CUBA.

Manifesto of the Cuban Junta.

Refutation of the Slanderous Attack on Cuban Patriotism.

How the Spaniards Bolster Up Their Cause.

TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE:—

The expiring power of Spain in Cuba is now engaged in a desperate attempt to mislead the opinion of foreign nations and at the same time to spread discouragement in the ranks of the struggling patriots by a series of falsehoods and misrepresentations which, when fully exposed, will only bring contempt on their authors and show the real weakness of a cause which is driven to such means. Taking advantage of the difficulty with which intelligence from the patriot side penetrates to the outer world, holding in their power the single representative of the foreign press, whose reports are submitted, before transmission, to a rigid censorship, and possessing a recognized representative in every capital, where our agents cannot be openly received, they are endeavoring, by studied reports of tremendous victories and of the surrender of large bodies of Cubans to the Spanish leaders, to induce a general belief that the Cuban revolution is dying out.

We have refrained hitherto, out of respect for the good sense of the people among whom we live and from whom we have constantly received so much generous hospitality and sympathy, from giving a direct contradiction to these transparent inventions, trusting to time and the inevitable course of events to elicit the truth. But our enemies have become bold and rash and openly transgress the bounds of decency by broadly stating in the Havana papers that they have seen a copy of a circular signed by the members of the Cuban Junta in New York ordering the insurgents to lay down their arms for the present, and giving as reasons for the abandonment of the insurrection the failure of recent filibustering expeditions (so says the telegram) and the inability of the Junta to send more men; and, further, the disheartening action of the American goverment in permitting the gunboats to sail from New York.

Being thus directly made the objects of slanderous attacks we can no longer keep silence. We have already flatly contradicted the statement above referred to, through our President, by a letter to the press of this country, and telegrams to that of Havana, and to General Caballero de Rodas, which latter, we fear, will not be published. But at the same time it behooves us, accused of being the authors of assertions so widely distant from the truth, to lay the real facts and state of the case before the American public.

Those who have followed with any interest the intelligence reported in the papers from Spanish sources, concerning the Cuban revolution, will give small credence to the announcements of large numbers of our combatants either dying in battle, or soliciting pardon. Such has been the monotonous story since the commencement of the war, and yet this insurrection, ever on the eve of being suppressed, has lived now through a period of fifteen months, and seems endowed with more vitality than ever. One of our friends, who has been at the patient pains to compile and cast up the different reports of engagements, as given in the Havana newspapers, gives us the following as the result of his labors:—

Cubans killed in action	16,980
Cubans wounded in action	9,133
Cubans taken prisoners	2,092
Cubans surrendered, asking pardon	16,501
Total	44,706

And yet the Spanish agents persistently present this war as confined to a few predatory bands, who, far from being supported by the sympathies of a majority of the population, are compelled to take refuge in the forests. We need quote no better authority, however, to show the utter disregard of truth, which is the inevitable characteristic of Spanish despatches, than the testimony of one of their own officers, one of the highest in rank (General Buceta), who, in a letter published in the *Diario de la Marina* of Havana on the 24th of June, 1869, affirmed that all the official reports of actions, in which the soldiers of Spain come out invariably triumphant and unhurt, are mendacious. General Letona, commander-in-chief of the Central Department of Cuba, in a recent article entitled "The Cuban Question," published in the *Revista de España*, of Madrid, makes the following assertions:—"Operations have been carried out chiefly to satisfy public opinion, without a decided object in view or any prospect of success, and this, too, at a sacrifice of blood and health, the more sensible as they are of no benefit to our cause. In such cases moral policy advises misrepresentation to avoid the loss of our prestige. The name of a battle is given to skirmishes. Thousands of cartridges are wasted in answer to the first two or three shots from the woods. A simple movement of advance or reconnoissance is styled a bayonet charge, and when a real fight takes place—which is very seldom, because the enemy always avoids it unless he is absolutely certain of success—the battle is one of those acts which, according to good military principles, should deserve to be judged and condemned by a court martial."

We have communications from the Cuban camps as late as the 7th of December last, by which we learn that the force of the Cuban army was then about 40,000 men, who, though not nearly as well armed and equipped as we could desire, were well organized, under the following leaders:—

Commander-in-Chief—General MANUEL QUESADA.

STAFF.

Chief—General Thomas Jordan.
Chief of Artillery—Major Breanville rs.
Brigadier Major of Orders—Bernabe Varona.
Sanitary Department—Adolfo Varona.

FIRST DIVISION—ARMY OF CAMAGUEY.

Major General—Ignacio Agramonte.
First Brigade—Colonel Miguel Benoe.
Second brigade—General Francisco Castillo.
Third brigade—Colonel Cornelius Porro.
Fourth brigade—Colonel Lopez Recio.
Fifth brigade—Colonel Manuel Valdes Urra.
Sixth brigade—Colonel Manuel Agramonte.
First battalion—Colonel Pedro Recio.
Second battalion—Colonel Jose Luis Boca.
Third battalion—Rafael Bobadilla.

