

GREAT VICTORY FOR GENERAL GOMEZ

One of the Most Brilliant Successes of the War in Cuba.

THE BRAVERY OF GENERAL ARJONA

The Famous Leader Sets a Trap for the Enemy, Who Falls Into It—The Spaniards Become a Mob and Are Killed with Machetes—Gen. Gomez in the Thick of It.

Havana, Feb. 9.—Trusted Cuban news has been received giving further details of the battle at Juan Criollo, in Las Villas, reported on last Friday by the Sun. The first Spanish account of the battle claimed a victory, as usual, but with painful paucity of details. The second report, which was communicated by the press censor to the American correspondents here, said that Colonel Arjona made a brilliant combined bayonet charge and was killed with machetes—Gen. Gomez in the thick of it.

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I have been away from Havana and have collected all the reports of the battle, as described by the Cubans, confirming the reports received here. All the information proves that the action at Juan Criollo adds another page of glory to the history of Gomez's military career.

The battle decided the campaign in Las Villas in favor of the Cubans, and frightened General Weyler so far that, as is already known to the Sun's readers, he telegraphed to Havana for reinforcements, declaring that unless he had more troops under his command.

The battle was fought on Feb. 1, and lasted from 3 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon. It began after General Gomez had raised the siege of the town of Arroyo Blanco, who came from Ciego de Avila in aid of the besieged garrison of Arroyo Blanco. When the first shots of Arjona's vanguard were heard a few minutes after 2 p. m., General Gomez ordered his troops to abandon the siege and concentrate on the estate of Juan Criollo, between two hills and with several prominent positions dominating the plain in which Arroyo Blanco is situated, Gomez took possession of those strategic points.

The arrival of the column of Arjona and the apparent withdrawal of General Gomez aroused frantic joy among the Spaniards. When Arjona entered the town the Cuban intelligentsia, commanded by General Francisco Carrillo, could hear the wild cries of enthusiasm of the garrison welcoming the column and giving cheers for Arjona. But Carrillo ordered one of his guerrillas to open fire upon the Spaniards, and the firing upon the forts, so as to let the Spaniards know that the war was not over, and then Arjona started again from Arroyo Blanco, as he declared, "in pursuit of the enemy."

Arjona was in command of 3,500 men, to which he added some 600 more, gathered on his way from Ciego de Avila. He had two cannon, one of twelve and the other of six pounds. His force included 500 cavalrymen, of which he had only 2,500 well armed men, though in the second official report published in La Lucha it is said that the insurgents numbered 3,000. Gomez had also a pneumatic dynamite gun, but it was not very effective, as the shells exploded on percussion by means of a fulminate of mercury ray, and either on account of the moist climate of Cuba, which damages the fulminate, or owing to some other unknown cause, three out of four bombs did not explode. The same complaint was made about a cannon of that kind used some months ago in the jurisdiction of Sancti-Spiritus by the late Cuban General Serafin Sanchez. However, two or three bombs exploded in Juan Criollo, in the Spanish ranks when the fighting began, producing terrible confusion.

With the intelligent and courageous aid of General Carrillo, Gomez succeeded in driving the Spaniards to the center of the estate Juan Criollo, where a terrible fight began. All the efforts of the Spaniards were directed to capturing the Cuban cannon, and this error led them to their ruin and defeat, because the nearer they approached the cannon the more they involved themselves in the trap prepared by General Gomez.

At last the Spaniards, heavily chastised by the combined fire of Carrillo on one side and Gomez on the other, became panic stricken, and the Cubans had before them merely a mob of men. Just at this juncture the Spanish major, Posada, fell dead, his chest pierced by a bullet. The confusion of the Spaniards now became greater than ever, for Posada was struck down nearly in the center of their forces. The Spanish surgeon, Dr. Contero, went to assist Posada, but when he lifted him from the ground to his wound another volley of the Cuban intelligentsia struck the order "al machete" given by General Gomez decided the action. The Cubans charged from all sides, and then a hand-to-hand fight began. In the first moments the Cuban Colonel Remigio Lopez was killed by a bayonet thrust. The Spanish Lieutenant Don Longino Martinez and Don Frederico Pena fell dead, Martinez from a blow by a machete which cut his head off. Eighty Spanish soldiers were severely wounded and left helpless on the field. Before the hand-to-hand fight began the Spanish losses were already more than 100 men.

The greatest disadvantage of the Spaniards was the fact that in the play which they had entered in their desire to capture the Cuban cannon, they had exposed themselves to a flank attack by the Cuban intelligentsia, who had been ordered to surround the estate of Juan Criollo, and to fire upon the Spaniards, and to let the Spaniards know that the war was not over, and then Arjona started again from Arroyo Blanco, as he declared, "in pursuit of the enemy."

