

CUBA.

The Liberties of the Chinamen—A Wholesale Enslaving Planned—The New Commission—Protestants in Havana—Miscellaneous Gossip.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Sunday, Feb. 11, 1872.

Some Madrid journal and letters from Spain, received about three weeks ago, announced, what at first appeared to be an incredible story, but one which events are beginning to convert into a positive fact: The intention of the ultra Spanish party to re-open the African slave-trade and to reduce the eighty thousand Chinese now in Cuba to a condition of slavery. Rumors of landings of two cargoes of slaves have been current, but there is no proof of their accuracy, and, although it would be comparatively easy to conceal detailed information from the public, the general fact would be known in a couple of days, and even the present régime, with the support of the casinos and volunteer element, would not dare to countenance an undertaking which of necessity would compel the Christian and civilized powers to interfere. But the enslaving of the Chinese is now a settled fact, and no matter what laws may have been passed in former years by the now disregarded Spanish Government, or by humane Captain-Generals who had, or pretended to have, some ideas of justice and a will of their own, instead of allowing themselves to be ruled by a camarilla, it must be confessed that at present all laws and ideas of justice are disregarded, and the Chinaman is made the innocent and suffering instrument to keep the authorities, casinos, volunteers and the mob in harmony and on good terms. The four classes depend on the products of agriculture to amass a fortune or to simply earn a living, and, in a political sense to raise a sufficiency of funds to pay the Spanish soldiers, who come here from the old country in order to allow the privileged classes to make money and run no risk of having their skin scratched. These classes live on the products of the negroes and Chinamen, and the more producers they can press into slavery, the larger will be the profits for them to divide. The Government was mistrusted by the Commission who demanded the enslaving of the Chinese, and therefore the Commission to press the Chinese into slavery was chosen from among the most noted and cruel slave-owners and former slave-traders. This can be seen from the following list of names: The President of the Commission is JULIAN ZULUETA. Ex-King of the slave-traders. The members, with the exception of Mr. JUAN ARIZA, the editor of the *Diario*, whose ideas are in perfect accord with his companions, are all owners of slaves and plantations, ultra adherents of the Spanish, and more particularly of the Carlist, party, and with one exception formerly in the slave trade and the buying and fitting out of slavers. As such another assortment could not be gotten together, and as the Chinese may, probably, at some future day be aided to obtain redress for the heinous crime now being perpetrated against them, a list of their names, to be held up by all lovers of justice and liberty as a list of shame, cannot be out of place. It runs thus: *Juan Atilano Colome, Marquis of Campo Florido, José Plá, Count Lagunillas, Francisco F. Ibañez, Leon Lleo, Pedro Sotolongo, Fernando Illas, Juan Toraya, Juan Arvea, Marquis Amendares, Mamerto Pulido, Francesco Calderon Kessel, Manuel Calvo, Nicolas M. Valdivieso, Lorenzo Pedro, Florencio Saez, Nicanor Yroncoso, Jose Y. Vergara, Rufino Sainz, Manuel Maruri.* Those in italics are Cubans, the rest are Spaniards. The name of KESSEL may appear to belong to some German, but for the honor of Germany it is fortunate that the name belongs to a Cuban.

THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT.

VALMASEDA, according to popular report, refused to sign any document which would make the burden resting on the Chinese more cruel than his proclamation of the 13th of December last, but a willing tool was found in Gen. FELIX FERRER, who is acting as Captain-General during VALMASEDA'S absence, and who issued the following infamous order yesterday:

"The order of the 16th ult., which allows free Chinamen to leave for their country, is repealed until all Chinese are entered on the lists, (all Chinamen are already entered on the Police books, and the repeal is simply a subterfuge.) Chinamen are prevented from going from one place to another, (that is to say, they must remain at the place where they now reside, no matter if their business is ruined or if their lives depend on a change.) Free Chinamen will not receive any passports to leave the country, no matter when they first arrived, and only slave Chinamen (the document derisively calls them colonists) can be taken by their owners from one place to another. For the present the Government will not listen to any Chinamen who desire to become naturalized, (as Spanish citizens,) or to obtain a permit of residence." That is to say, an acting Captain-General, by a stroke of his pen, sets aside the Constitution of Spain and equality before the law, making the boasted *hidalguia* and *nobleza* of Spain a by-word and a myth. Whether Mr. Secretary ARISTREQUI had a hand in this pie is not positively known, but if his masters ordered him to, he had to obey.

