CUBA.

Details of the Capture of the Comanditario.

Spanish Seizures in British Waters.

PROGRESS OF THE INSURRECTION

Details of the Capture of the Comanditario—The Demand for Belligerent Rights—The Capture of American and British Vessels—The Peruvian Iron-Clads—The Political Prisoners.

HAVANA, March 31, 1869.

While there is now no doubt that the coasting steamer Comanditario was captured by a party going on board from here, a persistent attempt has been made to create an opposite impression, with a view of diverting suspicion from those remaining here who had to do with the affair. To such an extent has this been carried that a statement, purporting to have been signed by the captain and a large number of people on board, was furnished the Cardenas *Boletin*, which published it, and it was afterwards recopied in all the papers here, and though on careful scrutiny it bears the impress of fabrication, it nevertheless deceived every one. It was subsequently contradicted by the *Boletin*, and the material facts stand as before published in the HERALD.

Don Angel Loño, a native of Santiago de Cuba, nephew of the Spanish Colonel Loño and brother of a naval officer of that name, acted as leader of the party. He had been unfortunate and was driven to desperation by need. He speaks English with fluency. A man named Camacho, a seaman, who had been mate of a vessel, took command of the ship. Don Juan Lopez, an engineer of the coasting steamer Alfonzo, and afterwards of the Matanzas mud machine, was, however, recognized by the men as the head of the expedition. He had been in prison for alleged conspiracy.

The passengers were landed on the coast and were taken up by the gunboat Ana and the coasting steamer Cardenas. From the passengers it is known that when the party took possession one of them placed a pistol at the captain's breast, another pointed one at him from behind and one placed himself on each side with a machete, and he had nothing to do but surrender. It is said that there were $21,000 belonging to the goverment on the vessel, and the captors demanded a loan of $300 from each of the passengers. Three Spanish sailors, four coal-feeders and the same number of coal-heavers were retained on board. The captors strenuously insisted upon the captain and mate signing a document to the effect that the steamer had been attacked and taken by a considerable armed force in a launch, which sank in the struggle. This they resolutely refused, but such a paper was signed by others on board. The Comanditario was subsequently sighted between Great and Little Stirrup Keys under sail, she probably having little coal.

Your Nassau correspondent writes on the 28th of March as follows about this affair:—

The Spanish steamer Comanditario left Bahama on the 23d bound for Cardenas, with a general cargo, including a large amount of jerked beef and rice. She left at seven P. M., having among her passengers eighteen insurgents, several of whom were from Regla, very strong, dashing fellows, and accustomed to a seafaring life. At half-past eleven the same night the blow was struck. One of the eighteen came to the cabin door, where many of the passengers were sleeping and others still up, and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, every one remain quiet; this steamer is already in the hands of Cuban insurrectionists." They obeyed, one of them remarking, "If that is so, *viran los reboldes!*" No blood was shed. One of the sailors attempted to make a noise, but he was soon silenced. This is certainly in pleasing contrast to the course of the Spaniards, who are killing every Cuban who falls into their hands. The Comanditario has not been here, but I have had some conversation with the chief of the party—where, I am not at liberty to say—and he informs me that the crew has been very considerably increased in numbers, the steamer well armed, a surgeon on board and all prepared for active operations.

The *Diario de la Marina* in a recent issue says:—"According to a telegram from Washington, dated to-day, the government of the United States gives the most complete assurances of neutrality upon the Cuban question and refuses to receive the commission presided over by Morales Lemus, which seeks belligerent rights for the rebels and a recognition of the independence of the isle of Cuba. The relationship between that government and Spain is most satisfactory and cordial." This statement does not meet with general credence here. Leading Cubans, however, frankly confess that until their confreres, struggling for liberty and autonomy, have established a seat of government, and can show something tangible for the United States to recognize, it is not to be expected that she will take any steps in the premises.

The press of the city is evidently a little nervous over the seizure of the Mary Lowell and other vessels, and is endeavoring in every possible way to distort the facts. The *Prensa*, whose editor has been a sea captain, refers to the course pursued by the United States during the late war, declaring that all vessels in any way suspicious were seized and condemned, leaving to diplomacy to right any matter afterwards, which was wrong. It asserts that cases of illegal capture will be considered by foreign nations solely in the light of the proper indemnity, and none of them will think of going to war with Spain for any such seizures, provided she manifests a disposition to settle such claims as may arise. Evidently the government has determined, in its weakness and bankruptcy, to seize any and all vessels it has any cause to suspect and trust to state craft to bring itself out unimpaired; for such is the policy portrayed in the journals.