SECOND DIVISION—ARMY OF ORIENTE.

Major-General—Francisco Aguilera.
First brigade—General Donato Marmol.
Second brigade—General Luis Moreano.
Third brigade—General Julio Peralta.

THIRD DIVISION—ARMY OF LAS VILLAS.

Major-General—Federico Cavada.
First brigade—General C. Acosta.
Second brigade—General Salome Hernandez.
Third brigade—General Adolfo Cavada.

As to our civil government, which is said to be such as is found in a camp, it is composed, according to our constitution, of the following officers, elected by the House of Representatives at Guimaro, on the 11th of April, 1869:—

President—Carlos Manuel Cespedes.
Secretary of War—Francisco V. Aguilera.
Secretary of State—Cristobal Mendoza, now Ramon Cespedes.
Secretary of the Treasury—Eligio Izaguirre.
Secretary of the Interior—Eduardo Agramonte.

A Congress, or Chamber of Representatives, as it is called, composed of delegates from every portion of the island now held by the Cubans, has been sitting alternately at Guimaro and Siburica, two towns at a very small distance from one another, ever since the 10th of April last, with the exception of a short recess. Besides enacting the constitution of the republic, by which a form of government similar to that of the United States is established, slavery, dignities and social honors are abolished; the liberty of worship, of the press, of petition, of public meeting, of teaching, and every other inalienable right guaranteed. Many laws have been framed by that body, of which the following are a few of the principal:—

JUNE 16, 1869.—Law authorizing the emission of $2,000,000 legal tender paper money, the republic promising to redeem it for specie at par as soon as circumstances should permit. In anticipation of this enactment, the New York Junta had, at the request of President Cespedes, caused to be engraved in this city and sent out to Cuba the currency required.

JULY 9, 1869.—Law organizing the different departments of the army, ordaining that every citizen between the ages of eighteen and fifty should be obliged to bear arms.

AUGUST 8, 1869.—Law regulating the administration of justice and vesting it:—First, in a supreme court; second, in criminal judges; third, in civil judges; fourth, in prefects and sub-prefects; fifth, in courts martial.

Each State of the republic is divided into various judicial districts, with a civil judge, a criminal judge and an attorney for the Commonwealth. These courts are proceeding with as much regularity as is possible in the midst of civil commotions. Among other facts which denote the impartiality with which these courts administer justice, we will cite the case of a Cuban named Borjes, who was tried by them and condemned to death for having murdered a Spaniard named Manuel Cobza, a native of Santander.

AUGUST 7, 1869.—Law describing the powers of the administration and the functions of the secretaries of state, together with those of other civil officers. Every State has a civil governor. The States are divided into districts, each one of which is governed by a lieutenant governor, and again sub-divided into prefectships and sub-prefectships. All these functionaries are elected by the people.

The best proof that this organization is working and in force has been afforded by the Spanish government itself, who have published in the Havana newspapers a telegram dated the 8th of December last, in which the Spanish Commander General of Cinco Villas reports to the Captain General that the Prefect of Santa Clara, Don Agustin Hernandez, had presented himself to him.

The Civil Governor elected by the Cubans for the State of Las Villas is Joaquin Morales. For the State of Camaguay Carlos Loret de Mola was appointed in May *ad interim*. On the 25th of September Manuel Ramon Silva was elected in his place.

The gravest difficulty which the Cubans have hitherto had to contend against is the difficulty of procuring arms and ammunition. Almost the whole of what they possess have been captured from the Spaniards, who often abandon their weapons in the field, the better to escape from their enemies. While Spain has enjoyed the most absolute liberty to obtain arms and armed vessels in foreign ports our ships are detained and our stores of arms seized by a one side interpretation of the neutrality laws, which we are informed by some of the most eminent lawyers of this country and of England is contrary to the spirit in which the neutrality and enlistment laws of both nations were framed. Yet the Cuban patriots have been enabled to receive from time to time several shipments of arms, of which we will mention the principal:—

In November, 1868, the schooner Galvanic landed about 1,000 rifles, with ammunition.

On the 26th of December, of the same year, General Quesada took with him into the port of Guanaja, 2,800 rifles and corresponding ammunition.

On the 11th of May, 1869, Francisco Javier Cisneros landed at Nipe Bay with 2,500 rifles, ten pieces of artillery, ammunition, clothing, shoes, &c.

On the 14th of the same month a steamer put on shore, with safety, at Nuevas Grande, one cannon, 900 rifles and other stores.

On the 20th of June the schooner Grapeshot landed at Baltiquiri 600 rifles, with powder.

Several small remittances were received in October on the south coast.

On the 18th of December last a cargo, composed of about 1,000 rifles and ammunition, was despatched from one of the neighboring islands and safely reached its destination.

The total number of men not Cubans landed with these expeditions does not amount to 200, and, except in cases of isolated individuals, we can affirm that no other foreigners have ever reached the island with the intention of joining the revolutionary army.

