

THE CUBAN REBELLION.

Something About Its Leader and the Cause Which Led to It.

A *Post-Dispatch* reporter made a call this morning at the office of Mr. Manuel Aguero, publisher of *El Hispano-Americano*, at No. 610 Olive street, and asked him for some information regarding his relative, Gen. Aguero, who is at present conducting a very promising young revolution against the Spanish government in the island of Cuba. Mr. Aguero said: Gen. Carlos Aguero is one of the revolutionists who did not accept the conditions of the treaty of 1878, commonly known as the Zanjou treaty, at the close of the uprising, which began in 1868. He did not come in, but kept up warfare with a few followers. Finally he succeeded in getting away from Cuba in an open boat and reaching New York. After his arrival there the Spanish authorities trumped up charges against him, accusing him of being a bandit, and made application for his extradition. He was examined and the United States authorities decided that he was a rebel, not a bandit, and declined to surrender him. This happened in the latter part of last January. As soon as he secured his release he began making preparations for active operations in Cuba, where he soon landed again and started the present revolution. I see the Spanish captain general says that Aguero has only twenty-two men, which speaks well for his ability as a leader of a rebellion, for it is fully three hundred miles from the point at which he landed, Hicacos, to where he is now stationed, which is within the jurisdiction of what the Spaniards know as Porto Principe, called by the rebels Camaguay. He has traveled from Cardinas to Camaguay in spite of all the troops the Spaniards have sent after him. As an actual fact, he is at present in command of 1,400 men, who have joined him on the march. On his staff are some Cuban officers who figured in the first rebellion. Quite a large number of Spaniards have flocked to his standard. The Spaniards are arming everybody who can carry a musket. The laborers on all the roads are being supplied with arms, and that is precisely what we want, as we know that those arms will be in possession of the rebels before very long. A new complexion belongs to the present rebellion on account of a changed condition of affairs, resulting from the last one. In that rebellion the Cubans had as enemies the Spanish element of the island's population, who at that time had nothing to lose by the perpetuation of Spanish tyranny and misrule, not being property-holders and producers. However, after the crushing of the rebellion, the Cubans were deprived of their properties, which came into the possession of the Spanish element, who were not slow to find out that the taxes imposed upon property and its products by the Spanish government were of a most burdensome character. These Spaniards objected to paying taxes at all, and when the imposition rose to over 40 per cent of the net products of the island they began to groan under the burden. Their discontent at the present moment is very great, and there is every prospect that the Spanish element in Cuba will readily turn rebels as soon as the opportunity grows sufficiently favorable. Another cause of this discontent is the fact that the Spanish government has not recognized the debt they incurred during the war. The Spanish bank of Havana, with a capital of only \$8,000,000, has a circulation of over \$60,000,000, which they were authorized to issue during the war, and over which gold is at a premium of about 240. This, together with a recent loan made by the government in Spain, to be paid with the income of the custom-houses of Cuba, has greatly added to the discontent among the Spanish land-holders. Here we look for a great deal of assistance from that source during the present struggle. All over the United States Cuban sympathizers are at work; here in St. Louis several parties are engaged in forming a junta, to aid as far as they can the Cuban patriots in the field. What the patriots want especially is arms and ammunition, not men. There is an abundant supply of the latter. It is safe to say that everybody in Cuba is a rebel, and I believe the

present rebellion will prove a very sturdy blow for freedom. We want all the assistance we can get, and certainly think we can have the sympathy, at least, of all the republican governments of the world; in fact, of all enlightened governments which are opposed to cruelty, tyranny, and oppression."

In conclusion Mr. Aguero stated that Gen. Aguero is a young man of but little over 30, and a brave and skillful, though technically uneducated soldier. He was born in the jurisdiction of Porto Principe, where his occupation has been that of a planter.—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Cost of Women's Dresses.

Much more is spent by ladies on dresses than was formerly the case; yet good, useful and pretty materials may be had for very moderate prices. When, however, the home-spun tweed, or the cambric, is made by a tailor or a first rate dressmaker £10 or £12 will be charged for it. This sum used to be the price of a silk gown. Many ladies at the present time, whose fortunes cannot be considered large, spend six hundred a year on their toilets, and it is not unusual for a thousand to be expended by those who go out a great deal. Sixty guineas for a Court dress is a not uncommon price. Though brocades and satins now rival in richness those in the wardrobe of Queen Elizabeth, they do not seem to possess equal lasting qualities.

