

CUBA.

The Virginis Story as Related by the Tornado's Commander.

THE CHASE AND CAPTURE.

Butcher Burriel's Brutal Treatment of the United States Consul.

Schmitt's Protests Like Water on a Duck's Back.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE CAPTURE.

Castillo, the commander of the Tornado, has made the following report of the chase, capture and boarding of the Virginis to the naval authorities at Havana. It is dated from Santiago de Cuba.—In conformity with orders received by me, as commander of the corvette Tornado, to carefully watch the coast between Cape Cruz and Santiago de Cuba, I left the latter port on the 25th of October. On that night I remained in close proximity to the land between the points indicated, being led to believe by certain calculations that whatever might be the maneuvers of the Virginis during the night, it was evident that during the day she must lie well off, partly to avoid being seen and partly to reserve her resources until the proper moment for landing should arrive. During the night of the 30th inst. we continued our cruise without incident, and had started on a new course at daybreak, the next morning, when the man on the lookout reported seeing the smoke of a steamer, proceeding in the direction of Jamaica. With the view of ascertaining what she was, and at the same time to save as much fuel as possible, we followed her, hugging the coast for about 13 miles, when she changed her course to southeast by south.

From the first moment that we saw her there was great activity on board, the whole of the steam power from all the boilers being brought into requisition, and at about half-past two o'clock in the afternoon we commenced to give chase.

The position and course of the vessel principally, if not for other reasons, led me to believe that this craft was none other than the filibuster Virginis, for I imagined that she was proceeding from Jamaica to Cuba when we saw her, but failing, under the circumstances, to land on the island of Cuba, she had turned about again for Jamaica. These suspicions were confirmed by her sudden change of course and the evident activity on board to make all the speed possible, as flames could be seen emanating with the smoke from her funnels. In addition to this we now saw, by the light of the moon, when she changed her tack, her two smokestacks and paddle-boxes. I instructed the engineer to carry on all steam possible and drive our vessel through the water as quickly as he could. Owing to the darkness we thought she was about five miles ahead and hoped to overhaul her before she made Point Morante.

At half-past nine, while in her immediate neighborhood, we fired five shots, and shortly afterwards sent out two boats, under the command of Don Enrique Pardo and Don Angel Ortiz, with orders to take possession of the Virginis in the name of the Spanish nation. The report of these officers has already been made, and I content myself with informing you that, at eleven o'clock at night, the Virginis, flying the Spanish flag, was headed towards Cuba, having on board a prize crew, after we had removed the bulk of the prisoners on board our vessel.

The cargo of arms and war munition was thrown overboard during the chase, but the empty cases fell into our possession, including cartridges and other articles, which are included in the inventory which I have already handed in to the authorities.

The enthusiasm of the crew simply baffles description, when success crowned our efforts. The prisoners were treated with such consideration as their character deserved and the necessity of their safe keeping demanded. The Virginis, under our convoy, reached Santiago de Cuba on November 1, at five o'clock in the evening, when our arrival was made the signal of a genuine outburst of patriotic enthusiasm.

The importance of this expedition, when the number and rank of the prisoners are considered, cannot be overrated. In addition to the severe lesson that we have given to the enemies of Spain, the capture has made the inhabitants of Santiago delirious with enthusiasm. I make no reference to the conduct of our men, but will simply say that their conduct, from the highest to the lowest, is worthy of all praise, and when I say that the men were Spaniards, working for Spanish interests, you will understand all. Upon my arrival in port here I gave official information of the capture to the authorities, and what must now follow has to be dictated by the officers of justice. In conclusion I have only to add that I congratulate the officers of the Tornado, from the highest to the lowest, for the severe lesson that they have given to the enemies of our country. DIONISIO COSTILLA.

Another Description of the Chase.