Mr. Dunlop, the British Consul, recently addressed the Captain General a full and elaborate statement, couched in energetic yet polite language, of the outrages lately committed in British waters by the Spanish navy. General Dulce, probably realizing that the representatives of her Majesty could not be snubbed and insulted with the same impunity as those of the United States, replied in very courteous terms, stating, among other things, that the case of the Mary Lowell is now before the Spanish Admiralty Court, whose province it is to pass upon the legality of her seizure. Mr. Dunlop, at a late hour on Saturday evening last, despatched her Majesty's gunboat Heron to Caibarien, for the purpose of making due inquiries into the seizure of the English sloop Jeff Davis in British waters, on the 14th, by the Spanish war steamer Concha, and brought into that place on the 15th. She was without cargo, having, as is alleged, just returned from some point to which she had taken a load of sponges. As soon as she arrived at Caibarien the captain and crew were thrown into a common dungeon, among the worst of criminals. The same day the volunteers assassinated two Cuban passengers brought ashore from her, named Dr. Francisco M. Jiminez and Rafael Valero, highly respected citizens, natives of Remedios. They were without papers.

The British Consul General, who is in regular communication with Bermuda, Jamaica and other points in the West Indies, is expecting a considerable naval force to cruise along this coast and the Bahamas for the protection of British interests. Among others, the iron-clad Victoria, built on the newest and most improved models, is expected. Americans in the island are anxiously looking for the promised increase in their national squadron here, as their situation is regarded as insecure.

The question of the Peruvian iron-clads is exciting much comment here, and they are now generally regarded as intended for operations connected with this island. It is known that one of them is now at Ragged Island, waiting for coal from Nassau. This information is up to the 22d. The whereabouts of the other is unknown, nothing having been seen or heard of her. Naval men express the opinion that she is lying in some one of the numerous ports of the island, and that both will be heard from ere long. Competent naval officers, who themselves commanded similar crafts during the late war, and who visited these monitors when laying at Key West, state that they are in magnificent condition for active service; that they are commanded by men thoroughly acquainted with them, and that with their offensive and resistive powers, any harbor of Cuba is at their mercy, not excepting, perhaps, Havana. This is not generally appreciated, but much natural anxiety is felt concerning them. There is certainly every probability that they will soon be heard from in a manner that will astonish the Dons and the world.

News has been received here of the political prisoners on the Francisco de Borjas. As soon as the ship was clear of Cuba the commander, who takes sealed despatches, to be opened on his nearing Cadiz, disarmed the volunteers and informed them that he had command of the ship and of the expedition, that their arms would be placed in safe keeping, and, should they be required, due notice would be given. The prisoners were treated as passengers and allowed to go about the vessel as such.

The police system of the island, which for some time past has been very defective, has been reorganized and is now controlled directly by the government. The office of Superior Preiectorship of Police in Havana is suppressed and the duty entrusted to the city governor. The governors of the different jurisdictions constitute the chiefs of police within their respective commands. Other changes have been made which it is hoped will increase the security both in the cities and rural districts.

A report has reached here that two steamers and the same number of schooners, with men and 3,000 stand of arms and having General Henningsen on board, have safely landed at Cape Mayst.

The *Diario de la Marina*, with its chronic disregard of truth, claims that the Mary Lowell was seized nine miles from the Bahama coast. In its comments thereon it is by no means complimentary to the Anglo-Saxon race, and says that Spain "has a right to pay other nations in the same coin she has received from them." The coasting steamer Comercio has been armed and fitted out as a gunboat to prevent any landing near Cardenas.

The Spaniards are styled by the Cubans *gorriones*, or sparrows—referring to the grasping, thieving propensities of those birds. Recently one of them (the birds) fell dead from a tree in the Plaza de Armas. It was picked up by a volunteer, who doubtless appreciated its name as applied to Spaniards, and by him and his comrades was placed in a neat box and laid out in state, like a corpse, with candles, &c., about it. The matter finally attracted so much attention that presents were sent for the occasion by persons high in authority, and no less a sum than $345 was collected about the remains of the poor bird, which has been placed in the hands of Colonel Jiminez, commanding the First battalion of light infantry (Seventh volunteers), for distribution among those volunteers who may be wounded in the field. A request has been sent from Matanzas for the box to be sent thither, to be returned again.

A meeting was convened by General Dulce a few evenings since, composed of the proprietors of small farms and sugar estates, for the purpose of enabling them to contribute towards the maintenance of a respectable rural police force, or Guardia Civil, to prevent incendiarism and other depredations. Such representations were made to them that they agreed to pay a certain sum, proportionate to the amount of sugar that they raised. Evidently this is but another means adopted by the authorities to screw out money from the small property holders, as with the large number of troops they have in the island they make no headway in stopping the depredations referred to. Again a large number of the officials sent out from Spain are as yet unprovided with places, which must be provided for them. The *Diario* estimates that the force required additional to that already in service will cost $1,440,000 per annum.

Admiral Hoff has obtained information that there are fifteen or twenty American engineers on estates in the island, some of them with families, who are anxious to get away. He represented the matter to General Dulce, who has promised to send orders to the authorities to facilitate their coming to Havana as much as possible. At the same time Dulce expressed himself desirous to do everything possible to preserve the existing good relations with the United States.