It is our firm determination to continue forwarding supplies to our brethren in arms, carefully avoiding conflict with the laws of surrounding countries, nor are we afraid that any discouragement will affect the patriot forces; for, added to their high motives for continuing the war which they have begun, they very well know that they have no mercy to expect from the hands of their former rulers, even if they were to submit with every assurance of pardon and protection. It is not the habit of Spaniards to respect engagements made with those whom they call rebels. As evidence of this undaunted spirit let us here transcribe the words of our President, Carlos Emanuel Cespedes to Jose Morales Lemus, his representative in this country, written on the 26th of October last:—"By all appearances the Spanish government intends making a supreme effort during next winter; and for this purpose they will not only bring from the Peninsula some more regiments, but also bring into the field the greater part of 80,000 magnificently armed volunteers they are said to have on the island. Nothing of this distresses us. We await the attack with tranquillity, though our arms are so inferior to theirs in number and quality, and though we are wanting in many of the things most indispensable to life. Give us eight tons of powder and we will not be afraid of all the armies of Spain."

It is not only their practice to shoot all prisoners taken in action, but it seems also their desire to exterminate, if they could, the whole race of natives in Cuba. The proclamations of the Captain Generals, of Count Valmaseda, of Brigadier Goyeneche and many other Spanish commanders, as well as editorials and correspondence in their newspapers, breathe a spirit of bloodthirstiness, which is the most unmistakable sign of the power of the revolution.

Nothing shows with livelier colors the system of warfare adopted by Spain in Cuba than the letters intercepted from the Spaniards by General Cabada a few months ago and published in several papers of the United States. Domingo Grafino writes from Santa Clara on the 23d of September:—"Between those killed in action and those shot as spies, sympathizers, &c., we put to death more than 300 per month in this jurisdiction alone. I alone, with my squad, have already despatched nine, and I shall never tire of killing." Jesus Rivarrosay, from Encrucijada, on the 4th of the same month, says:—"We took Seventeen, of whom we immediately shot thirteen. On dying they cried out, 'Viva Cuba libre!' and one colored man shouted 'Viva Cespedes!' On the following day we shot the Cuban patrolling officer and another. Among the thirteen of the first day were a father and three sons. The father saw the execution of his children without changing color, and when his turn came he said he died for the independence of his country. We carried away three wagons laden with women and children, whom we killed; and the w——s said they preferred death to living among Spaniards." Pedro Jardin writes to Rosendo Rivas, on September 22:—"Not a single native shall remain on this island, for all we find in the country, on the farms and in the cottages are shot." The same person says to his father, "We now leave no living thing wherever we pass—neither men nor animals. If we find cows, horses or pigs we kill them, and we do the same with men, women and children. If we find houses that may afford them shelter we burn them. In this war everything pays the penalty—men with the bullet, animals with the bayonet."

Let us compare this conduct with that observed by the Cubans. We might mention the names of many Spanish officers, such as Udueta, Andriani, Muguruza and others, who have been taken prisoners by the Cubans, and their lives respected. Besides, the Havana papers daily publish cases of the rescue of Spanish officers and soldiers who have been prisoners with the Cubans. President Cespedes said in his proclamation on reprisals that he had respected the lives of more than 400 prisoners attending the wounded, while the Spaniards had invariably shot, not only the Cuban prisoners, but also, and without trial, all citizens suspected of complicity. Cespedes, in the month of May, notwithstanding the above proclamation, pardoned one hundred Spanish prisoners at Las Tunas, who immediately entisted in the service of the republic.

On the 6th of July the Commander-in-Chief, Manuel de Quesada, wrote to Brigadier Lesca proposing him an exchange of officers he held as prisoners, whose names he mentioned, for an equal number of soldiers of the Cuban army. Lesca's answer was:—"Spain is too haughty to accept such ridiculous propositions. She has 17,000,000 of loyal inhabitants to defend her, and she cares little for the lives of ten or twelve if they die for their country. Prisoners I have none, for as many as have fallen in my hands I have shot, meaning to do the same in future." In spite of this insulting answer Quesada granted his prisoners their lives, and they all then joined his army, with the exception of two, who asked for a passport to Havana, where they had families.

Such conduct on the part of the Spanish leaders will help to explain the stanch determination on the part of the patriots to conquer or die fighting, and the strength which the revolution possesses at the present moment. We could corroborate these statements by many proofs, but we will content ourselves with the following:—

On the 11th of October last the *Voz de Cuba*, a Spanish paper, published in Havana, said in a leading article, "Is it possible that in Guaimaro, four days' journey from Havana, two by sea and two by land, there should have existed for the last eight months a government of traitors; that they should have been holding sessions, issuing decrees, publishing papers and exercising all the rights of sovereignty."

