

CUBA.

Address of the Captain General to the Inhabitants of the Island.

Explanation of Spanish Reinforcements and Increase of the Navy.

Arrival of Gunboats at Havana.

ATROCITIES OF SPANISH OFFICERS.

The steamship Eagle, Captain Greene, from Havana on the 8th instant, via Nassau the 10th, arrived at this port last evening.

New Year's Address of Captain General De Rodas—Explanation of the Reinforcements and Increase of the Navy—"All Spain Wishes a Hand In"—A Proclamation from Santi Espiritu—The Insurrection—Arrival of Gunboats—Plan for Protecting Estates.

HAVANA, Jan. 8, 1870.

Among the strongest reasons for disbelieving the oft-repeated assertions of the Spanish authorities and press that the insurrection in this island is insignificant and on the point of suppression is the fact of the constant arrival of large reinforcements from Spain and increase of the naval force in these waters. His Excellency the Captain General has the sense to appreciate this, and accordingly in a New Year's address to the inhabitants of Cuba, recounting the situation, he gives an explanation of this seeming anomaly which at least has the merit of plausibility. It may be summed up in a few words as follows:—"You could do it, but all the provinces of Spain wanted a hand in it." The following is a translation of the address:—

INHABITANTS OF CUBA.—At the beginning of the new year, in these days of congratulations and rejoicings, it is with great satisfaction that your chief felicitates you "on account of the notable change in everything that relates to this territory. The danger to the peace of the island, radically disturbed by a part of the natives, who, if at first cloaked the bastard ambition that guided them with alluring programmes, ceased when at last they threw aside the mask, declaring themselves the apostles of arson and extermination. In view of the second triumphs favorable to the cause of order, justice and right, names synonymous with that of Spain, had, at the ending of the year 1869, the dissipation of the illusions of those dragged into the rebel lion was a natural consequence. The summer, fatal to Europeans in these latitudes, passed without having to chronicle a single defect to our army, nor have fevers, sun and rains combined prevented it from occupying sections of the island where ordered, administering at the same time severe lessons to the rebels, and always gaining more credit in overtaking their adversaries than in fighting them. On two occasions—Las Tunas and Santa Cruz—the rebels attempted the offensive, and you all know the severe reception they met at the hands of a few sick soldiers that garrisoned those points. It was then when despair blinded the rebel partisans even to the point of their proclaiming as holy and just the use of the assassin's dagger and incendiary's torch, reducing their country's wealth to ashes in order to rebuild the social fabric, and from then dates the presenting of thousands that daily escape the no-mad life and horrible misery to which they were subjected by violence and intrigue, crowding for protection beneath the tutelary wings of this government—beneath the flag which in Cuba is symbolical of sure and certain progress. The rebellion is reduced to partisan bands that roam over the mountainous and unpopulated part of the island. The elements at hand were more than sufficient to have subdued it, nevertheless powerful naval and military reinforcements have arrived. Do you know why? Because our brothers in the peninsula, who knew and applauded your sacrifices, have wished to share them, and that all arms of the service and all the provinces may be represented here, giving thereby a proof of the unanimity of their sentiments respecting Cuba, though they differ among themselves upon other questions. For this reason, though the island is occupied militarily, martial law has not been proclaimed, and the civil authorities and tribunals continue to exercise their functions. For this reason the jails are empty. For the same reason insurgents present themselves in such numbers and are received as brothers that in the rich district of Cinco Villas the army is left without occupation. The fleet that encircles the coast and serves as a formidable nucleus in the seaports is destined to destroy the hopes of those who still expect aid from filibusters, salaried and recruited from the dregs of society, though the important declarations of the ruler of a friendly nation have retarded in a great measure these expeditions. The rural police, scattered among the sugar and other estates, are to be the guardians of property acquired by so much toil. These forces, with the army and navy, render impotent the proposition of destruction, and render facile of realization the desire of our country, likewise that of every noble heart—that of shortening the horrors of war and limiting them to those who resist the law.

Volunteers, your unbounded patriotism, your noble aspirations, the self-denial with which you have firmly aided the authorities render you worthy of my kind congratulations.