One of the officers on board gives a further description of the chase to a friend in Havana, and shows more clearly the extent of the much-mouthing enthusiasm of the men and officers of the Tornado. This letter also comes from Santiago de Cuba under date of the 5th of November. After relating the capture of an apparently armless cruise he states that the meeting with the Virginis was a drama of the greatest interest in the history of the cause of Spain—one that, for the future, must entirely overcast the designs of her enemies, and one that compensates them for the long waiting and evil reports they have had to endure in the past. But in a moment of pride, during which he appears to mount up to heaven in his extravagant joy, he says:—"The usual routine and monotony of our sea life has been broken. What a favorable circumstance for us! I have seen all, was present at all, personally noted all the details and took an active part in them; and, believe me when I say it, it appears to me now as but a dream, the most delightful dream of my existence. It was time that we had made a capture, and now it is accomplished. How clearly the hand of God may be seen in it. While cruising between Cape Cruz and Santiago de Cuba, on our mission of watching the coast, knowing well that the Virginis would try and land at night and escape by day to some neutral port, we learned, by the alarm signal, on the 26th of October, that the enemy was on the alert. The cruisers Don Juan d'Austria and Cantabria failed to notice the signal, and the task accordingly devolved on us. The news that the lookout had seen from Boca Caballeros a two-funnelled side-wheel and suspicious steamer. On the afternoon of the 31st October, at half-past two, we saw in the direction S. E. by E. the smoke of the steamer we were in quest of. We then crowded on sail, and ran under a full head of steam for some time, till the Virginis saw us and headed for the south, and our craft edged rapidly ahead on her chase. How we prayed to see our dear commander to catch up with her; for if we had had her escape we should have sacrificed our honor. At last we came within range, and sent some little messengers from our 15-inch guns between her smokestacks. Bombeta Varona was brought on board among the first, and stated that the capture of the Virginis was a mortal blow to the Cuban cause. The Virginis and her prisoners were then conveyed to Santiago de Cuba. The Spanish Casino and the clubs of the volunteers of San Carlos have given a banquet in our honor. The merchant sailors sympathized enthusiastically with their brave comrades on the Virginis."

Proclamation by Governor Burriel.

The following address has been made by Burriel the Butcher, at Santiago de Cuba:—

CIVIL DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT
IN THE ORIENTAL DEPARTMENT, NOV. 4, 1873.
HABITANTS OF THIS JURISDICTION:—
The following General, Jesus del Sol, Varona

Pedro Cepedades and Ryan, have been executed. The inevitable demands of the law must be fulfilled. I regret "vehemently" that this is not the last occasion I am called upon to fulfil this painful task, but the law must be punished in the interests of our country and for its salvation. Let it be hoped that this may serve as a lesson to wandering bands of disaffected men now in the island of Cuba. They say so, but if they repent in time, they may rely on the clemency of the government, which will overlook the extravagance of their past. Your Governor, JUAN N. BURRIEL.

Burriel Yelling at and Insulting the United States Consul—Pleety versus Barbarism—Worshipping the Saints by Murdering Human Beings.

HAVANA, Nov. 12, 1873.

Further advices have been received from Santiago de Cuba by private correspondence and the published official despatches relative to the capture of the steamer Virginis and summary execution of a great number of the persons who came aboard her. The Spanish war steamer Bazan came by yesterday afternoon, two days from Santiago de Cuba, with important despatches for the Captain General, and is preparing to leave at a moment's notice. Further information regarding the fate of the expeditionists state that:

FIFTY-TWO MORE HAVE BEEN EXECUTED.

Joseph Fry, the Captain of the Virginis, and 36 of the crew were shot on the 11th, and on the 6th 15 of the passengers were shot. It is stated that among those shot was Don Franchi Alfaro, who offered \$100,000 to save his life, and further, the Havana papers state this morning that he came to take charge of the Presidency of the Cuban Republic. The courts martial, both military and marine, are still conducting their cases with the utmost despatch, but apparently the captured are being

SHOT FIRST AND TRIED AFTERWARDS.