The *Official Gazette* contains a decree of the Captain General dismissing Don José Morales Lemas, lately commissioned by the Cuban committee to apply to the Washington government for belligerent rights, from the office of Counsellor of Administracion subject to the approval of the Supreme government, and declaring him liable to the penalties which the Spanish code imposes, of which due notice has been given to the High Court of Justice here.

On Sunday a disturbance occurred in the parish of Jesus Maria, where most of the free negroes and many poor whites live, during which a mulatto and others uttered seditious cries before a sentinel at the Military Hospital. A rumor was started that they desired to attack the hospital and a number of volunteers soon collected and so maltreated the mulatto that he subsequently died. The affair created considerable excitement at the time.

The Captain General has given permission for the establishment of a Spanish club in this city. It was duly inaugurated on the 26th. It is called the "Casino Peninsular," and among its objects commerce, the arts and agriculture are to be discussed.

The gunboat Narragansett left this port for Key West on Tuesday evening for the purpose of taking in coal. She will return immediately after.

Details of the Insurrection—Operations Near Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Espiritu Santo, Neuvitas, Holguin and Santiago—Fearful Condition of Puerto Principe—Forced Inactivity of General Valmaseda at Bayamo.

HAVANA, April 1, 1869.

It is said that the mail bag from Nassau, by the Columbia, addressed to the British Consul and sealed by the Post Office at New York, has been found opened at the Havana office, whether by mistake or not can only be conjectured.

The customs returns of February show that the duties collected in all the ports of Cuba were only $463,443, against $666,779 for the same month in 1868, showing the enormous decrease of $203,336.

Two volunteers, guilty of irregularities and mutinous conduct on the occasion of the departure of the political prisoners, have been sent to Spain as prisoners and for punishment. One of them is Lavi, a notorious ball fighter here and a man of bad character. The city press laud the action of the government therein as evincing a feeling of impartiality and justice.

The *Diario de la Marina*, commenting on an article in the London *Times* concerning the situation in Cuba, which says that there are only 35,000 troops here and that 50,000 more would not be sufficient to re-establish the prestige of the government, claims that there are now 90,000 in the island, including, of course, the volunteers. The *Diario* increases the number on paper to about 20,000 per week.

The Blasco de Garay, which recently arrived here with the Mary Lowell in tow, brought Dr. Manuel Castellanos, of Gibara, and a rebel chief, captured at Nuevitas, now in solitary confinement here.

An engineer named Adolfo Molinier, a Cuban, residing in Colon, was recently shot down by a volunteer without provocation.

A letter from Pinar del Rio, dated the 25th, says the Spaniards from Paso de San Diego to Mantua are all armed. Tobacco crops excellent, vegetables plentiful and the people in good spirits.

The coasting steamer Moctezuma arrived here on Saturday, the 27th, with four prisoners in irons. Among then was Señor Codrington, United States Vice Consul at Gibara, accused of complicity with the rebellion. He has since been released, owing, as is said, to his relations to the United States. He is a Spanish subject.

Señor Innocencio Casanova, an aged and wealthy American citizen, has been arrested. He was long a resident of New York, where he has sons and daughters who have been there for some time engaged in attending to his large and important interests. The American Consul, Mr. Hall, immediately called on General Dulce in reference to the matter, and, wonderful to tell, was informed that Mr. Casanova was charged with complicity in the capture of the Comanditario. Of course no one believes this ridiculous statement, evidently trumped up to justify the imprisonment of the head of an extensive family, which, on account of its American sympathies, is very obnoxious to the Spanish government here. It will be recollected that a son of Señor Casanova was recently compelled to abandon his estate near Cardenas, on account of the persecution of the Guardia Civil. He is now in Washington representing the matter to the government.

Dates from Cienfuegos are to the 28th. The artillery column under Morales Rios had gone to Villa Clara. Seventeen hundred troops, under Colonel Bucela, from Havana, had arrived by railroad. The steamer Rapido brought two batteries of artillery, with three Armstrong guns. Brigadier General Amable Escalante, with forces of all arms, goes to Nuevitas. Three thousand troops were about leaving for Sagua. The telegraph to Havana, via Cruces and Sand Clara, has been re-established. The Santa Elena estate, belonging to Ramon de la Gandara Lomba, in Las Lajas, had been pillaged and set on fire by a band of 100 men under Villamil, who carried away twenty-nine coolies and twenty-three negroes. The insurgent chief, Ballon, with his followers, is reported to be completely surrounded at Velagora, and his surrender was expected.

A letter from Cienfuegos, the 30th, states that a gang of negroes on the plantation Manuelita, belonging to Nicolas Acra, had fled, with a view of joining the insurgents. The troops had captured thirty-four of them.

Accounts from Trinidad the 27th state that with the battalion of Chasseurs of Colon from Cienfuegos arrived Colonel Corrales, of the column which defeated the insurgents at Pueblo Virjo. It is believed that there are five thousand insurgents between Guayabo, Siptabo and Sagua. They had shot thirteen Spaniards, some of whom were rural police captains. The forces of Letona and Pelaez were operating in that vicinity.

