

## CUBA.

**The Situation in Camaguey—The Spaniards Waiting for Reinforcements—The Cubans Sanguine—Threatened Massacre—Details of a Fight—The Assassinations at Las Tunas—Death of an American Lady.**

PUNTO PRINCIPAL, Sept. 10, 1862.

The situation of the combatants in this jurisdiction presents no material change. The insurgents, continuing the system of warfare initiated since the commencement of the struggle, are patiently waiting for the government troops to come out of their strongholds in order to have a "pop" at them. The latter, weakened and greatly reduced in numbers through yellow fever, cholera, typhus and numberless skirmishes, are barely sufficient to guard the cities and the railroad line from here to Nuevitas. Reinforcements to fill up their thinned ranks are anxiously expected, when it is intended to commence active operations and follow up their enemies to extermination. While many of the faithful believe this possible, there are others not quite so sanguine. Past experience has taught many of the more intelligent to be extremely suspicious of promised successes. Month after month the prompt suppression of the rebellion has been predicted, but there is far less prospect of it now than when Valmaseda started from this point towards Bayamo. The insurgents, as I learn from their sympathizers here, are just as sanguine of success as they were the day after the first battle of Bonilla. Hardened and disciplined through the trials which they have undergone, they have not the least idea of "giving up the ship." Having everything at stake—their lives and property—there is no way open for them but to fight it out, while mutual hatred adds intensity and determination to the strife.

When General Puella returned here, on the 1st inst., with the naked bodies of the slain volunteers, as already described in the *HERALD*, their comrades were terribly exasperated and threats of a general massacre of all suspected Cubans were made. As yet these have not been put into execution; but who can judge of the future? Since this disaster no foraging parties leave the city, and meat is getting to be very scarce and dear. Of foreign provisions we have plenty and at reasonable prices.

The following details of the fight between the Catalan volunteers and the insurgents, at the plantation Santa Teresa, have been furnished me:—The Catalans, numbering 150, under command of Colonel José Saenz, left the plantation San José early on the morning of the 29th ult., moving in the direction of Monte Oscuro. They found the road obstructed by the trunks of large trees, rendering their march very toilsome. At five A. M. they came upon a small earthwork defended by a few men acting as vanguard. These fled on sighting the troops, but one of their number, a negro, was captured. Upon information derived from him the column was subdivided into two divisions, to approach the plantation Monte Oscuro at different points and fall upon it simultaneously. It had been well fortified, but was found abandoned on arrival of the columns. From thence the Catalans moved toward Santa Teresa, where the insurgents had a fortified encampment of about 200 men, who were guarding eighty sick. Close at hand trenches had been constructed leading one to another and to a strongly fortified position. This last the insurgents defended with great tenacity, no doubt to gain time to take off their sick. It was finally abandoned, and the Catalans took possession. Four houses near at hand which had been used as covers were burned, and the volunteers returned. They report the rebel loss at eleven killed and their own at one killed and seven wounded, four dangerously; also two horses killed.

It is now well authenticated that when Las Tunas was attacked on the 15th ult. the first step which the garrison took was to murder all the political prisoners, many of whom were only imprisoned on suspicion of sympathizing with the insurrection. The poor victims in their desperation endeavored to defend themselves with their hands and teeth, but to small avail against the rides of their assassins.

All those who are able to leave this unfortunate city are fast doing so. There are at present not less than 1,500 uninhabited houses here, and the place has much the air of being deserted.

Mrs. Josephine Poihemas, an American lady, married to a Cuban, died at Nuevitas on the 30th ult. of the yellow fever. Her husband is with the insurgents.

Recruiting is going on here and in Nuevitas for the "Guías de Rodas" regiment. One hundred and seventy men have enlisted here, and their departure will much benefit the city, they being mostly "jail birds" of the worst character.