The world has not heard since then of the capture of Cespedes, of the dissolution of the Cuban Congress, or even of the capture of Guaimaro. On the contrary, on the 25th of December the telegraph informs us that General Puello had left Nuevitas with 3,000 well armed men, in the direction of Libanica and Guaimaro, determined now to take these towns.

By order of Captain General Caballero de Rodas the official gazette of Havana published, on the 19th of October last, for general intelligence, as he expressed it, the affidavit of an insurgent who had surrendered to the Spaniards, and who, from having served as a clerk with several prominent Cuban leaders, had been in a position to acquire information about the insurrection.

This witness declares the existence of a republican government, with C. M. Cespedes as President, Francisco Aguilera as Minister of War, &c.; that Congress was then in recess, and that on the 25th of September elections were to have been held at Camaguey. Jose Ramon Boza and Eduardo Agramonte were candidates for representatives to Congress, and Manuel Ramon Silva for Governor of the State; that Manuel Quesada was the General-in-Chief; Ignacio Agramonte, Major General in the district of Camaguey; Bernabe Varona, Major General of Orders; Beauvillers, Chief of Artillery. He mentions, besides these names, those of thirty-seven brigadier generals, colonels and majors, among whom we notice Colonel Benitez, a Spaniard; that there is no uniformity in the arms of the troops, but that they have many Spencer and Remington rifles; that some of the Spanish officers who are prisoners of war are instructing the Cuban troops; that the dress of General Quesada is a black or gray suit, white shirt, gray hat, with the Cuban cockade and the initials "V. C. L." in gold letters, and a sword with a gold hilt in the form of an eagle; that the staff of Quesada wear red flannel shirts, patent leather boots, Panama hats and cockades, with the letters "V. C. L." in silver; his escort wear blue flannel shirts, white or black pantaloons and Panama hats; all are armed with Spencer rifles and have good horses and equipments; that the sanitary department is in charge of Adolfo Varona and other physicians; that work goes on in the farms as usual, especially at Guaimaro and Siburica, for which reason provisions are plentiful, and that four leagues from the city of Puerto Principe there are a great many fat cattle, and the farms are full of cattle and pigs, from which the Cubans cannot make salt meat for want of salt; that in the woods there are many retreats built with habitations for families when they have to fly from the villages; that the most respectable families of Puerto Principe reside at Casino, Brava and other places, or on their estates; that there is a constant communication and correspondence between the towns and the country through the medium of men, women and children; that there is besides a regular postal service, and he mentions the name of one of the mail carriers whom he knew, namely, Luis Aguero, and, finally, that in order to keep up the spirit of sympathizers, two Cuban papers, entitled *El Cubano Libre* and *El Mandi*, were distributed weekly with great regularity in the city of Puerto Principe itself.

Captain General De Rodas, under date of the 8th of December last, issued a decree establishing the telegraph money order service, when he used these words:—"On account of the political situation and the damage caused by the insurrection the stations where this service can be carried on are for the present limited to the following:—Havana, Matanzas, Santa Clara, Pinar del Rio, Cardenas, Cienfuegos, Sagua la Grande, Guanajay, Bejucal, San Antonio, Colon, Bemba, Remedios, San Cristobal, San Diego and Consolacion del Sur." It will be seen by reference to the map that the places mentioned are situated all on the western half of the island, but the real extent of Spanish rule is still less.

The list of Cubans whose property has been confiscated by the government, is now many thousands and the value of their property is many millions of dollars. Not less considerable is the number of individuals of all classes of society who have been banished without trial. It is but lately—on the 24th of December last—that upwards of fifty of the most respectable and wealthy citizens of Havana received the order to embark for Spain on twenty-four hours' notice. Many others await the same fate. Is this revolution, then, subdued? Is it confined to a few disorderly men?

Spain has sent to Cuba within the last three months over 17,000 men, and she continues to send more. She has trebled her navy on that ocean; she has taken thirty gunboats from New York. She has collected together an immense mass of war supplies. All these are preparations for a winter campaign; for during the summer her army and her resources have almost disappeared. Have such formidable armaments ever been made against a contemptible enemy or against a conquered foe?

To the friends of free government here and elsewhere who have comprehended the projects and rejoiced in the promise of our struggle we desire to impart the hopefulness which is in our own hearts. Be assured, within the lines which shut our compatriots from the world stands a devoted and determined population, who know what freedom is, though they have never enjoyed it; who are willing to die, if need be, to achieve it, but who are not willing longer to live without it.

We are called incendiaries and accused of wantonly destroying the wealth of the country. We will say that we are only putting in practice the policy with which our oppressors have uniformly threatened us for the last thirty years. "Cuba shall be Spanish or African," said once a distinguished statesman in the Spanish Cortes. Dionisio Alcala Galiano, long editor of the *Diario de la Marina* of Havana, and one of the most influential men of the Spanish party there, in a pamphlet entitled "Cuba in 1858," used these remarkable words:—"If the question of independence had once been raised, we (the Spanish party) had resolved to sally forth with a musket in one hand, an incendiary torch in the other and with the terrible word 'emancipation' on our lips."

