

## THE CUBAN CAUSE IN BALTIMORE.

EXPEDITIONS SENT OUT AND ON THE MOVE—  
ARMS AND MATERIALS COLLECTING—ARRI-  
VAL OF ONE OF THE EXPEDITIONS AT TRIN-  
IDAD.

BALTIMORE, May 11.—In this city, as in Philadelphia, the American citizens are giving valuable aid to the Cuban cause. It cannot be said, however, that it is done as openly as in Philadelphia. This is owing probably to the different characteristics of the people. But be that as it may, Baltimore is up and doing, and much has been done here that has never reached the outside world; and to tell the truth of the matter, it is exceedingly difficult to get information of Cuban affairs in this city, and had not your representative been supplied as he is with letters from prominent officials, his prospect of getting even enough news for a paragraph would have been dubious. But fortunately he had the "openesame," and received information that may prove interesting. But it must be understood from the first that he cannot in many cases give definite details, for certain reasons which are unnecessary to explain.

The number of Cuban residents in this city (which, by the way, is quite small) has been considerably increased of late. As it is well known, many Cubans have been obliged to flee from their native island and seek refuge in this country. Quite a number of the refugees have settled in this city. A considerable number of them have purchased a row of handsome brick buildings on one of the finest streets in the city—Broadway—where they expect to locate until their cause is triumphant. Many of the males of the party intend to return to Cuba and join the patriotic army there as soon as they see their families settled and provided for. A company has been formed, composed entirely of these refugees, who are at present receiving instructions in military tactics, and it is expected that in a short time their plans will be perfected, and they will set sail for the seat of war. A large schooner has been purchased, and is now undergoing repairs and alterations for the accommodation of those who will go out on her. To all intents she is at present engaged in the merchant service, but at auspicious opportunities she is run up near a certain point, not many miles distant from the Monumental City, and there receives quantities of arms, &c.; they are stowed away out of sight—covered over with articles of merchandise, &c., so that any one going aboard of her would think her what she purports to be. The arms and stores are moved in small quantities and by various means to the point where they are shipped, so that it is probable that not the slightest suspicion of the vessel exists in the minds of any person other than those directly interested. If all the arrangements are successfully carried out, and the vessel gets off in safety, she will carry a heavy cargo of what the Cuban army most needs—muskets and ball cartridges. When fitted for sea she will be no mean antagonist to many Spanish vessels. She will carry two heavy guns fore and aft, mounted on swivels; between decks there will be six guns mounted, three on a side. With plenty of ammunition and men to work the guns she will make it hot if molested by the Spaniards or any other vessels that do not carry the Stars and Stripes. It may be interesting to know that all the vessels sent out by Cuban authorities have strict and positive orders not under any circumstances to show fight to a United States vessel. Of course they are directed to resort to any ruse or device that may serve them, but if all this prove of no avail, they are to surrender.

An incident that took place near this city a short time ago will serve to show the ingenuity and cunning of the Cubans. A vessel was on the eve of starting to sea, when she was boarded by a party claiming themselves to be United States officers. Whether they were or not, it is not positively known; but, as the sequel will show, it mattered not whether they were United States officials or pretenders. They were met as they mounted the deck by an honest looking skipper, who answered all their questions in an honest skipper's manner. They searched the vessel, but found nothing to arouse suspicion, and left not the whit wiser for their trouble. Yet on that very vessel were nearly a hundred men, arms, ammunition, and the usual stores generally carried on expeditions of like nature. All that there seemed to be aboard the vessel was an ordinary crew, and a cargo consisting mostly of lumber. It is said that had a rifle been discharged between decks, in every probability the ball would have killed or wounded a Cuban volunteer. No doubt there have been many such cases as the one just mentioned, but no enterprising newspaper man has been able to find them out; and the probabilities are that they never will be ferreted out, and the only way many of them will be made public will be by those who were aboard the different expeditions.

