

# THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

SPANISH PRIVILEGES—THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL'S TRIUMPH.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

HAVANA, May 22.—The object of these lines is not to give you the latest news, but rather to dispel certain erroneous notions which evidently prevail in the minds of many in your quarter, with reference to Cuba, in its relations or connection with Spain.

The few who condemn the Cuban Revolution do so chiefly on the grounds of its having been commenced at a period when the sole causes of discontent—the only grievances—had disappeared, when, after her own glorious revolution, Spain had generally tendered a friendly hand to Cuba, giving her the same rights and privileges which she had won for herself, when, in fact, nothing remained for Cuba to desire. She would be a colony no longer but a province of Spain. Cuba should forget and forgive, Spain was to amend.

Cuba a province of Spain! What a sarcasm! As facts and figures are the most convincing of arguments I will endeavor briefly to show how the word "Province" was substituted for that of "Colony," without in the slightest degree affecting the condition of this ill-governed country. Cuba, you are daily told by the Havana press, is an integral part of Spain, as is Castile, Catalonia, or Aragon. Let us, however, inquire: How is it then that Cuban produce pays such high duties in Spain, and that all goods from there are subjected to an import duty in Cuba? If she be a Province, why this distinction between the province called Cuba, and her sister European provinces? When the products of the latter circulate duty free from one into the other.

Universal suffrage was established in Spain. All the provinces elected their members to the "Cortes," to decide upon the form of Government. Was this privilege made extensive to Cuba? No. Gen. Dulce, after much hesitation and loss of time, issues a decree whereby only those paying taxes beyond a certain sum would have a right to vote—negroes altogether excepted. This law virtually excluded the entire rural population and the large order of monks in our fair country, composed of natives, consequently the only Cubans who were allowed to vote were planters and owners of real estate who showed their dignity and self respect by at once declaring that they would not avail themselves of this liberty. The elections were therefore abandoned on the plea that perfect order did not prevail throughout the island. The Provinces of Spain, by the fact of their being represented at the "Cortes," have a direct share in their own taxation and expenditure. Is this the case with Cuba? The Madrid Government levies heavy contributions subject only to the fancy or caprice of its representatives here; and moreover, in the Budget of Spain is invariably inserted an important item called "Sobranito," or "surplus" from Cuba, which this poor island must yield in addition to an expenditure of \$33,000,000—\$33,000,000—known, led, but in reality nearer \$60,000,000—if we take into account the large sums which disappear in the hands of hungry officials; to say nothing of an extra million or so, to allow the Home Government the luxury of some ambitious though unsuccessful campaign, such as the Mexican intervention, the conquest of Santo Domingo, or the naval exploits off the Pacific coast.

After the glorious November Revolution, would it not have seemed natural that the prominent inhabitants of the new province should be called to fill some of the principal Government posts in a country which they had the advantage of being thoroughly acquainted with? In reply to this query, it is only necessary to remind your readers of the arrival of Gen. Dulce with 300 and odd newly appointed employes, wholly unfit to fulfill the duties of their office.

Liberty of the press and of worship; Liberty of speech; Liberty of Association; the inviolability of private dwellings and correspondence; trials by jury; abolition of capital punishment for all political offences! These were the recognized principles of the Revolutionary Government, guaranteed to all provinces in their liberal manifest. They have been granted to Spain; but, may I ask which has been granted to Cuba? Only the partial liberty of the press, and liberty of association or right to hold public meetings, both with the most iniquitous design, as will be shown hereafter. A few days after Gen. Dulce's arrival it was officially announced that the press would be allowed free discussion on all topics save Slavery and the Catholic dogma. A local judge was appointed to decide upon any infraction of the decree, which stipulated certain fines and penalties for the different offences. This at once dispelled the hesitations of many writers, who, relying on the good faith of the Government, gave vent to their opinions. Hundreds of small newspapers, pamphlets, &c., made their appearance. Bitter truths were said to the Spanish authorities; yet never was there any notice taken by the judge, nor did the Government in any way show that it considered their authors as having overstepped the prescribed limits. Gen. Dulce, having attained his object, by inveigling Cuban writers into an open avowal of their feelings, suddenly changes his tactics, and suppresses the liberties granted, on the plea that they have been abused, and that the country was unprepared to receive them. I would here remind your readers of the remarkable article published at the time in *La Verdad*, and headed "La situación." The great sensation which this publication produced and its immense circulation (14,000 copies having been sold in a couple of days) attest how truly the grievances and aspirations of the Cubans were therein depicted. The name of the author, although surmised by many, was not revealed to the public, for anticipating the subsequent conduct of the Government, he wisely enjoined secrecy to his friends. Several Cuban writers who, during that brief period of liberty, expressed their sentiments, were fortunately warned in time of the Captain-General's intentions, and sought refuge abroad; whereas the others who remained in the Island were afterward arrested, and some are now on their way to Fernando Po. With regard to the liberty of association, I will merely state that the few who availed themselves of it only succeeded in becoming conspicuous in the eyes of the Government with similar results. Thus it is shown that the two meager liberties granted by Gen. Dulce, proved merely to have been a measure on his part to entrap those who naively trusted to his good faith.