It has pleased Divine Providence to enable us to use against our tyrants the very weapons with which they hoped to keep us in subjection. It is our patriots who have sallied forth with a musket in one hand, an incendiary torch in the other, and the glorious words "Abolition of slavery" on their lips.

MIGUEL ALDAMA. FRANCISCO FESSER.
JOSE MARIA MORA. J. M. MESTRE.
HILARIO CESNEROS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3, 1870.

NEWS FROM CUBA.

The Spanish Army in the Antilles—An Active Campaign all Over the Island to be Commenced—Affairs in the Central Department.

The steamship De Soto, Captain Morton, from Havana December 29, arrived in this port yesterday. Purser McManus will receive thanks for favors received.

The Reinforcements all Arrived—The Campaign Throughout the Island—Report of the Operations at Various Points—The Spanish Troops Not Provided with Food—Suffering of the Country People—Indiscriminate Shooting—Executions at Havana.

HAVANA, Dec. 29, 1869.

By far the greater part if not all of the anticipated reinforcements from Spain have arrived. They have been received and feasted by the Spaniards of Havana, and have gone to the field to play their part in suppressing the insurrection. The triumphal arches are down, the flags and other ornaments which bedecked the streets are folded. The merry-makings are over and "grim-visaged war rears its horrid front," facing the preservers of the national integrity. Not far from 17,000 men have landed here since October, and in realization of the importance of finishing the insurrection in the one or two healthy months which remain to the season, have been afforded scarce a breathing spell before being hurried to the field. The Third battalion of volunteers of Barcelona, the last arrived, took the cars last evening for Batabano, whence they will proceed to Las Tunas, in Santi Espiritu.

From every point of the insurrection comes reports of great activity in the movement of troops. As to the result it would seem to be, like the wearing of stone by water, a tedious process but certain of success if the water holds out. Commencing in the Eastern department, in the jurisdiction of Santiago de Cuba, we find no additional fighting reported. The columns under Camara and Abreu were at Palma Goriana on the 22d. A small encounter took place in the mountains of Niguabo a short time previous. Both commanders mentioned were to move immediately, the troops being kept constantly at work. The success of operations among the Spaniards was materially interfered with by want of a commissariat, of which there was no semblance. In the immediate vicinity of Santiago de Cuba so much tranquillity reigns that the guard has been withdrawn from Punta Blanca, Puente, San Antonio, Santa Ines, Caney and Beneficencia, leaving the former garrisoned by the artillery.

An English officer of the rank of major, recently went from this city to Santiago, and, being desirous to witness the method of campaigning in the island, accompanied the Cazadores de Valmaseda, which recently left that city. He continued with them for four days, when, finding the hardships greater than he cared to endure, he returned. He states that no provision whatever was made for the sustenance of the officers and troops, and after the first thirty-six hours they were foodless. The soldiers were compelled to dig up roots, of which they made a kind of soup, to preserve them from starvation. No enemy was met with in the four days, or any signs of any. The country was very difficult to traverse, and a guide was constantly necessary. On one day the column lost itself in the wood and was compelled to retrace its steps, following backs its trail until it arrived at the encampment of the night previous. He expressed astonishment at the apparent content of the men, who were cheerful under circumstances which would cause any other troops in the world to mutiny. He was treated with great courtesy by the officers, who always offered him the first of what little they had.

In the Camaguey the campaign under Puello has commenced, as mentioned in your correspondence from Nuevitas. The journals here as yet have not noticed this. Later information from Holguin mentions that a force of 500 men, divided in three columns, had gone out from there, operating in the section known as "La Escuela." They had caused more than thirty deaths to the enemy. Full 500 persons of different ages and sexes had presented themselves, as say the Spanish papers.

From Trinidad we learn that the Segundo Cabo, General Carbo, had arrived there, and, as the result, renewed activity was manifested. The *Imparcial*, of the 24th, says two strong columns, to act in combination, had gone out against the enemy, the one commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Laquidam and the other by Commandant Olio, and as usual good results were promised. Small encounters by various detachments are mentioned, but of no interest. General Carbo had gone in the direction of Las Tunas, in Santi Espiritu, to prepare for the march of a large body to act in conjunction with Puello in Camaguey. Some women and children have been brought in by the troops in a state of most abject misery. An American lady of intelligence, long time a resident of Trinidad, speaks in most moving terms of the sufferings of the poor people who are compelled to leave their homes in the country, where they raised their fruits and vegetables, kept a few domestic animals and a quantity of small stock and were enabled to live comfortably and come to the city where they find nothing to do. No provision is made for their wants, and many of them are actually dying of starvation. She states that there are full 5,000 insurgents in the mountains of that jurisdiction upon whom the operations of the troops have had no effect whatever. They intrench themselves in the rocky, intricate passes, upon cragged eminences reached by almost perpendicular paths, from which they throw down heavy stones and other missiles on their approaching enemy. On one occasion several bee hives were thrown down on an advancing column, which caused the greatest disorder.

