

CUBA.

The Captain and Crew of the Virginus Executed by the Spaniards.

FORTY-NINE PERSONS SHOT TO DEATH.

Bloody Scenes at Santiago de Cuba.

DEADLY DOINGS DURING TWO DAYS.

Franchi Alfaro's Bid for Life.

Special History of the Tornado's Pursuit and Seizure of the Ship.

Names of the Principal Prisoners and Designation of the Place of Capture.

Arrest of Passengers from New York at Havana.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.
HAVANA, Nov. 12, 1873.

On the 7th inst. the Captain and thirty-six of the crew of the steamer Virginus were executed at Santiago de Cuba, and on the next day (8th) twelve more of the Cuban volunteers on the vessel were shot. Among the latter was Franchi Alfaro.

Senor Franchi Alfaro's Bid for Life.

HAVANA, Nov. 12, 1873.

The despatch from Santiago de Cuba, announcing the execution of Captain Fry and the crew of the Virginus and twelve more of the Cuban patriots, says that Franchi Alfaro, who was among the latter number, offered the Spanish authorities \$1,000,000 if they would spare his life.

The Spaniards say that Alfaro came to assume the Presidency of the so-called Cuban Republic.

Passengers from New York Arrested at Havana.

HAVANA, Nov. 12, 1873.

Several passengers, both men and women, by the steamer City of New York, from New York November 6, which arrived here yesterday, were arrested by the Spanish authorities on landing.

It is reported that they are accused of complicity with the insurgents.

The Spanish Court Martial Still in Session—Persons Who were Among the Crew—The Place of Death.

HAVANA, Nov. 12, 1873.

The court martial for the trial of those captured on the Virginus is still in session, working with all possible despatch.

Among the crew, and disguised as freemen, were Ignacio, Alfaro, Boes, Arce Varona, Castellanos, Pineda Mola, Boitel and other persons of importance.

Captain Joseph Fry was manifestly aware of the object of the expedition and the nature of the cargo, which he was tempted to take charge of by the large sum of money offered him, thinking that there were 99 chances in 100 of his landing in safety. It is thought that this will be the final effort of the insurrectionists.

THE PLACE OF DEATH.

The Captain and crew were shot by a squad of marines in the public square.

Twelve of the insurgents were shot in front of the slaughter-house wall, yesterday morning, at half past eleven o'clock.

Colonial Press Opinion of the Punishment.

HAVANA, Nov. 12, 1873.

The *Voz de Cuba* of to-day, says editorially, that it is as humane as anybody, more so than many who make ostentatious professions of philanthropy, but it cannot do less than approve of the energy displayed toward all rebels, and particularly toward those whom the filibustering steamer Virginus brought to make more bloody war in Cuba.

How the Capture of the Virginus was Accomplished—Spanish Consular Despatch from Jamaica to Cuba—The Tornado Sent to Sea—Her Cruise and Place of Seizure—Names of the Principal Prisoners—The Court Martial, Sentences and Death—American Consular Telegram Detained.

HAVANA, Nov. 8, 1873.

The capture of the Cuban expeditionist steamer Virginus by the Spanish man-of-war Tornado has killed the Spaniards with joy. The press is particularly jubilant over the affair, and everything relating to the subject is eagerly seized upon and published with great demonstrations of patriotism and joy, and the action of the authorities, precipitate and illegitimate as it will be considered by many civilized persons, in ordering and carrying into effect the execution of the principal leaders is much applauded. But I anticipate.

I propose to give the *HERALD* a succinct account from information received up to date by the arrival of the steamer Cienfuegos at Batavia, which left Santiago de Cuba on the 2d inst., of the movements and final capture of the Virginus and fate of the unfortunate expeditionists.

The Virginus, shortly after the departure of the French steamer *Santiago* de Cuba, left Jamaica on the 24th ult. It was the intention of the expeditionists on board to sail direct for the shores of Cuba, but a slight damage to the machinery obliged them to enter a port of Hayti, thence they left, touching at Port au Prince (Hayti) and another port of the same island, until the 30th, upon which day they concluded to sail for Cuba and attempt the landing.

On this day the Spanish Consul at Kingston advised the Governor at Santiago de Cuba that

the Virginus was in the vicinity of Morrant Bay, Jamaica. As it happened the Spanish man-of-war Tornado had that morning arrived at Santiago de Cuba, and Governor Burriel immediately communicated to her Commander, Costilla, his information, which caused her to leave four hours afterwards. The following day, the 31st, the Tornado under full sail and but little steam on, as some slight repairs were being made to her machinery, came in sight of the Virginus, which probably supposed the Tornado to be a sailing vessel, as her course was not changed. On the Tornado every effort was made to hasten the repairs they were engaged in, and at two o'clock the chief engineer pronounced them completed.

NEARING THE PRIZE.

All at once possible was immediately got up and the vessel headed for the Virginus, soon reaching a speed of fourteen knots and slowly gaining upon her.

