CUBA.

Particulars of General Arango's Assassination.

THE INSURRECTION GAINING GROUND.

The Insurgents Reject All Offers of Compromise.

Favorable Report of Their Condition.

Particulars of General Arango's Assassination—Treacherous and Cold-blooded Murder by the Spaniards—The Revolution Gaining Strength.

NUEVITAS, Feb. 2, 1869.

In my last, of the 23d ult., I spoke of the efforts of the Peace Commissioners to arrive at a settlement. Things were progressing favorably; one of the insurgent generals, Augusto Arango, had several interviews with Messrs. Tamayo and Corea. On the 23d Arango came to this city and was closeted with the colonel commanding, the commander of the marines, and the Governor of the town. It was well known that Arango had great influence and represented the flower of the insurgents of this district, and he represented that he had great hopes of succeeding in his mission of peace. He afterwards went to the insurgent encampment, between Baga and San Miguel, and had interviews with various of the chiefs in council and with a member of the Central Committee. He wrote on the 24th that the prospects were fair for such amicable arrangement as would be pleasing to the friends of the country. He subsequently left for Principe with despatches for Governor Mena, including one from Dulce, urging any settlement that could be honorably made to all parties. Arrived at the outskirts of the city he presented his papers to the commander of the guard and was taken into the city by an officer and an escort of six men. After entering the town his escort fell on him with their swords and brutally assassinated him. His body was thrown into a cart and carried through the town. The fact becoming known to the insurgents has terribly exasperated them. Those Cubans who were left in the cities and towns have gone to join their countrymen in the field, burning to avenge the death of Arango. This information reached here on the 28th and immediately the Spaniards started the report that Arango had been killed by orders of Quesada and by his own countrymen.

This chief was looked upon as the bravest man in the country; noble and chivalrous, the best swordsman on the island; a splendid shot and a man of great endurance. In 1851, when quite a lad, he was out with Joaquin Aguero and in a skirmish he was severely wounded. The Spanish soldiers came across him on the field and supposed him to be dying. An officer told one of the soldiers to finish him, and, obeying orders, the man placed his musket near his head and fired, leaving him for dead. The wound was terrible, but not fatal. He revived during the night, crawled through the woods, bushes and fields to a small farmhouse, the inmates of which took care of him. His brother, Dr. Augustin Arango, now practising in New York, performed the operation of trepanning and saved his life, to be taken away in the same cause seventeen years after.

The Spaniards until recently held San Miguel with some 150 men, but the insurgents, having twice captured the train, moving thither with provisions, the troops abandoned it at midnight of the 30th in a very hurried manner, leaving a large quantity of ammunition, over 25,000 Peabody cartridges and all their stores. The town was occupied next morning by the insurgents, and they now hold possession down to the village of Baja on the bay.

On the evening of the 31st arrived the Spanish man-of-war Francisco de Asis, bringing some forty sappers and miners, a few artillerymen and two mountain howitzers. By same steamer arrived Brigadier Lesca, appointed to relieve Mena at Puerto Principe—when he can get there. Her Britanic Majesty's ship Royalist arrived yesterday from Jamaica, to look after the interests of British subjects in this quarter.

By parties coming in through the lines of the insurgents it is reported that General Valmesada had been taken prisoner, between Bayamo and Manzanillo, with his escort and part of his staff. Matters are in no better condition here than they have been for the past two months. Indeed, I think for the government, they are much worse every way, and that the insurrection in this quarter is daily gaining strength, and I sincerely believe that the troops here consider "discretion the better part of valor," and for that reason do not go out. Moreover, I am convinced that if this column of over 1,500 men do go out they will be destroyed before they reached Principe. Some desertions of Spanish soldiers have taken place.

Arrival of the Gettysburg—Official Account of the Death of Arango.

NUEVITAS, Feb. 3, 1869.

The United States gunboat Gettysburg has just anchored. Her arrival causes much joy to Americans here.

At this moment (five o'clock P. M.) the belligerents are fighting on the opposite side of the bay at Baga, and we can hear the firing and see the smoke of the musketry. It is reported that the rebels are gaining ground at the siege of Principe, while at the same time leaving a large body to look after the troops here.

I enclose the following copy of the official account of the death of Arango from the committee:—

CUBANS—Camaguey is all in mourning. Augusto Arango, one of its eminent sons, is dead—vilely assassinated by the minions of tyranny. Believing it feasible still to come to an honorable compromise with the Spanish government, and deaf to the dissuasions of his brethren in arms, he was resolved to have an interview with Governor Mena, intimating his project to a very small number of his followers. Hoping to find fealty in the vile sectarian despotism he came to the city, simply accompanied by one man, and without any arms. But those miserables could not lose such a fortunate opportunity to satiate their sanguinary and cowardly instincts, and they assassinated him. They that trembled at his simple name—they that in conclusion fled, and behind their overburdened esconced themselves the moment they simply heard that he was about making an attack—convinced of their moral debility, at last found the chance of carrying into effect the ignoble achievement, quite worthy of themselves, thus prostituting all rights and even the law of nations. Few people could have presented an action more deceitful to the derision of the world than that consummated by the Spaniards yesterday. To assassinate a valiant son who, out of his own accord, came forward without arms and like under a flag of truce is no action for any people to commit. It is necessary that it be blessed with an organization badly privileged for such a purpose. * * * But this is not all. Those miserables have so far carried their depravity that the pen shrinks from describing it—even celebrating their cowardly achievement with valedictory exclamations—music and other public manifestations of rejoicings. * * * * * * * * *

