

THE REVOLUTION IN CUBA.

THE PROSPECTS—TWO PROGRAMMES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

HAVANA, Feb. 6.—One of the Commissioners who went down to the Eastern Department to bring about a peace on the basis of complete amnesty, has returned to the capital. The Government and its

newspaper are both mindful of this mission, have been more than hitherto that the war was soon to close. You have the Captain-General's word to that effect in a late order giving free speech, not because, as he said, there was any danger to be feared from the Ever-faithful, but because he dreaded making the present crisis any worse. But now we have a living proof of the vigor of the old proverb of Cervantes, that many go out for wool and come back shorn. The rebels will not treat of peace. Some say that the Commissioners did not and could not even see them. Others aver that they proposed conditions which they knew it to be impossible to grant, such as the immediate autonomy of Cuba and the incorporation of the rebels with their arms into the militia of the country. We know that the insurgents have not surrendered and that peace has not come. The burning of Hayama meant something, then, and Cespedes is a man of meaning—too shrewd not to know how far he may be the master of the situation; how much he can count upon the native elements necessary to make a long and exhausting war. He is doubtless aware of several facts: First, that Spain is revolutionary; second, that it is a great way off; third, that all its promises are without guarantee; fourth, that there are Sierras; fifth, that there are half a million of slaves. These things considered, he counts equally upon a cause and a campaign. He will not be ready to accept the Republic of Serrano, or the Monarchy of the Bourbons, or the Captain-Generalship of Spain. The half-measures of an unstable government, in practice reduced to meaner fractions, are not, therefore, the best offering that can be made to a live rebel who has every moral element of the Cuban problem in his favor.

A rumor of alarm has come up from Villa Clara, a city 100 miles at least nearer the Capital than Puerto Principe. It is consequent upon the reported taking of the latter by the forces of Quesada; but appears to have other foundation than mere surmise and suspicion. The Loyalist papers say that the story of an impossible uprising of a local garrison had thrown the town-people into a panic, which was speedily quieted. Late orders issued by the Government of the place have, notwithstanding, confirmed the impression that the peace and safety of the Villa Clara region were not assured. All native and naturalized citizens are commanded to register themselves in the relative militia, as it is called, and give report of the arms which they possess. All masters of sugar-mills and other rustic industries are bound to give immediate notice to the authorities of every suspicious gathering in their backwoods. Lieutenants, captains, or officers of higher grade, to whom this news may be directly brought, are empowered to act at once on their own responsibility. The various captains will make count of the citizens capable of rendering aid to them in the areas under their command. They will establish camp-grounds and night-posts to warn the garrisons at once of the approach of any hostile party. To avoid alarms, groups of more than three persons cannot be formed in the streets, and countrymen will not be allowed to make their horses run. The editor or writer who directly or indirectly aids and comforts the rebellion by words will be punished. Military power will resume the upper hand in Villa Clara. The public tranquillity is disturbed, or, in other words, martial-law will be declared. These stringent provisions indicate that the force of Quesada from Puerto-Principe, with whatever insurrection it might stir up before it in the advance, has been a formidable cause of apprehension.

Little news is to be told out of the occurrences of the straggling campaign being fought, or perhaps endured, in the eastern quarter. The loyalists affect, or believe, that Valmaseda has again done a good thing by the taking of the small place called Igumani, "and now," says Gen. de la Torre, who announces the fact at Santiago de Cuba, "we shall soon see the return of peace and tranquillity in all the Eastern Department." It is announced that Valmaseda has captured five petty leaders of insurrection, but the usual brag about prisoners does not appear, and it is probable that Igumani is in itself of extremely little importance to anybody. At Guantanamo, Santa Catalina, Sagua, Cobre, Escuderas, Manicaraba, Caney, Sagua, Camaguey, Holguin, and other places, rebels were lately set to have been seen, met, beaten, or dispersed. It was hardly known that the insurgents were active in so many spots at once, and that the Spaniards had gone to the trouble of whipping them all round, piecemeal. A number of young men cried out in Sancti-Spiritus for free Cuba, and were suppressed by the volunteers there, kindred to the fellows who shoot in full file at audiences and in crowded saloons. Several officers of these volunteers have just been complimented for buying Peabody rifles for their commands at their own expense chiefly. That the rebels are busy at something is the inference to be derived from the assertion of one of the Government papers that the partisan leader, Marmol, "continues making horrible depredations in the neighborhood of Santiago de Cuba, where lately he burned several sugar and coffee houses, the property of Cubans." This is by no means certain, and must be taken with many grains of allowance, like most stories which come altogether from the Government side. The latest stories bearing the loyal imprint are that Aguilera has been captured, and another rebel leader, Arango, assassinated. The latter story the *Diario* accepts without a wink, and blames the murder upon Quesada, who had quarreled with Arango for entertaining opinions favorable to peace and surrender. The *For de Cuba* goes further still, and takes for granted that the Marquis of Santa Lucia is dead, and that Figueredo has committed suicide. At the same time, the man Cespedes has quite gone under a flood of mishaps and losses. Here you have half-a-dozen of the principal insurgents killed off at once, and without any trouble. As the bard observed, it is as easy as lying.

