

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

AN INFAMOUS PROCLAMATION.

KEY WEST, Fla., April 22.—The following important dispatch was received here by mail, from Havana, Cuba: Count Valmaseda, the Commander of the Spanish forces in the Eastern Department, has issued a proclamation, whereof the following are the chief features: *First:* Every native male over 15 years of age, found away from his residence, without sufficient cause, will be executed. *Second:* Every uninhabited dwelling, and every uninhabited dwelling where a white flag is undisplayed, will be reduced to ashes. *Third:* All persons away from their houses will come to Bayamo or Jiguaní, or they will be brought by force. The proclamation is dated Havana, April 4.

THE VOLUNTEERS DEFEATING THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL—THE REVOLUTION GAINING STRENGTH IN THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

HAVANA, April 23, via Key West, April 22.—The Second Battalion of volunteers, commanded by Col. Zuleta, and forming the garrison of Fort Cabana, in the harbor of Havana, having refused to obey an order for the release of a prisoner, Gen. Dulce and staff were obliged to proceed to the fort in full uniform to effect a change in their disposition. The Captain-General made an address to the volunteers, whom they ordered the prisoner to depart under escort of Government troops. The action of the volunteers has occasioned great indignation on the part of the public, and threats are made against the Second Battalion in case they lay down their arms, which is not, however, anticipated. The revolution in the Eastern Department is gaining strength. The Spanish troops in that portion of the island are suffering greatly from sickness. The Cubans are believing and constantly harassing them, and the capture of various convoys causes scarcity of supplies and ammunition in the Spanish ranks.

RETURN OF A SPANISH FRIGATE.

HAVANA, April 23.—The Spanish frigate *Girona* has returned to this port.

THE CUBAN CAUSE IN WASHINGTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 15.—The interest in Cuban affairs continues unabated here. The movement of Congress has ended much of the outside bustle, as it took from the Capital many of those who have been at work during the past Winter in behalf of Cuban recognition, but in official circles there remains great anxiety. Quiet but active preparations are being made under the orders of the Administration for whatever contingencies may arise. This activity is most visible in connection with the Navy Department. A distinguished Admiral, whose influence is of the strongest, does not hesitate to express his conviction that the Spanish colonial and naval authorities will, by their own folly, bring about that American intervention for which the revolutionists are unsuccessfully pleading. The public are kept informed of various outrages which have occurred, by Spanish violations of international comity and rights accruing to the flag and territory of peaceful and neutral nations. Great Britain will undoubtedly demand ample apology and reparation for the recent Spanish insult to her territory, and our Government is carefully watching the acts of the enraged colonial authorities with a view to resent any insult to our flag or injury to our citizens. On the other hand there is as strongly marked a determination to allow no infringement of our own laws, and to prevent the departure of any expedition, such as that it is rumored Gen. Steeleman is now organizing at New Orleans. A member of the Cabinet has recently declared that for his judgment no greater cause to the cause of Free Cuba could be devised than the allowing of Steeleman to successfully depart from here and land in Cuba with the horde of (in a great part) ruffianly adventurers he will gather about him from the Crescent City and other parts of the South. It is quite certain that stringent orders have been given, and strenuous efforts will be made to prevent the departure of that or any similar expedition. On the other hand it is equally as certain that men are going to Cuba from the United States, and that arms are being sent to the revolutionists. But in the latter case it will be found that no technical violation of our neutrality laws has occurred, both men and arms being shipped to other than Cuban ports. On the other hand, Spaniards are receiving arms openly vended in our cities, and safely transmitted to Havana under the protection of the neutrality laws which allow a recognized Government to purchase war materials, but forbids patriot forces doing the same, until they have established and obtained recognition of their belligerency.

There is reported to have been some diversity of judgment among members of the Cabinet on the proper policy to be pursued with regard to Cuba. There can be no doubt of the direction taken by their sympathies, unless Secretary Fish be made an exception. Mr. Botic is also understood to have leanings toward what are termed conservative views. Singularly enough there have been expressed by some one intimately related to members of the administration, the idea that Spain has a valid claim to Cuba, and that as a colony it belongs to her by right of discovery and long control. If there were any validity in this, it would be well answered in the words of the Cubans themselves: *"The experience of three and a half centuries has already shown to everybody that Spain knows not, will not, and cannot govern its colonies save with the iron rule and with corruptive and tyrannical force."* The conservative views of Gov. Fish, are probably caused by the fear of disturbing the financial condition and commercial relations of the country. It is understood that he called on Special Commissioner Wells for a statement relating to our commerce with Cuba, and his hearings on the National revenue. The custom dues received from Cuban exports amount to over twenty millions; the loss of which, it is believed, would make a serious difference to our means of meeting interest on the public debt. But such a policy must be considered very short-sighted, as our trade with Cuba, the island once republicanized and independent, would expand to an extent hitherto undreamed of.

