

Highly Important from Cuba.

Graphic Account of the Operations at Cardenas—One hundred and forty killed and wounded—Spanish accounts.

On the arrival of the steamer Isabel, at Charleston, on the 26th ult., the Charleston Mercury was placed in possession of copious details of the late invasion of the island of Cuba by the forces under Gen. Lopez, which will be found annexed.

Gen. Gonzalez, one of Gen. Lopez's aids, and Col. O'Hara, of the Kentucky regiment, died the day after the Creole left Cardenas, and his body was consigned to the deep.

The Mercury learns that dispatches were received in Charleston, by the collector of the Port, from our Consul at Havana, stating that there were about one hundred prisoners in confinement in that city, charged with having been concerned in the invading expedition, who would be tried by a Court Martial; and requesting that an American vessel of war should at once be ordered there. An abstract of these despatches was transmitted to the State Department by telegraph.

The Operation at Cardenas.

The following sketch of the invasion of Cuba, was prepared by an officer of rank in the invading army:

On the 15th of May, when near the Island of Mules, off the coast of Yucatan, the three divisions of the expedition, numbering in all six hundred and nine men, were concentrated on the steamship Creole.

They consisted of a regiment from Kentucky, a regiment from Louisiana, a battalion from Mississippi, and one independent company from the same State.

The two schooners which had belonged to the expedition, were sent towards New Orleans, and the steamship started for the town of Cardenas, on the northern coast of Cuba.

The commander of the expedition, Gen. Narciso Lopez, believed that, that city could be surprised and taken in a few minutes. The morning cars seized and taken, and the whole of our army landed in Matanzas the same evening by the railroad.

The General also thought that little resistance would be made at Cardenas—that the large number of emigrants there from the United States would join the liberating standard, as would the Cuban population, and perhaps the Spanish garrison.

But these expectations of this brave, honest, and patriotic veteran, were entirely disappointed, and the expedition in consequence, has utterly failed in accomplishing its object.

At 2 o'clock on the night of the 18th, the steamer succeeded in landing within a few yards of the wharf; and after some delay, a single plank was connected with the shore, over which the troops by single files were disembarked.

The sentinel on the wharf had early discovered us—informed the garrison and city of our approach, so that they were well prepared to give us a hostile reception.

At least an hour was spent in the disembarkation. By the previous order of the Commanding General, the troops were landed as follows: the Kentucky Regiment first; the Louisiana Regiment second, and the Mississippi Battalion third. They all got into action, however, within a few minutes of each other.

Half the Kentucky regiment were detached under their Lieut. Colonel to the right of the town, to attack any force that might be found there, and to prevent egress if possible, from the place. But the latter duty was impracticable.

Company (A) of the Mississippi Battalion was sent to capture and hold possession of the railroad cars, engineers, employes, &c., whom we had learned, would leave for Matanzas, at six o'clock A. M.

After a sharp contest, this company succeeded in taking possession of the railroad cars, and in capturing twice its own number of armed troops, and retaining them as prisoners.

The action in the city soon became general. The garrison was concentrated under the Governor in the Citadel. In the efforts of our men to storm this place, the Colonel of the Kentucky regiment was shot in the leg while gallantly fighting at the head of his men. Soon after the Col. of the Louisiana troops was wounded in the shoulder, while leading his regiment against the same Citadel, and almost simultaneously the Adjutant General of the army, was shot in the leg.

Soon after the Colonels of these regiments were wounded, the three divisions respectively under their Major and Lieut. Colonels, made a combined attack upon the Citadel.

While this attack was being made, the guard of soldiers at the prison at the corner of the Great Square of the town, fired into the Mississippi Battalion from the windows. The Lieut. Colonel commanding, immediately ordered two of his companies, (B and C,) to about face and fire by plowing fire. The order was obeyed with promptness and effect so as to cause proper promptness and effect.

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observing Gen. Lopez, without a body guard, fearlessly exposing himself to the fire from the Citadel, detached this independent company to that duty. They gallantly performed it, and had an officer killed in joining the General.

