

CUBAN NEWS.

The Clash Between Captain General and Mr. Williams.

It Grows Out of Charges Against a Political Offender.

Insurgent Ranks Torn by Internal Strife and Dissensions.

Ex-Leader Marrero Sent to Spain Under Arrest.

Masso Persistently Refuses All Overtures Looking to a Settlement of the Revolution.

Special Correspondence of The Times-Democrat.

Havana, March 17, 1895.

The difficulty arising between Gen. Calleja and Mr. Ramon Williams, though officially unexplained, is supposed to be due to differences of opinion regarding the nature of Dr. Julio Sanguili's coming trial. Upon this gentleman rest charges of a serious and most complicated nature. The consul claims that as an American citizen he is entitled to a civil trial. To this the General protests, saying Mr. Sanguili is not a political offender; the crime charged against him is one which debars him from all privileges, for proofs of his complicity in the secuestro of Fernandez Castor abound, as well as others, proving he was Manuel Garcia's aider and abettor in the many depredations committed by the celebrated outlaw.

So many rumors are afloat it is next to impossible to say what is most likely to be true. The odds are decidedly derogatory to Sanguili's character, the idol of the Cuban cause is shattered to atoms, and the conviction that, to his treachery is due the failure of the present uprising, makes even the meekest extremely bitter in their denunciations against the erstwhile beloved chief. Several prominent Cubans have registered savage oaths of revenge, to go into effect directly he leaves the protecting walls of the Fortress Cabanas, where he still remains a prisoner, but whence, it is believed, he will emerge a free and much richer man than he was a month ago.

These rumors are very contradictory, and yet are made clear enough when looked into more closely. As State's evidence, Mr. Sanguili's trial would end in a verdict absolving him from all participation in the deplorable rebellion, the amount promised him would be made good, afterward charges as a bandit would be brought forward, his arrest and trial would then follow and deserved punishment meted out to him under the special articles enacted to suppress brigandage in this country. It is universally conceded that Gen. Calleja has acted wisely in adopting

THE CONCILIATORY POLICY

which enables him to obtain a peaceful termination of the uprising, which prevents, through his unceasing efforts to readjust matters, much bloodshed.

Even those most addicted to the Cuban cause deplore the untimely demonstration and censure both leaders and promoters of the revolution. Had the gentlemen who reside abroad, and whose only means of support is derived from contributions generously tendered by misguided workmen from their wages, thought of the evil they were about to inflict on their countrymen, it is likely they might have hesitated ere plunging the island into such dire misery to gratify their own selfish purposes.

It is well demonstrated that peace is preferred by the lack of enthusiasm discernible everywhere and the spontaneous protestations tendered the General by all parties alike.

Matanzas and environs are quiet, and order has been restored in that province.

The Voluntarios of Bolondron, while reconnoitring about Ibarra chanced upon a deposit of arms—Winchester and Peabody rifles, machetes, 800 cartridges, screwdrivers, pincers, clothing, flags, etc.

Deserters from Iaguey La Grande presented themselves to the authorities and surrendered. After a preliminary examination all were discharged and sent home with benevolent recommendations to sin no more.

In a recent encounter between the troops and bandits under the negro Matagas, near Monte Prieto, one of the ruffians was shot. When his body was found it was recognized and identified as Cristobal Rodriguez, a desperado from Colon, where his death proved a matter of congratulation to the inhabitants.

Esteban Samayo, Belisario Ramirez and Damian Caballero, organizers and chiefs of the Partidas in Manzanillo, finding themselves minus supporters, concluded to lay down their arms and surrender at discretion. This fresh pacific victory causes intense satisfaction, while the information obtained from these leaders confirms the opinion that ere long all now engaged against the government will conclude to do likewise, for

STRIFE AND DISSENTION

prevail among the insurgents, whose aims and aspirations seem in direct contradiction to the views held by the instigators of the revolution. The men are already weary of privations and long for the comforts and luxuries of home. Masso alone preaches rebellion, and insists he must hold out in order to give his friends time to come to his assistance. Neither will he believe that the province of Matanzas has desisted from the original plan of fighting for every inch of ground ere surrendering.

