

# THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

## THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL'S LATEST ORDERS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

HAVANA, Feb. 24.—Amnesty has ceased, and the Captain-General announces to his volunteers that he resumes war on new principles. Report is that he himself will lead the new campaign; but Dulce is an invalid, and Havana may need his special governing as heretofore. All told, his forces for field-services are probably not above 25,000 men, with the reinforcements coming from Spain. The loyal papers tell you that the Government counts upon 70,000 or 80,000 men, but they sum up this figure from garrisons, militia, and police. Now the militia are, to some extent, forced to their business; the garrisons are slim, and needed where they are; and the police are not worth mentioning. No faith, therefore, can be given to the loyal estimate. Calculations twenty or thirty thousand less look overdone, even counting in the automaton militia, which the officials suppose are protecting Puerto Principe, Villa Clara, and other towns, under a peremptory call from the military commandants. You have heard that both sides of the Cuban question are guilty of false news; but the Spaniards have it all their own way now, and, if lying is to be done, can do it all in that one way, and with double the old quantity. So it will be right to mistrust all Spanish news of Cuba from this date; and, as nearly all the intelligence and express thought of the island comes through a Spanish and in part Bourbonized press, and is, moreover, gauntleted through a censorship, you will have very little to believe positively. The Captain-General's order makes it a treasonable offense to print, sell, cry, or circulate any news against the Government. Publishers and editors must not seem, even in a manner the most indirect, to give encouragement or sympathy to the rebellion. Accordingly, there is but one opinion here, and that is Spanish. Despotism never went further in its devices of repression than the Spaniards do now, and they know from habit how to construe their decrees, so as to give them an instantaneous and terrorizing effect. I do not know that they will act out half the cruelties which their warmest enemies predict, but if the war takes a desperate turn, they will be apt to set a more savage example than the negroes or creoles, judging from the advice given them at times in their press, if from nothing else. Gen. Dulce's last order appears to caution the volunteers against any excesses, which he supposes likely to be stimulated by their enemies, the Cubans. The story runs that the volunteers have been moved again to demand speedy punishment of some of the rebels put in prison, but of this there is no assurance. The order itself, however, is remarkable for its confessions. I append it here, along with the Captain-General's announcement as to the scope of his clemency in the future:

**VOLUNTEERS:** Be deaf to the advice of the malevolent who, contemplating as already lost the cause of the insurrection, seek in the discontent, the alarm, and want of confidence which they may produce in your files, the means of making sterile the efforts which your valor and patriotism propose to contribute to the grand result. They will not succeed, for I know your enlightenment and your virtues; but my duty is to warn you in time against their insidious designs. The term of amnesty is ended; the action of the authority strengthened by the powers with which it has been re-vested by the National Government. My decree of the 12th, emanating from these powers, by which are established the court-martial in order to try all treasonable offenders, will be executed inexorably, as also the penalties imposed upon the offenders. They will be of the same kind which the ordinary tribunals apply to the offenses of which they took cognizance, anterior to the publication of the decree. Volunteers, rest content in the rectitude of your aims, and take no echo from those who presume to stain the sacred cause we all defend, with excesses unworthy of your cultivation and of the fame of the noble and vallant whom you have known as conquerors. Maintain with admirable discipline what you now observe—order and the law. We go to begin a campaign, active and vigorous, against the disturbers, who still destroy the fields and lay waste the territory where troops do not tread, or which you do not guard. Union, then, and discipline, which is the law of force, and faith in the authority who represents the patriotic aspirations of all of you—your General. DOMINGO DULCE.

In another announcement the Captain-General says:

"The period of amnesty has now expired which was marked out in the decree of Jan. 12 to those who were with arms in their hands. None can aspire now to the benefits of the amnesty; but those of pardon extend always to those who abandon the flag of the insurrection and present themselves to the legitimate authorities with arms or without them. Right and justice except always, in such cases, the leaders, the robbers, the incendiaries, and the assassins."

The habit of the Spaniards being to call all the rebels in the field robbers, incendiaries, or assassins, the exceptions here may swallow up the rule. The leaders proscribed are *cabecillas*, or petty leaders, as Gen. Dulce calls them, and include every rebel officer from lieutenant upward, if the loyal commander chooses to construe it so. In all his late proclamations and decrees the Captain-General predicts swift punishment and inexorable severity in dealing with fresh criminals, but takes pains to say, as in the order quoted, that the penalties to be dealt out will be in accordance with the ordinary laws. The ordinary laws, by the way, are extraordinary. Perhaps the only recommendation of the Cuban court-martial is its slowness. The significant tone of the Captain-General's last paper may be accounted for by the startling fact that a secret proclamation has been brought to light in which the negroes of city and country are instructed to rise. This may well move the fears and enrage the pride of the Spanish slaveholders, and make the cut-and-dried class of Cuban gentility afraid of the island's cause. The papers are shocked, according to habit, and for that matter are paid for being shocked every day.