From Santi Espiritu the 2d Brigadier Goyeneche makes report of a tour of inspection and prosecution of insurgents through Moron, Ciego de Avila and the eastern part of Santi Espiritu. He states that the people are better disposed than heretofore and are anxious for the return of peace. Some who had been influenced to enter the insurrection by promises or violence, had abandoned it and offered themselves as guides to assist in pursuit of the rebels. The co-operation of the inhabitants and the disaffection in the files of the insurgents had produced the happiest effects. About one hundred presentations are mentioned of men, women and children. Under the different commanders several encounters are reported. The insurgents at times fled from positions most difficult of access, to reach which the soldiers were compelled to wade through water waist deep and to cut their way through the woods with hatchets and machetes. A large column had moved against General Acosta, but after making its way through the difficult pass "Llana" the enemy had fled. The encounters, as reported, have but one termination, and no report of the Spanish loss is given. The volunteers of Cadiz had arrived at Santi Espiritu and with those from Asturia had taken the field.

The *Madrileno* of Moron says that so many families have presented themselves there that the end of the insurrection seems to have been reached.

In the Cinco Villas, where Villamil seems to keep the troops well employed if nothing more, the usual number of small fights are reported. A telegram from Santa Clara reports fighting for three days in the valley of Marin, Rodriguez and mountains of Cueva, Zuazo and Revarcadero. Three insurgents killed, many wounded and twenty-five prisoners taken, says the report.

The indiscriminate shooting in the country continues, though the authorities cannot properly be held responsible, as it is counter to their express orders. Within 150 miles of Havana, in a certain locality not within the seat of insurrection, there lived with their families about 100 laboring men who were pursuing their ordinary avocations. Of these ninety were shot at various times, and the balance of ten fled and joined the insurrection. In the same vicinity a gentleman was arrested on his estate and informed that he was to be carried to the nearest town. The detachment started with him in charge, the commander having signified to his men that when he raised his hat and turned it slightly the prisoner should be shot. He rode along beside the officer in quiet conversation, anticipating no evil, when the fatal signal was given and several bullets went crashing through the brain of the unsuspecting victim, who gave a convulsive throw from his horse and fell to the ground. These are but samples of cases constantly reported.

Since the arrival of troops commenced here there would seem to have been an organized attempt to seduce some of them, and particularly the Catalans, who are mostly republicans, from their allegiance. Doubtless the object was to raise a mutiny, which should result in a conflict between the troops, the result of which would have been fearful to contemplate, as doubtless a wholesale massacre would have followed. The majority of the newly arrived volunteers are very ignorant and a cry once started among them, no matter what, and serious results are liable to follow. Many of them have been tampered with, but without any success. As mentioned in a previous letter, certain parties have been arrested, charged with this offence, and yesterday two of them were shot back of the Cabanas fortress. Their names were José R. Crespilio, a native of Andalusia, and José Valdes Rubio. Others are said to be in arrest and like to meet with a similar fate.

The Campaign Opened in Camaguey—Puello Takes the Field With 3,000 Men—He is Moving Toward Sibanica and Guaimaro—No Quarter to Be Shown.

NUEVITAS, Dec. 25, 1869.

An active campaign has commenced against the insurgents in this department. The last few trains from Puerto Principe brought large numbers of troops under the personal command of General Puello, forming a formidable column of infantry, cavalry and artillery, as follows:—The regiments "La Reyna," "La Union," Cazadores de Madrid, "Lanceros del Rey" and four pieces of mountain howitzers, numbering altogether 3,000 men. These are preceded by twenty-five cavalry volunteers from Puerto Principe, made up of Spanish farmers and landowners, acquainted with the different roads, who act as guides. The column moved out this morning on the road to San Miguel, and it is stated that the General proposes to scour the country and clean out the insurgents. From San Miguel he will take the road to Sibanicu and Guaimaro. If the expedition is not a success it will not be owing to want of commanders, as in addition to the General there are three colonels, an indefinite number of majors and a large and well armed staff. According to Puello's last proclamation no quarter is to be given, and bloody work may be anticipated.

The health of this city and Puerto Principe has much improved of late, and the weather is very fine for military operations.

NEW YORK CITY.

Organization of the Government of the Metropolis for 1870.

Mayor Hall's Address to the Common Council.

An Opening Salute for the Local Commissions.