Varona, father and son, appeared in Tunas, direct from Filcas, to surrender and pledge themselves to peace.

Armando Andrés y Alvarado, twenty-two years old, claiming to be an American citizen, presented himself to the alcalde of Remedios. He declares he was lost in the plains of San Marcos and wandered about aimlessly until he finally reached Caibarien. He returned yesterday in order to lay down his arms figuratively for those he failed to bring along.

The tenement house, San Nicolas 103, appearing suspicious, was raided by the chief of police, accompanied by Millan Astray, secretary of the Governor. On forcing an entrance into one of the rooms of said house a valise filled with caps and cartridges was found. The furniture con-

sisted of a new bedstead, four chairs and two rockers, placed therein to allay any fears the landlord might have concerning the solvency of his strange tenant. Besides the valise, scattered about in confusion, were 143 packages of cartridges, packed up in blue paper, on which was inscribed in black characters, "Pirotecnica Militar," and a thousand or so of caps and many other objects of the same nature too numerous to mention.

In an obscure corner a wooden box with "R. A. No. 1, Habana" painted on the side, was found filled with revolvers and balls for same. Don Ramon Morales Ponce de Leon, agent of the house, states that this particular room was engaged some time ago by a young, tall, slender man, who gave his name as

CARLOS LARRINAGA.

The tenant was never seen on the premises, neither did he occupy the room so mysteriously engaged. Now and again a woman came. She generally brought or carried away rather heavy parcels. To this circumstance alone is due the arrest of Manuel Rodriguez, hackman, who brought and waited for her each time. It is now ascertained the woman took her bundles to a man named Trujillo, who works as a carpenter in a shop on Rayo street. This man acknowledges having received arms from Larranaga, the gunsmith who was arrested some two months ago. Trujillo was arrested and conducted to the Cuartel de la Fuerza, his room was closed, the seals applied and the keys remitted to the Captain General, who, it is supposed, will pay an inquisitorial visit to this apartment. This is a rather unusual proceeding, therefore it is fair to conjecture there are serious motives underlying these precautions and ceremonies. A lieutenant of volunteers is implicated in the case, which may prove very sensational in its developments.

The persecutions of Matagas, the most wicked, cruel and fiendish bandit, is being vigorously pushed, and it is greatly to be hoped that in some encounter a chance shot will slay him and thus put an end to a career of crime. Meantime Mirabal continues depredations. A letter from Don Pedro Lopez states that all this gentleman's efforts to recover his son, who was kidnaped on the 3d of January last, have proved fruitless. Mirabal, together with his brothers, Nicasio and Jesus, are on the estate El Pilar. Their gang consists of some forty men, among whom are many new recruits. During the day they remain on the grounds, but never abandon their weapons; at night all retire to their lairs in the woods. While enjoying the hospitality of "the Pilar" they resolved to destroy the adjoining place, El Ciego, and for this purpose set out, some fifteen strong, to perform the fell work. The entire ingenio was burned down to prevent, they aver, the soldiers from finding shelter in this strategic point. Julian Bello, the so-called "Doble Insurrecto," was absent at the time. His mission consists in recruiting men, stealing cattle, taking carts, wagons and, others aver that he is commissioned to take care of the child of Lopez and on no account allow any harm to befall him.

A letter signed

LINO MIRABAL

was handed the alcalde of Nuevitas by Don Federico Machado, whose daughter picked it up while playing in the parlor. It is merely a demand for twenty-five centenes.

Dr. Marrero, ex-leader of the insurgents at Ibarra, took his departure for Spain aboard the mail steamship Reina Maria Cristina. He was held in custody by Miro, inspector of police, until the vessel left port.

La Region de Matanzas published the following interview with a follower of Dr. Marrero:

"This division was to consist of 2000 men, yet only thirty-seven mustered for camp under Dr. Marrero. Two fellows who undertook to join us were compelled to capitulate ere reaching their destination, because they could obtain no information as to his whereabouts, and also because the troops were pursuing them. Said individuals went four days without any food whatever, skulking from one forest into another. A fresh attempt to join their comrades in the Cienaga via Zapata was frustrated anew by a posse of guardias, who followed close upon and allowed them no time to recuperate from their unusual fatigue. Disheartened, weakened and almost distracted, they finally determined to abandon their wild scheme and surrender at once. They proceeded to Nuevitas, where the alcalde informed them of the General's proclamation, gave them a pass and sent them home to recount their perils.