The Consuls of England, France, Italy, Holland, Belgium and Denmark, are reported to be engaged in drawing up a protest against these slavery laws, and if Gov. MINOR or Mr. PLUMB were here now as Consuls, not a day would have passed before they would have made proper objections to the Government against this order. The Chinese have no Consul or other representative here, and they are now holding meetings in secret to see if some steps cannot be taken which would secure the good offices of the British Consul in their behalf. At any rate, the Spanish Government simply grinds the poor Chinaman in order to enrich the aristocratic and inhuman planter; the Government complains that many Chinamen have joined the insurgents, but so have thousands of negroes and fully as many native Spaniards.

PROTESTANTISM IN HAVANA.

Turning aside from politics to civilization, that is to say, to civilization in the American but not the Spanish signification of the word, it is worthy of note that the first baptism of an infant, not belonging to the Roman Catholic Church, but a Protestant, performed for the first time on the Island of Cuba took place on Tuesday last. The father of the child is Mr. DONELLY, engineer of the Toledo plantation, about eight miles from Havana, Rev. EDWARD KENNEY, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, being the officiating clergyman. Mr. KENNEY has been sent here by the American House of Bishops, and since his arrival here has held service to very large congregations on board of different men-of-war or at some hotel. The foreign residents are now taking the necessary steps to build or rent a chapel, and a number of Catalonians and some Cubans are desirous of joining the congregation. Mr. KENNEY is a very young man, and his earnest efforts have been crowned with success. With a Protestant baptism in Cuba, and the circumcision of a Jewish child in the City of Mexico, we may still feel some hope that religion and religious liberty will yet take a firm foothold in all Spanish-American countries, although such a thing appears almost impossible.

A NEW INSTITUTION.

The first agricultural fair on the island, which promises to become a permanent institution, has been held under the auspices of the natives of the Canary Islands, who, contrary to the majority of the Spaniards, prefer to continue their agricultural pursuits, nearly all the tobacco planters in the Vuelta Abajo being Canaries or descendants of Canary Islanders. The *Voz de Cuba* says it is the intention of the principal Canary Islanders here to bring twenty thousand of their countrymen now in Venezuela to this island, and thus give agriculture in Cuba a great impetus. The project, if properly carried out, will be beneficial to Cuba.

MISCELLANEOUS GOSSIP.

The rare phenomenon of an aurora borealis was witnessed here on the night of the 4th, and a faint glimmer on the night of the 5th inst. This is the second time in thirty-seven years that such a spectacle has been beheld in this latitude. The number of men and women who read the destruction of the world in this sign, was large, and the latter took great care to go to church and pray that the calamity might be averted.... The Government has issued an order forbidding the importation and sale of the matches manufactured by LIZARBE & SONS, at Tarazona, in Old Spain, because the boxes have an allegorical cover, picturing a woman with a red cap, and in Roman dress, and a negro bearing a bag on his shoulders, with the motto, "Viva Hispania sin Cuba," (Hurrah for Spain, without Cuba,) underneath.... The young students are still confined in the Penitentiary, and the *Gaceta* has published an order confiscating all their property. The continuous confinement is telling on them, and their morals are receiving such finishing touches as they had not time to get previous

to the Castañon affair. The students, however, no longer work in the streets, as they did during the first two weeks after sentence, but are kept quietly within the walls of the Penitentiary building, and their families are allowed to furnish them with any food they may desire. The stories circulated that the prisoners were maltreated and beaten by the prison officials are false. Efforts are now being made to secure their release. QUASIMODO.