In Sagua, the 26th, thirteen youths, from fifteen to twenty years of age, bent on joining the rebels, were apprehended. The plantation "Santa Cruz Liebana," owned by Eusebio Cuevas, was on fire. The estates here are in close proximity, and the owners had determined to organize an armed force for their protection. Governor Trillo pardons all those who abandon the rebel ranks provided they are not among the leaders. Many of the negroes carried away from the estates have managed to escape, and have returned to their labor.

Advices from Remedios, dated the 29th, report an engagement between 300 troops, some mobilized Sharpshooters and other volunteers and 3,000 rebels, entrenched at Placeres, provided with cannon and a large number of cavalry. An advanced force of 200 rebels was met at Nazareno and driven into their camp. As the troops approached the rebels opened a heavy fire, which lasted three hours, including artillery, not badly directed. The troops replied with ammunition, and finally charged with the bayonet, dislodging the enemy and capturing their three mountain pieces. The enemy had 136 killed and many wounded. The troops captured an immense quantity of arms, horses, flags, &c. They lost but one wounded.

Two companies of the Fifth mobilized volunteers, which recently left here for Remedios, were defeated near that place on the 21st by a party of insurgents under Truhon, a Spaniard, formerly Capitan del Partido, who had been outlawed by the government. The volunteers lost thirty killed and wounded.

Advices from Villa Clara are to the 29th. Nothing of importance reported. Detachments of from fifty to one hundred men were needed to ferret out and surprise the rebels. They are able to avoid large forces easily, and so avoid battle. Large parties of insurgents were concentrated near Arroyo Blanco, led by Valdes, Navarro, Christo, Eloy, Perez, Morales and others. It was not safe to venture beyond six miles from town.

In Espiritu Santo, the 25th, the forces of Poello had returned from Moron. This movement was in combination with Lesca's march from Guanaja, but he did not require aid. Poello had gone out again in search of the rebels. *La Voz de Cuba* mentions an encounter between fifty-seven volunteers and 1,500 rebels, in which the former were victorious, killing twelve, wounding many and taking several prisoners; also horses and papers of great importance. The troops under Brigadier General Escalante, in Espiritu Santo, had suffered very great losses recently while dashing through a wood filled with rebels.

In Santa Cruz, the 21st, a column of 1,200 men had arrived from Puerto Principe, having been annoyed somewhat on the way by rebels, and with one wounded. They were to return on the following day with provisions, munitions and hospital stores.

Dates from Puerto Principe are to the 27th. The situation is represented as deplorable. The greater part of the houses are abandoned; some from disloyalty, others driven by fear and hunger. Schools are suspended, churches converted into barracks, the children scattered and the entire population melancholy and afflicted.

From Nuevitas the 25th. No insurgents are in the vicinity. The troops recently arrived here from Havana have embarked on the war steamers Blasco de Garay and Conde Venadito, for Manati, whence they were to occupy some important point in the interior, probably Las Tunas.

Letters from Gibara confirm the statement that one of the Peruvian monitors had entered Port Naranjo and that Marcano and Marmol had gone on board of her. She remained there three days, and shipped charcoal and provisions. The collision and sinking of the steamer Havana occurred previous to her entrance there. Three convoys had gone from Gibara to Holguin within a month, the rebels not being able to stop them. On the 16th, at night, Lieutenant Medina, with fifty men, dressed as insurgents, surprised and broke up a rebel camp in Managuaco, killing seventeen and capturing two flags, many arms, munitions and horses. If reinforcements arrive soon constant communication with Holguin might be opened. On the 24th the new Governor (Obregon), escorted by twenty volunteer cavalry, started for Holguin. In the hamlet of Auras from 4,000 to 5,000 persons had arrived, having fled before the insurgents.

Belisario Alvarez, a lawyer, native of Holguin, brevet colonel of volunteers there, had been arrested and placed in solitary confinement, being suspected of plotting to go over to the insurgents with a portion of his command.

Santiago de Cuba dates of the 22d state that the copper mines at Cobre have been completely abandoned. The column under Lopez Camara had not yet arrived from Mayari, though it was to march on the 19th, leaving behind a garrison of 200 men. At Canalito, in the Bay of Nipes, he captured some artillery while being landed. He was arrested by Captain Gonzales Munoz, who went in two launches to a point thirty miles from Mayari, when they came upon two canoes, filled with people. The men jumped into the water under a heavy fire, and all the enemy disappeared. Three iron cannon were found.

The latest accounts from Bayamo state that General Valmaseda was awaiting reinforcements in vain, probably owing to events which had occurred at different points; he continues deprived of all communication with the government. He has his headquarters here and communicates with Jignani and Baire by land and with Mansanillo via the coast. Deficient in forces, he arranges the situation as best he can. It is evident that the government intends leaving him in inglorious activity. On the 12th arrived at Mansanillo fifty cavalry volunteers, under a youth of Guisa, whom Valmaseda had made captain. His mother had been killed by the insurgents. He brought important dispatches. Dates from Mansanillo to the 19th report a sally from that place, resulting in the killing of thirty-five rebels, including the chief, Juan del Pino.