Of the other members of the Administration, it is very well known that the Secretary of War, Gen. Hawkins, has positive and pronounced affiliations, and would not hesitate to recognize Cuban independence at the earliest possible moment. The General may be set down as the aggressive spirit in the Cabinet; he believes heartily in the broadest interpretation of the Monroe doctrine and holds to the idea of Stephen A. Douglas, that to become an "occasional republic" is our "manifest destiny." It will be found that with Hawkins in the War Department, and Sherman at Army Headquarters, no necessary precaution within their province will be omitted, such as, for instance, the garrisoning of Key West with troops available for movement at any moment. Gov. Boutwell, whose position at the head of the Treasury Department necessarily forces the Cuban question upon his consideration, is known to be unequivocally in sympathy with the Cuban patriots, while he deems it essential that no unlawful movements shall be conceived by this Government. Mr. Boutwell would, however, hold the Spanish authorities to immediate accountability for any act that seemed to infringe on our rights or injure our citizens, but he undoubtedly holds generally to the views of Mr. Sumner on international questions, and is opposed to our making the British precedent of hasty and unfriendly recognition the rule for our own guidance, believing that such acts are proofs of a grievous defect in the code of nations which needs amending, and that we should use our opportunity to build secure reparation and a change that will guard against such contingencies hereafter. Secretaries Cox and Creswell are much likely to lean more to the radical views of Gen.

Rawlins rather than the cautious policy of Gov. Fish.

As for the President, he is as becomes his position, silent on these questions, though it is declared that in Cabinet meeting he has tersely and strongly expressed hearty sympathy with the Cuban struggle. He has listened with grave attention to statements that have been made to him at audiences had by authorized persons, and in every way shown his desire to know all the facts properly affecting action, present or prospective, that may be considered or taken.

Copies of official documents have been received here direct from the Cuban Provisional Government. Statements are made therein showing the general condition of the revolution, and from them the following authentic facts are taken:

The Republican Government of Cuba has within six months extended its sway over 20,000 square miles of the 35,000, covered within the boundaries of the island. Its armies fold and occupy almost wholly the districts of Cuba, Guantanamo, Holguin, Manzanillo, Jiguaní, Bayamo, Las Tunas, Puerto Principe, Nuevitas, Santa Clara, Moron, Remedios, Trinidad, Santo Spirito, Sagua, and Cienfuegos y Colon, the Spanish troops remaining therein being confined to a few towns and villages without means of attacking, closely besieged, unable to move out without danger of serious disaster, even for the purpose of foraging, and trusting only to timely and fresh arrivals of troops from Spain to escape entire destruction. Gen. Valmaseda, commanding Spanish forces, remains at Jiguaní, making no serious aggressive efforts. This is also the case with the troops at Cuba, Manzanillo, and Guantanamo. The Spanish troops in Santo Spirito, Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara, Remedios and Sagua, do not dare abandon the shelter of the towns they garrison. They have made no active movement since the early part of February, as the Patriot forces under Puello and others, numbering over 12,000 effective men, have kept them fully occupied in holding on to the few strategic points now occupied by them. The Puerto Principe "jurisdiction" and that of the Cinco Villas are the seats of the most active efforts. No more severe military blow has been dealt at the Spaniards than the engagement between Count Lesca and a patriot force in an important pass of the Sierra del Cobre. The general facts in relation to this battle have already been received from Havana, and even the Spaniards were compelled to give some truth in the report they allowed to pass. Count Lesca moved with 2,500 well-equipped troops, a heavy train of supplies, two field batteries, and a military chest containing half a million dollars in notes of the Royal Bank at Havana. His purpose was to relieve Puerto Principe. Quesada, with 5,000 well-armed patriots, was entrenched on the road over which Lesca was expected to pass. The only other available road was through a difficult mountain pass, to guard which the patriot General had placed a force of 800 men. The Spanish Commander diverged from the highway, and determined to force this pass. He succeeded in so doing on the third assault, but arrived in Puerto Principe with but 900 men, no train, no artillery, and the loss of the half million dollars referred to. The patriot loss was proportionately heavy, but they obtained several guns in good condition, and a large number of rifles, left on the field by the Spaniards. Of course Lesca's troops were of no benefit, but otherwise, to the beleaguered garrison he was to receive. Since then we hear of movements toward Santa Anna for the obtaining of supplies, some particulars of which have reached here by way of Nassau. The Spaniards were greatly harassed and lost largely on their return in both men and material, though succeeding in reaching the city with a large portion of their commissariat train.