About sunrise a torch was lighted by Gen. Lopez's own hands, against one of the doors of the Citadel, and soon the building below was in flames. Nevertheless the Spanish Garrison continued, long after, to keep up a destructive fire from the flat and parapetted roof above. It was not until it became manifest that the building would soon blow up, that the Governor of the city, officers and garrison, came down and surrendered. They fought with a gallantry unsurpassed by any troops.

The authorities now surrendered the city, the killed on both sides were removed, and the wounded taken care of. The troops of the expedition bivouacked in the Great Square.

Gen. Lopez was now busy in organizing those whom seemed likely to join them, and in preparing to march towards Matanzas that evening.

At two o'clock he ordered two of the remaining three companies of the Mississippi battalion (one being at the railroad depot) to march to the steamship and place all the ammunition and stores of the expedition on the cars. In an hour the work was done, when orders came to place them back again on the steamship. In another hour this was done, and the work was just accomplished when the battle of the evening began in the town.

The Lieut. Colonel of the Kentucky Regiment during the evening had marched his force into the town, and they with the Louisianians did this whole duty.

The Lieut. Colonel and the Major in command of the Mississippi battalion on the steamship, against the positive orders of the General-in-Chief, formed their men and quickly joined their fellow soldiers in the city. The enemy had been repulsed, however, with great loss, by the time of their arrival.

Gen. Lopez now ordered the whole force to re-embark on board the steamship, and the vessel stood out to sea. At three o'clock in the morning she ran hard aground. The weight of the men and of the ammunition made it clear that she would remain aground and be captured by the first Spanish man-of-war who discovered her, unless lightened. She had no artillery, and a man-of-war could stand off and batter her to pieces.

In this extremity, the Commanding General ordered the ammunition to be thrown overboard. With the exception of a small number of boxes, this was done, and the vessel at daylight was afloat.

The troops soon enquired to what place they were bound. Gen. Lopez informed them that he desired to proceed to the town of Manaut, on the Northwest coast of the Island, and again attempt the liberation of Cuba.

Many officers expressed themselves willing to go with him, but nine-tenths of the soldiers positively refused. They assigned the weighty reason of the scarcity of ammunition, the absence of artillery—the limited quantity of water, and the tardiness with which the Cubans at Cardenas joined the Liberating Standard.

They demanded to be taken to the nearest United States port, and soon the officers generally concurred with them in so reasonable a determination. Gen. Lopez was forced to yield to their wishes, and gave up the command of the vessel.

The next day as we were in sight of Key West, Florida, a Spanish man of war steamer came quattering down upon us. She had been hunting us from Cardenas.

We led her into port a very few moments; but owing to the quarantaine regulations of the town we could not land.

The Spaniard bore down on us and would with her Paixhan guns have destroyed us, had not the United States Revenue Cutter informed her that we had surrendered ourselves to the authorities at Key West, and that he (the Spaniard) must not interfere with us.

It is proper to state that no article of property was molested by us at Cardenas; not one woman or child injured or insulted. The officers and men of the expedition paid liberally for what they ate and drank. A large jewelry store came into their possession during the fight, but a guard of soldiers were placed over it and not an article was touched.

The emigrants from the United States at Cardenas, was as hostile to us as the Cubans. One of them gave our officers a sumptuous breakfast in the morning, and in the evening he was killed, charging us at the head of a company of lancers.

In estimating our loss, I set it down at from thirty to forty killed and wounded—that of the Spaniards one hundred killed and wounded.

The people of the United States should remember that at dark on the evening of the 19th we had again repulsed and silenced the enemy in Cardenas, and had quiet possession of the place, and that by Gen. Lopez's orders we abandoned it, and by the orders of the Lieut. Colonel we entered the city of Havana, and fought the battle of the 19th.

