

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM-SHIP MISSOURI.

The steam-ship *Missouri*, from Havana July 16, arrived at this port yesterday. We return thanks to Mr. H. S. MORGAN, Purser of the *Missouri*, for the early delivery of our letters and files.

Embargoed Property of Cubans—The Insurrection in the Camaguey—Persistence of the Insurgents—Central Plantations—Spanish Republicanism—War News—More Executions—Miscellaneous.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, July 16, 1870.

The *Gaceta* is now publishing a list of all embargoed property belonging to Cubans who are working with their "intelligence, valor, or tongue," against the power of Spain in Cuba. It makes no difference to the Government whether the embargoed individual is a member of the Junta, a soldier of the Cuban army, or an inoffensive individual with a strong pair of lungs and a glib tongue. All is grist that comes to the mill. Any report compromising any Cuban absent from the island is eagerly given credence to, and his property ordered to be seized. Fully one-half of those whose names appear in the *Gaceta* as having their property seized, are only the happy possessors of what they carry on their backs or in their pockets, and as the seizure of articles where none existed, was only a waste of writing and printing paper, and at the same time served admirably as an amusement to the Cubans, the Government changed its line of tactics in that quarter. A large number of estates were heavily involved, and the creditors, who are nearly all adherents of the Spanish cause, have not been able to collect a dollar of what the absent planter, or, rather, the estate owed; consequently, the embargoed party has not been the Cuban planter, who promenades Broadway, but the very loyal Spaniard, who shoulders the musket on a volunteer and hurrahs for Spain, casting a longing glance at the warehouses where his creditors' sugars are stored, and which would principally have belonged to him, had the Government not interfered. Thus virtue brings its own reward. It is stated, however, that the Government will take some steps to pay the creditors a portion of the money realized, after deducting the working and other expenses of the plantation; this, however, although appearing a mere drop in the bucket, will be in reality like so much money found, as not a single embarrassed planter will be able to liquidate his indebtedness for many years to come, owing to the abolition of slavery, consequent loss of laborers, decrease in the production and the natural effects of the war, irrespective of the heavy taxes and the maintenance of an armed force—which is the case on most plantations—to save the owners or overseers from being gobbled up by insurgents or robbed by some of the innumerable and countless bands of highwaymen existing all over the country. As a sample of indebtedness, I cite the case of one planter, Mr. O—, who owes Mr. JOSE MARIA MORALES, formerly the wealthiest merchant in the island, no less a sum than \$742,000; as an example of a highwayman's charge on a plantation not thirty miles from Havana, recently a band entered the place in broad daylight, called the owner out and asked and received money, clothing and provisions; the owner and administrator treated the leader with the utmost politeness recognized by hidalgo etiquette. And this followed: The Capitan de Partido arrived at the plantation with an armed force a few minutes after the highwaymen left, the dust raised by their horses' hoofs being plainly visible; the courage of the Capitan and his party rose to the highest pitch; they brandished their swords, shook their fists at the retiring highwaymen, looked terribly ferocious, carefully inspected their arms, mounted in a hurry and then went for the highwaymen—by riding off in a contrary direction. Strange to say no mention of this heroic feat was mentioned by the Press, not even, as customary, about two months after it happened.

THE CAMAGUEY.

Gen. RODAS has stated that the insurrection of the Camaguey has been reduced to the smallest proportions, and that not a single leader has a hundred men together. If the statement of a Spanish officer just arrived from that region is true, the report of RODAS is, to say it mildly, very problematical. The officer states that many sections of the Camaguey have been so thoroughly overrun and searched by the troops that not a single insurgent has been seen for weeks—but that they were not killed but simply disappeared from their old stamping grounds to appear on a new one. Also that 10,000 soldiers could keep the surroundings of Puerto Principe and other towns, and the line of the Nuevitas Railroad free from insurgents, and make raids where and whenever they pleased throughout the district, in bands not exceeding 100 men; but that double that number would not be able to end the rebellion completely. "But the insurgents don't know how to fight," I said, "and they never stand a bayonet attack of the regulars." "They may not fight in the streets of Havana, or in the newspapers," I was answered, "but they manage to kill people; if you don't believe that they fight, join some contra guerrillas, and you will soon be convinced. Undoubtedly the majority run after firing a volley, but they are not alike. BEMBETA gave me my hands full, and if I had been with less trusty men, and in any other than the advantageous position I occupied, it is very probable that I should not be here today to tell the tale." The Cuban army in the Camaguey, which consisted last year of nearly 12,000 men, does not now number 2,000 all told, and the Spanish army has decreased from 6,000 to 4,000. From reliable sources I learn that the organization of volunteer companies, formed by ex-insurgents, is progressing rapidly; the first company of volunteers at Guaimaro has already received its armament, and the second is ready to receive theirs. The arms captured from the Upton expeditions are dealt out to these volunteers, and the general impression is that the members will fight against their countrymen to the last, not out of any particular love they have for the Spaniards, but out of fear of the treatment they would receive from their late companions should they fall into their hands.

CENTRAL PLANTATIONS.

