

# FOREIGN NEWS.

## CUBA.

### IMMEDIATE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

HAVANA, March 13, via KEY WEST, March 13.—The Cuban Revolutionary Assembly, which has convened in the Central Department, has decreed, by and with the advice and consent of the military commanders, the immediate and unconditional abolition of slavery. The decree says: Slavery brought to Cuba by Spanish domination ought to be extinguished with it. The Central Assembly therefore decrees, first, Slavery is abolished; second, an indemnification is to be granted to the slaveholders who sympathize with the Cuban cause; third, the freedmen are to bear arms—those who cannot shall work for the cause; fourth, the freedmen are to have the same rights and privileges as white men; fifth, all patriots, whatever their color, are under the same obligations to the cause. The decree is signed by Cisneros, and issued by Gen. Castillo. It is expected that his action will greatly strengthen the Cuban cause at home and abroad.

### BATTLE AT MAYARI—THE TOWN CAPTURED BY THE SPANIARDS.

MARCH 14.—Official dispatches report that a battle has taken place at Mayari, the headquarters of the rebel forces in the Eastern Department. The Government account states that a column of 500 regular troops, supported by a heavy artillery fire, carried the fortifications of Mayari and captured the town, which was defended by 2,000 insurgents. No rebel version of the affair has yet come to hand.

### THE CUBAN INSURGENTS TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT AT MAYARI—PROPOSED CONCENTRATION OF THE INSURGENT FORCES—SLAVERY ABOLISHED IN THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT—ARRIVAL OF AN IRON-CLAD FOR THE PATRIOTS—CONTINUED OUTRAGES REPORTED.

HAVANA, March 11, via KEY WEST, March 13.—The insurgent leaders propose concentrating their forces, and establishing a seat of government at Mayari, or some town in the jurisdiction of Santiago. Aid is soon expected from Yucatan and other places. Advices from Neuvas to the 9th inst. have been received. The insurgent Representatives in the Assembly of the Central Department have decreed the absolute abolition of Slavery. All patriots are, however, to be indemnified for losses of slaves. The freedmen may become soldiers, or remain in the country and cultivate the land. An iron-clad, with Armstrong guns on board, for the insurgents, had been sighted off Green Key, and Spanish cruisers were immediately sent to search for her. The Governor refuses to permit Cubans or Americans to leave the country. The troops have committed many outrages on the plantations in the neighborhood of Neuvas.

HAVANA, March 13.—The *Diario*, in a leader, argues against the confiscation of the property of the rebels. The insurgents, commanded by a Polish General, have burned the bridge and torn up the rails between San Marcos and Sagua. The *Voz de Cuba* (newspaper) publishes the following: "A second expedition will soon be sent to Fernando Po, with prisoners convicted of political offenses against the Government. A riot (occurred) to-day on Figueras-st. Several of the participants were arrested and sentenced—one to death, and another to carry a ball and chain during the remainder of his life."

### THE LATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CUBANS AND THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL—OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF GEN. ARMAS.

I owe my countrymen an explanation in regard to the extraordinary course which I have pursued by having played the part of Commissioner of Gen. Dulce with the patriots who have raised the banner of Cuban Independence. Although the worthy chiefs of those patriots with whom I have been in verbal communication as well as by correspondence, can certify to the fact of my not having discharged myself of my task in a manner contrary to the liberty and independence of the country, I cannot allow the judgment which the rest of my brave countrymen form of me to remain in suspense. The cry of Yara surprised me in Matanzas while I was, as is well known, perhaps more sick yet than I am to-day. Nevertheless, I was persecuted by the Governor of that city, Eric-Gen. Cobarrías, and had to take refuge in Havana, where I was likewise exposed to the wrath of Gen. Lasandri. After grave chances had taken place he ordered me to embark for Puerto Rico on board the steamer Montezuma, on the 4th of November last, and shortly before the vessel left I was allowed to remain where I was on account of the alarming state of my health. Since that time I have remained in Havana, devoting myself entirely to the affairs of the revolution, and, on the day following the arrival of Gen. Dulce, on the 5th of December, was called by him to the palace. During a long conversation that gentleman endeavored to prove to me that he was himself the most liberal of all the Liberals.

This occurrence produced much scandal in Havana. My opinions and my character being known there, nothing would be more astonishing than to see me called to the palace and treated that way by the Captain-General of the Island of Cuba, whom I had not even known by sight. I may be allowed to add that I had not even entered the apartments of that edifice before.