NASSAU.

Excitement Over the Mary Lowell Affair—Capture of the Schooner Jeff Davis—The Feeling Against Spaniards—Comments of the Press.

HAVANA, March 30, 1869.

We have advices from Nassau to the 28th. Your correspondent at that point writes as follows:—

"The excitement here in reference to the Mary Lowell affair continues unabated. The Governor is very angry at the conduct of the Spanish officers in the matter, and the press is very energetic in its denunciations of the high-handed outrage. The sympathy with the Cubans is universal. A Spanish officer recently entered the American House and called for supper, when the landlady informed him that she had nothing for him, that what she had was for the Cubans. There are still thirty refugees at Ragged Island and about 100 here; the latter are living together in their houses, for the sake of economy. It is barely possible if the Spanish man-of-war Guardiana remains about here long something may happen to her. A negro pilot who had been aboard of her for some time recently left, fearing, as he says, that she would be attacked and sunk by the monitor sooner or later. Some time during this week a vessel will leave this harbor with coal for the monitor now at Ragged Island. The two officers belonging to her are still here. They are courteous and polite to all, but reticent in regard to the vessel, nor can any one learn from them where she is bound to. I have just heard that some schooners, searching for sponges, have been seized by a Spanish man-of-war, which will still further incense the people here."

The Nassau *Herald* published an extra, on the 22d, with flaming headings, from which I extract as follows:—

The British schooner Britannia, Captain Thompson, arrived in this port on Tuesday morning last. She brings intelligence of further gross outrages committed by Spanish vessels of war in the vicinity of the Cuban coast, all of which are in direct violation of all recognized international laws. Captain Thompson reports as follows:—"On the morning of the 14th instant, while on a sponging voyage, I was boarded by a boat belonging to a Spanish war vessel. The officers in command searched my vessel and demanded my papers. I was after this taken alongside the Spanish steamer, and, after a considerable lapse of time and interference, was permitted to continue my voyage, receiving the caution on parting—that I was never again to be seen on the coast of Cuba. I remonstrated against this insulting and outrageous treatment, and told the commander of the gunboat that as a British subject I considered that he had violated my rights and insulted the flag which protected me and under which I sailed. To all of which I received no other reply than permission to depart and continue my voyage." Captain Thompson further reports that on Monday last he saw the sloop Jeff Davis, of this port, in tow of a Spanish man-of-war. The Jeff Davis had just completed her sponging voyage and was returning home to Nassau when she was captured.

The same paper also has the following:—

There is a report current this morning in town that the Spanish gunboat Guardiana, which is just about to leave our harbor, is doing so for the purpose of committing another outrage, and that is nothing less than with the illegal intention of capturing the British schooner Alice Flora, loaded with coal. Can there be anything more monstrous than such a threat, even if it is not carried into immediate execution? of which, however, there is every probability. There is another report in circulation of a very singular nature, and that is that some persons have been expressing views repugnant to the supremacy of the British crown in this portion of her Majesty's dominions and in other ways insulting her Majesty's subjects. It is high time that our government should take immediate and prompt measures to prevent matters assuming an attitude which is not only likely to embarrass it, but also to lessen the estimation in which the flag of old England has always been regarded by foreign Powers. Forbearance is a good thing in its way, but it may be carried to an extent that savors of weakness, which would not only be unworthy of us, but, considering our resources, positively ridiculous. Therefore it is incumbent on our government to vindicate the honor and integrity of the British flag and the sway which her Majesty exercises over her dominions, and to teach all foreigners that when they infringe in the slightest way the honor of England they do so at their peril.

The *Herald* of the 16th contains a communication from John Maura, Spanish Consul, contradicting the statement that outrages had been perpetrated by the commander of a Spanish gunboat at Ragged Island; to which that journal responds by referring to the statement of Mr. Wilson and the seizure of the Mary Lowell. The British gunboat Philsmel, commander Coxan, arrived at Nassau on the morning of the 22d. The British brig Alice Flora left day before yesterday, with coal, for the Monitor at Ragged Island. The Guardiana has been out for several days. The only war vessel now here is the British corvette Philomel.

ST. THOMAS.

Nothing Known of the Peruvian Monitors—The Governor of Porto Rico Demands the Expulsion of American Citizens—Flogging of a French Citizen.

ST. THOMAS, March 16, 1869.

Nothing has been heard of the Peruvian monitors, reported on their way hither.

The Captain General of Porto Rico recently represented to the government of this island that Dr. Betances, a refugee residing in St. Thomas, was conspiring against his government, and as the result the Doctor was ordered to leave the place, although nothing could be proved against him except his well known aversion to the despotic government of his native land. He, being a naturalized American citizen, applied to the Consul of the United States, who immediately represented to the Governor the injustice of sending away a person who, guiltless of any established offence, had sought the hospitality of the Danish flag, and the Doctor has since been undisturbed.