RODAS is also encouraging the scheme, which has already been put into operation, of establishing large plantations or settlements, situated midway between some Spanish forts, and in convenient supporting distance in case of an attack. These lands are given to these settlers as at present by the Government, and in addition they receive seeds, agricultural implements and oxen. The plan is a good one, but it will not work; too many projects of the same nature having been tried and abandoned, for the simple reason that the so-called *presentados*, or persons proceeding from insurgent land, take the oxen and seeds, work for a few weeks, eat Government rations in the meanwhile, and then, in accordance with the customs of the country, become tired and leave off work, though they continue to receive and eat Government rations. They argue that they have placed themselves under the protection of the Government, and that it must maintain them. They look on the Government as their *compadre pro tem.*, and while it lasts, it is all right.

SPANISH REPUBLICANISM.

The question of an approaching war in Europe on account of a poor German Prince, who, nevertheless, joined the list of other poor Princes that refused the Spanish crown, is still creating considerable stir here. This King question is a very ticklish one, and some of the articles in the Spanish journals on it are surely quite amusing. The great defender of the Pretender Don CARLOS and of the Pope, the *Pensamiento Espanol*, says, "If CHARLES VII. was King, he would be a decent and a Christian King." The *Gil Blas* takes up the cudgels and answers sarcastically:

If we thought such a thing could be true, we should be very glad. A Christian King we have already seen. For example, CHARLES IX., of France, was a Christian King, and amused himself on St. Bartholomew night by shooting his subjects from the palace windows. PHILIP II., with all due solemnity, was also a Christian King, and dealt out justice, assassinating his own children. Christian Kings were also frolic

head to foot, and above and below that, CHARLES II., III. and IV., FERDINAND VII. and other monarchs of the same style. This is to prove that we all know, more or less, what a Christian King may do. But a decent King really gives us a certain anxiety to know what it would be like, as we have never heard of a decent King, and none have ever been seen.

Speaking of Prince ALPHONSO, the *Gil Blas* says:

"The enemies of the polished youth don't tire of persecuting him; first they sold his picture, and will wind up by selling him if they can only find a purchaser. And now an author has invented his history. Poor young one, so young, and he has already a history."

The sarcasm is apparent as the Prince is only fourteen years of age, and reported to be very stout. Referring to Cuba, *Gil Blas* says:

"Satisfactory news from Cuba. The revolution is drawing to a close. This drawing to a close continues. It is also noteworthy that the killed and surrendered insurgents are larger in numbers than the entire population of Cuba. What a way to kill people."

Thus even Spanish journals are making fun over the reports from Cuba, and as they don't hear the other side of the story, they are perfectly right in criticising. *Gil Blas* ought to read some of the New-York papers if he wishes to be posted and up to time.

WAR NEWS.

Skirmishes continue all over the island, but with the exception of some encounters near Sancti Spiritus, where the insurgent Gen. MARIOS GARCIA operates with about one thousand men, nothing of any importance is taking place. VALMASEDA was compelled to leave for Santiago de Cuba and infuse some life into military matters. MERELO, the commander at Santiago, generally known by the name of Merelito, on account of his diminutive body and brain, did not know what to do, although he had the advice of Gen. DETENRE, a Frenchman commanding a Spanish division. A very remarkable fact has to be observed, namely, that the best fighting and administrative generals in the Spanish Army are natives of Cuba—AMPUDIA, the General of Bayamo, Tiguani and Manzanillo, and Gen. FERRER, of Holguin. One-half of the commanders of the gun-boats are also born on the island. Among the persons killed by MONTANER in his last march from Vera Cruz to Puerto Principe was CARLOS LOIN, an uncle of Ex-Gen. QUEVEDA, and one of his sons. A son of the Marquis of SANTA ANA and SANTA MARIA, Mr. JUAN C. AGUILERA, who had been captured by the troops some time ago, was executed in Puerto Principe on the 30th ult., and MANUEL LARA on the 5th. The Captain-General pardoned nine insurgents sentenced to death, instead of nineteen, as had been originally stated.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Messrs. LAWTON & Co., of this city, have secured the contract for carrying the United States mails from New-Orleans to Havana via the Florida coast. It is to be hoped that they will employ steamers which make the trip in less than from nine to twenty days—the schedule time of the present line. If the Cedar Keys Railroad and its connections are once placed on a decent footing, there is no doubt but that most of the passenger traffic with the United States will take that route as the shortest and most comfortable.... Sir CHARLES BRIGHT, of the West India and Panama Cable Company, has been in town for a couple of days, and returned yesterday to Batabano to superintend the immediate laying of the cable between that place and Jamaica via Santiago de Cuba.... The revenue of the Government derived from taxes, duties, &c., for the past eight months exceeds that of the corresponding period of the previous year by \$1,849,364, being an increase of over 80 per cent.... The frigate *Almansa* has been repaired, the escape-valve replaced and the vessel is again fit for service. The heat for the past fourteen days has been oppressive, and not a drop of rain has fallen, although we are in the rainy season.... Mr. BIDDLE, the American Consul-General, has been seriously ill with yellow fever, but is now improving. His wife, Mrs. BIDDLE, is also ill and not expected to recover. A consultation of five physicians held yesterday report her case to be very critical. Mr. and Mrs. BIDDLE are Philadelphians, and they have the sympathies of the entire population. The children of the BIDDLES are being cared for by some friends. QUASIMODO.