In accordance with law the Board of Aldermen assembled yesterday, at noon, for the purpose of organizing for the ensuing year. In the halls and corridors leading to the rooms in which the City Fathers were to assemble were crowds of politicians, policemen and other idlers. The crowd, however, considering that it was so shortly after New Year's Day, was quite orderly. When the Chamber was opened the crowd thronged into the lobby, and awaited with apparent anxiety for the work to be done by the Board. The rotund and jubilcund Clerk of the last Board, Mr. Joseph Shannon, together with his efficient and indefatigable deputy, Mr. Frank Twomey, were in their places, and at noon the former called the members of the Board of Aldermen to order, and then read a communication from the Mayor certifying the election of the members of the Board for 1870. The members of the Board were all in their places save Alderman Scannell. Mr. Shannon called the roll and then asked "the further pleasure of the Board." The "further pleasure" was that Alderman Miller should act as President *pro tem.* Alderman Miller was, on motion, directed to take the chair. He did so, and after an appropriate offering of thanks by the chairman, so chosen, Alderman Reilly offered a resolution nominating Alderman Thomas Coman for President. The resolution was unanimously adopted, and the Chairman appointed Aldermen Reilly, Murray and Long as a committee to conduct the newly elected President to the chair. The committee nobly performed their duty, and Alderman Coman, on taking the chair, made a few remarks, thanking the Board for their kindness in elevating him to preside over the deliberations; and promising that he would endeavor to perform the duties devolving upon him so as to merit their approbations.

Alderman CUDDY offered a resolution nominating Mr. Joseph Shannon as Clerk of the Board.

Alderman MOORE offered a resolution appointing William Walsh Sergeant-at-Arms.

Alderman LONG offered a resolution nominating Cornelius Callaghan as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Alderman WOLTMAN moved that a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the Mayor and inform him that the Board had organized for 1870 and was ready to receive any communication he might have to make. The motion was adopted, and the President appointed Aldermen Woltman, O'Brien and Cregier as such committee.

Alderman REILLY moved that a committee of three be appointed to wait on the Assistant Aldermen and notify them of the organization of the Board. The motion was adopted, and Aldermen Reilly, Long and McKiever were appointed as such committee.

A committee from the Board of Assistant Aldermen, comprising Messrs. Robinson, Naughton and Rogers, were announced. The members of the Board stood up to receive them, and they advanced to the space within the enclosure, near the official reporter's table.

Assistant Alderman ROBINSON then said:—We have been appointed as a committee from the Board of Assistant Aldermen to wait upon your honorable body and inform you that we have organized and are ready to receive any communication you may have to make.

President COMAN said, in response:—We thank you, gentlemen, and the body which you represent, for your courtesy, and will communicate with your Board by a committee in a few moments.

The committee thereupon withdrew.

Alderman MURRAY then offered a resolution providing for the immediate appointmen of a finance committee to receive any communications from the Mayor or departments of the local government requiring the attention of such committee. The resolution was adopted, and Aldermen Moore, Murray, Culkin, Long and Croker were appointed as the Committee on Finance.

Alderman HUGHES then moved that the rules of the Board of Aldermen of 1869 be adopted as the rules of the present board until otherwise ordered. The motion was adopted.

Alderman MILLER then presented protests from Hugh H. Moore and Nicholas Segar, the former protesting against the recognition of James Cunningham as Alderman from the Twentieth district, and the latter against the recognition of J. W. Gunther as Alderman from the Tenth district. In connection with the papers a motion was made that they be referred to a special committee of three. The motion was adopted, and Aldermen Miller, Cuddy and Culkin appointed to take charge of the matter.

The committee which had been appointed to wait upon the Mayor returned. Mr. Woltman, the chairman, said the committee had performed the duty assigned them, and that the Mayor had proffered his congratulations to the members of the Board on their election, and stated that he would communicate with them at some future time. As soon as the chairman had concluded, Mr. Cardozo, from the Mayor's office, shaking aloft an official envelope, called out in stentorian tones, "Communication from the Mayor," starting some of the touch lads in the lobby. He then walked to the centre of the chamber, and handing the package to the sergeant-at-arms, gracefully retired.

Alderman REILLY, with his associates from the committee to the Board of Assistant Aldermen, returned at this time, and Alderman Reilly said that the Board of Assistants had offered their congratulations, but had no communication to make at present. The committees were discharged, after which the president read

Mayor Hall's Address.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMON COUNCIL:—

The Mayor congratulates you that the result of the recent State election will probably terminate those incongruities of our municipal government which have been increasing year by year during a long period. They have been repeatedly portrayed by Mayors who were elected by diverse parties, but by no one of them more forcibly than by the present Executive of the State. Therefore the citizens generally may also be congratulated that the experience of Governor Hoffman during his several years of Recordership and Mayoralty will now become a valuable guide to the Legislature in their expected task of reorganizing municipal government upon a sound constitutional basis.