The deed, which from its vileness cannot find a qualified name, ought to inspire us with a measure of confidence in the Spanish government as introducing in Cuba the reign of right and justice. Spain will never be able to resign itself to recognize our rights, as in that case it would not wrench from us what she terms a surplus of income which is needed to cover our own necessities of the most exigent nature; it would in that case be no longer the harbor for an insupportable host of official vampires to keep fat, who, like a nest of parasites, suck our unfortunate country.

Colonel Don Brother Augusto, fascinated by false promises, has made himself a victim of Spanish iniquity. Confiding in them, he entertained the hope of doing a great good to Cuba, without shedding of any blood and without further loss. It was a noble aspiration, but not to be consummated, considering the depraved character of the conquerors of America, which is inherent and can never disappear in centuries, even among all the surrounding civilization. The assassins of Atuey (cacique of Guatiscaia) and of Hatuey and worthy successors in those of Pincico, of Armenteros and of Agüero. * * * * * * * * *

Brethren, let us forget our grief and take its place by the most rigidly severe abnegation to reign in our breasts. The blood of our brother demands vengeance. Would that our cry would last forever, "independence and death," and that we other be looked upon hereafter as a mote of treason. Cubans! Honor be to the memory of our brother! Long live liberty! Long live to the independence of Cuba! Patria and liberty!

The Committee of the Camaguayan Revolution.

CAMAGUEY AN CAMP, Jan. 27, 1869.

Anticipations of Peace Dispelled—Hostilities Resumed—Large Bodies of Insurgents in the Neighborhood of St. Jago de Cuba—Appearance of the Cholera.

ST. JAGO DE CUBA, Jan. 30, 1869.

The Pelayo, which arrived a few days since from Havana, brought us Don José Armas y Cespedes, who came commissioned by the Captain General to arrange matters with his uncle, Carlos Manuel Cespedes, and the other revolutionary chiefs. Since the burning of Bayamo these are said to have been in the neighborhood of Cobre, and on the 26th de Armas went out and had an interview with a number of them, among whom were Figuerdo, Gonuzo and the two Marmols. Cespedes was not present. A cessation of hostilities was agree upon for three days and rumors of an arrangement was generally rife, causing much joy. Last night, however, an end was put to all these bright anticipations by the arrival of news that the rebels had burned at least six large estates and that skirmishing had taken place between them and the government forces. General Marmol is said to have attacked in force a detachment commanded by Captain O'Callaghan, and compelled it and a body of regulars to retreat upon San Luis. Report says that Palma Soriano has again been abandoned by the troops, and that the rebels there are in great force. Much uneasiness prevails and all the troops are to be sent into the country, leaving only the regulars in town. All the pleasant anticipations which followed on the active measures of the new Governor, General de la Torre, are again dispelled. It is certain that there are insurgents in this neighborhood to the number of 3,000, and they have recently received arms, either from Nassau or the United States, and as the result ruin and desolation are expected. To add to the prevailing gloom the cholera has made its appearance here, and two deaths from that disease have taken place. The commandant of the Spanish garrison at Palma Soriano, under date of the 23d, reported that the dread epidemic had invaded that place, appearing mostly among the insurgents, who and laid down their arms and had gathered there. It has also appeared in Cobre, Caney and nearly all the rural wards. The cases here were from among those who took part in a recent expedition to Palma, and it is hoped it will not spread. Three hundred and twenty-six troops, mostly recruits, arrived here by the Pelayo on the 23d.

A number of persons from this city have armed themselves and gone out to join the rural police, assisting to prevent the committing of further depredations by the insurgents. They are mostly negroes, country people, furloughed soldiers and even a few coolies, all paid by the agricultural classes.

The column of Colonel Macanaz, of the artillery, recently surprised a party of insurgents on the estate "Caney," killing a number and dispersing the balance. His loss was one killed and two wounded.

Don Desiderio Murillo, one of the Cuban leaders, having availed himself of the unconditional amnesty, left this city on the 23d for New York. He has distinguished himself by committing more depredations than any other insurgent officer, by which many families have been ruined.

The municipality of the city recently held an extraordinary session and appointed a charitable committee. Many of the townspeople, including planters and merchants, are ruined and in want. Public arrears are not paid, rents are uncollected and complete misery prevails.

The remains of Don Primio Calvo Lope, Archbishop of St. Jago, arrived here on the 23d and were deposited in the parish church of St. Thomas. The funeral ceremonies took place on the 25th, and were of an imposing character, the religious orders, the military and civic bodies and an immense concourse of citizens being in attendance.

