

CUBA.

Destruction of a Foraging Party by the Insurgents—Terrible Effect on the Spaniards—Encounter Near the Line of Railroad.

NUEVITAS, Sept. 3, 1899.

The train has just arrived from Puerto Principe, two days after time, and as the steamer Pelayo, just arrived from Puerto Padre, is to leave immediately I am compelled to write in great haste.

From Principe we learn that that place has been thrown into a state of consternation by the disastrous results of a sortie made by a party of 100 volunteers. The details as given are as follows:—One Tuesday morning last they started out about four o'clock on a foraging expedition. When about two miles from the city they surprised and captured two insurgent scouts, to whom they promised their lives if they would disclose the whereabouts of the party to which they belonged. This they readily consented to do, at the same time warning the volunteers that in their encampment were 400 men not easily surprised, as a secret watch was kept. This was disregarded, however, and the column kept on, guided by the prisoners. When about five miles from the city they were fired upon. Part of the volunteers ran, and those who remained, though making a determined stand, were surrounded by the insurgents and all killed, with the exception of one man, who escaped and brought the news to the city. General Puella immediately sallied forth with 500 regulars, and on arriving at the place of action found the bodies of the dead volunteers, stripped to the skin and some of them mutilated. They were all brought to the city and interred in the cemetery. This disaster has had a terrible effect on the loyal Spaniards, as most of the killed are well known. Of those who fled thirty are still missing.

Last Sunday morning the detachment of Catalan volunteers stationed at San José, on the line of the road, started for Monte Oscuro, where a party of insurgents had their encampment. On their march they were engaged by the insurgents. The fight lasted four hours. The Catalans acknowledge a loss of two killed and five wounded, and say they killed eleven insurgents and took fifteen prisoners. The latter are negroes without arms.

The train on its last trip to Puerto Principe ran off the track, injuring six soldiers, one of them dangerously.