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to capture the Cuban cannon their own artillery was useless, as the field cannon of Gomez was shielded from the fire of the two Spanish cannons by a hill. From the very beginning of the action it was seen that in selecting the position for his artillery Colonel Arjona made a great mistake. Arjona himself, in the middle of the engagement, ordered his artillerymen to stop firing, as their cannon were only threatening the Spanish ranks without endangering the Cubans at all.

Some minutes after 5 o'clock, and in the midst of the great disorder into which the Spaniards had been thrown, Colonel Arjona ordered his troops to retire to Arroyo Blanco. The garrison of that town, relieved by Arjona in the afternoon from the terrible attack by Gomez, had not made the least effort to help Arjona in his awful disaster. In great confusion, and suffering at every step from the persistent fighting of the Cubans, the Spaniards retreated to the town, reaching it after 6 o'clock. The soldiers were terribly exhausted, and the night was very dark, with high wind. A section of the column did not reach the town, because it was dispersed in the plain when Lieutenant Pena was killed.

BRavery OF COLONEL ARJONA. All reports agree that Colonel Arjona behaved bravely. The terrible slaughter of his men was due to his incapacity and the undoubted superiority of Gomez as a strategist rather than to lack of courage on his part. But his defeat was so decisive that the Spaniards prefer to preserve silence over the affair rather than to praise and promote him, as they have repeatedly done in the case of less courageous chiefs.

Further, they fear the deep impression which the news of the battle will produce all over the country. General Gomez's prestige is so great that every one of his military achievements fills all Cuban sympathizers with pride and in foreign lands with enthusiasm, and therefore adds strength to the revolution. The courage of General Gomez and his reckless behavior in battle are remarkable, and make his soldiers tremble with admiration. No one of his subordinates avails to prevent him from risking his life. With a degree of physical energy that is almost incredible at his age, he leads his cavalry attacks and whenever he sees his men in a difficult situation he is among them in an instant, inspiring them with courage and showing them what pluck is. Since the death of Antonio Maceo every one observes that Gomez appears to be perfectly insensible to danger, and when any one protests that such displays of courage are unnecessary, he tells them that his life is too precious to Cuba to be thus jeopardized by his answers.

"I cannot ask others to do what I am not willing to do myself, and no man's life is necessary to Cuba when Mexico is at stake," he says, and the cause of the revolution has brighter prospects now than ever.

When, a few days ago, the officials composing the Cuban government were with him, he was obliged to avoid fighting. The President Cisneros was about to leave General Gomez's camp, he told the general that his personal preservation, for Cuba's sake, was of the highest importance to the cause, and that it was deplorable to see the Cuban general perishing in battle on account of his own imprudence.

Gomez smiled, and promised that he would do his best to keep alive and meet the president again. But at Juan Criollo he forgot his promise. He was throughout the battle in the first rank of the fighters, and he took a Spanish soldier prisoner with his own hands. When Colonel Remigio Lopez fell, suspecting that the death of that brave leader would discourage the Cubans, he threw himself into the middle of the hand-to-hand fight, and several Cuban soldiers were killed and wounded.

The Cuban losses at Juan Criollo are insignificant as compared with those of the Spaniards. Colonel Lopez and Lieutenant Juan Diaz were killed and about seventy soldiers also perished.

RACE WITH DEATH. Eagerness of a Father to See His Son Alive—Remarkable Feat in Railroad Accomplished in Vain.

Denver, Col., Feb. 17.—The special train from Chicago over the Chicago Burlington and Quincy and the Burlington and Missouri railroads, chartered by Henry J. Mayham, a Denver mining investment broker, reached this city at 3.52 a. m. today, having run 1,000 miles in eighteen hours and fifty-two minutes.

This journey goes into history as the greatest railroad feat ever accomplished. The best previous railroad long-distance record was nineteen hours and fifty-seven minutes over the New York Central and Lake Shore railroads, from New York to Chicago.

Mr. Mayham, who left New York Sunday on the Pennsylvania limited, chartered a special train at Chicago in order to reach the bedside of his dying son, William H. Mayham, as quickly as possible. The Burlington officials agreed to take him to Denver in twenty-four hours. It was at first thought the trip might be made in twenty-one hours. Every resource of the Burlington system was brought into play and over two hours elapsed off from the best running time thought to be possible. On straight stretches of track the train covered more than sixty miles an hour. The mountain climb from Akron, Col., to Denver, 115 miles, was made in 124 minutes, the train running an even mile a minute much of the distance.

At Lincoln, Neb., Traveling Engineer Eason, of the Burlington entered the cab of the engine and remained with each engineer as he came on until the train reached Denver.

No special train bearing high officials of the nation ever attracted more careful attention from the officers of the railway. Telegrams from all parts of the United States inquired concerning the progress of the train and the possibility of Mr. Mayham reaching the side of his son in time at least to grasp his hand before he was backstroken across the dark river.