Public opinion has it that the Captain General, some days since, received a telegram from Spain to suspend all executions, and that this has angered him exceedingly. A great deal of telegraphing has been going on between the chief authority of Cuba and that of Spain. Private letters from Santiago de Cuba, with dates to the 5th inst., state the conduct of the United States Consul in this matter and the published official reports. These give the particulars of the chase and capture in detail, from which it is learned that the Tornado, when it first discovered the Virginis, was cruising on a parallel of 18 miles distant from the coast of Cuba. None of the accounts agree upon the precise distance from Jamaica at the time of the capture; it has been given variously at 23, 20, 18, 16 and even narrowed down to six miles. It will, perhaps, be eventually admitted that the vessel was in British waters at the time. The official reports further bear witness to the efforts of the Virginis to escape, and the fact of a large leak in her bow, which retarded her speed, and for which she has since been grounded at Santiago de Cuba to prevent her sinking.

THE VIRGINIS WHEN CAPTURED.

The vessel was found at the moment of her capture to be in a very confused and disordered condition—boxes and cases broken open and their contents of arms and ammunition thrown into the sea. Even when the boarding parties came on board this operation was actively carried on until stopped. It seemed to be the intention of the expeditionists to destroy and throw overboard everything, rather than allow anything of value to fall into the hands of their captors. The immediate cause of her capture may be stated to be the want of proper fuel, the leak in the bow and the bright moonlight. Great enthusiasm was exhibited in Santiago de Cuba upon the arrival of the vessels on Saturday, the 1st of November.

THE FIRST EXECUTIONS.

The next day court martials were convened to try the prisoners captured. The marine court has charge of the trial of the crew, among whom are supposed to be a number of Cubans. The sentence of death passed upon the four principal leaders of the expedition and their fate on the morning of the 6th is already known. Ryan died bravely and calmly, without flinching and apparently without regret. Bombeta was calm and fearless until the last moment, when he showed some slight emotion. Jesus del Sol and Cepedades completely broke down at the last moment. All four marched with firmness to the place of execution. The execution took place at the spot against the walls of the slaughter house and in the usual manner, eyes bandaged and kneeling. It is said that Bombeta asserted that the expedition was the last effort for Cuba, that it had cost unheard of exertions and sacrifices, and that it had required the prestige of his name and presence to set it afloat. So many rumors have been current regarding this affair that the *Diario* has deemed it necessary to caution the public against them. Private letters state that an iron case was found in the cabin of the Virginis, which had not, up to last accounts, been opened.

ACTING UNITED STATES CONSUL SCHMITT.

It was also stated that the execution of Mr. Schmitt, the United States Vice Consul at Santiago de Cuba, had been revoked for his exertions in this cause. I have been favored with a view of private letters, which set the conduct of this gentleman throughout the affair in a very favorable light, and I propose to recount his efforts in behalf of the unfortunate prisoners, among whom are a large number of American citizens. The Governor, Burriel, refused to allow the Consul to transmit a telegram to the United States Consul at Kingston inquiring as to the nationality of the Virginis. This permission was allowed him, however, on the evening of the 4th, after the execution on the morning of that day of Ryan, Bombeta, Jesus del Sol and Cepedades, and the reply from Kingston on the 5th was that the Virginis had entered that port and produced her American papers, and entered and cleared at the United States Consulate as an American vessel. The day previous to the execution, that is, on the 3d, Governor Burriel sent for Pedro Cepedades and had a secret interview of an hour with him. It is said he wished to ascertain if some arrangements could not be made through Cepedades for the surrender of his brother, the President, and other persons; but the events of the day following proved the incomplicity of the Cuban patriot.

SCHMITT'S PROTESTS—BURRIEL'S BULLYING.

The acting United States Vice Consul, Mr. Schmitt, addressed a letter of remonstrance to Governor Burriel for not allowing his telegram to pass, and not having been officially notified of the events relating to the capture of an American vessel and imprisonment of her crew and passengers, requesting permission to visit them either on board or in the jail. No notice being taken of this letter, the Consul addressed a second and third to the Governor, remonstrating against being prevented from performing his duty in the matter, and claiming for the Americans found on board the rights and privileges to which they were entitled by treaty stipulations, and respectfully protested in the name of the United States of America against the action of the Governor and all other authorities in the matter. This brought forth a sharp and angry rejoinder from Governor Burriel, in which he excuses not having answered the communications on account of grave and peremptory affairs which required all his attention, and furthermore, the fact of two days being holidays, the 1st and 2d, on which days, says his Honor (?) Excellency, the government employees do not come to their offices, but are piously engaged in contemplating the divine mysteries of All Saints' Day and the commemoration of All Souls' Day.