Cuba has often been deceived, yet I cannot recall a more base or treacherous proceeding than the one resorted to in this instance.

THE QUARREL BETWEEN BRIGADIER—BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION—THE FERNANDO PO PRISONERS—CONCLUSIONS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

HAVANA, May 22.—The late quarrel between Gen. Escalante and Letona has been accounted for as follows: Gen. Letona gave, previous to the battle of Bahama, a safe conduct to five individuals to pass his lines into the interior. When they came up to where the forces of Escalante, another Spanish General, were, the latter, without delay, ordered their arrest, and had them immediately shot, without trial. This act displeased Letona, who said that he would have to report this affair to the Captain-General. Escalante replied that it would be better, in order to save trouble to that worthy, that the two, as each had a sword, should fight it out between them. How the matter was finally arranged is now known, but it is a question of but little consequence to the average reader. The Captains did not fight, and Lieutenant-Governors have become veritable inquisitors, committing on-board of barbarities, taking everything that suits them, and commanding the population to move from one point to another as the fancy may strike these tyrants, appropriating, in the mean time, whatever the fugitives may have left behind.

In the steamer which left on the 15th for Cadiz before Mendive and the Count Villaverde sailed. They were banished by the Government.

Gen. Dulce arranged to leave for the Ciego Villa on the 16th, but his very bad health prevented it. Others say that it was ascertained that the volunteers intended to arm the ragamuffins of the town and forcibly resist his entry into the palace. He is in very bad health, and may live but a very few days. His disease is a cancer in the breast. But why did he wish to go to the Ciego Villa? The news is received that various chiefs in the interior are thinking more of promotion than of love of country, just as it was the case in St. Domingo. There

is consequently much alien-wrangling among them. Besides, it is well known that alien-wrangling was sold at heavy prices, and that the lieutenant governor was receiving much gold for issuing such papers. The army is greatly dissatisfied. The troops are constantly carried to places where no enemy is to be found. All this is in consequence of the gold paid to the officers, military and civil. The innocent have a poor chance to escape when seized, unless they are freely money. The Captain-General pardoned, but a few days since, Don Valdeir Hermasides, sentenced to death at Villa Clara. The volunteers mutinied in consequence; they demanded the head of the prisoner, insulted the Governor, and it became necessary to put some of them in prison. It is believed that some species of barbarity will be inflicted upon him.

If the report turns out to be true that the destination of the Fernando Po prisoners has been changed, we may expect great riots to follow. The Government keeps back the truth as to all such matters as long as possible. It rains every day, and the sick abound in the hospitals. The vomito is killing very many.

Nobody is willing to pay the money subscribed for the expenses of the mobilized troops, or volunteers, who serve in the Cabaños, but the Government continues to accumulate accounts as though all would be settled. The volunteers act indifferently about the matter, notwithstanding the insinuations against their patriotism which the journals are constantly publishing. Some of them say they are tired of giving money, and that they will leave the country, to which end the majority are shipping off all their means, and the emigration by the different steamers goes on increasing.

In all matters relating to the seizure of the property of absentees and others, and in carrying out the orders of the Captain-General, Lopez Roberts, the political Governor of Havana (in making for himself an unenviable name), the common belief is that he fills his purse as fast as possible, and by means as unscrupulous as he can use. Yesterday the property of the following persons was seized, most of whom are in New Orleans, viz: José Trujillo, Ugarte y Grifalao, J. del Nodal, Carlos Diaz Silverio, José María Blanco, Manuel Rosete, Joaquín Ceballos, Adolfo Valdes, Aurelio Letamendia, Dr. J. Haya, Fco. García Chaves de Matanzas, Damian Cuenca, Ramon Zaldivar, Juan Terry of Cienfuegos, Bobadilla de Cardenas, Dr. Laudeta, and Manfredo Jimenez de Villa Clara.