"On the following day another unfortunate youth gave up the search after glory and told in awe-struck whispers of the dangers incurred and his miraculous escape from hunger and thirst, troops ahead impeding all idea of safety in flight, in the rear alligators ready to devour the unexpected feast thrust into their very jaws by circumstances.

"Truly, it seemed that heaven conspired against us. Even prior to the uprising we had been betrayed and denounced to the authorities; facts arose and testified against us. From the beginning and after the first skirmish, we became aware of our mistake and distinctly discerned the abyss yawning at our feet. Yet this dread paled before our amazement when we discovered that our small band was

LITERALLY HEMMED IN

by 400 soldiers. Whence had they arisen? Seven of my comrades, gathering courage from sheer desperation, fired upon the troops. Though they answered by a volley of musket shot, no one was hurt. Did they fire merely to intimidate us, or did a merciful Providence interfere to save our miserable lives?

"Then it was we determined and endeavored to escape. We penetrated further into the dense thickets and finally came upon the cienaga (swamp), and there seventeen men made their breakfast off one turtle and two field rats. This succulent repast was the first in forty-eight hours. After resting we resumed our march. Being in a marshy district we were in water up to our waists the greater part of the day. Toward evening, however, we reached a small hill, where we halted to rest, sleep or think of the penalty we might expect if fate spared and allowed us to reach civilization once more.

"When night enveloped us in her shadows one of the sentinels fancied he saw glimmering and glittering through the darkness innumerable small lights. They were creeping toward him, slowly, carefully approaching. Then he thought he heard smothered sobs. These unnerved him, so he wildly summoned his companions to come to his rescue. After some moments of indescribable confusion, anguish and dismay, we managed to kindle a fire. This took some time, for the branches were damp, caving to the moisture in the atmosphere and the heavy dew, so these proved very unsatisfactory torches, emitting as they did a weak, flitting light. But even this enabled us to measure our risks, for to our horrified gaze appeared the most dangerous and frightful foe. We were attacked in the rear by an army of alligators, whose extraordinary size and gigantic jaws gave but little hope of escape.

"Dr. Marrero ordered us to defend ourselves with machetes. With hatchets, therefore, we attacked the loathsome reptiles, and managed to keep them at bay until day dawned. Several of the monsters were killed. Their remains are on the battlefield to attest and confirm our tale.

"Under similar circumstances it is easy

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to imagine the state of mind of my comrades and myself, nor is it necessary to add how each one invariably resolved to capitulate directly a chance was offered to do so. We intended to fight men, but never dreamed we should be called upon

TO FACE ALLIGATORS.

At about 8 o'clock p. m. of that fatal, but memorable day, we were surprised by a detachment of Voluntarios. We returned the fire and managed to wound one man, but our horses, trappings, arms and ammunition were captured. Three of my friends, finding themselves powerless to resist further hardships, surrendered then and there. Two days later our leader, the doctor, laid down his arms, as did also several of his companions and quondam supporters.

"As far as I am concerned, and speaking from the standpoint of a victim (which I consider myself), I sincerely approve and extol Capt. Gen. Calleja's leniency, and together with my comrades in danger and misery protest against those who led us into a snare and jeopardized our lives and liberty and did not know how to organize so as to avert such dangers and disappointments as I describe. Had we not surrendered we should have had to contend against the elements, monsters and men. These circumstances, far from advancing our cause, would throw discredit upon it."

All conciliatory efforts, all wise representations have failed to convince Mr. Masso of the futility of his efforts to obtain the long dreamed of

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE.