Arrival of a Portion of Valmaseda's Troops—Skirmishes Between the Opposing Forces.

ST. JAGO DE CUBA, Feb. 1, 1869.

Yesterday evening a portion of the forces of General Valmaseda arrived here, numbering 1,200 men. The General had sent them to escort a convoy which he had applied for from here, but which had already set out by a different road, and so missed the troops. These arrived very dirty and worn, having been two months in campaign. They will leave again very soon.

The insurgents remain in considerable force in this neighborhood and have burned many estates. All the available troops are out, but thus far with little result. The insurgents are becoming more accustomed to warfare and are better disciplined than before, and so keep clear of strong bodies of troops, and not allowing themselves to be surprised as heretofore. A skirmish took place but recently near here between the rebels and the volunteers maintained by the owners of estates, in which the latter were worsted.

There have been a few cases of cholera in town, but thus far confined to people who have come in from the country and to soldiers who have been actively engaged. It is hoped that it is not epidemic and will soon disappear. Valmaseda's troops who arrived here yesterday are healthy.

The Spanish frigate Carmen left this morning to cruise between Capes Cruz and Maisi. The crew has received no pay for two months and is reported dissatisfied.

The Guantanamo neighborhood is free from insurgents now, and all the sugar estates are busy grinding and delivering their crops. Three new papers appeared yesterday, all of liberal tendencies.

As the steamer is about sailing a report has reached here that a government force of troops and volunteers from Guantanamo have recaptured the town of Sagua de Tanamo, causing heavy loss in killed and prisoners to the insurgents, and also taking two cannon.

Return of the Peace Commission—A Failure—A Favorable Account of the Insurgents—A New Plan of Pacification Proposed—The Elections—Affairs in Havana.

HAVANA, Feb. 6, 1869.

On the evening of the 4th returned to this city Señor Don José de Armas y Cespedes, one of the peace commissioners who recently went out from here to the Eastern Department with a view of bringing about some compromise with the insurgents. Señor de Armas visited the rebel chiefs in the vicinity of Cibara and St. Jago de Cuba. His efforts have been barren of results, and he reports the insurgents as everywhere opposed to compromise and determined to fight for independence. Furnished with documents by General Dulce which required the government officials, both civil and military, to furnish him with every assistance and with all information, and at the same time the acquaintance and friend of many of the insurgents whom he visited, he was enabled to come to a correct conclusion as to the operations heretofore carried on and the present condition of affairs. He states that the accounts as given by the Spaniards are ludicrously false, and that the insurgents, armed in such a manner as to excite a smile, have on the whole proved a match for the troops with their American breech-loaders. He refutes the stories of demoralization and represents that confidence and enthusiasm are everywhere felt. The rebels have often fought the Spaniards with *machetes* and stones, using the latter from the hilltops, and a wholesome dread of them is felt by the soldiers.

The health of Señor de Armas is very poor, and he has been confined to his residence for the most part since his return.

The *Diario de la Marina*, in its issue of the 4th, contains a report of the labors of those taking part in the political meetings held at the residence of the Marquis de Campo Florido on the 13th and 18th ult. The report is signed by the Marquis as chairman and by Don Carlos Sedano as secretary. It makes known that a number of persons of integrity and wealth, desirous of insuring the future tranquility and progress of Cuba under the moral tie, which ought forever to bind her to the central government, had engaged in the work of uniting all parties. The fundamental object of the report is to represent national unity on the basis of justice and mutual interests, demanding a government of the country for the country, or, in other words, autonomy, as the base of all rights and interests, local and national, and the surest of all guarantees against the ideas of independence or annexation, now so prevalent. The committee recommends said autonomy, not only as a scientific and practical truth, evidenced by facts and history, but also as the only solution of the complicated problems which have arisen, resulting from the system of centralization which has ever existed, and which it is intended to perpetuate under the name of assimilation, which in politics has not the acceptation given it as synonymous with identity in the form of political rights, and which violates the laws of geography and the differences of time, distance and locality.

Cuba separated from European Spain, naturally tends to estranging herself from her, like the stars which course about the sun, and would do so if an equal and contrary force did not maintain her in the orbit traced by the supreme Creator. That great law of attraction rules the political world as it does the astronomical sphere, as also those provinces which do not form a geographical or material whole are morally and nationally united to the metropolis. This is the reason why the equality of rights does not signify identity in the form of exercising them when it concerns provinces so dissimilar as those of the Peninsula and of the Spanish Antilles. Thus is explained and justified the autonomical constitution desired and demanded by the committee for Cuba, as the only one which establishes that equilibrium of diverging forces which constitute the harmony of the planetary system, and is realized in colonial examples cited by the committee. The meeting expects in time to have in its power to inform the public of the definite results of its labors, and promises the discussion of all those saving reforms and liberties which may insure the future.