At all events, many of the wearers are "constant to a constant change." There are now costumes for every variation of the barometer, specially adapted for every occasion. At five o'clock tea the most glowing velvets and rich laces may replace the sensible serge suit for an hour, until the tea gown has to be changed for the less comfortable but equally costly dinner dress. Young unmarried girls were formerly dressed with the utmost simplicity; while draperies, like those of Sir Joshua Reynolds used to paint, were considered in every respect most suitable for them; but now, too often, three, four, or five hundred a year are spent on the dress of a girl whose fortune may never exceed that amount.

How much kinder it would be, instead of letting the money dissolve into clouds of filmy net, to lay aside a part of it to increase her marriage portion. It has been said that, no matter how humble the dwelling, wherever a young man and young woman make their home, there is paradise. But with the expensive habits of our days it requires some courage for a young couple who have passed their early years in luxury to marry on small means. Experience, however, shows that those who determine to live with simplicity and to exercise self-denial for the sake of each other to enjoy the perpetual feast of mutual affection without spending largely. But it is easier to begin married life in an economical manner than to retrench later.—*Lady Manners*.

His First Offence.

"Guilty or not guilty?" asked an Austin justice of the peace of a colored culprit, who was accused of stealing a whole line full of linen.

"Dat ar 'pends on you, Jedge. Hit's for you to say."

"You must either plead guilty or not guilty. I have nothing to do with it."

"Yes, you has. If you is gwineter let me off with nuffin but a reprimand, like you did las' time—"

"Well, suppose I do let you off with a reprimand, as I did last time?"

"In dat case I pleads guilty to six shirts, foah pilly slips, and about a dozen udder pieces."

"But I'm not going to let you off so easy."

"Den, ef you is gwineter sock it ter me, I'll gib a liar one ob de shirts, and we will try dis case by a jury."

"All right. I'll enter a plea of not guilty."

This did not seem to suit the culprit very well, for he spoke up:

"I say, boss, I don't keer to put de court and de sheriff to trouble on my account. Jess lemme off ag'in wid a reprimand, as you did las' week, on account ob hit being my fust offence, and I'll plead guilty ter five chickens I pulled las' week, an' a hog I stole las' winter, an' a par ob shoes from de

store, and a woodpile I'se gwineter haul off to-night."

The Justice thought that "de fust offence" plea was worn out, and the offender is now in the Texas penitentiary. It does not pay to be guilty of the first offence more than half a dozen times in Texas, unless the first offence is shooting a man.—*Texas Siftings*.

A Noted Newspaper Woman.

It is thought that Mrs. J. G. Crowley, known as "Jennie June," has received more money for journalistic work than any other woman in America or, for that matter, in the world. She began to work on newspapers, writes a correspondent, when quite young, and her brain product was so well thought of that she speedily had commissions for articles in the highest class of periodicals. Her writing, then as now, was original in a peculiar sense. She was always unconstrained, and her pen was inclined to kick over the traces of commonplace when the ordinary hack worked well, and she preferred to write on a given subject without reading anything that had been said upon it. For instance, the second volume of Thomas H. Benton's "Thirty Years' View" was published in 1856, when Fremont was running like wildfire for the presidency, and the editor of the *Democratic Review*, who really thought Mrs. Crowley inspired, wrote to her for an article on that great work. He must have it by the next morning, he told her, and it was imperative—he could not put the *Review* to press without it. She had this to say about it afterward: "I was at home up town. I hadn't seen Benton's 'Thirty Years' View' in the Senate," and it was not accessible, so I sat down in desperation and wrote a five-page review of it without seeing it at all. It appeared that month, and the editor complimented me on the power and lucidity of my analysis of 'Old Bullion's work.' The fact is it was my 'Thirty Years' View' I had given a brisk and running summary of the events of which he had been a central figure, with some comments from the proper point of view. I know it was not quite the honest thing, but Brownson insisted on it, even after I had declined to write it, and I dashed ahead. I had the infinite pleasure of seeing it copied and praised far and wide in the democratic papers." Asked if she wasn't very much annoyed by requests from budding authors to get them a situation or sell their articles for them, she replied: "I should think so! Once the wife of a well-known clergyman called on me at the office. Not knowing her, I declined to see her without learning the nature of her business. At last she got upstairs past the vigilance of Mrs. Demorest's office, which often protects me, and gave me a roll of manuscript which was a story she was trying to sell. She would take ten dollars for it, she said. I looked at it and saw that it was a little story that I myself had written some weeks before as an advertisement for a sewing-machine company and had got fifty dollars for. I did not tell her that I had written it, but I showed her a proof of it and told her that it was to go in next week as an advertisement, and she went sadly away. I thought she must have been in a trying strait before resorting to such a thing."—*Philadelphia Progress*.

