

CUBA.

The steamship *Columbia*, Captain Van Sice, from Havana the 13th inst., arrived at this port at an early hour yesterday morning. Among the passengers was Señor Morales Lemus, who comes fully empowered by President Caspeles as Minister from the provisional government of Cuba. Señor Lemus goes to Washington to seek recognition of the revolutionary government.

The Prisoners for Fernando Po—Events in the Field—The Movements of Lesca at Puerto Principe—Plans of the Insurgents—Case of the Kate Ranger.

HAVANA, March 13, 1893.

An official notice has been issued that the political prisoners will leave soon for Fernando Po, and that their families may furnish them with the resources they may stand in need of. The number to be thus sent is not far from 500, and includes all classes of Cubans, from those engaged with arms in the field to peaceable and wealthy citizens of Havana, who have become, through the report of spies or otherwise, "obnoxious" to the government. What trial has been vouchsafed them or what opportunity to refute charges against them under the advice of counsel, is unknown. It is understood, however, that their respective cases have been "investigated" by the military commission, before whom their conviction or acquittal depends more upon the manner in which they are regarded by the government than any overt acts committed by them. Their banishment to a penal colony is in accordance with the somewhat unexpected mild policy of Dulce, who does not like the "death penalty," though seemingly charmed with the killing of prisoners on the field. The sending of them to Fernando Po can hardly be considered as an act of mercy in view of the almost certain death likely to result from the climate and other causes. It is, however, more than suspected that the Francisco de Borjas ship of war, ordered to take them to the rocky desert on the shores of Africa, will find it necessary to put in to the Canary Islands or some other place, possibly Cadix, where other orders will be found as to the disposal of her freight of political prisoners. This is the general belief of the Spaniards, who consider that Dulce is driven to this ostensible disposition of these prisoners in order to satisfy the demands of the volunteers and others, who are loudly calling for the severest measures. Among the straws which indicate this is a conversation which a gentleman in official position here had with Don Mauricio Lopez Roberts, the Spanish Minister now in Washington, before his departure, in which the latter stated that if the prisoners arrived at Fernando Po they would make a very short stay there.

As stated in a previous letter, among the more prominent of those going is Don Carlos del Castillo, late manager of the savings bank, a venerable and most respectable gentleman, and Don Miguel Embil, a wealthy Mexican. The following are the names of those among the prisoners to be so sent who claim to be and doubtless are American citizens:—R. Lauza, Ignacio Leon, L. Rozas, Theo. Cabana, S. Pintado and N. Fribo. Appeals have been made in their behalf, but without success. The first mentioned was the editor of *La Conciencia Republicana*, one of the ephemeral free press organs which followed on Dulce's arrival, and to which he, doubtless, fell a victim, though he is accused of having arms in his possession on the night of the Villa Nueva theatre affair.

Dates from Cienfuegos are to the 11th. The insurgent chief, Juan Batista Capote y Lopez, native of that place, was shot on the 9th, having been convicted and sentenced by court martial.

The steamer *Rapido* had arrived, bringing 1,000 marines and artillerymen.

The entire railroad line was repaired and strongly protected. The rebels were very numerous in Las Cruces, going about in bands. The plantation Caracas and one belonging to J. A. Izaga were pillaged the second time.

News from Trinidad states that Colonel Buscones with his column was moving over the jurisdiction in search of the rebels, who seem ubiquitous and are reported to be committing all sorts of depredations. Several arrests have been made and the parties turned over to military commission, among them Don Felipe Martinez, father-in-law of Cavada, and Don Juan Martin Pug, an Alcaldé.

We have dates from Manzanillo the 7th. On the 3d a column of 400 of the Corona regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Villares, with a section of mountain artillery and under Lieutenant Salomon, left in the war schooner *Huerva*. It landed on the 4th at Macagua and marched for Macaca, where a considerable force of rebels was entrenched. The redoubts were taken through the cannon and grenades, and the rebels dispersed, leaving nine killed and many wounded. The pursuit was continued all day and as far as Llanos. On the 5th the troops returned, having lost two men.

By way of Santiago the 7th we learn that a force of rebels had attacked Jiguani, which is fortified and garrisoned. They were repulsed with loss, and learning that a force was approaching from Bayamo they fled to the mountains.