The progress of the Cuban Revolution can be more plainly shown by the following statistics: The districts in open revolution at the beginning of February contained, by the census of 1881, a population of 264,530 persons, divided as follows: 126,368 whites, 55,574 free persons of color, and 51,778 Slaves. The districts which have revolted since the 1st of February last (including those of the Cinco Villas and Colon—the latter being but a few hours' ride from Havana) contained at the same date a population of 157,567 whites, 45,444 free persons of color, and 39,207 Slaves. This makes a total of 548,738, which must have increased since 1881 to at least 600,000 persons. In area this territory covers two-thirds of the island. Within the same there are 117 cities, towns, and villages, of which not quite one-half remain in the hands of the Spaniards.

There can then be little doubt, the representatives of Cuba affirm, that they are entitled to something more than the moral sympathy and support of the United States. Their cause commands the first. The history of Spanish misrule is so patent that it need not be cited to justify the action alike of the Cubans and the undisguised sympathies of the people of this Republic. The facts relating to the Revolution are now so well known as to justify the appeal made on the part of the Patriot Government for belligerent rights. The Revolution has proceeded steadily from one step to another until its full success is only a question of time, the length of which may be materially shortened by the belligerent recognition which the United States of all nations is, by virtue of her own principles and history, and the geographical situation of Cuba itself, bound to accord.

Cuba, independent, will at once enter into the most harmonious and complete commercial relations with this Republic. Whether an independent State, or as a member of this Union (to be determined upon by the freely expressed will of both countries after Cuba becomes fully independent), the island has within itself—by virtue of both natural resources and commanding position—the elements of great prosperity and political importance. Under the present regime, and despite all drawbacks, the commerce of Cuba ten years ago amounted to \$57,000,000 of exports, and \$13,400,000 of imports—an aggregate of \$70,400,000. The total trade at present is valued at more than \$170,000,000, of which (exports only) the United States does 55 per cent; England, 27 per cent; and Spain, only 19 per cent. Yet the mother country drains over \$30,000,000 annually from the "Ever-Faithful Isle," of which more than one-sixth is taken to Spain, and the balance spent in maintaining a Spanish administration and enriching the officials. In 1863, the reported value of the rural wealth (real estate, &c.) was \$25,000,000; that of the towns was \$170,000,000. In the same year (1863), the productions were valued at Sugar, \$22,000,000; Tobacco, \$15,000,000; other products, \$32,000,000, a total of \$129,000,000. The *Havana Weekly Report* of March 6 gives the following totals of exports, at that port alone, from Jan. 1 to March 4, inclusive: Sugar, boxes, 162,786; hhds., 3,712; Molasses, hhds., 3,351; Coffee, arbs., 6,124; Tobacco, pounds, 1,680,372; Cigars, mille, 26,316. The increase over the corresponding period of 1863 is, in Sugar, more than 41,000 boxes; in Molasses, over 2,000 hhds.; in Coffee, over 5,500 arbs., and in Tobacco, over 700,000 pounds. Cigars alone show a decrease of nearly one-half. The Matanzas exports are about the same as in 1868, and over one-third more than in the first three months of 1867. The same is true of Cardenas, so far as 1868 and 1869 are concerned. The increase is very markedly in favor of the United States.

The Colonial policy has always been an inimical one to the United States; that of Independent Cuba will be friendly in the largest degree. One fact will serve to illustrate the policy of Spain. The Valley of the Mississippi is the natural bread-supplier of Cuba. The duty on flour imported from the United States is eight times more than that on that imported from Spain. On account of an earthquake, not long since, flour was allowed into Porto Rico free of duty. The Cubans have since purchased American flour imported into Porto Rico, at much less than that brought from Spain.

Some attempt has been made to prove that the Cu-

bans have but little cause for revolution since that of Spain was inaugurated, because of the concessions granted to them under the new order. Aside from the fact that Spain itself has been betrayed by the military adventurers who have obtained control there, treachery toward Cuba has been made as manifest by Serrano, Prim, and Topete, as by the most autocratic monarch who ever dominated there. It has been pretended that the Cubans have received equal, or nearly so, electoral rights with other citizens of Spain. In Cuba itself every one paying taxes to the amount of \$25 per annum was allowed to vote for delegates to the Cortes. In addition, physicians and lawyers who did not pay as much taxes, were also voters. All Spanish soldiers stationed in the island were the same right. About 60,000 Cubans against at least 25,000 Spaniards is the full measure of this concession. In Porto Rico the case is even worse; a native of the colony being required to pay annually not less than \$100 in taxes. The voting population there is about 1,500, exclusive of soldiers. This is a fair specimen of Spanish misrule, from which the Cubans are so vigorously striving to free themselves.