Medicinal Item.

The child of a very fashionable Austin lady was sick. The doctor came and wrote out a prescription, which the servant carried to the drug store.

"If the child don't keep the first powder on his stomach, you must give him another one," remarked the clerk, as he pasted the label on the bottle.

"Gib him anudder one!" exclaimed the colored lady. "Ob course we is gwineter gib him anudder one. We ain't no poor folks. You don't 'spect we's gwineter gib him de same one ober agin, does yer?"—*Texas Siftings*.

A scientist says that "water composes three fourths of the human body." This may be true as a general thing, but it is safe to bet that something besides water composes three-fourths of the body of a politician in the year of a presidential campaign. Chicago would be a good place for further scientific investigation next June and July.—*Peck's Sun*.

The Silver King mine at Pinal, Arizona, is lighted by electricity.

INDUSTRIAL BREVITIES.

A London paper says: There is now some hope that at last the cattle plague is abating in those districts of the Russian interior where for more than a year it has been raging in every village. In the Petrovski district, 1,926 head of cattle were attacked by the disease during the first half of last year, the deaths for the whole year amounting to 1,721 head. The average loss in each village is sixty head of cattle. At the beginning of the present year an insurance company was started, in which cattle can be insured. This shows that the Russian villagers are at last learning by experience. Not long ago their superstition would not allow them to insure either themselves or their goods and chattels. Insurance was held to be a challenge to the gods, and evil consequences were held to be sure to follow.

An American who visited France said the gardeners are very careful about the manner of gathering their asparagus. They say that the neat asparagus knives advertised in the catalogues are intended for delicate people who are afraid of soiling their fingers, and the only proper way is to pick the shoots by hand. They consider it quite important to break them off at the point where they are united to the root, rather than in the ground above this point, as we usually do. They remove a little earth about the shoot with the hand, then work the fore and middle fingers into the soil near the point of attachment, when a slight pressure of the finger under the base of the shoot causes the latter to snap clean off at the root.

There are now 314 cotton-mills in the southern states, having 1,275,432 spindles and 24,873 looms, while at the time the census was taken in 1880 the south had only 180 mills, 713,989 spindles and 15,222 looms. The largest increase in the number of mills was made in North Carolina, where a gain of 43 mills and 110,595 spindles is exhibited, while Georgia made an increase of 169,156 spindles and 22 mills. In 1880 the value of the manufactured cotton produced at the south was a little over \$21,000,000, while in 1883 the value had risen to between \$35,000,000 and \$40,000,000. During three years and a half about \$20,000,000 has been invested by new and old southern cotton-mills in machinery.

Mr. P. M. Augur, of Middletown, Conn., the efficient pomologist, claims that twenty pounds of Concord grapes can be grown as easily as ten pounds of Delawares, but as the latter variety usually bring two or more times as high a price as the former, there is no great difference in the net profits of the two sorts. Six tons is a good yield of Concord per acre, and there are single vineyards on the banks of the Hudson river from which ninety tons are annually shipped to market. A popular method of training is upon a twine-wire trellis, with new canes grown every year for next year's fruiting.

Edwin F. Smith, secretary of the California state agricultural bureau, says the reports from his correspondents shows that unless some disaster overtakes it, the Pacific coast will have an unprecedented wheat yield that will exceed the crop of 1880, if it escapes the hot north winds of May and June, which usually come about the time the grain is in dough. The Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys will profit greatly by the bountiful rains which fell in March. The yield in these valleys may safely be placed at 60 per cent in excess of last year's crop, if the effect of the hot winds be passed.

Several eastern poultry-raisers are employing turkeys for hatching eggs. In some cases the same bird has hatched out three sittings of eggs in the course of a season.

Land in Australia is only expected to carry but one sheep to the acre. Shepherds do not dare stock it to its full capacity for fear of drought.

The canning-works at Auburn, Me., put up last year 70,000 cans of pumpkins, 40,000 of tomatoes, and 50,000 of corn.

The largest peach farms are in Maryland. On one estate there are 125,000 trees and on another 120,000.