

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

DISPATCHES FROM REAR ADMIRAL HOFF—LANDING OF AN EXPEDITION IN THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT—THE POLITICAL PRISONERS FOR FERNANDO PO.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—Rear Admiral Hoff advises the Navy Department, under date of Havana, April, 27, on board his flag ship, the Contoocook, of his arrival at that place on the 26th of April, from a short cruise in the Gulf of Mexico. He reports political matters in Cuba exceedingly quiet. A large expedition, supposed to have sailed from Yucatan, consisting of a large steamer and several sailing vessels, recently attempted to land men and arms for the Cubans on the south side of the Western Department, near a place known as Pinar del Rio. The Spanish Admiral had left Havana in his flag ship, accompanied by several other vessels, in search of the party, but no news had yet been received from him. The transport, having on board the political prisoners that left about a month ago, and which was supposed to have sailed for Fernando Po, has put into St. Johns, Porto Rico, for repairs, and the Captain-General of that Island has determined to send some of the passengers to the Canaries and the remainder to Cadiz. Both Cubans and Spaniards seem to be exceedingly quiet, and there have been no successes on either side. Nothing can be heard of the movements at present; but Admiral Hoff states that he would continue to keep the Department informed of the facts and rumors that come to his knowledge by every opportunity.

BURNING OF PLANTATIONS—RELEASE OF A PORTION OF THE CREW OF THE MARY LOWELL.

HAVANA, May 5.—The insurgents are burning plantations again around Sagua la Grande, Remedios, and Santiago de Cuba. Several insurgents have recently been executed at Santiago and Bayamo. The steamer from St. Thomas brought back 20 seamen of the crews of the Peruvian monitors. They will be sent to New-Orleans to-morrow by the American Consul-General.

The British gunboat Favorite arrived here yesterday and took on board four sailors, who were captured by the Spaniards on board the brig Mary Lovell, and had since been confined in jail here. She sailed this evening for Nassau.

THE EXPEDITION FROM NEW-YORK.

THE ARAGO SENSATION—THE FACTS AS DERIVED FROM THE JUNTA—EXTENT OF THE JUNTA'S MEANS—MORE MEN OFFERING THAN CAN BE FORWARDED.

The World of yesterday morning contained a long and highly sensational description of the departure of a Cuban expedition from this port on Tuesday last. It was asserted that the steamer Arago was the vessel in which the Cubans departed, but this and many other particulars set forth in the article in question are gross misstatements. The article was evidently written for the purpose of casting slurs on the Administration and to damage the Cuban cause as much as possible. It is an undoubted fact that a steamer laden with arms, ammunition, and stores for the Cuban army, and also, a large number of volunteers left this port on Tuesday night. The vessel was not the Arago, however, but a steamer not much known in these waters, and therefore not easily recognized. It is surmised that she is the Mexico, but nothing definite is vouchsafed on the subject by the Cubans. The graphic description of the dining of the thousand men at the Christopher-st. ferry, and the rendezvousing along West st., as narrated in the story referred to, was, of course, pure fiction, the fact being that everything pertaining to the expedition was conducted with the utmost caution and secrecy, and no outsiders were aware of the departure of the steamer until she had certainly left this port.

Thus far the managers of the Cuban cause in this country have shown themselves remarkably shrewd and cautious men. But few people have any idea of the help the Cubans in this country have extended their brothers in the cause in Cuba. As previously stated in THE TRIBUNE, vessel after vessel laden with arms, cannon, ammunition, medical and commissary stores have been safely sent from this country, and yet in no single case has any of the Government officials discovered the expeditions, and all have arrived safe at their destinations.

For some weeks past there has been unwearied activity in Cuban circles in this and other cities. A large number of men have been for some time waiting impatiently for a favorable opportunity to join the patriot army in Cuba and every exertion has been made by those having the movement in charge, to get transportation for them. Several have gone on to Key West and other ports near Cuba in sailing vessels preferring to take a longer and tedious journey at sea, to awaiting here with others. Several sailing vessels have left this port within the past month, laden with arms, ammunition and stores, for the Cuban Volunteers. Among them was the well known schooner Grapeshook, which vessel left here one day last week, with a large quantity of war materials, as stated in THE TRIBUNE of Saturday. During last week, a large steamer, purchased by the Cuban Junta some months ago, was put in complete order for a sea voyage. On Tuesday morning she was run down from her place of anchorage in the East River to a point off Sandy Hook, where she was again anchored. A short time afterward, two small steamers were run down alongside of her, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were transferred from the small steamers to the larger one.

A little after dark 250 men embarked on the tug Phillip from Pier No. 43 North River, and were taken aboard the steamer. The tug Yankee also transported about the same number of men to the steamer. About 9½ p. m., everything being in readiness, the anchor was weighed and the steamer departed for a point somewhere near the Island of Cuba.