The meaning of all this fine writing—which loses much of its beauty and nothing more in the translation—is that the meeting consider a colonial legislation as the thing needed, and it will labor to that end.

We have as yet nothing official from Valmaseda. The *Diario* has news from Santa Cruz, which states that it was rumored in Manzanillo that he had captured Aguilera and some of his staff on the plantation Veguitas, in the vicinity of Bayamo. The *Prensa* says that "a respectable person" (an individual who in Cuba occupies the same position as the "intelligent contraband" in the United States, during the war) has received news that the troops of Valmesada had captured Aguilera, Milanes, Castillo, Estrado and two more of the insurgent chiefs, including Udaeta, the former Governor of Bayamo, who at an early date of the insurrection went over to the rebels. The same paper contains information, via Cienfuegos, that the forces of Cespedes were rapidly abandoning him, and that his whereabouts were unknown. Some infantry, with two cannons, left Sancti Spiritus on the 27th for Jibaro. The *Diario* has "among other news of importance" the taking of Jiguani by Valmesada, and the capture of five of the rebel leaders, among whom were Lucas Castillo, Jorge Milanes, Esteban Estrada and others.

The same journal, in its issue of the 5th, in speaking of the death of General Augusto Arango, refers to it as an assassination, and states that "General Quesada is exercising a most pernicious influence on the Marquis de Santa Lucia and other leaders of the insurrection." It is well known that General Quesada is bitterly opposed to any compromise and determined to fight it out. He is a man of great bravery, dash and determination, admirably fitted for a guerilla chief. He did excellent service in Mexico and many examples of his daring are mentioned. On one occasion, during a skirmish, he rode with fearful rapidity up to an officer of the Chasseurs d'Afrique and, seizing him in his arms, carried him off, escaping unhurt amid a shower of bullets. After the war the Mexican government, though fully appreciating his services, did not care to have him around and after paying him everything he could by any possibility claim he was induced to resign and depart. In this connection I may mention the fact which has came to my knowledge, that some time since the insurgent leaders wrote to a person connected with the Juarez administration, stating that they had plenty of men and money to buy arms, but they were in want of officers who could speak Spanish. As the result there has been a stream of ex-imperialists and others running in this direction, the Mexican government, happy to be rid of them and feeling no great love for Spain, quietly shutting its eyes.

La *Voz de Cuba*, in its issue of the 5th, severely criticises the *Diario de la Marina* for its incorrect statements and false news—for example, in styling the death of Arango an assassination instead of an execution following a court martial; the reported death of the Marquis de Santa Lucia; the capture of Aguilera and Maronol—which only has the effect of exciting the derision of the Cubans for a paper which, if not a government organ, is an authorized mouthpiece of the Cuban authorities.

Several of the most prominent merchants, traders and shopkeepers propose the organization of a citizen militia as a reserve to the volunteer corps. It is to be composed of masters and employés whose occupations heretofore have prevented their enrolling themselves among the volunteers, but will prove an aid to them in any emergency. Don Julian Zulueta, colonel of the Second battalion of volunteers, has ordered, on his own account, 300 Peabody rifles for two of his companies. Señor Durañona, captain of the Grenadier volunteers, has given a similar order for his company.

The City Governor has ordered that, owing to the disturbed condition of affairs, no masks be worn at the approaching carnival save at the public balls authorized by the authorities.

The *Voz de Cuba* opines that the preparations for the elections in Havana have opened very badly and complains of the want of publicity manifested, likely to lead to difficulties and reclamations at a time when opportunities for remedy have past, and result in serious evils. As it says, the municipality, instead of making out the list as is done in Spain, for revision within a stated time, directs that every citizen who considers himself entitled to be registered on the electoral list, will give a written notice thereof to the police of the parish within eight days, with a statement of his position. These are to be daily forwarded to the Secretary. Four days of the eight have already expired, and nothing has as yet been done. The Civic Board makes an excuse that no census has been taken since 1862. But what better guide, says that journal, can the Board have than the latest taxgatherers' registers?

The official gazette of the 2d announces that the Colonial Minister, under date of the 9th of December, has provisionally approved the transfer made by the concession to Don José de Caceres of a grant for the establishment of a submarine cable between the Antilles, Mexico, Panama and South America, in favor of the International Oceanic Telegraph Company. Under date of November 27 the same functionary decreed that proposals will be received for the establishment of a submarine cable between Cuba, Porto Rico, Canary Islands and Cadiz or a port in that vicinity, on or before 1st of March next. The parties making such proposals were required to make deposit of $15,000, in default whereof none would be considered. The government has fixed the 10th of March for deciding upon proposals offered, when the deposits, accompanying those rejected, will be returned. Those making the accepted proposals will have to make a permanent deposit within fifteen days, of from $15,000 to $50,000 at the option of the government, as a guarantee for the inauguration of the line in accordance with the terms of the contract.