The Virginus had in the meantime kept on her course, but, divining the hostile intentions of the Tornado, changed it towards Jamaica, and, being out of coal, commenced to burn petroleum, grease, fat and other combustibles from the provisions on board, such as hams, &c. Night closed in and the vessels were in the same relative positions, the Tornado, however, gaining upon her prey. The bright light of the full moon kept the Virginus in plain sight, and her two masts and dense clouds of smoke, on account of the nature of her fuel, were clearly visible to the slowly gaining Tornado.

Further to facilitate their flight they threw overboard horses, cannon and many cases of arms and ammunition—afterwards stated to be 2,000 Remingtons, a mitrailleuse, seven horses and a quantity of powder and small arms.

BROUGHT TO.

As soon as they got within gunshot the Tornado fired a gun, followed by three other shots and a shell. This brought the Virginus to, and two armed boats from the Tornado came alongside, took possession of the vessel, and made prisoners of all on board.

THE AMERICAN FLAG FLYING AT THE MOMENT.

At the moment of the capture the Virginus was flying the American flag, but this was pulled down by the Spanish officer and the Spanish ensign hoisted in its place, although the papers of the vessel, duly despatched for Colon, were handed to him.

The vessel at the time

WAS IN BRITISH WATERS

and within a league, as I am positively assured, of the coast of Jamaica. On this point all the accounts differ. One gives the capture as having been effected at twenty miles from Jamaica, and the official account states twelve miles. The *Diario* states at twenty-three miles, journals of the Tornado of Cuba eight miles and twenty miles, and the version of the *Voz de Cuba* twelve miles. The commander of the Tornado publicly stated in Santiago de Cuba that an hour later and the Virginus could have saved herself by entering some port of Jamaica.

AFTER THE CAPTURE THE PRISONERS.

After the capture the next two hours were employed in transferring some of the prisoners to the Tornado and putting a prize crew on the Virginus.

THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS

of the expedition were Bernabé de Varona, better known as "Bembeta," Jesus del Sol, General Ryan and Pedro Cespedes, a brother of the Cuban President, and the total number of persons on board amounted to 165, of whom 90 are said to be natives of the island and the remainder foreigners. Of these 165 persons 63 are thought to form the crew of the steamer, and the names of the remainder are here given in continuation:—

Bernabé Varona, alias Nicolas Ramirez.
General Ryan.
Pedro Cespedes.
Arturo Mola.
Jose Diaz.
Francisco de Porras.
Juan Marrero.
Alfredo Lopez.
Leon Yarnacio Lamar.
Andrés Vial.
Andrés Acosta.
Francisco Castillo.
Jose Mado.
Francisco Gonzalez.
Leonardo Alvarez.
Jose Hernandez.
Ygnacio Quintan Beltran.
Benito Glodes.
Nicolas Ruiz.
Jose Botte.
Ramon Calvé.
Silverio Salas.
Francisco Castellanos.
Alejandro Calvé.
Jesus del Sol.
Leon Bernabé.
Gil Montero.
Amador Roselló.
Manuel A. Silverio.
Jose Otero.
Antonio Gomez.
Luis Martinez.
Pedro Salazar.
Manuel Padron.
Feliz Fernandez.
Ramon Barrios.
Jose Santesteban.
Francisco Pacheco.
Ramon Gonzalez.
Francisco Cabrera.
Carlos Pacheco.
Enrique Canals.
Domingo Diaz.
Oscar Varona.
Pedro Sarti.
Miguel Sayá.
Século Mendive.
Enrique Ayala.
Domingo Rodriguez.
Luis Rodriguez.
William S. Valls.
Manuel Meneses.

Among these are supposed to be many other persons of importance as yet not identified, or who have adopted false names, as the names of Santa Rosa and Quesada do not appear.

HOW GOT OFF FROM THE PANAMA Isthmus.

The vessel had papers in order and was despatched for Colon, all these parties appearing on the papers as laborers for the railroad building there.

BOMBETA TO THE SPANISH OFFICER.

It is stated that after being taken by the Tornado Bembeta addressed her commander to the following effect:—"Congratulations! him on the capture he had made, and stating to him that he did not as yet comprehend its importance; that he was not aware what elements there were on board nor the effect they would produce when disseminated through the island, and that, possibly, the capture of the Virginus might bring about the termination of the insurrection, as it was the last effort of the Junta of New York, which had expended \$200,000 on the expedition, and, further, that he had over confided in the fast sailing qualities of the Virginus, as he did not believe that there was any vessel-of-war that could match her speed—sixteen knots per hour." It must be doubted, as it cannot be denied—as General Varona has since been executed—that he made any remarks resembling the foregoing, undoubtedly attached to him for effect; as the *Diario* cunningly remarks, that these words of Bembeta dissipate all doubt, if any could be entertained, of the real intention of the expeditionists of the Virginus, and that proofs are abundant to prove that the pursuit of the Virginus was commenced within Spanish waters and the capture effected on the high sea, twenty-three miles from the coast of Jamaica and about seventy miles from that of Cuba.

