

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

New York, Dec. 21.—Following is the Cuban version of the battle fought at Yacta ford, on the Cauto river, on December 14th last. The details were received through the mails by Capt. Alfredo Rodriguez, a Cuban insurgent officer, who is invalided in this city. It tells of a crushing defeat inflicted upon the Spanish general, Pando. Capt. Rodriguez's correspondent says:

"A part of Gen. Callixto Garcia's force under Lieut.-Col. Salvador Rios, was holding the Yacta ford of the Cauto river. It was important for Pando's forces to reopen the river, besieged by Gen. Roloff. Gen. Callixto Garcia's main force was a little further up the river, protecting a ford threatened by Gen. Pando. Gen. Aldave, in command of 2,000 Spanish infantry, 'regulars,' a squadron of cavalry and 3,000 guerilla volunteers, twenty-two cannon and six light gunboats, attacked Rios. Disposing his artillery on the hills commanding the Yacta ford, Aldave opened a hot fire on the insurgent works on the opposite side of the river. Rios and his 500 Cubans retired into the cover of the woods, and the ford was open for the Spaniards' passage.

"Aldave advanced a column of infantry across the ford, holding their rifles and ammunition belts above their heads, the men being protected by a continual artillery fire. Rios, seeing that he could not hold his position without help, sent a volunteer courier, Lieut. Charles Hickman, an American, to Gen. Callixto Garcia, up the river. Hickman had to ride directly through the enemy's fire, but made the passage safely. Meanwhile Gen. Aldave landed 1,500 more men on the further side, and Gen. Pando, with a large force at this time made a feint upon the upper ford.

"Gen. Garcia, deceived by Pando's movements, decided that he could spare only a small reinforcement to Col. Rios and sent Col. Carlos Garcia with only 200 mounted men down the river. This reinforcement, small as it was, renewed the hopes of the defenders of the Yacta ford, and they charged the Spanish with the bayonet. The Cubans, however, were so heavily outnumbered that they were forced to give way. Carlos Garcia's horse was shot from under him, and Col. Rios was wounded slightly in the leg. Col. Garcia's escort renewed the charge with machetes this time, and held the Spanish forces in check for a short while.

"By this time Gen. Callixto Garcia had seen through Gen. Pando's feints on the upper ford and dispatched Gen. Jesus Rabi with 1,000 cavalry to their relief. These arrived just as the Spaniards were recovering from the machete charge, and fell suddenly upon their rear, throwing the troops who had crossed the ford into confusion. The Spanish had to give ground and became exposed to the fire from their own artillery in the hills and from the six guns which had joined in the bombardment of Rios's men. Gen. Aldave ordered this destructive fire to cease, re-formed his attacking party and dispatched a message to Gen. Pando for assistance in carrying the Cuban position. But it was too late. The Cubans, re-forming, raised their battle shout of 'A la machete,' 'Cuba libre,' and fell upon the Spanish ranks with terrible effect. A body of 1,000 guerillas was cut off from Aldave's force and threw down their arms.

"Gen. Rabi, knowing the half-hearted loyalty of these volunteers, told them they must fight their own comrades or be cut to pieces, and they

obeyed, and really fought desperately on the Cuban side.

"Gen. Aldave, seeing that his men would be annihilated, withdrew them across the ford, again protected by the artillery fire. Gen. Pando, with an escort, rode down from the upper ford and directed the Spanish to retreat.

"The Cuban loss in this engagement was 106 killed and about 300 wounded. Gen. Rabi's men found 200 Spanish dead, and Gen. Aldave, in his report to Havana, said his wounded numbered 200. The Cubans believe they have inflicted much more damage; that the Spanish troops carried away many of their dead, and minimized the number of wounded, reporting only one-fourth. Among the Cubans killed was Maj. Lelade and Capt. Garcia, a son of a rich planter. The Spanish left on the field Lieut. Col. Ilave, two captains and one assistant surgeon, and the standard of arms of the battalion Ilanaros. Gen. Garcia promoted Hickman, the daring courier, to captain, on the field.

"Pando has reported to Gen. Blanco that 100,000 men are needed to break the backbone of the insurgent opposition in the east, and that it is no longer practicable to continue the campaign to relieve Bayamo. This city Gen. Garcia expects to capture early in January, being now able to detach troops from his command to send to Roloff's aid."