Heretofore the Captain Generals of Cuba have recognized in the various Consuls here certain diplomatic qualities, at least to the extent of respectfully receiving their representations regarding the persons and property of their respective citizens. Dulce, however, informs them that they are only "commercial agents," and he can recognize them in no other character, and he is not careful to refrain from snubbing them if they attempt any other *rôle*. Among other acts of his as touching this point he directs that the certificates of nationality issued by the Consuls be surrendered to him, he giving in exchange a *salvo conducto*.

A lady of position and intelligence recently arrived from Spain states that when General Dulce left the Peninsula it was understood that he was compromised in the project of his party to bring about the election of the Queen's son under the regency of Montpensier, and that in accordance with an agreement with Serrano he was to collect a sum of money here to aid in that purpose. In this connection I may state that the *Espectador Liberal*, a Cuban paper, states that Dulce's intention was to remain here only till May or June, and cries out strongly against his leaving.

On Thursday night a meeting was held at the residence of the Marquis de San Ignacio, for the purpose of forming conservative committees throughout the island. Some pretty speeches were made, but nothing practical was accomplished.

The *Diario de la Marina* expresses the opinion that bad as the old system of taxation was that inaugurated in July last is far more defective. The treasury is empty, and the taxpayers continue to grumble. It adds:—"We are persuaded that the government recognizes the necessity of a change," and advises that it be made before July next. As an easy remedy it suggests an augmentation in the import and export duties.

The Spanish frigate Fernando el Catolico, which arrived here on the 4th, brought in tow the English schooner Galvanic, recently captured near Cayo Romano. As there has been no announcement of blockade the question of the legality of her capture is mooted.

Señor Leandro Rodriquez Gala, the newly appointed Bishop of Yucatan, arrived here from Sisal per steamship San Francisco, on the 4th, for the purpose of being consecrated. The ceremony will take place in a few days.

The money market having received a supply of about $2,000,000 by the several steamers lately arrived transactions have become much easier, and gold is obtainable at from 2½ to 3 per cent premium.

The Cadiz steamer Porto Rico, recently arrived, brought thirty-three government employés, appointed from among the "ins."

Two hundred troops left this morning with artillery, going to Villa Clara (where disturbances are reported) via Batabano and Cienfuegos.

JAPAN.

Jeddo, Past and Present—The Mikado and His Power—The Influence of the Sioguns—Antipathy to Foreigners—Present Quiet of the Country—A Japanese Story.

JEDDO, Dec. 27, 1868.

Jeddo is not the great city you read of, although it was once far more populous than it is now. Even then it was unlike a city. Its magnitude depended upon the fact that the government under the Sioguns obliged the princes and nobles of high rank to reside at Jeddo six months in the year, and to leave their families there when they returned to their estates. They were always at Jeddo attended by a large number of retainers. Each prince had a community of his own, and his houses and grounds covered a wide space within entrenchments and moats. These domains, with thickly settled villages scattered among them, make up the city; but now the glory has, in a great measure, departed, though it is anticipated that the residence of the Mikado will cause it to return. This, I think, is making more out of the Mikado's influence than belongs to it. We cannot lose sight of the fact that the reign of the Mikado is the reign of faction, whatever may result at some future day. But before that day arrives those of the foreign representatives who helped to bring the Mikado forward at the sacrifice of the established government under the Sioguns will have ample opportunity to wish the old rulers back again. I think there can be little doubt that the government under the Sioguns was the most advanced the Japanese have ever known, and that, although it was not far-reaching enough to be called a general government, it was more nearly so than Japan can hope to see for years to come.

The nature of the Mikado power, its extent and limitation, is very differently understood by the Japanese themselves, and to foreigners it is apparent, since the retirement of the Sioguns, that there is a power, felt by the very absence of its representative, not less vital in the government than that of the Mikado himself. There seems to be now no real central government in Japan. The Mikado is powerless to unite the different governments without the Sioguns, or rather he is the puppet of a clique of Daimios. The Siogun has given up everything and retired to his estates in the country. Plainly there is an idea of government already familiar to the Japanese, not entirely identical with that of individual power vested in the Mikado. A man may be put out of the way, but an idea is not so easily dealt with, and so, in my opinion, the Mikadoites are beginning to find it. It is much more of a task than they reckoned upon. To illustrate this case by supposing one that may have enough points of resemblance to answer the purpose. The Japanese are very much in the same mind that the English would be were the Queen to be suddenly recognized by some powerful clique as the sole impersonation of government. It would sharpen their wits amazingly, and the Queen would be found to be, and to have long been, nothing in the government, much less a sovereign. This view of the case need not be confounded with that which looks upon the Mikado as having been the recognized spiritual head only, and the Siogun as the temporal. That is a kind of muddle. Doubtless the Siogunate was rendered a possibility and was developed by the fact that the Mikado was too sacred a personage to attend directly to affairs of state. The priests indeed do say, that is, the regulars, that the Mikado has nothing to do with temporal matters; though I do not understand them to mean by that that temporal sovereignty is the right of another, but merely that it becomes the Mikado to delegate the execution of such matters to his ministers. But we can see, if the priests cannot, that a long continued delegation of authority comes at last to be tantamount to a surrender of it, and the delegate is then the truer ruler of the two.