Colonel Lopez Canama, who had left Santiago with his column for Mayari, is reported to have entered the town after some resistance. The van was attacked by a considerable force armed with *machetes*, but they were soon dispersed by the bayonet, "leaving the field covered with dead." This is the Spanish report; nevertheless Valmaseda found it necessary to send a strong column under Colonel Velasco from Bayamo to operate in conjunction with Lopez Canama.

The towns of Santiago and Guantanamo were quiet. A fair supply of coffee and cocoa had come down from the hills, and was selling at fair rates. Sales are only made for cash, so great is the distrust in the mercantile community.

In Sagua—dates to the 9th—the Lieutenant Governor was continuing the campaign, not only in his own jurisdiction, but also in that of Villa Clara. From the capital of the latter he had received reinforcements of 400 men, with a view of attacking the rebels, who were entrenched in a most favorable position on the cattle farm "San José," owned by Pedro Abren. A special train had gone to Cienfuegos to be held at his disposition. A battalion of mobilized volunteers was to join him from Remedios.

A letter from Santo Domingo, in Sagua, dated the 9th, says:—A party of rebels recently attacked this town, but were repulsed with loss by thirty volunteers and twenty-five of the civil guard, under Señor Viscalindo. Yesterday the rebels, numbering 1,500, commenced destroying the railroad bridge, a costly structure, one mile from here. They were prevented, however, by the volunteers and civil guard, who engaged them for two hours and then compelled them to fly, leaving twenty dead. They were commanded by Charles Koloph, a Pole; C. Pinami, Antonio Gonzales and others. Gonzales is reported killed.

Fights are reported in Remedios, with results, as reported by the Spaniards, always similar. Lieutenant Governor Moreno had issued an address to the inhabitants referring to the distressing spectacle of the 5th, when two rebels were deprived of existence by the instruments of justice, and calling on others to take warning. The names of the two who were tried and convicted of high treason are Teofilo de Pino and Cirilo Torres. They had killed the Captain de Partido, two rural guards of Chabmas and seven Spanish civilians.

A letter from Nuevitas the 7th says that a small column of troops and volunteers had gone out and returned, only meeting a small force of insurgents, who did not wait their approach. The troops destroyed some entrenchments at a plantation which had been abandoned without resistance.

A letter from Puerto Principe, written by an officer of Lesca, admits that their march from Guanaja caused them severe losses. With 1,600 men, fourteen parapetted entrenchments were taken, completely dislodging and routing from 8,000 to 10,000 rebels. The dead were in heaps all around, so that it was impossible to get the number. "The smallest heap exceeded twenty-five bodies."

The *Esperanza* Santo Principe of the 3d contains the address of General Poello to the inhabitants of that jurisdiction, of Acaeron and Remedios, denouncing the rebellion as unjust and bad in its tendencies, and declaring that the government, after four months of patience and practicing all sorts of conciliation, had determined to make an end of the rebellion at any cost. Poello is a Dominican mulatto, and the mulattoes and blacks of the city spread him on Saturday night, hereafter at eleven P. M., greatly gratified.

A lieutenant of volunteers (with his command, it is supposed) had surprised 300 rebels on an estate near by and completely routed them, compelling them to flee to a dense forest.

We have news from Gibara to the 7th. The place is besieged by insurgents. Spanish reports say several sallies had been made with favorable results. A suspicious vessel recently entered the port of Barial, but investigation showed that she was from Antwerp, bound for Gibara, and had mistaken the port.

A Spanish brig, recently arrived in Havana, reports sighting, on Sunday last, to the east of Point Molar, at a distance of sixteen miles, steering in a northeast direction, four steamers, one bark rigged and the others schooners. On Monday another was sighted, rigged like a brig, and anchored two miles to the east of Guincho Key.

A well informed Cuban informs me that the present plan of the insurgents is to concentrate their forces in the jurisdiction of Santiago de Cuba, and there establish their seat of government preparatory to a demand for belligerent rights from the United States, and that they are to receive aid from abroad, possibly from Yucatan, which will enable them to make headway against the Spaniards.