Concha, one of the line of bad Captain-Generals, wrote in a letter dated Dec. 24, and now being printed here, some opinions noticeable as to foresight, and worthy of respect in a military point of view. "It will not do to deceive ourselves," he said; "we have before us a long war, the war of the independence of Cuba. This could not begin in the Western Department. There the Spanish element and feeling is stronger; there it is much populated and very narrow, and it would have been easy to vanquish any movement of insurrection. There the peril would be the complications of an immediate abolition. But the Eastern department, with its great extent and small population, seems marked out for the movement of independence. The insurgents are masters of nearly all the territory extending to the Cinco Villas, and it will need to overcome them no brief campaign, and a force of not less than 20,000 men." Concha wrote of the mere beginning of a campaign when the rebellion was in its infancy. He elsewhere said that it would need not five but twenty-five thousand guns to insure Spain against the insurrection which broke out at Yara. But the outbreak is now a rebellion, has gained in means, method, and experience, and has itself from 20,000 to 25,000 men in the field, and with plenty of arms and munitions might rely upon a reserve of 100,000 more. Concha had reason to predict a long war, and the Spaniards to fear, that however they swell their forces in imagination or in fact, they will have to contend with a persistent harassment and opposition in a country of enemies. When Dulce says that the Cubans behold their cause already lost, he is speaking imaginatively, of course. The Cubans, as I have said, may win their battle without gaining many victories. The invariable report of the Spaniards that the Cubans have been beaten, and that the loyal volunteers have won, does not much alarm the native observer. The raw rebels when beaten by the better arms of their foes can retreat into wildernesses and among mountains, and have impassable swamps between them and their pursuers. The fat hero, who has come into Manzanillo, considerably "blown" after his journey across the island encountered innumerable obstacles, say his admirers. The roads he traveled were barricaded and swamped by the rebels. Almost impenetrable forests, beside precipices and streams, were among the natural obstacles of his march. The rebels felled trees to oppose him, and worried his files right and left. The loyalists say that they were fired at from ambush at times, and it is doubtless true. Places and plantations, against which the in-

urgents had a grudge, and the owners of which may have been unfriendly or treacherous—as, says Gen. Marmol, the prime incendiary—were burned, or laid waste. I have no reason to doubt that Maseda's troops had a knack for the same kind of business, and knew how to provoke it splendidly. The Count has reached the coast at last, and waits reinforcements from Spain, while Cespedes is supposed to be marching to open communication with Quesada. So far there is a plain confession either that Valmaseda has been wholly outwitted by his chief enemy, whom he has always declined to reach; or must pause because he cannot bring off an attack on to bring effectually against the army of Cespedes, Aguilera, and Marmol, and their numerous adherents about Holguin and elsewhere. Don Gabriel Marmol and a Mexican officer are the chiefs of the insurrection, which has its retreat and supplies in the wilderness of the Cienaga and the Cerro mountain near Jaguey la Grande in the jurisdiction of Colon. His forces have been several times reported beaten with losses of about 50 killed and wounded. The Manicaragua rebels have also been officially described as whipped and dispersed, but I need not say that they still live. New deposits of arms have been captured in the Colon district, and the loyalists say that 120 of the Jaguey rebels have begged for amnesty. The Governor of Pinar del Rio has entertained an offer to treat with a small body of hungry insurgents. An order in Sagua la Grande prohibits walking the streets after 10 o'clock at night, except in cases provided for. A Spanish expedition from Nuevitas ought to have arrived near Puerto Principe, between which and Villa Clara are supposed to be the forces of Quesada. It is now a question whether the army of Cespedes and Aguilera can be brought within cooperating distance of that of Quesada. I need not say that the military dispositions of the Captain-General look to pushing the rebellion by the way of Villa Clara, where it has a head-center and numbers, and in which direction the forces of Quesada are likely to be met. Spite of those who give us news of them, we have occasional proofs that the rebels are disposed to be enterprising, and in the neighborhood of Cartagena we hear that they had obstructed the course of the river to prevent the passage of a steamer. In about 30 towns the Spaniards are reported vigilant, and court martial reigns.