THREE PRIORS EXECRICES

of the government officials had prevented the worthy Governor from acknowledging the Consul's pressing communications. But all hands, the Governor included, were clamoring for the blood of the unfortunate expeditionists and hurrying up their most trusted friends to take place on the sacred days the Governor refers to. The Governor is not at all pleased at the zeal of the Consul, and tells him to protest as much as he likes, but that his officious and suspicious motives in desiring to visit the imprisoned pirates, writes the Governor, whom he, the Consul, styles passengers, make it incumbent on him to request the government to revoke his exequatur. So soon as Mr. Schmitt received the telegram from Kingston as to the American nationality of the Virginis, he communicated the fact to the Commander of Marine and Captain of the Port, and the execution of the captain, mate, first engineer and three others which had been fixed for that day was postponed, but has since taken place.

A TRUMPING SPANISH LIK.

The evening previous to Ryan's execution the Vice Consul was informed Ryan desired to see him and a notary public to make his last will. Upon going to the Governor's quarters to obtain the necessary permit, after some conversation, which, on the part of the Governor, was carried on in an exasperated and angry tone, Mr. Schmitt was informed that Ryan was an Englishman, and had so stated in his declaration. The Governor was so violent in his remarks that the Consul was obliged to remind him that he had been introduced as the representative of the United States, and took his leave.

COMPLETE LIST OF THE VIRGINIS' CREW.

The following are the names of the officers, crew and crew (a complete list of the Virginis' respective assignments on board):—

- Joseph Fry, captain.
- William H. Ryan, first officer.
- James Flood, second officer.
- J. C. Harris, third officer.
- John N. Posa, surgeon.
- R. P. Chamberlain, first engineer.
- Charles Knight, second engineer.
- Edward Day, third engineer.
- J. S. Trevitt, fourth engineer.
- Jack Williamson, first assistant.
- Henry King, second assistant.
- Portillo Corvion, purser.
- P. Alfaro, assistant purser.
- Thomas Grigg, fireman.
- Frank Good, fireman.
- Paul Ruder, fireman.
- Darney Herrold, fireman.

W. L. Knight, oiler.
James Samuel, coal passer.
Henry Frank, coal passer.
James Reed, coal passer.
Samuel Card, coal passer.
John Brown, coal passer.
Alfred Hlatel, coal passer.
W. J. Price, coal passer, formerly sailor.
George Thomas, coal passer.
Ezequiel Durham, coal passer.
Thomas Walter William, chief steward.
Simon Brown, second steward.
Leopold Lahote, mess boy.
Antoni Constantine, mess boy.
Charles de Brosa, mess boy.
A. Ard, pantry man.
William Denton, servant.
Alfred Parker, quartermaster.
William Core, sailor.
William Wilson, sailor.
Thomas Lindry, sailor.
John Freeman, sailor.
John Stewart, sailor.
Henry Bond, sailor.
George Thompson, sailor.
John Pothemont, sailor.
Edward Scott, sailor.

NEW YORKERS ARRESTED IN HAVANA.

The Chief of Police effected the arrest yesterday, on board of the steamer City of New York, of a number of passengers—two gentlemen and eight ladies, suspected of bringing insurgent correspondence. At the moment of the capture, it is said, they made an attempt to throw two carpet-bags into the sea. The similarity of names of the prisoners Joaquin and Francisco Lancia gave rise to the rumor that Rafael Lanza, editor of *La Revolucion*, had been apprehended. Francisco Bomballer, the owner of the Bombaher Express Company, was also arrested on the charge of attempting to introduce said correspondence. All the parties are in confinement at the Chief of Police's headquarters.

HAS SANTA ROSA BEEN SHOT?

A report is in circulation which states that Santa Rosa has not been found among the passengers of the Virginis, and he is supposed to have safely landed in a schooner, with 40 others, on the shores of Cuba.