The Spaniards never report their losses in the numerous encounters taking place. Some idea of them, however, may be formed from the fact that four car loads of wounded recently arrived here from Cienfuegos and other jurisdictions in that vicinity.

The case of the *Kate Ranger*, sent out from New York to Nuevitas by Messrs. M. C. Rodriguez & Co., of New York, to bring back a cargo of sugar and molasses, is attracting some attention among Americans here. It will be recollected that the Governor of Nuevitas refused to permit the vessel to load, on the ground that the sugar, &c., had come through the enemy's lines, and he seized the proposed cargo and held it to await investigation. The member of the firm then there applied to be allowed to freight his ship with other material there, which was refused and all exportations prohibited. He then came to

Havana to lay his case before the Captain General, and soon after information reached him that a German vessel had arrived at Nuevitas, and had been granted the very permission refused him, had loaded and sailed. He has made application to the Captain General for his goods, and is promised his answer to-day. If unfavorable, he will protest and proceed immediately to Washington and lay the matter before the government. If otherwise, he will proceed to claim his goods, and will then put in a claim against the Spanish government for damages.

Señor Casanova, a young man, son of an American citizen of that name, recently confined in the Morro, has been ordered released.

The Abolition of Slavery—News from Lesca's Column—Condition of the Navy—Stringent Measures Against Cubans.

NUEVITAS, March 9, 1893.

The Patriot Assembly of Representatives of the Central Department has issued a decree abolishing slavery absolutely.

Our news here of Brigadier Lesca's column is through Cuban sources mostly. I have seen a printed bulletin of the insurgents, which states that Lesca arrived at Principe from Guanaja on the 24th, that a severe battle had been fought at Banao, to the west of the Cutilas mountains. They acknowledge a loss of twenty-eight killed and wounded. No details given.

The gunboat Conde Venedito arrived here from Guanaja on the 5th. The Spaniards, however, try to mystify everything, and are very careful to prevent any information reaching foreign ears. It is therefore very difficult to get at the truth. It is reported that a column had returned to Guanaja with carts, loaded up the provisions which had been left there and took them to Principe. On his original march Lesca took no stores with him, and was compelled to subsist his troops by foraging on the country. His loss, as stated by the Cubans, was thirty-five killed and wounded. Previous to his arrival Puerto Principe was in a very bad condition for food, as nothing had been allowed to go in for some time. Some twelve or fifteen of the principal residents recently visited Gibanicoá, to have an interview with the revolutionary committee and endeavor to procure permission for food to pass to the starving inhabitants. Some five or six of these were held for ransom in the sum of \$10,000 each, and the others were released in order to obtain the money.

On the morning of the 4th 125 troops and volunteers left here and made a tour of eight or ten miles. They returned without meeting the enemy, having killed one pig and ransacked a sugar estate. They report the capture of thirty-two horses belonging to the insurgents, but nothing has been seen of them.

From what I can see and learn there is quite a worry among our Spanish squadron here. It is composed of six vessels, as follows:—Blasco de Garay, Juan de Austria, Conde Venedito, sidewheelers, and Africa, Guardiana and Angaluza, screws. They are all rather old, poorly armed and slow. The Blasco de Garay is the flagship. The Conde Venedito is a light dragoon gunboat and has been recently stationed at Guanaja to protect the stores there in conjunction with the small garrison. The Guardiana is on station at Nassau and running as despatch boat to this place. The others are cruising about. They come in here as often as possible, make as long a stay as allowed, and then leave in couples. By dint of careful inquiry I have learned the cause of anxiety manifested recently. A few days since the Guardiana arrived here in great haste from her station and reported that a small American steamer, sidewheel, of about 400 tons, had left Nassau loaded with arms and ammunition for the rebels; that her machinery had broken down on the bank, and that an English schooner came to her assistance, to whom she transferred the arms. She then returned to Nassau for repairs, and the schooner went to Green Key to await her. The Blasco went out and communicated with the Africa, which was out near Green Key to watch the schooner. The nerves of the commander of the former vessel seem to have been terribly shocked by information furnished by the natives of Green Key that they had seen an iron-plated steamer with six Armstrong guns and flying the Chilean flag. He returned to this port on the 1st and found three of his squadron here. He soon after sent for the engineers of these vessels and instructed them to examine the Blasco. A small navy in her shirt was found, and with much unanimity the Board of Engineers declared that it was not safe for her to go to sea any more; as she might break down at any moment; so the others were ordered out, and she remains. Whether there really was such a steamer as reported or the statement was merely a joke of the people of Green Key is the question. Certain it is that the Blasco does not care to encounter any Armstrong guns. The crews of all the Spanish vessels here are a fine looking body of men, and, under good officers, would make good fighting material.