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attempt of the expeditionary pirates. At 3 o'clock on the morning of the 19th favored by the darkness of the night, and when no one could have imagined their presence in those waters, the robbers effected a landing at Cardenas. So soon as this was known to the brave Lieut. Governor D. F. Cerro, he placed himself at the head of a small detachment of 17 men at his disposal, and opposed a truly heroic resistance which lasted until four houses, in which they had successfully entrenched themselves were burnt, when they fell into the hands of the enemy, after having expended their last cartridge. While this was taking place the population, including the women and children, abandoned the town, thus manifesting in an unequivocal manner the horror and aversion with which all were inspired by the presence of the foreign banditti.

At half-past 6, they were charged by 50 men of the infantry of Leon, twenty lancers, and more than thirty peasants, mostly natives of Biscay, who under the command of D. Leon Fortun, military commander of Guanaacaro, arrived from the surrounding country, and put them to a shameful flight, leaving many dead on the field, obliging them to re-embark precipitately, and carrying away their wounded, the so-called Col. White, and 40 of his followers.

The steamer which brought them was the Creole, and the leader of the pirates, D. Narciso Lopez, they allowed to escape at Cayo Piedra, at the outlet of the harbor, Senor Cerote, Senor Segura, Captain in the infantry of Leon, and a sub-Lieutenant of the same corps, who had been made prisoners.

Our attention has been called more particularly to this circumstance; that the soldiers of the garrison, whom the invaders had set at liberty, subsequently turned their arms against them, and gave undoubted proof, that even so great a boon, as being the gift of pirates, was odious to them.

The editor of the Gazette further states that the steamer Pizarro, which went in pursuit, captured two vessels with a hundred prisoners, including fourteen inferior officers, and the correspondence of the invading Canaille. He leads us to believe that Havana is all enthusiasm and shouting bayonets. Martial law has been proclaimed. The coast is strictly blockaded, and the most stringent measures adopted.

The following accounts, conspicuously displayed, with the largest sort of type, are found in the Diario de la Marina, of the 21st May:

"LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!
"FIRST VICTORY OVER THE PIRATES!!

"General Armero, Commander-in-chief of the Department, has already made an important capture, which may lead to a decided victory over the pirates. On Thursday night, he left this port in the Pizarro. Next day, he reached Cape Antonio, there he ascertained that some vessels, with a small force on board—the remains of a larger force—were at Contoy. Proceeding thither, he sent a boat on shore with Captain Vinatea in command. The Captain took possession of a schooner, another ship, and about a hundred of the banditti, besides which he has made himself master of all their correspondence and surprised all the plans of the invading blackguards.

By this means it is discovered that the whole invading force has not exceeded five hundred men, who, in their madness and thirst after money, intended first to march upon Matanzas and thence to Havana!—to this Havana, where all rushed to enlist as volunteers the moment the call was made, and where we are anxious to meet them! It appears from the papers seized that the villains calculated on dividing our property among themselves. Each officer was to have twenty thousand dollars, and a fine farm; and each soldier four thousand dollars, and lands for each of them.

Inhabitants of Cuba! These facts require no commentary. Let us put all confidence in the authorities of the Island, who have already done so well, and completely destroyed, in so few hours, the work of villainy, and the whole undertaking of the vile buccanniers.

May 22.—The traitors and robbers have already quit the soil of loyalty. The people of Cardenas have given them a most terrible lesson, after they had already received some from the few brave soldiers who were on the spot. Scarcely had the population recovered from the sudden surprise produced by the landing in the morning, but they immediately gathered in masses, and rushing almost without arms upon the infamous robbers, they drove them before them before them, and obliged them to re-embark, making some of them pay dear for their daring insolence.

Affairs at Key West.