After a second interview with the Gen. Dulce I was ordered to go to the camp of the Independents in company of M. Ramon Rodriguez Correa and M. Hortensio Tamayo, with the object of delivering a letter from the same Gen. Dulce to Manuel de Cespedes and of negotiating with him with a view towards settling the dispute. Gen. Dulce, with tears in his eyes, requested us to bring the above-mentioned Cespedes with us to dine with him at his palace, and gave us power of attorney to make in his name any kind of arrangements with the Insurgents. I knew beforehand that I was going to be entrusted with a similar mission, and had consulted with various patriots as to the propriety of my accepting it or not. They all agreed on my not being able to refuse it, as I would otherwise expose myself to instant imprisonment and to all the consequences of the anger of a Captain-General, and more especially because it would not have been prudent to miss the opportunity thus presented to me of putting myself in contact with the defenders of independence, of ascertaining their resources, of studying the situation, and of advising them, after mature deliberation, as to the best course they ought to pursue in order to attain the great object before us in the quickest way and the one most advantageous to our common country.

I have to state that Tamayo, Correa, and myself adopted as an indispensable basis of all negotiations the National Militia, an institution which had to be left to the country in order to make itself independent in case that the Spanish Government should not fulfill its promise of granting complete liberty. I did not think that under these circumstances my mission would do any harm. If the patriots had enough resources to be able to come out victorious in the struggle, it was my duty to encourage them to the prosecution of the conflict instead of persuading them to make peace. If definite triumph was impossible, reason dictated to me the necessity of advising them to enter into negotiations with the Spanish Government on the National Militia basis, with other words, on condition that those who had taken the arms in favor of independence be allowed to keep them, and that the rest of the sons of the country be armed, so as not to remain immovable, and find themselves unarmed and without the ability of striking at the dishonorable Government of Spain. If the patriots were intended to be led into a snare as was very possible if the personal character of M. Domingo Dulce is taken into consideration, well-known by everybody since the defeat which he practiced against Gen. Blas, my position allowed me to frustrate the sinister plans of the Spanish chief, and to reap advantages for the benefit of the Revolution. I had consequently to choose between accepting the commission of the Captain-General of the Island of Cuba, and thus to obtain great advantages for the benefit of the independence of my country, or being the stupid victim of that same chief, of a man invested with full power to do mischief, and whose character is little calculated to forgive rebuffs of a like description.

It could but be of little consequence to me to find myself afterward accused of bad faith by the Government or the Spanish party. Finding myself compelled not to refuse the commission, I was, on the other hand, at liberty to act as seemed most proper to me, and so much the more as Gen. Dulce sent thousands after thousands of armed men against the Independents, with orders to proceed with the military operations without delay, at the same instant that he sent commissioners to the enemy's camp.

I have fulfilled my mission, more than once exposed to the danger of being assassinated by the Spaniards; I have succeeded in leaving Cuba not without being compelled to adopt diplomatic means in order not to fall into the hands of Gen. Dulce, who did not, as I learned after my return to Havana, intend to accept the condition of the National Militia, in spite of the powers-of-attorney which he had given us.

The main thing which has to be done now is to go on with the work for the liberty and independence of our country, and it is certain that, whatever may be the reverses which the good cause may experience or the sufferings to which my enemies may condemn me, I will not grow weary so long as I shall keep the use of my intellectual faculties.

It is likely that the history of the mission of Gen. Dulce to the camp of the insurgents will soon be published. My companions and friends, Messrs. Hortensio Tamayo and Ramon Rodriguez Correa, whose opinions and sentiments may possibly differ from mine, have in their possession valuable information, which will serve to explain some of the crimes committed in Camaguey by the Span-

iards, after I had myself left that part of the country. However that may be, whether the details of this interesting history may be published or not, which will occupy a prominent position in the history of Cuba, I satisfy my conscience, for the present, with these lines, reserving to myself the right of speaking at some other time more fully of the events in Camaguey, as well as in the Department of Cuba, unless I have, before that time, the honor of dying in the struggle for the liberty of my country.

JOSE DE ARMAS Y CESPEDES.  
Nassau, N. Y., Feb. 24, 1862.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

### ELECTION OF A LIBERAL TO PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, March 13.—The news to-day is meager. Mr. Miall, Liberal, has been elected member of the House of Commons from Bradford, in place of Mr. Ripley.