Manati, the next port to the eastward of this has been abandoned by the government troops. What few were left there recently arrived a few days ago with their stores, they having destroyed the last buildings there—a storehouse and the church.

Since the morning of the 21st ult., when the Cubans found a black cross painted on their doors, there has been considerable uneasiness on the part of the natives, not knowing at what moment or under what pretext they may suffer the same fate as those unfortunates at Cadiz and Malaga. The expressions of some of the Spaniards here of their desires and hates are enough to chill the blood, and these not only from the lower classes, but from those of standing and position. A remark pregnant with meaning was recently made in my hearing:—"We can," says a Spaniard, "obtain wealth and everything we want here, save Spanish children," and this is a fact. The children of Spanish fathers, born here, are all insurrectionists at heart.

The Governor of this place loses no opportunity to show his despotic character. A great many Cubans wish to leave with their families and many desire to go to Nassau, as it is near, has a pleasant climate, and with their small means they could get along easily; but our satrap will not allow one to leave. They have committed no crime, are neutrals and are timid, fearing trouble because they are natives. An American, Mr. Price, who has resided here some ten years, and is owner of a plantation, recently desired to leave and take with him his family and that of his brother-in-law. The Governor refused him a pass, and upon his representing that he was a foreigner the Governor responded that it made no difference, that he was a resident here, and as such he could not leave. Mr. Price intends to go to Havana to see what can be done there.

The Spanish troops are committing great outrages on the farmhouses, plundering and shooting negroes. As to the Cubans, I have only to say of them that if they do not gain their independence this time God help them! for they will be wiped out of existence. Even now, within 150 miles of the great Northern republic, men are being shot down daily for no other cause than a difference of opinion.

Interesting Letter from a Young Lady in Havana.

[From the *Troy Daily Times*, March 16.]

The following is an extract from a letter from a young lady in Havana to her father in this city, written a fortnight since:—

About the condition of the country I must tell you that all the New York *HEALD* publishes relative to it is true (and much more which the Spaniards are afraid to have known, for there are no people so brutal as they are). The island is in a great deal more confusion than you can imagine, and the insurgents have no idea of giving up, for the hate is deep and fierce on both sides, and both so determined that unless some other country steps in I fear much blood will be shed. All are looking with hope to what Grant may do, and I am sure we hope he may come to our assistance, for it seems dreadful to have the island destroyed and the blood of fathers and children spilled. The insurgents are already 40,000 strong, and increasing, only needing arms. They are not robbers, as the Spaniards represent, but determined men, natives of the country, who fight without shoes and almost without clothes, and who are not liable to take the yellow fever, and who know that nothing but death awaits them if they fall. The insurgents cannot take the cities because their women and children are in them, and when they go to attack them the Spaniards put them forward.

Havana is becoming deserted of Cubans. The castles and prisons are full, and most of the prisoners are innocent people. The volunteers guard them, and are in insubordination to Dulce. He commanded some of the prisoners sent to Spain, and the volunteers refused to give them up. They treat them unmercifully, and yesterday took eight and were about to shoot them when Dulce's second in command arrived in time to prevent them. General Dulce's officers say they are the worst "canaille" that ever were seen. When they are on guard they pass the residences of those who have relatives prisoners, and tell them their friends have just been or are about to be shot. But of one and only one brutal thing that occurred during the three days of turmoil will I tell you. In a street near here they caught up a little child only five years old and absolutely tore it in two before the father's eyes. The father has since become insane. They have threatened Dulce's life, and also his wife's, for she is a Cuban, and many of her nephews are in prison. One of them was killed by a brute with a club, and the family are now in mourning for him. At one time they left their prisoners two days without a mouthful of food.