A most disgraceful act was recently committed by the police magistrate of this place, which is likely to bring the authorities into trouble with the French Admiral, who is by no means slow in looking after the interests of French citizens. The facts are as follows:—The French mail steamer Tampico, from Jamaica, recently arrived in port and soon after a cutter was sent on shore for some purpose. Arrived at "King's Wharf," it was left in charge of a lad belonging to the ship. He was scarcely left alone when a Danish official approached and ordered him out of the way with his boat. The boy, not understanding well the language in which he was addressed did not obey the order, whereupon he was taken to the police office and there most cruelly flogged. The French Consul has warmly taken up the matter and demands the dismissal of the functionary inflicting the punishment. The case is now before the Superior Court, and should its decision not be of a character to please the French Admiral, now here from Hayti in the Semiramis, he will take such steps as may be demanded.

The island is healthy, but scarcely any business is done, on account of the troubles in Cuba and the expected rising by the people in St. Domingo. Generals Pimental and Valverde are still here, with several other Dominican officers, awaiting the result of their expedition to the eastern coast of that unfortunate republic. Several refugees from Porto Rico arrived here in the last Spanish steamer.

HAYTI.

The Conscription—Haytien Merchants Forced Into the Army—Desperate Attack of the Cacos on Gonaives—Reinforcement of Salnave's Harem—Seizure of British Mails.

HAVANA, April 1, 1869.

Your correspondent at Port au Prince, under date of the 20th ult., writes as follows:—

The NEW YORK HERALD will ere this have been informed that Salnave had ordered a conscription, and that Haytien merchants and others were being arrested in the most unceremonious manner possible, hustled on board a Haytien gunboat and shipped off to Gonaives, to reinforce the garrison commanded by General Chevalier, which was being threatened by the insurrectionary Cacos. I have now to report that after this had been effected, the President, lacking confidence in Chevalier, proceeded himself to Gonaives on board the Alexandre Petion. Soon after his arrival the Cacos made a vigorous and very desperate attack, pressing far into the city, which they at one time held, fighting with great bravery and determination. The guns, however, of the Alexandre Petion threw them into some confusion, which was taken advantage of by the government forces, who drove them from their position, with some loss. The dead lay thick about the streets and were subjected to the most barbarous indignities. Two of the Cacos, who had fought most bravely in the siege and had fallen before overwhelming numbers in one of the streets of Gonaives, were thrown into a cart and hurled through the town from door to door, followed by a number of General Chevalier's troops, shouting "Who wants hog meat to buy?" An English lady, at whose door they stopped, went from curiosity to take a look, and is reported to have fainted at the revolting spectacle so suddenly brought under her notice. The corpses in the streets lay unburied, and at night hundreds of abandoned women sung and danced over the bodies, shouting "Vive Salnave! Vive Chevalier! Death to the Cacos!" The effect of this upon the revolutionists has been, as may be imagined, very great indeed. Retribution is threatened, but while the Cacos were repulsed from the town they made good their position in the suburbs, from which Chevalier has not yet been able to dislodge them.

While Salnave was at Gonaives he seems to have made good use of his time in visiting the families of that place, for when the gunboat Salnave returned to Port au Prince it was discovered that while Salnave had carried 300 men to reinforce General Chevalier's garrison at Gonaives, he had brought in return seventy-five dashing Sambo belles to augment his household establishment at the national palace. Their landing created no little amusement, as internal disturbances in the palace arose in consequence, some of the older birds taking their departure in a fit of jealousy.

The policy of the President in permitting a conscription has been much canvassed by the citizens, and the opinions are very much divided, many considering such action unwarrantable—to take gentlemen from their business at the capital to fight against the Cacos at Gonaives. On the other hand, it has been received with good favor by those who assert that the movement was directed against "loafers" and the boasting fraternity who frequented the *cafés*, and that in their being sent to Gonaives they were being properly treated. There can be no question, however, that this movement gave the greatest satisfaction to those who honestly served the government and had been found always at the post of duty, ready to fight.

A serious affair has arisen, which is likely to prove troublesome. The mail bag from the General Post Office in Kingston for Mr. St John, the British Chargé d'Affaires at Port au Prince, sealed by the Postmaster Genéral of Jamaica, and sent by the British steamer Cuban, was seized by President Salnave, the seals broken and many of the letters taken out and opened, in defiance of the protest of Mr. St. John. Her Majesty's steamer Dart has been hurried off to Jamaica with despatches for Commodore Phillimore, and to await his instructions in the matter.

The failure of Salnave in reducing Gonaives to submission has been exceedingly discouraging to the government, notwithstanding Chevalier being able to hold possession of the town. Being wholly surrounded by the revolutionary Cacos communication with the interior by land is entirely cut off, and it is very doubtful how long he may be able to keep his stand under the circumstances.