If, however, any reminder of those incongruities should be needed, let the following important instances suggest a hundred others of a long catalogue:—

The streets, both upon and under their surfaces, are controlled by three different sets of officials, each of whom are entirely independent of the other. The officials who prevent conflagrations are wholly independent of other officials who are charged with provision of the necessary water supply, and independent of the force which, during fires, preserve order, protect property, and take charge of premises. The police are legally independent of the city ordinances; and the latter are practically disregarded by the police, whose interest it has been to do everything that might bring the acts of municipal officials into disrepute. Several sets of officials, who in theory are subordinates, substantially fix their own expenditures, and levy for those the needful taxes, while the real heads of government have been obliged to become beggars at our legislative door for the same objects, and at the same time receive the blame of extravagance for disbursements which they do not influence. There are in the offices of the Police, Health, Fire, Excise and Education Boards substantially five extra County Treasurers, each distinct from the other, and financial vouchers affecting city and county government are filed in several diverse offices. The Common Council go through a ceremony of making donations to relieve charitable institutes from assessments, of fixing salaries, of authorizing leases and of voting moneys to hospitals and eleemosynary asylums, only to find their action, of itself, to be of no avail, and that the Legislature must sanction what they have done.

These and similar incongruities rendered it impossible for our constituents to justly hold any one political party or group of officials directly responsible for alleged municipal abuses. It has been quite a habit for our officials, whenever they were criticised, to mutually condemn each other. But now that one party controls all the State offices and both branches of the Legislature, and is in position to obtain control also of all the municipal departments, responsibility for alleged abuses cannot be escaped by that party after due opportunity shall have been afforded it for homogeneous reorganization of local government.

What particular plan of centring municipal responsibility may be agreed upon by the Legislature it is not advisable to here anticipate, nor practically useful for us now to discuss. The views of the Mayor and Common Council will, perhaps, be more opportunely expressed in some memorial to the Legislature. But when that central responsibility shall have been defined, it must perform its duty efficiently and economically, or the party which controls it and the men who wield it must and should be displaced.

Any plan should provide that all officials (except judges) who are paid out of the city or county treasury should be grouped under appropriate departments of the city or county government, and that they should hold their appointment from a uniform source. Then the rights of local government will have been restored.

Probably the Mayor will be compelled to practically sustain municipal discipline, as he has been theoretically but erroneously supposed to. In this contingency it will become indispensable that he should exercise a command in regard to the police, who constitute the means of enforcing that discipline.

Whenever central responsibility shall have been defined our citizens will find, at all events, that there will be direct accountability from the head as well as the subordinates; and the people will have in their hands the final correction.

Expecting, then, speedy readjustment of all the matters cognizable by the Mayor, Common Council and local authorities, it becomes expedient to reserve the information and suggestions upon municipal matters that have been usually incorporated in to the message of the Mayor to a new Common Council.

The communication, on motion, was ordered to be placed on file and printed in full in the minutes.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Alderman LONG then offered a resolution, which was laid over, directing that Ninetieth street, from First avenue to East River be regulated, graded, &c.

Alderman MILLER offered a resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Finance, to compensate Mr. J. R. Fellows for defending the Mayor and commonalty in several suits.

A resolution was introduced and laid over directing that one-half of the sidewalk on the north side of Fulton street, adjoining St. Paul's churchyard, be removed and the space allotted to the carriageway.

The ordinary resolutions directing the Clerk to furnish badges, staves of office and necessary stationery to the members of the Board were, on motion of Alderman McKiever, adopted; and, on motion of Alderman Moore the Board adjourned, to meet again on Monday next, at two P. M.

APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY CLERK.

After the adjournment of the Board of Aldermen the Clerk, Joseph Shannon, lost no time in reappointing Mr. Francis J. Twomey as Deputy Clerk. Mr. Twomey has held the position now some twelve years, and has discharged the onerous duties devolving upon him with such signal ability that his reappointment cannot fail to give universal satisfaction. It is understood that Mr. C. W. Betts, who has been most diligent and efficient during several years, will be Deputy Assistant.

BOARD OF ASSISTANT ALDERMEN.

Organization of the Board—John Reilly Elected President.

At noon yesterday this Board was called to order by Mr. Maloney, the Clerk of the Board during last year, who stated that he had received the official announcement that the following gentlemen were elected to serve as Assistant Aldermen for the year 1870:—

James Healy, Patrick Lysaght, Hugh O'Brien, John Galvin, Isaac Robinson, Lawrence E. Hill, John Hampson, Hulet Odell, Henry Rogers, Joseph Hoffman, Jr., Thomas Mulligan, Edward Costello, Patrick Gibney, John Reilly, Edward Schlichting, Nicholas Haughton, Charles Feltner, Peter Seerey, Bartholomew McDonald, Michael Fay, John Shelly.

Mr. Gibney was appointed temporary chairman.

On motion of Mr. ROBINSON the following officers were appointed for the year:—President, John Reilly; Clerk, William H. Maloney; Sergeant-at-Arms, Patrick Fitzsimmons; Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, W. W. Carroll.

Committees were appointed to wait upon the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

The communication sent in by Mayor Hall to the other Board was received and read, and, on motion, the usual number of copies were ordered to be printed.

The PRESIDENT announced that Patrick Daly would be the reader of the Board.

A motion to adjourn till next Monday was made and carried.

CITY BREVITIES.

Requiem at St. Patrick's Cathedral—New Police Justices—The Real Murder Case—Tammany Society—The Papy-Besson Affray—Two