The commission, composed of his best friends, was coldly received. The interview took place on a spot called La Idiosa, where Masso awaited his well wishers surrounded by 200 men. Senor Leyna harped on political motives, pointing out Cuba's engagements with the Autonomistas and Junta Central. Senor Leon Chavez demonstrated in concise and energetic language the uselessness of his attempt, for not only was Spain powerful enough to crush the insurrection, but the great majority of Cubans deplored the uprising and advocated peace. Senor Ramirez waxed pathetic as he described the uselessness of the sacrifice they were about to offer, and depicted the sufferings and misery entailed by war. Senor Ramirez begged in vain, and though he drew tears from the eyes of many bystanders, Masso remained apparently unmoved and inflexible.

Meantime, another commission wended its way to hold a conference with the self same Masso. This was formed in honor of Spotorno, ex-president of the Camara Revolucionaria during the late war. Composed of wealthy and influential men, they hoped to succeed where others had failed. Each one brought forward convincing arguments, and there were times when they thought the chief wavered, but his answer was final. War there will be unless his partisans disband or desert.

Gen. Calleja would not grant further delay for negotiations, but had given orders for hostilities to begin. The last proclamation forbids any mention of war. Everyone is greatly alarmed. Many are leaving the country for cities or embark for foreign ports. Manzanillo is overfull. A number of houses are made to accommodate six or seven families.

Several sugar mills have stopped grinding for lack of laborers. Little or nothing is heard respecting crops. There has been greater shipping of tobacco than usual, however, owing to the fact that contracts with Spain and France must be carried out. In sugar there is nothing new. The situation as regards purchasers and vendors is unchanged. The market is dull. The planters are taking advantage of favorable weather to push the grinding. It is believed the crop will yield far less than was anticipated.

The firing on the Allianca by the Spanish gunboat is the new excitement this week. If the officers mistook a mail steamship for a contraband, Spain will certainly apologize for the captain's shortsightedness, and there the matter will drop. On the other hand, if the Allianca was on mischief bent, there will be no doubt but the cruiser was justified in firing when the captain refused to comply with the orders received.

Whatever the real state of the case, the settlement will be an amicable one.

Except accounts translated from American papers, no particulars have reached this city. The over-zealous gunboat is still cruising placidly quite unaware of the commotion it has caused and blissfully ignorant of the importance it has acquired within the last three days.

Allianca Said to Have Had a Rebel General Aboard.

By Associated Press.

Havana, March 21.—The Lucha asserts that the steamship Allianca when fired on by the Spanish cruiser Conde de Venandito had on board the Cuban rebel General, Antonio Maceo, and his brother Jose, and that she landed him at Sandy Hook.

The steamer Alfonso XIII arrived at Guantanamo yesterday with two battalions of infantry, which were embarked at Barcelona.

Report of a Negro Uprising Confirmed from Washington.

Washington, March 21.—Advices received here confirm the reports that the negroes in Cuba are rising in revolt and are seeking to have the revolution a racial one. It is denied, however, that the negro forces have defeated the government forces with a loss of 200. It is said this report is inspired by the revolutionists in an effort to draw money from the filibustering element in this country.

The final reply of Spain to Secretary Gresham's demands in the Allianca affair has not been received. In the preliminary reply it was stated that definite responses would be made as soon as communication could be had with the Spanish gunboat charged with the offense. The gunboat reported at Cuba the following day and the Spanish authorities are doubtless in possession of her version of the case. They are evidently proceeding with deliberation, however, as the response based on all the facts is not yet at hand.

There is reason to believe that the reports of Minister Muruaga's recall or voluntary departure are overdrawn. The understanding among those informed of the facts is that Minister Muruaga will not withdraw as long as the revolution continues, as he has comprehensive knowledge of the subject. Moreover it is said that he would not retire at the time when the inference might be drawn that it is due to the excitement and ill-feeling engendered by the Allianca affair. The Secretary of State and the Spanish minister have not seen each other for some time and there has been no friction in their dealings.

Mr. Gresham has not intimated to the minister anything that would suggest a demand for his recall. It is believed that when the Cuban trouble is over the minister will take a leave of absence, although this will be some time off, if at all.

A Skirmish with Rebels.

By Associated Press.

Madrid, March 21.—A dispatch from Havana states that on Monday last Gen. Garrich surprised a band of rebels and killed six of them. A number of horses and a quantity of arms were captured by the government troops.