The number of men that were on the steamer has been greatly exaggerated, the total number being about 500. Of these but 70 were Americans, among whom were several ex-army and navy officers, the most noted of the party being Gen. Jourdan, Chief of Staff to Beauregard. The balance of the 500, with the exception of three negroes, were Cubans, most of them young men, sons of wealthy and influential residents of the Island, who, in order to join the patriotic army in the field, were obliged to first come to this country and then re-embark for Cuban headquarters.

There are at present over 1,000 Cubans in this city who are waiting impatiently for chances to get to the seat of war. The greatest difficulty the Junta experience is in getting vessels to transport the volunteers, arms, and guns from this and other ports in the United States to Cuba. The most exorbitant prices are asked for vessels as soon as the owners get an inkling of what their vessels are wanted for.

Considerable has been said of an alleged attempt to kidnap a boy named Waite by Cuban recruiting officers. This is another gross misstatement. The simple facts of the case are as follows: A few days ago a young man, apparently 20 years of age, applied to be enrolled as a volunteer in the Cuban army, giving a Spanish name. He was told that his name could not be enrolled, but that he would be sent to Cuba if he so desired. Expressing his willingness to go, he was sent to the rendezvous. On Tuesday morning Mr. Waite, a lawyer of this city, called at the headquarters of the Cuban Junta, and stated that he had just received information that his brother, a lad of 17, had joined the Cubans, and was to leave for Cuba that day. The Secretary of the Junta at once looked over the List of names of those at the rendezvous, and of course as young Waite had given a false name his proper name could not be found on the list; but the Secretary, wishing to extend to Mr. Waite every means of aiding his brother, first obtained from him a pledge of secrecy and then sent him to the rendezvous, where he found his brother and took him home. This is all there is of a case that some parties have endeavored to make appear a violation of the neutrality laws.

A visit to the building, No. 71 Broadway, disclosed the fact that therein is situated the headquarters of the Cuban movement in this country. The general management devolves upon 12 gentlemen most of whom are Cuban refugees; they are called the Central Republican de Cuba and Puerto Rico. Señor Morales Lemus, the Envoy from the Provisional Government of the Island of Cuba to the United States Government, is President of the Committee, and Dr. Basora, Secretary. The Committee have the charge and direction of all matters pertaining to the cause in this country. All subscriptions of money, arms, ammunition, &c., &c., are referred to them, and by them sent to safe points near the seat of war. In doing this, the Committee claim that they in no wise violate the neutrality laws. Citizens, they argue, have the right to purchase anything that is offered for sale in this country. They do not ship the articles to Cuba, but to other ports outside of the jurisdiction of the United States. They state that they have not enrolled or recruited a single man. They have no recruiting offices, all reports to the contrary. They have a room up town, where young Cubans are instructed in the use of the musket, and pay for the instruction. Any Cuban or Cuban sympathizer who desires to go to Cuba is furnished with transportation by the Committee. The Committee have no trouble in getting men. They are in receipt of a large number of letters daily from parties desirous of joining them; a great many come to their office who are desirous of enrolling, but at present they have all the men they can equip. Eleven men were refused yesterday afternoon. Arms and ammunition are what they are most in need of, and as one of the Committee said yesterday, "If we could get a musket for every man that offers to join our army, we would soon have an army strong enough to drive the Spanish army into the sea." The majority of the Cubans arm and equip themselves, in addition to paying their expenses to Cuba. A good example of the feeling of sacrifice that pervades among the Cubans is furnished by the "diamond story," as it is called. At the time the call for aid was made, a Cuban gentleman came to the Committee and offered all the money he had in the world, \$2,000, as a contribution. The ladies of his family hearing of this persuaded the Committee not to accept the money but instead the family jewels worth over \$10,000. The names of the generous ladies cannot be made public for certain private reasons. Some of the currency of the Provisional Government of Cuba is exhibited by the Junta. The notes are very neatly executed, are about six inches long by three inches

wide. In the upper right hand corner is the figure denoting the denomination. On the left hand corner is the coat of arms of Free Cuba, which is a shield in the foreground, with two Cuban flags on each side and liberty cap between them. On the upper part of the shield are two capes, with the sea dividing them. A large key connects the capes, signifying Cuba to be the key to the Gulf of Mexico. In the background is the rising sun of liberty. The lower half of the shield is divided into two quarters; the left hand quarter bears three stripes, signifying the three departments into which Cuba has been divided. On the right is the palm tree the emblem of Cuba. The note is receivable in payment for all duties, as well as being the legal tender of the country. No time is specified for its redemption, that being left to the future of what is fondly hoped will soon be free Cuba.

As soon as reliable information of the departure of the Expedition reached United States Marshal Barlow he at once set about investigating the matter, but nothing different from the above facts have as yet been elicited.

SUPPOSED SAILING OF THE CHICKAMAUGA FOR CUBA.

BALTIMORE, May 5.—The steamship Chickamauga, formerly a blockade-runner, and a very fast vessel, left here yesterday. It is rumored that her destination was Cuba, and that she carried a cargo of munitions of war for the Cubans.