Soldiers and sailors, you have again upheld the honor of Spanish arms. Your constancy in work, endurance of fatigue, your rigid discipline, the generosity with which you have succored the orphan and the unfortunate, without inquiries, and even when knowing them to be enemies, are virtues which have not escaped my notice, and being your general, as well as of your brethren in arms, the volunteers, fill me with pride. I thank all, and particularly those Cuban militiamen who, taking part in your actions, have magnified their loyalty; and why should I not ardently congratulate you, merchants, in fact all who compose this worthy people? Workmen, anxious for peace, you offered even your lives to end the war. Citizens, you rendered efficient aid, proffering resources to government as one man. Lovers of your country, you have elevated its credit in a manner that has no example in history. Preserve this precious union, which is your strength; fear nothing from the future. With the help of God, whom only unthinking men despise, and that of honest men, your Captain General hopes soon to pacify the island and congratulate you anew.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.

HAVANA, Jan. 6, 1870.

As plausible as this is it may well be doubted if Spain, in the present bankrupt condition of her treasury, and with the embers of revolution burning all over her home provinces, at any moment ready and likely to burst into a flame, would go to all this immense expense of men and treasure if there were no necessity for it and only for the purpose of affording equal gratification to the people of these various provinces. A significant admission is found in the statement that this climate is fatal to Europeans in the summer, meaning thereby that military operations cannot be carried on at that time. Though this is patent enough it has been denied, and its truthfulness, thus admitted, shows with what intelligence the Cubans depend on the climate as their most powerful ally in keeping up the war. His Excellency is careful to ignore the method of warfare adopted by the insurgents, and from which Spain has suffered so much in the past, and judges the operations by the rules applying to ordinary contests in the field. As to the rest, it is but a recapitulation of the same old, old stories, and adds no new hope to a near termination of the insurrection.

Appropos of proclamations, the Commanding General of Santi Espiritu, Zacarias G. Goyneche, not to be outdone by this chief and cheap method of warfare, has issued one to the people of that jurisdiction and the world at large. He states that the necessary forces have been concentrated to crush out the germs of insurrection which still remain in that locality. It gives a long resume of operations during the past month, made up of attacks on encampments or bands of insurgents, the usual two or three killed, and arms, horses, &c., captured.

The *Imparcial* of Trinidad, in a partial review of the situation, published on the 6th, says the estates have continued grinding with sufficient freedom during the past fifteen or twenty days. Fires in the cane have been few and quickly extinguished. Detachments of troops have established themselves at various points in the hills of the jurisdiction, for the purpose of being better enabled to operate against the enemy. Several columns were constantly moving through the district. Two insurgents, named Rodriguez and Lugones, respectively, have been shot. A Trinidad letter of the 5th says:—"The insurrection is growing worse, if anything, and all reports to the contrary cannot be relied on."

A letter from Remedios reports an encounter with 200 insurgents not far from that place. They had three killed. Correspondence from Holguin, the 30th, speaking of the force which went out recently under the command of Señor Morales de las Rios, to attack the insurgents in the hill of Vilaro, says that no particulars of the expedition are known, but it is understood that the chief does not intend to abandon said hill until the enemy are completely exterminated.

From Cienfuegos we learn, through Spanish sources, that five additional estates have been partially destroyed in that jurisdiction. The press makes no mention of these, as the destruction of an estate seems to be regarded like the loss of a battle.

The following gunboats arrived here from New York yesterday:—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. No. 4 arrived a few days since. They were received with much enthusiasm. The Captain General and suit went out beyond the Morro Castle on a small steamer to meet them, and they entered to the music of several bands, surrounded by the boats decked with flags, and amid the enthusiastic cries of the populace, which lined the shores. The Captain General made a visit

to No. 4 during the afternoon and minutely examined her, making numerous inquiries concerning the build, machinery and sea-going qualities of the vessel. In addition to the gunboats we have now in the harbor the iron-clad Vitoria and Zaragoza and the frigates Uerona, Almanza, Naras de Tolozo and Pizarro. No American man-of-war has visited us for some months.

Last month a commission, composed of Messrs. Colome, More, Pulido and others, was nominated by the Captain General for the purpose of reporting your plan for guarding the various sugar estates located in exposed situations. The practice now in vogue of allowing the planters to arm men for that purpose has many objectionable features, not the least among which is that in this manner a large body of reckless adventurers are thus gathered together in squads over the country, not responsible to military authority and disposed perhaps at any time to take the law into their own hands. The commission reported a few days ago that the best method is to increase the mounted rural police by enlistments from the regular army of those whose term of service is nearly expired and who may be disposed to enter the organization voluntarily. Should this plan be adopted the difficulties of the situation will doubtless be overcome. The mounted police on the island now number 4,000 and enjoys an excellent reputation for discipline.

Startling rumors in reference to affairs in Spain have been rife here within a few days. For example, that Prim had retired from the government. Serrano been declared King and De Rodas called home to command the army.

