

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

The Aldama-Ryan Controversy—Cuban and Spanish Opinions—Advance in Provisions—The Tobacco Trade—General Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, March 4, 1871.

The Aldama-Ryan controversy, as published in the New-York journals, has caused considerable excitement. The Cubans regret that such a thing occurred, and as a rule side with ALDAMA, saying that his answer was appropriate and dignified. At the same time they embrace the opportunity of making remarks about RYAN which the latter would hardly appreciate. But RYAN is not the only one thus talked about, and other foreigners who have been guilty of meddling with Cuban affairs come in for a share. One of the most prominent Cubans here, who has done much for the revolutionary cause, said: "I am not astonished that RYAN should have published that letter, because nothing else could be expected from a man who sells his life or hires it out at so much a month. Foreign adventurers like RYAN have always cursed and beaten the cow when it gave no more milk. I cannot, however, blame RYAN altogether, because ALDAMA is not the man who ought to be at the head of affairs, as he has been a proud, overbearing and ignorant aristocrat all his life." Your correspondent does not share the gentleman's opinions regarding either ALDAMA or RYAN, but nine-tenths of the people do. The Spaniards cite ALDAMA'S letter as a proof that barbarities have been committed by the Cubans, and say that ALDAMA acted unwise and mean in charging them all on RYAN. The Cuban Congress did pass a law or resolution reprehending RYAN for his cruelty; but ALDAMA, out of respect for the cause he defends, ought not to have admitted the fact. The publication of these letters has injured the Cuban cause more than a hundred engagements would do, and the Spaniards are making capital out of it, while it has widened the breach between the parties among the Cubans, the Democratic, or Working Man's Party, being opposed to the aristocratic Junta Party. The dissensions among the Cubans may yet prove the downfall of the Cuban party and Cuban cause.

ADVANCE IN PROVISIONS.

For some time past all sorts of produce have been rising in price. The country is fast being deserted, and the country people are coming into the cities, towns and settlements in order to have security against soldiers and insurgents. The production of vegetables has, consequently, decreased, while the number of mouths to be fed in the towns has increased in proportion. The fact that the steamer *Montezuma* had brought twelve thousand plantains from Porto Rico to feed the people of Havana would be discredited by any Havanese out of the country. The idea of importing bananas into Havana appears incredible, but it is the truth. Another Spanish vessel, the *Victoria*, brought 2,842 bags of corn on the same day from Porto Rico. If we consider that plantains need no care whatsoever after transplantation of the young shoots, and that two crops of corn are had annually without plowing the land, an idea may be formed of the productiveness of the soil, which is only surpassed by that of the Island of San Domingo. If this state of affairs continues, even a famine may be expected.

THE TOBACCO TRADE.

The Havana cigar manufacturers and tobacco dealers held a meeting on Wednesday, in order to present a petition to the King against the decree of Jan. 28, 1871, which prevents the importation of cigars by merchants into Spain, the Government re-establishing the old *regie* or monopoly which existed previous to 1866. The signers of the petition against this law allege that it will affect seriously the manufacture of cigars in Havana, which gives bread to twenty thousand people, and which is the only industry carried on here, and that it will also affect the welfare of one hundred thousand families in the *Vuelta Abajo*, who raise the raw produce.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

From the 15th of November, 1868, to the 15th of January, 1871, 50,133 soldiers have been sent from Spain to Cuba; but, notwithstanding, the revolution still exists. Not a man died or was lost during the passage, and this speaks well for the management of the Spanish mail steamers.... Capt. ANDRES PEREIRA, of the Cienfuegos firemen, charged with treason, was absolved by the Court-martial, but his companion, ALEJANDRO TORRES, was sentenced to ten years' confinement in the Penitentiary.... Mr. ISAAC FERALD, a native of Portland, was run over by a railroad car at Cardenas, and received injuries which caused his death in a few hours. Arrangements are being made to send his body home.... Planters complain of the poor yield of the cane, and from present appearances the crop will be smaller by twenty-five per cent. than last year.... Miss ANETTA MORELLI of the Italian Opera died of fever on Monday. The Opera Company have been very unfortunate, and artists ought to receive immense salaries to compensate them for the risk of their lives in coming here. Several of the company are ill, I understand. The company will pass from Albisu to the Tacon next week. The Arjona-Lamadrid Dramatic Company goes to Matanzas. An agent of a New-York impressario has arrived here by the *Missouri* for the purpose of securing some of the artists for a brief Spring season in New-York. Some of the principal artists have already contracted for Mexico.

QUASIMODO.