## SPAIN.

### THE MINISTRY EMPowered TO RAISE TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND RECRUITS—A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CONSCRIPTION—AN INSURRECTIONARY ATTEMPT.

MADRID, March 14.—In the Constituent Cortes last week, Minister Sagasta asked for power to raise 25,000 recruits, which he said were necessary to complete the army. After a long debate, the majority of the Cortes voted in favor of granting the power to the Ministry, but resolutions were passed declaring that in the future military conscriptions should be discontinued. A demonstration was made to-day by the people of this city against conscription. Another insurrectionary attempt is reported in Andalusia. No particulars of the affair have been received.

## GERMANY.

### THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

BERLIN, March 14.—A motion has been made by Herr Twetten in the North-German Parliament that Departments of War, Marine, Foreign Affairs, and Commerce, with a Minister at the head of each, be established for the Confederation.

## BERLIN.

### THE INAUGURATION DINNER—CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MR. BANCROFT AND COUNT BISMARCK—BISMARCK'S VIEWS OF GRANT.

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—The following correspondence between Mr. Bancroft and Count Bismarck will undoubtedly be interesting to all of your readers:

MY DEAR COUNT: On Thursday, the 4th of March, Mr. Grant will be inaugurated as President of the United States. I shall be very happy if the Chancellor of the North German Confederation will do me the honor to dine at the American Legation on that day, at 6 o'clock. I remain, as ever, most respectfully and very truly yours, GEO. BANCROFT.

BERLIN, Feb. 26, 1862.  
MY DEAR SIR: Although, as a rule, I am unable, in my actual state of health and occupation, to accept invitations to dinner, I shall be glad to express my respect and admiration for the chief of that friendly nation of yours by joining your hospitable board on the 4th of March. Believe me, as ever, yours very sincerely, V. BISMARCK.

His Excellency the Minister of the United States of America.  
This is the first invitation Count Bismarck has accepted since his return from Varzin, and it is another evidence of the good disposition toward our country, for which he has always been noted, that the first departure from his rule is made to honor the commencement of Grant's Administration.

## MEXICO.

### THE NEGRETE PRONUNCIAMIENTO—THE MOVEMENT OF MERIDA—INSURRECTIONARY ATTEMPTS—ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

HAVANA, March 8.—We have dates from Mexico to the 27th of last month, which in substance are as follows:

On the 23d, says the *Diario*, Negrete was completely beaten in San Martin Aterral by Gen. Alatorre's column. One of Negrete's Generals, named Malo, was killed. Negrete was pursued by the well-known cavalry of Rodriguez Borardo. Gen. Garcia, Commander-in-Chief of the operations against the insurgents, sent out an expedition to capture the arms secreted by Negrete in the Chiantla district of Puebla. Four hundred rebels were taken prisoners in battle, and the Governors of Puebla and Vera Cruz have captured others. Among the prisoners was a so-called General of Negrete's, one Estero, who has been executed at Orizaba. Another second to Negrete, was shot in Huahuapam, and two Colonels in Huamantla. Negrete had fled with a body of horse in the direction of Yucatan. The rebellion was apparently crushed.

Great sensation, says the *Siglo*, has been caused in the city by the telegraphic dispatch announcing the repression of the revolt in Merida and the shooting of eight merchants of that city. We have not particulars of these occurrences; we do not know the true character of the outbreak; we only know that Col. Cevallos has been charged with the command of the State, and that the Governor and Vice-Governor are unaccountably absent.

At Chilpancingo the ex Col. Mayer, a native of Peru, who fought in the American war and subsequently in Mexico, attempted to excite an insurrection there of a battalion of which he had been chief. He was caught along with two others, and upon his person was found the plan and proclamations of Negrete.

At Vera Cruz on the 23d the pronouncer Prieto was publicly shot. He died with much coolness and bravery, cheering the Republic.

Col. Honorato Dominguez, whose pardon by the General Government occasioned the political feud between the Governor of Vera Cruz and Secretary Mejia, has, it is believed, broken his word of honor and gone to join Negrete.

An assault on the diligence of San Luis Potosi had occurred. Two robbers were killed and one passenger. The countrymen round came to the aid of the passengers. The Congress of Zacatecas has abolished the death penalty.

Robbery and kidnapping were as frequent as ever.