The Way the War is Carried On in Cuba—Murder of Innocent Citizens—Murders and Robberies by Spanish Officers—An Old Man Chopped to Pieces and Thrown at His Daughters.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 31, 1869.

Valmaseda's contra-guerrilla force has been distinguishing itself lately in the Hongozongo and Canto districts, and have caused to disappear some twenty persons, several of them estate owners of some standing and, if not French subjects, at all events, of French descent. One of these, a man named Lacraiz, was seventy years of age. Another, named Laterrade, lived on a small estate and had hired two Spanish volunteers to protect it and him from the rebels. His death is attributed to a certain Menendez, an officer of the contra-guerrilla, who, it is said, shot him and the two volunteers, in order to plunder the estate, and burned their bodies. Don Eugenio Stable, an old and wealthy planter, has also disappeared, and with him some six white men engaged on his estate, and though it is given out by government partisans that he has been carried off by the insurgents there is little doubt that he has gone the same road as the others.

The crime for which these men have suffered is simply living on their estates and looking after their own interests, and thereby interfering with the commercial operations of the military authorities, who are in the habit of appropriating large quantities of produce and selling it in town. Indeed, the idea is seriously entertained by many that it is the intention to frighten away from that quarter as many white men as possible and to kill off the rest in order to seize upon the cocoa and coffee now ready to be for warded to market. This supposition would seem monstrous and incredible but for the well known rapacity of Spanish officials, of which almost daily examples are seen. People residing in this city have seen coffee arrive here which the knew was picked on their estates and sold for account of some commissariat officers, and dare not say a word, as it would insure their deaths. It is said that the Governor of Manzanillo made one man buy his own cows, in despite of all his remonstrances and the proofs he offered that they were already his property. The great opening, however, for plunder is in the despatching of convoys. When mules are required to take food into the country the government sends armed soldiers into the streets, who by force rob the people of all the mules they can find, in many cases taking the mule from a loaded cart, leaving the owner to get it home as best he can. The great mass of these animals never come back again, and doubtless government is charged with their hire and the proceeds placed in the pockets of the officials. The same system is pursued in the country. "You will furnish—carts and the necessary number of oxen for the use of the commissariat or the service in general" is the style of order issued, and both are taken away from their work on the estates to attend probably to some fancied requirements of the nearest ensign or lieutenant—for this district is now a military pandemonium, and the lowest officer in the army has power of life and death over nearly all its inhabitants. On an estate where an officer is quartered he is absolute lord, and in case of anything happening which he does not like threatens to shoot the owner or overseer. Numerous instances of small tyranny are mentioned. On one estate the officer wanted to send a messenger on a private errand to Guantanamo, some ten or fifteen leagues distant. The owner and overseer informed him that none of the negroes knew the way. "Very well," he responded, "then one of you will have to go;" and the matter was compromised by obtaining the services of a negro on an adjoining estate acquainted with the road. A wealthy and respected citizen of this place recently went to inspect his sugar estate, and began his conversation about business with the overseer in French, when the officer told him to shut up his gabble and talk only Castilian in his presence.

Near Palma Goriana lived an old man named Vival, with his two daughters, in a small house by the roadside. He was well known to all the military commanders, who was wont to stop at his house, and would usually leave him a little biscuit or bacon with which, and what they were enabled to raise from their garden, the family maintained themselves, refusing offers of some officers to escort them into Palma, as they considered themselves quite safe where they were. Recently, a Captain Guzman, of Valmaseda's contra-guerrillas, came that way, entered and took possession of the house and began treating the young women with the greatest insolence. Tiring of this and observing a pet poodle of theirs, he had it cut in two and a portion of it thrown at each of the girls. Gratified at the effect of this little joke and warming at the sight of blood, though only a poodle's, he had the old man dragged into the garden and there literally chopped to pieces, and is reported to have carried his barbarity to the extent of throwing bits of the father at the daughters. He then dragged the wretched women with him to Palma, forcing them to wade a river on the way while perspiring from their walk. Arriving at Palma an officer friendly with the Vivals, seeing the two girls in this woful plight, remonstrated with Guzman, who, in response, told him to mind his own business, as this was his way of setting the insurgents. Tomas Stable, brother of Eugenio herein mentioned, recently left here to inquire into the fate of his brother; but he never reached Cobre, whither he was bound, and it is supposed he, too, has been murdered.

These incidents are but samples of what is going on in the country constantly, and show the fiendish cruelty with which the war is being carried on against the insurgents.