

CUBA.

The steamship *Blenville*, Captain Baker, arrived here yesterday from Havana, bringing mails up to date of sailing. Purser Alexander will receive our thanks for favors received.

Agitation Concerning the Course of France—A Satisfactory Conclusion—Active Operations in the Eastern Department—Valmaseda On the War Path—The Insurgents of the Cinco Villas Moving Eastward—Outrages in Colon—Patriotic Contributions—Assassination by the Volunteers.

HAVANA, Sept. 21, 1869.

What course Louis Napoleon, Emperor of the French, may see fit to pursue touching the Cuban question and the recognition as belligerents of the insurgents by the United States, has agitated the press and the public mind in this city for the past few days. This has grown out of certain telegrams forwarded here by the enterprising agent of the Associated Press in New York, which have been variously interpreted. As for example, we have been informed that Prim has had an interview with the Emperor, and immediately thereafter telegraphed the Regent to hurry off the proposed reinforcements to Cuba, and again as follows:—"It is said that the Emperor Napoleon has manifested to General Prim that France will remain neutral if the United States recognizes the insurgents of Cuba," which was thought to be the correct interpretation of a despatch, the original of which was in these words, "*France refuse action del reconocimiento de America.*" France refuses action on the recognition of America. Left somewhat in doubt as to the intentions of France, by these and other telegrams, the local papers attempted an explanation, with poor success, and finally one of them solved the Gordian knot by declaring that the course of France was not of much importance any way; which tended to calm the public mind, went to be affected more by the probable course of the United States touching Cuba than by aught else.

There would seem to be some indications of movement on the part of the combatants in the field. According to letters received from Santa Clara, the insurgent chiefs Cavada, Vilaguis, "the Pole," and Lerda, accompanied by a small body of men, have taken the road to Camaguey for the purpose of joining Quesada. This is attributed by the Spanish papers to the fact that they are no longer able to sustain themselves in the Cinco Villas. It is more probable, however, that the movement is one of concentration to oppose certain operations of Valmaseda known to be on the eve of inauguration. It is understood that the new commander of the Eastern Department is to take command in person of a convoy to move from Bayamo, or some other point to Las Tunas, at the same time initiating other important military operations in accordance with his late bombastic proclamation, informing the insurgents, in effect that they are about to be wiped out. To this end such forces as are ready and can be spared are hurried forward to him. The balance of the battalion, known as the *Gulas de Rodas*, left here by railroad for Batabano last Sunday, and from Trinidad we learn that some portion of the cavalry, which has been operating in the *Vuelta Abajo* had taken the steamer for Mansanillo to join Valmaseda. We may therefore expect news of interest shortly to relieve the long monotony with which we have been afflicted.

General Lesca, from the Cinco Villas, announces that fourteen insurgents have presented themselves for pardon, also that the civil guard had killed seven insurgents, four negroes and three white men, which indicates inactivity in the Cinco Villas.

Dates from Nuevitas to the 18th have nothing of interest save a few additional arrests, including several ladies. The steamer *Almendares* arrived here yesterday from Sagua and Calpallen. Complete tranquillity reigned in that section.

Encounters of the usual character are reported in Moron, Santi Espiritu and other points.

A gentleman arrived from Colon reports the regiment of Catalans, known as "*Chapelgorets*," committing great excesses. Some sixty natives engaged in their ordinary avocations, at the plough and elsewhere, had been shot within a few days prior to his departure. He died, fearing for his life.

The official *Gazette* of to-day announces that the directors of the *Sollanza Bank* have agreed to the proposition of the manager, Don Juan A. Colome, to present \$30,000 towards defraying the expenses of the soldiers to come from Spain.

Don José C. Temes is proud of being a Spaniard, particularly since the affair at Las Tunas, and so he proposes to give three escudos (\$6 37½) to every man wounded and to each officer present on that occasion. Mrs. Martinez, wishing to assist in putting an end to the dying insurrection—which is cruel—gives \$1,000 to that end, and intimates she may do so again if found necessary. This the Captain General announces and gives thanks.

Reserve battalions, such as initiated in Havana, are being formed in Matanzas, Cardenas and Cienfuegos. The journals claim there is much enthusiasm therein, as they do here, but no one sees it.

His Excellency the Political Governor, Señor D. Dionisi Lopez Roberts, has received from the government of the nation the Grand Cross of Isaci, the Catholic.

Another assassination by the volunteers is announced. Mr. Nicolas Mendive, residing on his sugar plantation in Banes, eight miles from Havana, started at midnight of the 19th in a buggy for the latter place accompanied by a negro. He was stopped on the road by several volunteers, who carried him back to his plantation and there shot him in the presence of his employes and negroes. Señor Mendive was a most respectable gentleman, related to the best families here, and was very quiet, never meddling in politics. His assassination has caused much indignation.