commander of the same will be Mr. Eloy de la Sierra, administrator of the customs of this city. On Sunday, 5th instant, at 5 A. M., they will have a campaign mass on the boulevard of this place, and will proceed afterwards to the Cobre, where they are to partake of a dinner at the sole expense of Mr. Eloy de la Sierra. It is unnecessary to add that the volunteers of this new corps are the same that composed the other battalions, and who have abandoned their ranks to enlist in the new company, attracted by the novelty. Our Governor, Mr. Simon de la Torre, also thinks of going to Cobre to pass a season there, which is to begin the 8th of this month, on "Caridad" day, the patron saint of that village. It is supposed there will be great feasting and amusement, on which occasion the president of the village has been authorized to give a salute with cannon. The Governor of this city will be accompanied by the "Guías of General La Torre." On the 3d inst. it was reported here that there had been an engagement between the volunteers of Miguel Perez, of Guantánamo, and General Jordan, that Perez had been seriously wounded and had routed Jordan, killing seventy of his men and taking sixty prisoners. This affair, it is said, took place at Yaguajay, distant some ten leagues from the city. With such a plausible motive the volunteers paraded our streets with a band of music, crying hurrah and other magic cries or exclamations. To-day the veil under which the truth has been removed, and, to the great pain of the volunteers, it turns out that there is no such thing. The only point of truth in the whole statement was the wounding of Perez, caused by a volley from the insurgents concealed in ambush.

It is also reported that the insurgent Colonel Eduardo del Marmol desires to pass over to the Spanish government with 300 of his subordinates. The truth of this is not known; but it is supposed it will turn out a hoax, like the engagement of Perez.

Colonel Lopez Cámara leaves this evening in the steamer *Cienfuegos* for Manzanillo. He will proceed to Bayamo and Jiguaní to institute a legal process against Colonel Palacios and Yalmaseda, on account of the assassinations committed on several respectable persons of this city. Said Colonel Cámara runs a great risk in this mission, for the assassins spare no means of escaping from the punishment of their crime. The news of this butchery has caused a tremendous sensation in this city, and many of the few young men who still remained in it have taken to the field to unite themselves to their brothers to fight for the independence of their country and to help to drive away the tyrants who desolate it. About a week since some fifty young men, relatives of the murdered victims, left on an expedition. Another is being organized, and soon hope to evade the vigilance of the guards posted on the outskirts of the city.

The captain of the mobilized volunteers, Campillo, is also being tried for robberies and for abuses committed by himself and the body under his command. Many tobacco planters and poor farmers are presenting themselves, complaining and claiming tobacco and other products which Campillo caused them to surrender under the penalty of being shot. The government has taken possession of several stores and warehouses where Campillo had stored and deposited the effects he had robbed in the various districts where he operated with the mobilized volunteers. Some 300 bales of tobacco alone have been found. Notwithstanding this the government has not broken Campillo from the service and has only moved him to another district. He is now in Jaraquica, where he will doubtless again practise his robberies.

Valmaseda is expected here on the 8th inst. It is said he brings a list of all the Freemasons of this city, to pursue them and attribute crimes to them that they may be judged and shot. It is some time since this General has been pursuing Freemasons, of whom he is a deadly enemy, and which he has proved to many who have fallen into his hands.

It is also reported here that the insurgents will attack the village called Cobre during the feast which the Spaniards propose to celebrate there; the insurgents are concentrating all their forces for the purpose about said village, to fall upon it when least expected. It is very likely the plan will meet with success, as the Governor and all his followers always attend these feasts and will as usual be found intoxicated. Our first authority is also always to be found at the balls given on Sunday evening at the theatre, called Comercio. These balls are of a most immoral character, and only the low colored women and volunteers attend them. Many attest having seen the Governor dancing with one of these women—he seeming very much pleased at it. The insurgents, with a knowledge of the foregoing facts, have chosen a most opportune moment to show the authorities that while they dance there are many who are wide awake to the patriotic defence of the country.