MAKING FOR SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

But to continue my narrative in order. At midnight that night the two vessels started for Santiago de Cuba and arrived the following day at five o'clock in the afternoon, having been joined by the Spanish steamer Cantabria. A fact alone of seventeen hours' steaming tends to prove that they were at a considerable distance from Cuba and very near Jamaica, the distance between the two islands being, as is not much

IN PORT.

Upon arrival into port the Virginus and Cantabria were met by a large number of people. The governor, an immense crowd of buildings were illumined at palace and other public civil and military, and all the authorities, Burriel, upon the arrival, went to facilitate the Governor, brilliant reception, the news, who in the evening gave the vessel a reception.

The number of boats were surrounded in the bay by a cheer of boats, filled with bands of music and volunteers. The festivities were kept up late into the night.

THE COURT MARTIAL.

The following day (the 2d) a court martial was held on board the Tornado, which commenced at nine and terminated at four o'clock. All were tried as pirates, and the findings of the Court and

the sentences were sent to the Captain General and Admiral in sealed packets. After the Court had concluded its task, all the prisoners, with the exception of Bembeta, Jesus del Sol, General Ryan and Pedro Cespedes, were transferred to the jail of the city, escorted by a force of 100 volunteers and a number of marines.

General Burriel, it is said, coolly asked that all the prisoners should be turned over to him, with the exception of the captain and crew, who should be sent to Havana at the disposal of the Comandante General de Marina, and declared that within twenty-four hours afterwards all should be tried (?) and executed in order to avoid any complication with the exterior—that is, foreign intervention.

AMERICAN OFFICIAL TELEGRAM DETAINED.

He also detained a telegram which the United States Consul desired to forward to the United States Consul at Kingston, reporting the capture and inquiring as to the nationality of the Virginus.

HAVANA JUBILANT.

As before stated, all this news was received in Havana two days ago with great rejoicings by the Spaniards, and yesterday evening two grand and brilliant serenades were offered to the Captain General and the Commanding General of Marines respectively.

During the evening both of these high functionaries received the following telegram from General Burriel, which told the fate meted out to the four principal prisoners:—

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, NOV. 4, 1873.

TO THE CAPTAIN GENERAL AND ALL AUTHORITIES OF THE ISLAND REACHED BY THE TELEGRAPH, AND TO THE PRESIDENTS OF CASINOS:—
At six o'clock this morning the following persons were shot to death in this city as traitors to their country and insurgent leaders:—General Bernabé de Varona; General of Division, Pedro Cespedes; Commandant General of Cienfuegos, Jesus del Sol; and General of Brigade, Mr. Washington T. Ryan, in presence of all the corps of volunteers, forces of the army and navy and an immense crowd, which were present and kept the greatest order and composure.

CITIZEN REFLECTIONS.

It is useless to make any comments upon this summary execution of four of the expeditionists; it only adds another page to the bloody history of the present insurrection. General Bernabé de Varona had conducted himself with remarkable generosity towards the Spaniards while commanding in the district of Camaguey, to prevent them taken by him were invariably treated with the greatest consideration and set at liberty. Numerous Spaniards are indebted to him for their lives, and it is universally acknowledged in this island that he was as brave in battle as he was generous to the conquered. At one time he captured a party of soldiers belonging to the Battalion Habana. He not alone granted them their liberty, but escorted them up to within a short distance of Puerto Príncipe, to prevent them falling into the hands of other insurgent bands.

The public interest is greatly excited about the fate of the remainder of the prisoners. No further official intelligence has been received from Santiago de Cuba. The telegraph is interrupted. It has been rumored that eight more of the prisoners were shot on the 5th, and that one out of every five of the prisoners would be executed.

No other government under the sun would proceed in this summary manner without remonstrances of some decided nature by the civilized world. And thus ends the ill-fated expedition of the Virginus. It yet remains to be seen what steps will be taken by the governments of Great Britain and the United States in regard to this matter, and if it is to be again proven that the treaty of 1763 between Spain and the United States is a dead letter.

At this juncture it may be well to recall to mind the decree issued by CAPTAIN GENERAL DULCE in March, 1869, which created considerable excitement in the United States, and which was evoked on account of Mr. Fish, then Secretary of State of the United States, protesting against the erroneous attitude assumed by General Dulce, who, like most of his race, seemed to presume that Spain could threaten the world and overshadow all nations with her power.

AMERICAN OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT.

The news of the appointment of Mr. Henry C. Hall as Consul General of the United States at the Island of Cuba reached Havana yesterday by telegraph, and was received with great satisfaction by American residents. Mr. Hall has for years discharged the duties of Consul at Matanzas, has frequently had charge of the Havana office, and has won for himself very general esteem.

Progress of the War—The Insurgents Repulsed.

HAVANA, Nov. 12, 1873.

Manzanillo was attacked from every direction by the insurgents in considerable force. Fighting lasted until three o'clock P. M., when the rebels were driven off.