SPANISH ATROCITIES IN CUBA.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The statement of the Cuban Republican Junta, explanatory of the proclamation of Gen. Cospedes, but more especially the editorial "Concerning Massacre," citing the pronouncements of Gen. Mesa and Harnett, and Col. Reguera, in connection with those of Valmaseda, which appeared in THE TRIBUNE of yesterday, have, to my certain knowledge, confounded the Spaniards in this city, and must, I think, convince every American, however obtuse his perceptions, that there is no subtlety, artifice, or chicanery conceivable, that the Spanish authorities are not ready to resort to to disparage the holy cause of the Cubans, and render their leaders obnoxious to the humane sentiment of our people. During a sojourn of only a month in "the ever faithful Isle," from whence I returned less than a fortnight ago, more atrocities perpetrated by the Spanish soldiery came to my knowledge, and under my observation, than I could chronicle in a whole week. But I cannot refrain from briefly recounting one of them. On the 29th of April, about midway between Manzanillo and Bayamo, two Creole ladies, accompanied by two youths, one of them under 15 years of age, were riding, driven by a negro, late in the afternoon, on the outskirts of the plantation of Joaquin Arias, the father of one of the girls. The other young lady, and the eldest of the young gentlemen, were brother and sister, and nephew and niece of Señor Arias, whose residence they had for many months made their home. The other youths, a boy of only 14 years, resided on a neighboring plantation, and was on a short visit to the young friends just referred to. As they were returning home they were halted by a party of Spaniards, who, without asking a question, dragged them from the carriage, and told the boys to prepare for death. Young Arias and the ladies remonstrated, contending that they did not come within the letter or spirit of Valmaseda's decree, as three of their number were, in point of fact, then at their home, though not in the house, and that the boy (whose name I do not remember) lived near by, and was only 14 years of age. During the discussion the officer in command of the barbarians struck young Arias down with his sword, after which, being unable to stand, the doomed young man was strapped to a wheel of the vehicle, while the boy was placed at his side, when both were shot. The discharge of musketry and shrieks of the girls frightened the horses, and they started off with the terrified driver at a furious rate, dragging and mangling at every bound the lifeless remains of the unfortunate Arias.

The young ladies were then carried to a negro cabin, where they were the victims of nameless outrages, of which one of them died.

I was present at the plantation of Señor Arias when his nephew, who had been dragged by the aforesaid team to the family mansion, was buried, and heard the narrative I have given, first from the lips of Mr. Arias, and afterward from the negro driver, and one of the colored women above referred to. The bodies of Miss Arias and the murdered boy had not been recovered, and were supposed to have been sunk in a swamp near the point where the atrocities were committed. Señor Arias assured me that from the beginning of the war he had endeavored to be neutral. Whatever his sentiments and feelings were, he had refrained from manifesting them, either by word or action. But in Cuba neutrals suffer most. The Spaniards in some localities are frequently sorely pressed for provisions and forage, and at such times they help themselves to anything within their reach. A few weeks since Gen. Letona made a visit in person to some plantations near Villa Clara for the purpose of levying contributions on citizens who had, it was suspected, a couple of days previously given provisions to a raiding party of insurgents. The citizens, in answer to the General's complaint and demands, declared that they had ever been neutral, and as heart loyal, and that the rebels had helped themselves to provisions contrary to the owner's wishes. "Well," replied Letona, who adopts to be a soldier, "I must say to you, much as I hate the rebels, I do not like the Spaniards, and you have given provisions to the rebels. If you gave them willingly, you must own you injured me; if unwillingly, show it by giving willingly to me." Of course so reasonable a judgment could not be appealed from, and the planters bled freely; but notwithstanding this, two days later several of them were sent to Havana, and are now prisoners in the Morro, where they will be apt to bleed more freely still.

One day, about a month ago, while I was at the headquarters of Quesada a spy was brought in, who had been received by the patriots as a volunteer. He was detected through his efforts to induce a negro to desert and bear a letter to Gen. Lesca. Before being executed he confessed that he had been employed by Lesca and other Spanish officers to join the Republicans, with a view of getting near the person of Cospedes for the purpose of assassinating him, for which service he was to receive \$20,000 in gold.

Respectfully, yours, J. W. RUSSELL.

Brooklyn, May 23, 1895.

AFFAIRS IN THIS CITY—NEW ORGANIZATIONS.

