

The shelving of the Captain General, with "on the tapis" of another, has not improved matters, and the plethora of proclamations have not brought about any important victories tending to better the condition of affairs.

GENERAL JOVELLAR

is said to belong to that group of Spanish generals who never conspire, but who has devoted himself to his profession so ardently as to have become one of the most cultivated of Spanish generals. Neither is he new to the Island of Cuba. Years ago he was Military Governor, and married a native of the island. During the war in Africa General O'Donnell, confided to him the important direction of the campaign, and he won for his services the rank of brigadier. His talents, it is said, have always shown to better advantage in the Cabinet, and as Under Secretary of War he has often rendered important and efficient service. His creed is law and his politics to execute the law. When, on the 2d of June, 1865, the first shot was fired of the revolution, which two years afterwards was consummated, General Jovellar was wounded in the streets, where he was defending the constituted authorities. Upon the success of the revolution of September, 1868, he was charged with the military government of Madrid, for which service he got the rank of lieutenant general. Since he has filled several important offices, and for a while was Deputy during Sagasta's Ministry. He is reputed to possess notable administrative and executive qualities, and in the despatch of business will sign nothing at random, but acquaint himself thoroughly with the questions submitted to his decision. His personal appearance is tall and thin, about forty-eight years of age, with a sad face, marked by a scar from a wound received in battle and lined with care, and partly concealed by a mustache and imperial.

During the passage he was so unfortunate as to have one of his sons, who accompanied him, a youth of fifteen, lose his reason. General Jovellar is separated from his wife, on the ground of infidelity on her part.

OTHER OFFICERS.

The new Civil Governor Rebullida and the Intendente General Cancio Villaamil, who has been looked to as the savior of the financial state of the island, were also passengers by the same steamer, and have each taken charge of their offices.

Capture of the Virginus.

HAVANA, Nov. 5—P. M.

As I close my letter I am advised of the reception last night by the Captain General of a telegram announcing the capture by the Spanish gunboats of the steamer Virginus within the waters of Jamaica and between Jamaica and Santiago de Cuba.

The Spaniards captured the steamer and 136 expeditionists, among whom are said to be the chiefs Bernabé de Varona, alias Bembeta; Ryan, Jesus del Sol and Santa Rosa. All these are now prisoners at Santiago de Cuba, and proceedings are to-day commenced against them. This news has spread like wild-fire throughout the city and created immense excitement.

I reopen this letter at the last moment to add the following additional details, just circulated in an extra of the *Official Gazette*:

The Virginus was sighted by the Spanish war steamer Tornado at half-past two o'clock on the afternoon of the 31st ult., and captured near the coast of Jamaica at ten o'clock the same day. To accelerate her speed the Virginus threw part of her cargo overboard and fed her furnaces with provisions.

A brother of President Cespedes and a son of General Quesada are also among the captured. The extra adds that the expeditionists are being tried by court martial as pirates.

NEWS FROM HAVANA.

Spanish Acknowledgment of the Precarious Condition of Cuba—Armed Insurrection and Financial Unsteadiness—The New Captain General Enlightened—Personal Appearance of the Chief of the Executive—The Capture of the Virginus Announced.

HAVANA, Nov. 5, 1873.

Cuba has again another Captain General at the head of her government—number seven since the insurrection—but never before has the arrival of this "superior authority" been looked for with more anxiety, never before have so many hopes and fears been founded upon his coming. Spanish Havana journals do no longer conceal the fact that the island is in a very bad and precarious condition, and in speaking of the present state of affairs which the Captain General has to encounter, and the many difficulties he will meet with at once upon taking command of this province, the *Foz de Cuba*, the mouthpiece of the most radical element of Spanish conservatism in Cuba, a paper that believes in the divine right of kings, the apologist of Charles VII, the Carlist pretender, and the advocate for establishing the law of suspects in Cuba and all other sanguinary and and cruel laws, confesses that never since Tacon's time has the island been in a worse state. There exists an armed insurrection against Spain, which, after having been cornered and reduced to the necessity of hiding its weak and expiring condition in the mountain fastnesses of the Central and Eastern departments, has recruited its forces, has reorganized and reunited its elements for war, and in many places where even its very existence was doubted has recently taken the initiative and successfully realized surprizes and other warlike manœuvres, which have greatly emboldened and strengthened its existence. There is, moreover, an economic question of the greatest importance, which has already caused great evils to the country and may result in its complete financial ruin if a remedy be not soon applied. Public morals also are in a lax state, and that horrible cancer of any society, gambling, has nearly reached the point at which Tacon once found it in unbridled sway. Affairs are in a very bad state, and it is necessary to acknowledge it, and that a heroic remedy is needed for their relief. The origin of the evil, according to the *Foz*, is obvious, and has been demonstrated so often as not to need repetition. Gold has risen to very high rates, and at present is quoted at fifty per cent premium. This fact alone answers for incalculable damages to the commercial interests of the country.

The state of the insurrection is not at all pleasant for Spanish eyes to contemplate, and recent events are sufficiently disconsolate for them.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

The *Foz de Cuba*—a misnomer by the way—continues its jeremiad of evils by throwing all the blame of this deplorable state of affairs for the Spaniards in Cuba on the fatal policy of the Spanish republican Ministers of Ultramar, Pi y Margall and Suñer y Capdevila. "What did these demagogues care for national integrity in the colonies, when they were endeavoring to break it up the peninsula itself?" The *Foz* continues in the same dolefully indignant strain, but states that, as an act of justice to General Jovellar, he should be frankly informed of the bad state of political affairs, and be the blame to whom it may.

The truth is that

EVERYTHING HAS GONE FROM BAD TO WORSE, not only in the political, but also in the economic, military and civil point of view; and, for a climax, attempts have been made to introduce religious schism and still further disturb the agitated elements of which the island is composed. But the *Foz de Cuba*, as well as the entire unconstitutional Spanish Havana Conservative press, trusts—as they have candidly trusted upon the arrival of every new Captain General on the shores of Cuba—in the good intentions of General Jovellar, and that he will very soon put a stop to the present condition of things and initiate a new era (or error?) for Cuba.

CITIZEN OPINION CONFIRMED.

Another journal, the *Legalidad* (republican), and reported as General Pieltain's organ, calmly admits that the circumstances under which General Jovellar comes to the command of Cuba are difficult, but by no means insuperable, and consigns a meed of praise to the late Captain General Candido Pieltain, stating that it is impossible to surpass this General in his good intentions; but such are not alone sufficient for these difficult circumstances, which arise from multiple causes, which it is not now the time to examine, but only to find a remedy for them. Two capital facts, however, stand forth in bold relief—the civil war and the economic war, both of which demand the greatest sacrifices, firmness of character and real patriotism. This civil war has consumed \$150,000,000 and 50,000 lives of soldiers, the youth of Spain, who have been torn from their homes and from production, the national benefit, and taken to a distant province to shed their blood in defence of the national integrity, a most precious sacrifice which Spain makes for the interests of the population of her colonies, and such demands unconditional gratitude and respect on the part of those who accept the great benefit of the protection and security of their wealth. The foregoing will sufficiently show the expectant tone of the press and the dismal picture presented to the eyes of the man who has yesterday taken command of the Island of Cuba.

THE PROGRAMME

of the new superior officer will probably be published within a day or two in the shape of addresses to the inhabitants of the "ever faithful," to the army, navy, volunteers, &c., &c. Since 1868 the rebellion has dragged its slow length along, and the end is not likely to be reached by "addresses."