It is curious to mark how little principle has to do with the policy adopted by foreign Powers towards this people, and I might add towards all Asiatic nations. We might expect the so-called enlightened representatives of Europe to ally themselves with the progressive, and not the retrograde, movement of this people; but they have not always done so. Some of the earlier Sioguns were averse, or not very favorable, to foreign influence, and they obtained the enmity of one or more of the foreign representatives, who made common cause with the adverse and retrograde party, who were naturally—such is the curious fact—more inimical to foreign influence than the other, although they have had the cunning to conceal their sentiments under the tuition of their Ulysses, the city Satsuma. I should more properly say they tried to conceal their sentiments and in a measure succeeded. The officials at least performed very well, particularly about Hiogo and Nagasaki; but the feelings of the people of a whole province cannot be disguised, and to-day it is obvious that the people of the South are less kindly disposed towards foreigners than the people of the North. But I believe this is a fact of comparative little moment now, as the question of foreign commerce is about settled. The Southern faction, to gain the advantage against their opponents of the North, have found it for their interest to promote the cause, which was at the outset so contrary to the tenets of their political faith, and I do not think that a favorable opportunity will present itself for them to turn back, although I feel confident there are many of the rank and file who dream of such an event. Almost, if not all, the ill usage of foreigners is at the hands of Southerners. I have yet to learn of the first authenticated case of maltreatment of a foreigner by a Northern man. In view of this friendly feeling towards us outlanders on the part of the North we cannot but regret that we have done more to defeat than to promote their interests, which are also the interests of Japan.

The unification of the country began under the Sioguns might have been much more quickly perfected by them than by the Mikado alone, now only a puppet of faction. It is said that the last Siogun had a plan of making the Mikado the head of a constitutional empire. He certainly, if he had been so disposed, could have proclaimed the Mikado Emperor on a much more secure basis of power than any prince or alliance of princes could have done, holding, as he did, an executive authority better established and more general than the most sanguine can expect the Mikado to build up out of the elements at his command. The government of the Siogun, as imperfect as it was, cost ages of labor, and was only secured by gradual encroachments upon the authority of the principal princes. That gone, what has the Mikado to expect, and many a Mikado after him, but to be the creature successively of every prince that gets the preponderance of power?

Hostilities are over for the present, winter having set in, and those who are disposed to be sanguine in regard to the pretensions of the Southern faction believe the cessation of active warfare to be final. I am not ranged on that side, nor indeed on any side. I simply think that this is the last country in the world where one can be credulous as regards the statements of party successes.

Several of the Northern princes have surrendered. Among them Sendai and perhaps Aidzu. About the middle of November, when conflicting reports were arriving, now favorable to the Southern, now to the Northern side, in regard to the siege of Aidzu's castle of Wakamatsu, the following strange account came to my knowledge. I give it because I think it illustrative of the people. If it is a mere fabrication, it is a Japanese fabrication at least:—

We heard that Aidzu's castle had been besieged and this Prince forced to surrender. There were those who even went so far as to say that Aidzu had been decapitated. Then came another story, which is at least worthy of record, as being characteristic of the customs of this singular people. It was reported that Satsuma and his allies marched on the fortress of Aidzu in three columns, starting from different points. The column from the South reached the castle some time before the others and sat down in the low lands that stretch at the foot of the plateau on which the castle is situated. Soon after the gates of the fortress were opened and gave egress to a little band, numbering only eighteen men, the foremost of whom bore a white flag. They were all in robes of ceremony and came on at a measured pace, performing, as they approached the hostile ranks, prescribed acts of reverence. Their demeanor, their strict observance of ceremonial betokened that the occasion was one of unusual solemnity. Halting in front of the high officials who had been sent forward from the enemy to meet them, with a ceremony proportioned to their own, they made known the object of their coming. They were there, they said, to perform the humiliating office of surrendering the castle to an enemy they were powerless to resist, and one had come to conduct the hostile chief and such troops as he might select, to take possession of the fortress; seventeen of them as a pledge of good faith and as demanded by custom on so sad an occasion, would commit hari kari, the eighteenth alone would perform the duty of leading the enemy to the stronghold of the castle.

Accordingly seventeen placid faced men knelt on the ground, seventeen swords, keen and bright, were raised in the air as with one motion, and flashed back the light, then were buried in the bowels of the devoted seventeen, who fell forward in pools of their warm life blood and expired without a groan. This human sacrifice over the surviving man led the chief and some 500 men into the fortified enclosure.