At St. Marc the revolutionists manifest great spirit and determination. They have fortified the town and made it a stronghold. Commerce is active, and large quantities of produce find way to the harbor, which is crowded with American, English and French shipping, loading as fast as they can without interruption. The American steamer Red Gauntlet, some months ago engaged in the conveyance of emigrants from the Southern States of America for the Brazils, and which put into St. Thomas in distress, and was there sold and rechristened "Telegrafo," is now lying in that port for sale (St. Marc). The Prussian steamer of war Victoria is lying in the port of St. Marc.

The American tug Aspinwall, with one twenty pounder and one ten pounder Parrott gun, is lying in this harbor for sale; but the government has refused to purchase her.

The stock of provisions here is not large, but supplies are momentarily expected.

Currency greatly depreciated. Gold has brought 210 to 220, and even higher rates are now demanded.

High-Handed Outrage by Salnave—War Vessels Sent to Demand Satisfaction.

KINGSTON, Ja., March 28, 1869.

Serious representations have been made by Mr. St. John, the British Chargé d'Affaires at Port au Prince, to Commodore Phillimore, on this station. They are to the effect that the British steamer Cuban, for Liverpool, and carrying her Majesty's mail, was boarded by officers of the government of Salnave, who seized the mail bags addressed to Mr. St. John, broke the seals in spite of his remonstrances and protest, and abstracted numerous private letters, and delivered over the balance to Mr. St. John. The consequence was that numerous arrests were made, on the strength of information obtained from the letters seized, while a number of other parties were shot. Her Majesty's steamer Dart brought the intelligence to this port, and her Majesty's steamer Doris, twenty-four guns, under the command of Captain Glynn, has been sent to demand from the government at Port au Prince explanations and satisfactory reparation for the insult offered to her Majesty. In this demand Captain Glynn will be supported by the Jason, seventeen guns, under command of Captain Annesly, and they are also to demand the immediate release of the British sloop Dolphin, which left this port on the 4th of February with a cargo of merchandise for Aux Cayes, and which had, by order of President Salnave, been seized.

This matter is spoken of at the naval station in Port Royal as likely to terminate seriously for Salnave, as the British authorities now see the necessity of putting an end to liberties of this sort. The Dart is about to be despatched to Bermuda to communicate the facts of the case to the admiral on the station.

ST. DOMINGO.

The Dominican Gold Mines—The Annexation Question—A Guerilla Chief—The Country Quiet.

ST. DOMINGO, March 20, 1869.

Your correspondent has just returned from an interesting trip to the gold regions, but as the steamer is about leaving there is no time to write out notes by this mail. In brief, however, the State Geologist, with whom I passed an hour—after a hard day's ride to run him down—is reticent of details, though hopeful to enthusiasm in his opinions at large. I found him, with his mining captain and some natives, digging into a vein freshly discovered on the bed of a little stream called Venturosa, and the party had beat out about a thimbleful of gold.

In our pursuit of this scientific wanderer we were constantly asked whether he had not come "to buy the country for the Yankees?" A priest, who seemed above the average of the Dominican clergy, took us apart, and, after declaring that our communications would be held as sacred as the secrets of the confessional, earnestly inquired "whether there were really any well-founded hopes of annexation to the United States?" We could only answer that we knew no more than we had seen stated in the papers, but there certainly seemed to be a party in Congress resolved to make the attempt. "May God aid their efforts!" ejaculated the padre, with unmistakable sincerity. I remarked, "The people seem much better disposed for annexation than we had thought possible," to which he responded, "We (meaning the clergy) are instructing them in the greatness of the American power to protect their interests, and in the excellence of the glorious constitution of the United States." "Then your order is sensible that the perfect independence of the Church is better than the union of the Church and State?" "Undoubtedly. Freedom is better than subjection and entanglements in the exercise of the truth," was the instant reply of the venerable priest.

He also, in speaking of the depressed state of public industry, produced letters from a relative who is on the frontier watching the movements of Adon and Ogando, the Dominican rebel generals, who are acting with the Cacos in Hayti. The writer says what I translate literally:—"Adon is the devil—we once came so near him that he had only time to mount his horse, which was tied but three yards from him, and fly. He left even his spurs behind. He was sleeping, with his saddle for a pillow; this I made a prize of, together with his coat and blanket; only two nights after he stole upon us and carried off my fine gray. He and Timoteo Ogando do more horse stealing than any ten of the famous Cacos; but we never can catch them in an open field. With patience, I mean to have back my noble gray—he is too good a horse for the bloody spur of Marc Adon."

This is about all that can be said of the frontier troubles. Inside the Dominican borders there has been no show of Caco force for three months. There is truly and positively no revolutionary band on foot within the Dominican territory.

It is impossible to portray the effect which the Banks resolutions produced all over the country. In going out of St. Domingo we met three of the most distinguished men of Santiago, who told us frankly that they had come to the capital expressly to urge President Baez to hasten by all the means in his power "the glorious day in which St. Domingo should be accepted as one of the States of the great mother of American republics."

Alta Vela is given up by the European Company. The guano turns out badly.