Capt. Rodriguez has also received news that Gen. Maximo Gomez has crossed the Jahonyu river at Clego de Avila, and has continued on his march to effect a junction with Gen. Rodriguez.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—J. S. Hodson and L. B. Horton, both of Chicago, and both engineers, were killed in a collision on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad at Cayuga, Ind., this afternoon. Fireman J. K. Horton had both legs broken and H. W. Kellogg, an airbrake inspector, had his head badly cut. A passenger train ran through an open switch and crashed into the rear end of a freight train. Both engineers were on the passenger locomotive.

New York, Dec. 21.—Fireman Martin J. Oakley was killed tonight at the fire which started in a wood bin in the basement of a five-story tenement house on East Forty-fourth street. Oakley was suffocated by smoke and escaping gas. Assistant Firemen Thomas Head, James Davis and Peter Connelly of the same company were rendered unconscious by inhaling smoke and gas and were with difficulty revived. They are in hospitals and their condition is serious.

San Francisco, Dec. 22.—The attorneys for Theodore Durrant have filed notice that they will ask for a change of venue from the recent order of sentence by Judge Bahr on the ground that the court is prejudiced. An appeal to the governor for a stay will also be asked.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Fire today destroyed the three story brick warehouse of the A. H. Andrews furniture company, Twenty-second and Flisk streets. The warehouse was filled with finished goods, all of which burned. For a time the factory building, a seven story structure to the south of the warehouse, was in danger, but the flames were confined to the warehouse. Loss about \$100,000; fully covered by insurance. Three firemen were injured, none seriously.

New York, Dec. 22.—Mrs. Freda Schlitz, aged and crippled, was overcome by smoke and died when within a few feet of safety, in a fire in the house in which she lived on East 59th

street, before daylight today. Every effort was made to save her life by her two daughters, but their strength gave out and they were forced to abandon their mother and barely escaped death themselves. About a score of others were rescued by the police and firemen.

New York, Dec. 22.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Havana says:

While decrees from Madrid have been coming to Havana the palace has kept on issuing decrees or "bandas" which are meant to aid in the reconstructive processes. The dubious points in the decree authorizing the quotations bill, etc., or paper money, were banda. The experiment has worked well in the first few days.

Stanford University, Cal., Dec. 22.—Dr. Noah Fields Drake, a graduate student in geology here since 1893, has been tendered and has accepted a position in the Tien Tsin University, China, and he will leave for the Orient February 1st. He will be major professor of mining engineering and geology.

Dr. Drake came from Cincinnati, Ark. He took the degree of civil engineer in the Arkansas Industrial University in 1888. Following that he was connected for four years with the state geological surveys of Texas and Arkansas, and also worked on the United States geological survey as geologist and surveyor. After a year's work he took a degree in geology and the following year received the degree of A. M. During vacations he was connected with the coast geodetic survey, and after two more years of study received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

New York, Dec. 22.—Senorita Clemenceau Anago, the sister of Col. Arango of the Cuban army, has received the following letter from a member of the Cuba revolutionary committee in Havana:

Col. Joaquin Ruiz, the former superintendent of engineers of the Albarr waterworks, paying no heed to the orders issued by Gen. Gomez and wishing to make little of the laws of the republic, had the hardihood to undertake the proposal of autonomy to Col. Aranguren of the Havana squadron, in consideration of his acceptance he was to receive a considerable sum of money which was to be increased in proportion to the number and rank of the Cubans who should accept the insulting proposition. But Col. Aranguren in compliance with orders and setting aside all consideration of the personal friendship which he had for the Spanish intruder ordered that Col. Ruiz be tried by a summary court martial. The military tribunal sentenced him to death and he was executed three days ago. May Ruiz rest in peace.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The department of state has undertaken an investigation of two very disagreeable incidents, that may contain in themselves the germs of serious trouble in the near future. These are the killing by Japanese of two sailors attached to the United States fleet on the Asiatic station.

The exact conditions under which the killing occurred are not known here yet, and the state department is trying to learn through the United States minister at Tokio and the United States consuls in Japan, preliminary to determine what steps shall be taken to secure reparation, if it shall be found that the killing was, as is expected, unjustifiable.

The first killing was of a sailor named Montgomery, formerly attached to the Yorktown while she was on the Asiatic station, and the last was that of Frank Epps, a sailor, native of New York and an apprentice on the flagship Olympia. He was killed at Nagasaki.