The gates are shut upon them; and now a grave suspicion begins to quicken in the minds of the remaining host, left at a critical moment without a leader, and numbering, besides armed men, a diverse gathering of non-combatants and hangers-on. About this time the other columns appear, and, mistaken for enemies, increase the nascent doubt. Nor have they time to recover from this last shock before they have positive assurance that they have been betrayed. They learn that the whole 500 were cut to pieces as soon as they entered the castle, and at the same moment they became aware that the ground on which they are encamped and over which they must pass to reach the high land is being flooded by means of a system of sluices employed usually for irrigating the rice fields. And now dismay, already begun among the helpless and unarmed, is soon communicated to all. They fall into confusion and retreat in dismay towards the mountain passes which lie between them and safety. Alas! the roads are destroyed; the passes are held by Aidzu's men, who, perched on every available point and vantage ground, and, armed with the best of rifles, take deadly aim at the discomfited and flying foe. There is no pity. It is bitter cold. All the ground above the rice fields is covered with snow to the depth of several feet, and hundreds impeded, or utterly unable to move, are cut down in their tracks. The bloodstained snow attests the horrid carnage. Some escape the sword only to suffer a more painful and lingering death from cold. Away in the rear the weak and helpless, exhausted by struggling on through the rising flood, and slippery muck and slush of the rice fields, sink at last in some deeper pool into which they have wandered and meet their fate by drowning. But few escape. It is said some 20,000 lives were lost on this occasion. That is the story as I heard it, and the person who told it to me believed every word of it. Still, I believe it is not a true story. The account generally credited is that Wakamatsu fell on the 6th of November, and the defeated chiefs formally surrendered their swords on the 8th.

Hakodadi was taken on the 4th of December, through the combined efforts of the fleet and troops of the Northern confederation. There was little actual fighting. It seems that Enomotto, the Admiral of the last Siogun, had quite a fleet at Hakodadi. The land forces took the place, or rather they presented themselves and the Southern troops ran away. After that the Eagle, one of Boomosoo's vessels, challenged the Ashinelot, a government vessel, and gave her twenty-four hours to prepare. But at the expiration of the term of grace the Ashinelot surrendered without having made the least resistance.

It is thought by some that this event puts the Northern party in a situation to make favorable terms, and that there will result a government compromise and so a settlement of all questions at issue. Others, however, think that the foreign ships, principally English, which have gone up ostensibly to protect the interests of their residents, will insist upon the withdrawal of Enomotto and the victorious troops. It is quite certain that the English Minister counselled such a proceeding. But how this can be done with an observance of all the professions of neutrality and the terms of the proclamation of which we have heard so much I am unable to see. I believe the powers of the naval commanders ought to be limited to demanding redress for any injury done to the property of foreigners; and there is no complaint of any such to my knowledge. The best policy would be to espouse as little as possible the quarrel of either faction, for there is no knowing how soon favor and fortune may change sides.

THETA DELTA CHI.

The second annual reunion of the Pi Charge of the Theta Delta Chi Fraternity, which is attached to Lafayette College, Pennsylvania, will take place at Easton on the 1st prox. The oration of the occasion will be delivered by Clayton W. Holmes and the response by A. H. Sherrerd. The poem will be by J. M. Harris.

THE MISSING MISS HOWE—MORE MYSTERY.

(From the Utica Herald, Feb. 11.)

In compliance with a request from Springfield Mr. Sanford, of this city, went to Watertown Tuesday night to see if the person found at that place was the Miss Howe who lately disappeared from Springfield, Mass. We are indebted to Mr. Sanford for the following information, which only adds a mystery to a mystery. He says he was well acquainted with Miss Howe while a resident of Springfield. He found at Watertown, not an acquaintance, but a person calling herself Elizabeth Tierney, who says she was taken from the asylum at Northampton, Mass., on Wednesday of last week by a man calling himself Stevens. He purchased hem tickets and got her checks for Canton, N. Y. The man disappeard at Albany, and she has not seen him since. She went in a sleeping car to Watertown, where she was detained by Messrs. Tyler and Case, supposing, from the description, that she was Miss Howe, which was a natural supposition, as the two persons, in respect to size, as reported in the various advertisements, were very similar. Who Miss Tierney is or was he does not know, nor does any one at Watertown, beyond what she tells of herself. Mr. Sanford was rendered valuable assistance by conductor Sandiforth in learning of the whereabouts of this woman, who is Miss Tierney or somebody else, but certainly not Miss Howe.

SUBURBAN INTELLIGENCE.

NEW JERSEY.

Jersey City.

MELANCHOLY AND FATAL ACCIDENT.—At half-past eleven o'clock on Thursday night a young man named Michael Quinlan, who was employed as a conductor on the Jersey City and Bergen horse railroad, was standing on the front platform of car No. 2, of the Pavonia ferry line, when he received a sudden jerk by the turning of the car at the switch in Erie street, near South Fifth, and fell across the rail of the dash board. The wheels grazed him so closely that his coat was torn, but he was not run over. Nevertheless, although he was conveyed to the police station and medical aid provided, he died at half-past one o'clock yesterday morning. The body was soon after removed to the residence of his family, No. 364 South Seventh street. Deceased was married a few weeks ago to a young lady belonging to a wealthy family in Chicago, but her friends, being strongly opposed to such a marriage, carried her off, and Quinlan had never afterwards been able to find her. This had a most depressing effect on him. At the time of the occurrence he was in conversation with some companions who came with him from the Long Dock, and was not on duty. He was at one time assistant foreman of No. 6 Engine Company of Jersey City.