A statement and appeal made by the Junta of well-known Cubans who have their sittings at the house of the Marquis de Campo Florido, and number several other titled men, is important as reflecting the most conservative view of the island side of what may be called the Cuban question. The appeal asks, in behalf of Cuba, "What with such brilliant results has been tried in Canada, where an almost incredible prosperity has been reached by effecting the amalgamation of elements the most discordant?" Moreover, it asks for the expansion of liberties claimed by the Commissioners of Spain in the Junta of Information concerning Cuba, in 1867. With those who gave the most essential and influential points of information on that subject were Serrano and Dulce, whose testimony I have quoted hitherto. The appeal proceeds to ask for the principle of decentralization, the fruit of the Spanish Revolution. It demands, in fine, "autonomy—the government of the country for the country." This is maintained to be "the synthetic form of all the rights and all the conveniences, local and national, and the most certain guaranty against the ideas of independence or annexation, which to-day agitate not a little the impatient spirit of the country." The Junta of Cubans further hold that the island has speciality of position and circumstances in her distance from the mother country which entitles her to a more positive self-government than any other province of Spain. If Great Britain can yield self-government to Canada, why may not Spain do the same to Cuba? I have given you here the views and demands of the most conservative body of the native islanders. As I have said, the Cubans are for Cuba. Perhaps a very small part of the meeting held the other evening at the house of the Count de San Ignacio—Counts, by the way, are here as common as peas—may take a slight exception to this rule. Here is the political programme announced from the tea-party held at the Count's house to offset the doctrines issued from the Marquis's in the name of the best conservatives of Cuba:

1. National integrity. 2. Spanish unity. 3. Acceptance of absolute obedience to whatever Spanish monarch. 4. Representation in the Cortes by deputies. 5. Gradual resolution of the social question (slavery). 6. Protection to agriculture (the monopoly of slavery, &c.). 7. Protection to commerce

by means of a reformed tariff. 11 and 12. Protection to industry; development of public works. 13. Moralization of the mass of people of color, propagating among them religious principles, good morals, and good habits, in order to prepare them to enter the body politic at a time. 14. Administrative decentralization. 15. Municipal initiative in promoting public instruction. 16. Universal civil careers. 17. Schools for the education of natives to public offices. 18. Reduction of taxes or budget. 19. Economy in the presupuestos. 20. It will be admitted that the points of national integrity and Spanish unity ought, at once and all times, be desired, morally speaking, at least. The gradual resolution of Slavery, and the "moralization" of the colored people, are particulars which bear their own comment. People who talk that kind of laziness and fogism hardly mean what they say. The rest of the programme makes it clear, if it does nothing else, that all classes, even the most servile to the old order of things, are dissatisfied with the present condition of administrative institutions. The programme may be looked upon as the one especially favored by Captain-General Dulce, and perhaps the Provisional Government of Spain. It is a Spanish programme thoroughly, and a pro-Slavery programme in some respects.

The papers publish reports from Spain that Gen. Dulce will return to the mother country in a few months, having declared the rebellion can be put down with 6,000 men. I do not believe either story. Already 10,000 men have been sent to the island, say the Spanish papers, in addition to those fighting the campaign. Unless a peace were right speedily made with Cespedes, 50,000 men will not be able to put down the rebellion. I apprehend that Gen. Dulce will not go home, and that the rebels will fight out their battle, with as much chance of making their quarrel epidemic as not. *The Tribune*, a new paper, scouts the story of an attempted assassination of Gen. Dulce, founded upon the arrest of a suspicious person and published in the *Diario*, protesting that all Cubans, including gentlemen of color, look upon such a crime with horror and disgust, and that if unfortunately should happen a conflict, more personal than political, for which Gen. Dulce would be the object, every one of them would be at his side to defend his person.

The political Governor of Havana issues an order against the overdoing of masked balls, with special reference to the dangers of sedition and assassination. He will not permit the ecclesiastical, military, civil, or political orders to be made fun of in the disguises; prohibits the carrying of weapons, the use of masks in the street, and only permits them to be worn in a partial manner at the balls. The Government is thus providing against other such scenes as those of the Louvre, and the Villanueva Theater. Throughout the island the same rule is enjoined. Apart from the war, the situation of the Cubans may be likened to a masquerade—only with the restrictions named.

PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The following petition has been sent to the President of the United States by many Cubans:

HAVANA, Feb. 6.
To the Hon. A. JOHNSON, Sir: In the name of God and for the sake of liberty, and as President of the greatest nation on earth, send your powerful aid to the cause of the independence of Cuba, and may God bless you in the prayer of your friend, a friend to your country and a friend to all your countrymen. CUBA.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE PROCLAMATION OF AMNESTY—THE PRESS CENSORSHIP RE-ESTABLISHED.

HAVANA, Feb. 13.—Captain-Gen. Dulce has just issued an important proclamation. He recites that whereas the insurgents have refused, up to this date, to accept the amnesty proffered in a former proclamation, and whereas others are continually joining the insurrectionary force, therefore the proclamation of amnesty is withdrawn. The liberty of the press is also suspended for a time, and the former censorship reestablished. The printing and distribution of newspapers, without permission from the Government authorities, is prohibited. Persons guilty of violating the Press law, and all other political prisoners, in future will be tried by court martial.

REPORTED DEPARTURE OF FILLIBUSIERS.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 14.—Vague rumors have reached this city of the mysterious embarkation, at various points on the Georgia and Florida coasts, of parties partly composed of Cubans. It is supposed that these movements are connected with the revolution in Cuba.