There is considerable filibustering going on in and about this city. Two expeditions have been gotten up by parties whose purpose is nothing more or less than filibustering. When almost ready to depart one expedition was abandoned, things looking a little shaky was the cause. The other expedition started out and that is all that is known of it. The Cubans here had no knowledge whatever of the expedition, until after it left. It was gotten up entirely by outsiders whose sole intent is to make money. Cubans say that such expeditions will not be recognized by Gen. Céspedes, but that is doubtful as it is likely Gen. Céspedes will recognize anything that will harass the Spaniards.

It appears that Baltimore as well as Philadelphia had representatives on the expedition that left New-York on Tuesday last. Several young men left here on the morning of that eventful day and embarked for the steamer from the Jersey shore.

Among those who left on the above mentioned expedition were seven of the men who seized a steamer lying at the wharf of a town opposite Havana; they captured all the passengers aboard of her, and started out to sea; after landing all but three, parting at a point about 40 miles from Havana, they steered for Nassau. They were soon spied by a Spanish vessel, who gave chase to them; finding that all exertions to escape with the steamer were fruitless, they ran her into shoal water, and abandoned her by swimming to the land. There were 15 in all, two of whom were drowned after leaving the steamer; six remained at Nassau, and the balance went to New-York, and on last Tuesday left for the patriot army.

A gentleman from Trinidad, who has just arrived in this city from that place, reports the arrival there of one of the expeditions from this country. She was a hermaphrodite brig, carrying a large crew, and had on board of her 2,000 Springfield rifles, 1863 pattern; 50,000 ball cartridges, a considerable quantity of fixed ammunition for field pieces, and a large quantity of powder in bulk, beside other stores for the Commissary and Medical Departments. She started in company with another vessel, also loaded with arms, &c. When within a few days' sail of their destination, they were attacked by a large steamer carrying the Spanish colors. The second vessel was sunk, after a determined resistance, but not before she had damaged the Spaniard considerably. The brig got away in safety. These vessels were probably two of the four mentioned in the Philadelphia letter as having left that city with a goodly amount of arms aboard. As it was said in that letter, a gentleman had reached here that three had arrived safe, and the fourth was supposed to be lost.

—this last information establishes the truth of the particulars as given from Philadelphia.

After the brig had safely unloaded her cargo she was set adrift as a decoy. The ruse proved successful, as the Spanish vessels, copying her, started after her, thus affording an opportunity to the three smaller vessels on which the stores had been placed to get to sea unscathed by the Spaniards.

Union parties in this city are known to have in their possession letters from Gen. Céspedes, giving them authority to act as privateers under Cuban colors. One of these parties has purchased a certain vessel that was formerly in the naval service of the United States. She is now lying in Virginia waters, where she is soon to be fully armed and manned as a privateer. This is a fact, and before many weeks will be known all over the country; but at present everything pertaining to the enterprise has to be conducted with great caution, as it is well known by the parties who are interested, information reaching the Government authorities would effectively check any such undertaking.

An ex-officer of the Confederate navy, who commanded a well known blockade runner and privateer during the late war, is at present in this city, and is known to have purchased from various parties certain warlike materials that were used on board the vessel that he formerly commanded. It is rumored that he is to be the leader of a privateer expedition that is soon to leave this country, and such is probably the fact, although nothing definite can yet be ascertained. As yet, but little has been said of the artillery force of the Cuban Army, for the reason that it is very insufficient; but this portion of the service is to be strongly reinforced. A battery of six 12-pounders has been purchased, a portion of which is now on the way to the Cuban Army. This battery is manned solely by veterans of the late war, part of whom are from the late Confederate Army. Their commanding officer was formerly an officer of the regular Army, and was considered a superior officer in that branch of the service. Not only have the guns and men gone from the United States, but the horses were also sent from here—not Baltimore, but from certain points in this country). The battery, when completed, will be organized, fully equipped, and sent from a Mexican port in a body.

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