At the Burlington passenger office in this city the representatives were kept busy answering questions from friends and well-wishers of the family. But, in spite of the Burlington's best efforts, those who use OLD SCHOOL MEDICINES, Sufferers from Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Headache, Migraine, Stiffness, Hardness of Hearing, Acute Capillary Bronchitis, Diseases of the Eye, Trichiasis, Ectropion, Pterygia, Lamprophthalmia, Diseases of the Throat, Hoarseness, Croup, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, and other constantly recurring affections, find relief in the use of this medicine.

THURLOW'S CURE FOR NEURALGIA. Mrs. Sarah W. King, 312 Mulberry street, Scranton, Pa., writes: "I was entirely cured of Neuralgia in one bottle of Thurlow's Cure. I had suffered from this disease for many years, and was cured in ten days."

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THURLOW INSTITUTE

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DISSEMINATION NOTICE. THE FIRST OF BROWN & MORRIS, ARDRETT, was this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business will be continued by the firm of BROWN & MORRIS, ARDRETT, 100 North Main Building, Scranton, Pa. All accounts due the firm will be received by Mr. Brown.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE. NANCY PARRY, deceased, late of Lackawanna county, Pa., is the holder of a certain note, the amount of which is \$100.00, payable to the order of the said Nancy Parry, and interest thereon at the rate of 6 per cent per annum. The said note is now in the hands of the undersigned, and he is willing to sell the same for cash at a discount of 10 per cent. All persons interested in the said note are hereby notified to call on the undersigned at his office, 100 North Main Building, Scranton, Pa., on Saturday, the 6th day of March, A. D. 1897, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, when and where all persons interested in the said note are invited to appear and be heard, or to have their claims against the said note paid. J. M. WALKER, Auditor.

SITUATIONS WANTED. WORK FOR PLY KIN WANTED. M. L. L. HARRISON, 422 Cedar avenue.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A YOUNG man as driver or clerk in grocery store. Address T. H. H. JR., 105 West 14th street.

SITUATION WANTED—YOUNG MAN, who can do bookbinding, copy and lithographic or manufacturing preferred. Address S. Tribune office.

SITUATION WANTED—AS COACHMAN for private family, by a single man, who has experience and can give good reference. Address A. H., 125 Washington street.

SITUATION WANTED—BY GIRL IN a small family, or second girl. Address 1933 Prospect avenue.

SITUATION WANTED—BY YOUNG MAN, 22 years old, as fireman, pumpman or steam fitter's helper, or anything honorable, agency work included. Address E. W., 116 Sedis Place.

SITUATION WANTED—BY AN EXPERIENCED lady, as stenographer, typewriter, cashier or bookkeeper. Thoroughly trained young children. Catalogue at request. REV. THOMAS M. CANN, WALTER H. BUELL.

MISS WORCESTER'S KINDERGARTEN and School, 415 Adams avenue. Spring term April 15. Kindergarten \$10 per term. See 415.

G. R. CLARK & CO., SEEDMEN AND Nurserymen; store 146 Washington avenue; Green River, Pa. Telephone 782.

Wire Screens. JOS. KUETTLE, REAR 511 LACKAWANNA avenue, Scranton, Pa., manufacturer of Wire Screens.

Hotels and Restaurants. THE ELK CAPE, 125 and 127 FRANKLIN avenue. Proprietor, P. ZEIGLER, Proprietor.

Miscellaneous. BAUER'S ORCHESTRA—MUSIC FOR balls, parties, receptions, weddings and concert work furnished. For terms and prices, apply to Victor Koch, Proprietor, 111 Wyoming avenue, over Hubert's music store.

MELROSE BROTHERS, PRINTER'S supplies, envelopes, paper, base, twine, Warehouse, 107 Washington street, Scranton, Pa.

FRANK P. BROWN & CO., WHOLESALE dealers in Woodware, Cordage and Oil Cloth, 729 West Lackawanna ave.

THOMAS AUBREY, EXPERT ACCOUNTANT and Auditor, Rooms 19 and 20, Williams Building, opposite postoffice. Agent for the Rex Fire Extinguisher.

THE TRIBUNE PUBLISHING CO., North Washington Avenue—Lino type Compositors, High Quality Work, Facilities unsurpassed in this region.

of the United States inquired concerning the progress of the train and the possibility of Mr. Mayham reaching the side of his son in time at least to grasp his hand before he was backstroken across the dark river.

At the Burlington passenger office in this city the representatives were kept busy answering questions from friends and well-wishers of the family. But, in spite of the Burlington's best efforts, those who use OLD SCHOOL MEDICINES, Sufferers from Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Headache, Migraine, Stiffness, Hardness of Hearing, Acute Capillary Bronchitis, Diseases of the Eye, Trichiasis, Ectropion, Pterygia, Lamprophthalmia, Diseases of the Throat, Hoarseness, Croup, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, and other constantly recurring affections, find relief in the use of this medicine.

THURLOW'S CURE FOR NEURALGIA. Mrs. Sarah W. King, 312 Mulberry street, Scranton, Pa., writes: "I was entirely cured of Neuralgia in one bottle of Thurlow's Cure. I had suffered from this disease for many years, and was cured in ten days."

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