The bad health of General Gomez has not allowed him yet to take the oath as Vice President of the republic before the consulting Senate. General Caminero has returned from the Seybo province and resumed his duties as commandant-at-arms. The sentence of death passed on the following persons has been commuted by Baez:—Joaquin Aybar, E. Fortun, I. Piña, E. Flores, B. Zorrilla, I. Dumornez, G. Conto, L. Castro (son), B. Benitez, A. Miranda and S. Penso—all tried and condemned by court martial in Santa Cruz del Seybo. But the same grace was denied to Generals J. Rosa Herrera and S. Silvestre and Captain B. Mercedes.

EUROPE.

The French steamship Ville de Paris, Captain Surmount, from Havre the 26th via Brest the 27th ult., arrived here yesterday. She brings Continental papers up to the last date of sailing.

The Brussels journals announce that General Nerenburger, Director of the Military School in that city, has blown out his brains.

A meeting of 3,000 persons of all classes has been held recently in Lisbon to oppose the electoral law. Order was not disturbed. Other assemblages are being prepared.

A deputation arrived in Florence on the 23d ult., from Naples, with the address and golden crown offered by the population of that city to the King on the anniversary of his coronation.

The Spanish journals state that the total number of the prisoners of Xeres was 673, of whom 183 have been set at liberty and 296 placed on board the steamer Colon, to be transported to Ceuta. The others are in the prisons of the town.

A train of carriages containing 300 persons, on the railway of Kharhow (Russia), had a couple of weeks back a narrow escape from destruction. Immediately after it had passed over a bridge erected over a river the whole construction gave way with a tremendous crush.

The Madrid *Correspondencia*, of the 24th ult., announces the arrest at Burgos of a carpenter accused of being the author of the assassination of the Governor.

Cardinal Bonaparte was lately charged by the Emperor to thank the Pope, in the name of the Prince Imperial, for the Pontifical benediction which his Highness received on the anniversary of his birthday.

The municipality of the town of Arad (Hungary), in consequence of the numerous acts of brigandage committed in the neighboring territory, has set a price on the heads of several bandits mentioned by name. A reward of 1,000 florins per man is to be given for four of them and 200 for three others.

The *Gazette de St. Petersbourg* states that a sanguinary conflict has just taken place at Cronstadt between the seamen and soldiers in that town. Nearly 4,000 men took part in the fight, which resulted in six of the combatants being killed and many others wounded. Several officers were ill-used in attempting to put a stop to the disorder.

Advices from Brussels announce that the intention of M. Frère-Orban, Belgian Prime Minister, is to submit to the French government a plan for simplifying the present customs system, which would have for effect to favor in a considerable measure the commercial relations existing between the two countries.

The strike of the compositors in Geneva, Switzerland, continues. On the night of the 22d ult. a meeting was held, at which the twenty-five sections of the International Association of Workmen were represented. Speeches of a violent character were delivered and the "Marseillaise" was sung. Alarming reports were in circulation next morning, and it was feared that disturbances would take place.

An incident has just occurred at Hanover which is rather significant. Professor Ewald lately appeared before the Supreme Tribunal at Gottingen on a charge of *lèse-majesté* and exciting to hatred and contempt of the government. He was acquitted, and the same day he was selected unanimously by a large meeting of electors as their candidate for the Parliament of the Northern Confederation.

A letter from Brussels, in the *Journal de Liége*, says:—

A question of importance for Ostend is being discussed at this moment by an international commission sitting at Florence. This body, in which Belgium is represented, has under consideration the itinery of the mails from the Levant, and the establishment of a direct service from Brindisi to the above-named port. In selecting this route instead of that by Marseilles, four or five days would be saved at present, and when the tunnel under Mount Cenis is finished the advantage will be still greater.

FRANCE.

The Emperor's Address to the Council of State on Workingmen's Reforms.

The following is the text of the address which the Emperor delivered in the Council of State when opening the proceedings at the Tuileries on the 24th ult.:—

GENTLEMEN—I have felt anxious to preside this day over the Council of State, in order to explain to you in what order of ideas I had placed myself in inviting the Ministers to submit to you a bill relative to the suppression of workmen's livrets.

Society in our time, all must admit, comprises many opposite elements. Do we not see, in fact, on one side, certain legitimate aspirations and just desires of improvement, and on the other subversive theories and blamable cupidities? The duty of the government is to resolutely satisfy the first, and to firmly repudiate the second.

When the present state of the greatest number is compared with what it was in the last century there can be only congratulation on the progress obtained, on the abuses destroyed and on the improvement in public manners. Nevertheless, if the social plagues of the most flourishing populations be probed there will be discovered, under the appearances of prosperity, many unmerited grievances which call for the sympathies of all generous hearts, and many unsolved problems which solicit the co-operation of all intelligent minds.

It is with such feelings that laws have been elaborated by you and adopted by the legislative body, some entirely philanthropical, like those of public assistance, mutual aid and insurance in case of accident or death; others authorizing the workmen to unite their savings, to oppose the solidarity of wages to that of capital, allowing them at the same time to discuss their own interests at public meetings, and in fine accr