POSTSCRIPT.—The truth of a fact, which, in the foregoing letter, I refused to believe, has just been ascertained. The volunteers have again threatened the Captain-General, which will explain the tenor of his late order. This time it is because he holds a number of prisoners—some say 30 young men caught on an English vessel on their way to join Quesada—whom it is their wish he should execute at once. Report runs that they have dared to say that they will plant cannon against the palace walls unless the Captain-General will adopt vengeful and summary measures; but for this I do not vouch. The temper of the new Spanish reinforcements has been excited by the killing of one of their number outside of the walls. It is not known how; and yesterday a negro was bayoneted, perhaps in compliment to this fact; perhaps also because of the secret circular first discovered inciting the negroes to revolt. The authors of the circular are said to be in prison, and it may be that they are the persons whose blood is clamored for. Arrests are frequent. More than 100 prisoners have of late been brought into Havana for incarceration, and some fear that the dreadful exile of Fernando Po will be again in prospect for those who are not the worst of them. As usual, families are crowding away from the island.

#### THE TROUBLE BETWEEN DULCE AND THE SPANISH VOLUNTEERS.

HAVANA, Feb. 24.—It is true that the Spanish volunteers have threatened insurrection against the authority of Dulce. On Sunday, as a body of them paraded the streets near the palace, insulting cries were uttered against the Government of the island, along with the shout of "*¡Muere Dulce!*" This time the Spaniards threaten their Captain-General because he holds a number of prisoners in the Fort Cabanas on the other side the harbor whom it is their wish that he should execute right away. Some say they are 30 young men just captured from an English vessel on their way to join Quesada; others that they are the circulators of a secret paper inciting the blacks to revolt; others that they are the young Cubans captured in the late massacres in town. These are all stories, but the general truth is the volunteers have been making an uncomfortable pressure on the Captain-General to give them a bloody example of one kind or other at once. They have murmured against Dulce as being Cubanized, and not for the first time. There is no question, however, that the veteran Captain-General will perform what he believes to be his whole duty to Spain, and that he will perform it with all severity if provoked either by enemies or friends. The paper addressed by the Captain-General the other day is thus accounted for. That the volunteers actually threatened to hold possession of Fort Cabanas, and plant cannon against the palace, proves the force of the demand made upon Dulce. With but one regiment of perfectly devoted men, it is quite possible that Dulce could summon the nerve to put the whole of the new rebellion under his foot, but the rumor goes that he is threatened with disobedience on all sides. He has given the volunteers general assurances, all and perhaps more than they have right or reason to expect. It would have been better if, in the first place, following the massacre, he had made no promises of sudden justice, and had not treated his subjects with ambiguity.

The distributors of a secret circular urging the negroes to conspiracy and revolt are, I understand, in jail. A negro was bayoneted the other night, probably in compliment to this fact—perhaps, also, because a volunteer of the newly-arrived forces was shot outside the town the other night—an occurrence which has exasperated in some measure the attitude which the volunteers have assumed toward their Government. The offenses and crimes of which they accuse the Cubans, and the vengeful measures which they clamor for, bespeak a hearty and bitter hatred on both sides. The Government has sent a private circular to all its commanders instructing them not by any means to wait for overt acts of rebellion, but to arrest without question upon suspicion, anywhere and whosoever. Hence arrests are very frequent, and hundreds of prisoners are being brought to the Capital from Remedios, Sagua, Cienfuegos, Pinar del Rio, and other places. The towns of Sagua, Trinidad, Sancti Spiritu, Villa Clara, Colon, and others, have been declared in a state of siege. The Spaniards report, and it gains some credit, that a fort near Nuevitas, probably at Mayanabo, held for the purpose of harassing and opposing Spanish vessels, has been taken by the troops under Brigadier Lesca. Quesada is still unreported, as every avenue of news is almost wholly in possession of the Government, and to publish news adverse to the insurrection-regnant and in favor of the insurrection-rampant is a species of treason in Havana. Families, as usual, are crowding away, and the dreadful exile of Fernando Po is once more brought to the imaginations of those in captivity.

#### EXAPATRIATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS—SEVERAL ENGAGEMENTS REPORTED.

HAVANA, March 2.—A report is circulating in this city that all the political prisoners will be sent to the Island of Fernando Po, and that volunteers are being enlisted to act as a guard on board of the transports detailed to carry them to that place. The Government is at present silent upon the subject. Francisco Hernandez, the commander of the cavalry in the District of Pinar del Rio, has been arrested, and placed in jail, on a charge of disloyalty. Official information has been received of three engagements of the troops under Col. Valero with the insurrectionists, during which the troops used the bayonet freely. The insurgents lost 60 killed, and the troops, four killed and several wounded. The forces under Gen. Letona have arrived at Villa Clara, and those under Gen. Paez at Cienfuegos. The rebels have burned the San Miguel plantation. The *Diario* says an engagement took place at Magnarya, two leagues from Sagua la Grande, where the insurgents were defeated with a loss of 20 killed and many wounded; the troops lost two killed and several wounded. The *Commercial Bulletin* publishes an article declaratory of its political faith, in which it says it has always aided the mother country in a conciliatory spirit while defending the true interests of the Island.