Key West, May 21.—Early this morning, a Spanish man of war steamer was discovered and boarded by one of the Pilots, off the Ship Channel, the Commanding Officer of the ship, if any steamer had arrived with an unusual quantity of men, which our pilot denied. The Spanish man-of-war then changed her course and stood off. At about 6 A. M., a steamer was discovered coming down under reef, and arrived here at about 11 A. M., which proved to be the steamer Creole, having on board some 600 to 700 armed men, under Gen. Lopez. Whilst coming in, a Spanish man-of-war was also seen coming down the coast, and arrived at Key West, and was captured by the United States Revenue Cutter.

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aid in carrying it out. Poison at length was determined on, as the means, and his father, giving him the money, directed him to purchase some arsenic. He did so. Father and son then took an opportunity to go to Jenny's house when he was away from home, and while the father kept watch outside, the son went in and sprinkled the arsenic on all the food that he could find. Jenny returned, partook of the food, and in a short time died. The Spinnings, both father and son, have been committed for trial.

They continued their fight in retreat until they regained their steamer. Got under weigh and ran—discovered a Spanish man-of-war steamer after them. Since the arrival of the steamer, she has been seized under the Passenger Law. She is now in charge of Lieut. of the U. S. Survey schooner Petrel, Lieut. Comdr. Rogers. Many of the Regiment being wounded, have found comfortable quarters amongst our citizens, and the U. S. Barracks, which were, on application, delivered to them. A Lieut. Jones, of Alabama, is now recovering, having received a ball through his right side. He is in comfortable quarters, at a private boarding house. Our little village is apparently all alive. As the war steamer still retains her steam, it is presumed that she will leave this evening.

The Fever at Rio de Janeiro.—We have been favored with the perusal of a private letter from Rio de Janeiro, dated 19th April, from which we extract the following:

The ship Montevie, McManus, from Baltimore, with government troops for California, which put in here for supplies, remained only two days, in consequence of the frightful epidemic which has for the last three months raged with fearful violence in the harbor and city of Rio de Janeiro. To attempt to give you anything like a true account of the number of people who have been swept away since its first outbreak, would be altogether completely out of the question. The public authorities say that not over 3,000 to 4,000 persons have died with the prevailing fever. This statement is absurd in the extreme. Many of the churches have commenced burying their dead in the country, or at least not in the heart of the city as they did formerly, and the burial ground attached to the church San Francisco de Paul, opened only about three weeks since, already contains 657 graves. Now this is for three weeks, and it is too at a time when everybody says the epidemic is subsiding. It is my firm belief that over 13,000 persons have been carried off from the time the fever first made its appearance. Many, very many of my best friends have fallen victims.

The United States lost in Major Morgan a man, who, take him all in all, she'll seldom look on his like again; and poor Mons. Serra, the French Attache, who delivered a very eloquent and touching speech over his much regretted friend's grave, has also gone to that long home from whence there is no return.

The French are sending troops out to the River Plate, but for what purpose is not exactly known. Two or three vessels have put in here with detachments of French Infantry on board. The ostensible object, I believe, is to disband the French Legion of volunteers now in arms at Montevideo.

Owing to the ravages of the fever all the places of amusement have been closed. The French and Italian Opera companies have had their ranks awfully thinned.

The Indian Troubles in Minnesota.—Our town was startled from its propriety on Wednesday, by the swift running thro' our streets of a small detachment of Dakotah soldiers, belonging to the Little Crow band, "armed and equipped as the law directs," and heading up the river. Upon inquiry, we found that one of their fellow citizens had been killed and scalped that morning in the vicinity of Mendota, by some daring Chippewa, or Chippewas, who had ventured into the heart of their enemies country, and within sight of the guns of Fort Snelling. The Dakotahs scoured the country between here and the fort, and about the place where their comrade was slain, but the hunt was unsuccessful. They returned in the evening with the dead body of the Chippewas were out in force, to avenge the recent slaughter on Apple River. Owing to this, the Governor has granted a parole to thirteen Sioux recently confined in Fort Snelling for participating in that transaction, that they may protect their homes and families. They pledge themselves not to engage in any aggressive warfare. Things look as though our red brethren were going to have hot times this summer.—St. Paul (Minn.) Chronicle, May 18, 1850.

