

LETTER FROM HAVANA.

[Special Correspondence of the Picayune.]

HAVANA, May 3, 1869.

The Count Valmaseda having received reinforcements by detachments from the "Tigers" and "Lions" of Africa—*c'est à dire*—the volunteer Catalans, from Barcelona, and the volunteer negroes from Havana, begins to feel safe at Bayamo, and gives forth his chivalric sentiments in a proclamation for facilitating highway robbery and murder, rapine and outrage, under false pretences, for "the protection of females," etc. Hear him! as he demands of his countrymen:

"Inhabitants of the country!—The reinforcement of troops which I expected have already arrived. With them I am about to give protection to the good and to punish promptly those who remain rebels to the Government of the Metropolis. Know that I have pardoned those who have fought with arms; know that your wives, mothers and sisters have had protection from me, denied by you, but admired by them; know, also, that many of those who were pardoned have turned against me: Before these unjust violations of pledges and rights, before such ingratitude, before such villainy, it is not possible that I should remain the man of yesterday; there is no end to the deception of neutrality. He who is not with me is against me, and that my soldiers may know how to distinguish them, hear the orders which they bear: 'All men from the age of fifteen years and upwards, met or encountered away from their place of abode, without having justifiable cause for being so (documents, I presume) will be shot.'"

All farm houses not inhabited will be burned by the troops.

All farm buildings where a white linen banner is not displayed in the fields, as evidence that the owners desire peace, will be reduced to ashes. All women who are not in their respective abodes or residences, or in the houses of their relatives, will concentrate in the towns of Iguañi or Bayamo, where their subsistence will be provided for. Those who do not do so will be conducted there by force. (A new "ring" within a "ring.") These determinations will go into effect from the 14th of the current month.

Bayamo, April 4, 1869.

(Signed) EL CONDE VALMASEDA.

The Count forgets the cause for which he fights—the "nationality" not the "metropolis." He was very noble in pardoning those who fought him "with arms" (very few)—if he had not killed those who had no arms to sustain the principles which were uttered by this same Count or his co conspirators in Madrid—Cadiz—and through all Spain, not including the "Rock"—Gibraltar! He crows over the protection!—"vultures and wolves for the lambs"—brutal with crime—dishonoring to Spanish integrity, glory and chivalry—responsible for placing such vast power in the hands of venal, vicious and irresponsible persons, with arms in hand to enforce their foul edicts.

So much for the preamble, which is made more explicit by the subsequent orders. Hear! ye civilized soldiery of the world! Highway shooting, done—and then inquired into, probably—as may be with impunity by the license granted to the "tigers." Woman, poor woman! not allured by chivalry, to be driven by force to the pens of Iguañi or Bayamo.

I must explain as to the "negro volunteers" which left this city about the time of the sad departure of the Catalans, for which corps they were to act as guides in the mountains of the Eastern District. They were the worst of their class, belonging to the "secret African Society," "Thug and Knife"—initiation: evidence of a murder, with the implement of the deed. It will be a gracious gift of Providence if they should be buried in the glens of the East, as far as the comfort and quiet of Havana is concerned. Such are the creatures who are to "bear," or may be bearers of the orders of the most noble Count. In justice to all others—military and civil—associated with our Government, including our most honorable chief, Domingo Dulce, there is no one who approves the Valmaseda proclamation; and an effort has been made through the wires, (28th.) by authority, to discredit it with the world, but it will have no effect abroad—the thing is done—but the Government may be able to prevent pernicious action under it in the Eastern Department. The charges made against the proclamation, its author, the conduct of troops previous, and what is anticipated under it, are not entirely confined to Cubans; the consequences seem inevitable upon which the Count Valmaseda had not maturely reflected, but the prudence of the Government will have restraining effect, we hope and believe.

ROUGH AND READY.

Sugar market active. The shipments of the past week heaviest of the season. Over 75,000 boxes and 3700 hhds. hence and from Matanzas. Quotations, basis numbers, brown, 11 and 12 at 8¾ @ 9 reals @ arroba. Freights have declined in the past week; list of sugar vessels waiting large for our wants. Exchange more quiet throughout the week; no demand for the quantity of paper offered. Sterling, London, sixty days' sight closing at 11½ @ 12½ prem.; sales of the week £175,000; Paris do. do. ½ dis. to 1 prem. Francs, sales 460,000. U. S. currency, sixty days' sight 25 @ 24½ dis.; do. short sight, 22 @ 21½ dis.; do. gold sixty days' sight 1 @ 1½ prem.; do. do. short sight 3 @ 3½ prem.; sales of the week over \$650,000 of all classes.