ASSAULT ON THE POLICE BY DESPERADOES.—A certain quarter of the Sixth ward has been so infested lately by a gang of scoundrels that the police were called out on Thursday night to protect people near the Wayne street factory. Officers Collins, Smith and Boyle made a raid on a section of this gang who were harassing and abusing a number of men employed in the factory. The officers laid hold of Henry Cunningham and James Kiernan, who at once offered resistance and gave a signal to several of their companions, when a desperate onslaught was made on the officers. A large crowd collected at the scene, but officer Collins held Cunningham at all hazards and broke his club into splinters on some of the rioters. Both Cunningham and Kiernan were taken to the police station and on being introduced to the Recorder they were committed for trial. The officers, though severely handled, behaved most courageously in the face of a formidable opposition. When ruffians play a desperate game in Jersey they seldom carry off the stakes.

Hudson City.

COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS.—A singular case came up for hearing in this court yesterday. James and Edward Foley are charged with conspiracy to procure an estate debt of free and personal property by falsely representing that one Michael May and Sarah Meagher were married, and procuring a forged certificate to that effect. It appears that the husband of Sarah Meagher died, leaving her his entire property, amounting to $4,000, and about a year afterwards the widow died in the State of Georgia, and the property would have fallen into the hands of the next of kin; but the two Foleys, as is alleged, entered into a conspiracy with other parties to procure the property. For this purpose, it is further alleged, they sought to obtain a marriage certificate from a certain justice of the peace, but he, seeing the fraud at a glance, drove them out of his house. They then, it is alleged, forged a marriage certificate setting forth that Michael May and Sarah Meagher were married, and with this as a basis they sought to recover the property on behalf of the fictitious May. The case occupied the entire session of the court yesterday and will be continued this morning.

Hoboken.

THE NEW CITY HALL. The rent fixed by the lease of the Morton mansion, in Washington street, to the Mayor and Common Council is $1,800 a year for ten years from the 1st of May next. The city authorities are left at liberty to make alterations and improvements in order to meet the requirements of the city officers.

A NEW YORKER OVERHAULED.—A man giving his name as Christian Schmidt, residing at 304 Rivington street, New York, was intercepted on Adams street yesterday morning as he was making his escape with a shawl alleged to be the property of Antonio Greinwigs, at the corner of Newark and Grand streets. Failing to justify his conduct in the matter Recorder Pope sent him to the county jail.

RIVER THIEVES.—Between twelve and one o'clock yesterday morning a gang of river thieves crossed over from New York to one of the Morris and Essex Railroad piers, where a large quantity of pig iron is stored. The watchman on duty seized the first of the gang who set his foot on the dock and dealt him several stunning blows with his club. The roars of the fellow brought his companions to the rescue, who made a rush for the watchman, with threats to shoot him. The latter ran off to procure assistance, and when he returned all the crew had embarked save one. The watchman was about laying hands on him when he jumped into the water and was rescued by his companions, who then pulled away. The watchman fired several shots, which, it appears, were heard on the New York side by the patrolmen on duty, for the gang were captured with the iron in their possession as they were marching off the pier on the New York side. Several attempts had been made previously by thieves from New York to plunder vessels and stores at the Morris and Essex wharves.

Newark.

A CIGARMAKER IN TROUBLE.—Albert Hedden, a cigarmaker, of No. 216 Kearney street, arrested on a charge of defrauding the United States internal revenue by peddling unstamped and uninspected cigars without a license, was arraigned before the United States Commissioner and committed for trial.

PECULIAR CASE OF ASSAULT.—In the Quarter Sessions yesterday James E. Coulter, an employé of the New Jersey Railroad, was found guilty of assault and battery on a man named John C. Westerfield. It seems the latter wanted to pass from the waiting room, at the Centre street depot, to the cars, but was prevented by Coulter because he failed to show a ticket, and in doing so Westerfield received rough usage.

THE RECENT SUICIDE.—An inquest was held on the body of Joseph Schofield, who, it is believed, committed self-murder at his boarding house, No. 219 Market street, early on Thursday morning, before Coroner Chase, and a verdict rendered to the effect that deceased met his death by a pistol shot at his own hands or the hand of some person or persons to the jury unknown. Inasmuch as it was clearly proved that the deceased had been subject to fits of intemperance and was despondent in mind for several days previous, and that the occurrence took place up stairs in his own room, it is properly considered that the jury ought not to have permitted suspicion to be thrown vaguely on any member of the community. No one else but the jurors who heard the evidence doubted that Schofield shot himself.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE CASE AT TRENTON.

Continuation of the Trial.

In the United States District Court at Trenton, yesterday, the trial of George W. Thorne and five sureties, Edgar B. Wakeman, R. McLoughlin, Samuel M. Prentice, William S. Gilbert and William Keeney for alleged breach of the conditions of a government bond representing a sum of $100,000