Strange Revelation of a Murder.—This seems to be a day of developments, not only of crimes as they are daily committed among us, but of old ones, in which the shadows of mystery had long rested. More than a year ago, a man named Jenny, living entirely alone near the town of Lansing, in Michigan, died suddenly, and was supposed to have been poisoned. No clue, however, could be traced by which to fix the deed on any one, and the affair remained in mystery. A few weeks since a revival of religion took place in the neighborhood, and a young man named Spinning, having had his conscience awakened, confessed that he and his wife had conspired to murder Jenny. He existed her and then he first pitched her into the water.

Justice to Harry Clay.—The whig papers generally, just now, embrace every opportunity of denouncing Mr. CLAY for his late effort to heal the wounds that have been inflicted upon the permanency of the Union by the agitation of the slavery question. In urging the plan of settling forever all these subjects of excitement, which was reported through him as chairman of the Compromise Committee, Mr. CLAY took occasion to expose in a fine and dignified, though in a fair and just manner, the folly of the plan recommended by President TAYLOR. For this he is denounced by some whig editors in very harsh terms and is accused of deserting the whig party. This, we say is not justice to "Harry of the West." He is now advocating, apparently the last effort of a long life, the most feasible and permanent plan for the preservation of this glorious Union, and in doing so, it does not become the whig press to denounce him as opposing the whig party or whig principles.

Horse Thieves About.—One day last week two men arrived in this place, and traded a span of very fine horses to one of our citizens, for which they received two other horses and a sum of money. On Thursday of this week, two men arrived from one of the Southern counties of New York and identified the horses to be the same that were stolen from one of them. The officers are in pursuit of the scamps, and it is to be hoped they may succeed in bringing them to that punishment they so richly deserve.

Another South Carolina Senator Dead.—Some two months ago Mr. Calhoun died in Washington city in the discharge of his duties as one of the Senators of South Carolina. The Governor of the State appointed the Hon. F. H. Elmore to fill the vacancy; and on Thursday of last week Mr. Elmore also expired. He was born in 1799.

A correspondent of the Louisville Journal gives a sad account of a feud between two families of Garrard county, Ky., named Evans and Hill. Dr. Evans, some two or three months since, shot one of his neighbors named Hill, and then fled, it is supposed, to Indiana. On Monday last one of the Evans' and one of the Hills came into collision, and exchanged shots without effect. The Hill gang then fell on Evans with knives and cut his throat on each side, and his upper lip nearly off. While this butchering business was going on, a brother of Evans appeared and shot down with a revolver, successively, Russell Hill, Frederick Hill, William Hill, Jr., and Henry Sagacy, a brother-in-law. Numerous shots were made at him without killing him. The battle was over the wounded Evans, and who was supposed to be dead. None of the five wounded are dead, and it is thought they may all recover.

Romance of Robbery.—The following incidents occurred last week on the New York and New Haven railroad: A lady from Litchfield, who came down on the Naugatuck train, after procuring a ticket for New York at the Bridgeport station, had her purse, containing \$265, taken from her by some adroit pickpocket. A contribution was taken up for the lady among the passengers, immediately after her loss became known, which amounted to \$40. Subsequently, and before the train arrived in New York, a gentleman, who had declined to contribute to her relief, made some inquiry of her relative to her finances, and concluded by giving her a check on a New York Bank for the balance of the money stolen—\$225. He refused to disclose his name to any one but the lady herself.

Three Persons Burned to Death.—One of the most affecting and awful occurrences we have ever been called upon to chronicle—says the Towanda (Pa.) Reporter—happened on Sunday last week, at Smith's steam mill in Sheshequin township, in this state. A young man by the name of Hurley, employed in the mill, returned home at 12 o'clock on Saturday night, his duty closing then, and with his wife and child, four weeks old, retired to rest, in an upper room, leaving a fire in the stove below. In a short time, another family residing in the house, were awakened by smoke, and found the house in flames. An