In conversation with a gentleman a day or two ago, the Spanish Consul affected to be perfectly indifferent as to the landing of American volunteers on the "Ever Faithful Isle." He bases his confidence not on their want of grit, or pluck, or military dash and ardor, but on the heat of the climate and the prevalence of the exterminating fevers which render Cuba a dangerous resort, at certain seasons, for persons not acclimated. The Consul had probably forgotten the experiences of the large number of Americans, Englishmen, and Irishmen now in the ranks of the Revolutionists, among whom the mortality is factually smaller than among the Creoles themselves. He also forgot, probably, that quick and impulsive as Americans are, they seldom act without a degree of caution. Hence, the expeditions which have sailed have been well provided with medicines, and accompanied by medical men of skill and experience, and which will hereafter sail will undoubtedly take the same wise precautions. But in the same conversation the Consul expressed much anxiety and solicitude as to the landing of arms and ammunition in Cuba, saying that those would render more material aid to the insurgents than an army of foreigners.

The Cuban movement in this city is assuming each day more importance. Men are being enlisted, arms purchased and secretly stored, drill-rooms established, and in every way the organizations devoted to the revolutionary cause are exerting themselves to the utmost to promote it. So say several of those identified with the movement, and in the absence of other testimony, it is given to the public, as a matter of interest. It may not be generally known that, beside the Republican Junta and other Cuban associations, there is in the city for the purpose of affording assistance to the revolutionists, there is a powerful organization, directed entirely by Americans, who have collected stores of arms and munitions, and enrolled in New York and Brooklyn alone upward of 1,500 men who are eager to measure arms with the brutal Spaniards. This organization extends to several Southern cities, and the volunteers are composed entirely of veterans who served in the Federal and Confederate armies during our late war. They are to be commanded by officers of distinction and ability, and so confident are

they of being able to embark and disembark their expeditions whenever they elect, despite the vigilance of the United States officials and Spanish spies in this country, and cruisers on the coast of Cuba, that they have no hesitation in publicly declaring that within a month they will be at hand to accept the *guerra al cuchillo* with the barbarians. The revolutionists claim that the seizure of the Quaker City, or a dozen English steamers, will not in the least embarrass their movements or prevent their departure the moment they are ready.

## ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUVENILE ASYLUM SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

The anniversary of the Sunday-school connected with the New-York Juvenile Asylum at Fort Washington, corner of One-hundred-and-seventy-fifth-st. and Tenth-ave., was celebrated yesterday afternoon at the Asylum. Among those present were Mrs. R. H. Greene and W. F. Shoyd of Fort Washington; John W. Hutchinson and H. F. Hutchinson of Lynn, Mass.; Harvey Camp, Superintendent of the Union Home and School, One-hundred-and-fifty-first-st.; the Rev. J. B. Davis, Boston; C. C. Leigh, Manhattanville; R. J. Thorne, New-York City; E. P. Perry, James Marsh, Geo. P. Mingina, City Missions; B. Kennedy, A. R. Wetmore, A. Kingsbury, Putnam, Ohio; W. B. Chidlaw, Cincinnati, Ohio, Timothy Rose, Greenville, Ohio; the Rev. James M. Ludlow, Collegiate Church, and others. Before entering upon the exercises of the day, the guests were shown through the different departments by Dr. Wright and Brooks. The dormitories, washing-rooms, kitchens, clothes, washing, drying and ironing rooms, dining-rooms, gymnasium play-ground, and other apartments and departments, were visited in turn. Dr. R. P. Perry, Superintendent of the Morning Star Sunday-School, had charge of the arrangements, and took the Chair as leader of the exercises. After an introductory hymn, the Rev. J. B. Davis of Boston, read the fourth chapter of Proverbs, and prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Ludlow of the Collegiate Church, and the hymn "Love the Lord," was sung. The Rev. J. B. Davis was then introduced by Dr. Perry, and delivered a pleasing and instructive address.

Mr. Davis having concluded his remarks, the hymn, "Oh! bless the Lord, my soul," was sung, and Dr. Ludlow was introduced.

R. J. Thomas, esq., Dr. Benjamin W. Chidlaw, Mr. Wetmore, and Mr. Mingina, also addressed the children; and after a benediction by Dr. Davis, the assemblage dispersed.

On the 10th of June, the Asylum will send thirty-five children out to Illinois, to the care of their resident agent, Mr. E. Wright, who lives in Chicago. He has homes prepared for them before they leave the House of Reception, at No. 61 West-Thirteenth-street, and the children going there are under contract, and are as thoroughly provided for as though the bargain was made by their parents or any near relatives.