

Mormons from holding any religious services or teaching a school on pain of fine, imprisonment and banishment. That is the state of affairs today.

Mr. Damron declares that the reason of the persecution is that Governor Papino and Governor Martin, who is advised by Governor Papino, desire to have only the Protestant and Catholic religions taught to the natives. He says that when his people went to Governor Martin with a petition asking the liberty to worship, the governor told him he could not recognize any faith not recognized in France. Mr. Damron said:

This is the only excuse he would give for his cruel actions. He has nothing against our people except that they were Mormons, and there are only Protestants, Catholics and Jews in France.

We have always complied with the laws. When I first went to the islands I asked Governor Tabano for instructions. He told me not to marry people till they had been first married by the government. As for preaching and teaching, he said for me to go ahead so long as I did not interfere with any established sect. These instructions I have always complied with.

Nevertheless, I have been treated harshly and unjustly. When I have expostulated I have been insulted, and it has been impossible for my people to obtain justice.

We are not the only sufferers, though. There has also been trouble for the Seventh-day Adventists. They had a school in connection with their mission. The school was in a very flourishing condition. Not only was their preaching stopped, but they were ordered to discontinue their school. The reason given was the same that we had received.

The closing of the schools was opposed by Mr. Damron. He says that he went to Governor Martin and asked if they could not continue the schools in their dwellings, with their own Saints as the teachers. The answer was, "Not if we know it." He continued:

The I asked that we be allowed to continue our schools till a petition we had sent to the president of France could be heard from. This was denied us. We were told that if we opened our school we did it at our peril.

Why, several Mormons were ordered to get out citizenship papers. They were given three months in which to comply. They were assured that if the order was not obeyed they would be fined and imprisoned and then banished.

The great injustice came on April 6th. From all the islands the Saints had gathered at Takara for their annual conference. This they had done for forty years, and during the time of preparation there was no intimation that there would be any objection.

At the last moment a letter was received forbidding the holding of the conference. The police and acting governor were ordered to see that it was not held, and were told to report the names of those who might take part in it. It was also announced that the American Elders who participated would be held personally responsible for any disobedience.

Mr. Damron said that the punish-

ment would have been imprisonment and banishment. He explained that he was not banished, but that he had been relieved by the home board from his work, and returned to America because it was impossible for him to accomplish anything when even meetings in private dwellings were forbidden.

The islanders were originally converted to Protestantism. Then the Mormons arrived and obtained many converts. The Catholics and Latter-day Saints came later. The Mormons suffer from the disadvantage of a doctrinal division. In the Tuantia group, according to Mr. Damron, there are about 700 "Mormons," 1,000 "Josephites," or "Latter-day Saints," 1,000 Catholics and 700 Protestants. In Tahiti the natives, he said, are mostly Protestants.

Mr. Damron and his two assistants are all men of marked intelligence. Mr. Damron was born in Utah. He is a handsome man, with a luxuriant black beard, bright black eyes and an earnest manner. They are going back to Utah in a few days.

### WAR FOR FREEDOM.

NEW YORK, June 17.—A special to the *World* from Havana says:

The whole province of Matanzas, which adjoins the province of Havana, is on the edge to rise in arms again. The first uprising took place there, but the insurgents' plans in that section were frustrated. The sympathizers with the revolution have been carefully laying new plans and waiting for a favorable moment to strike.

The autonomist political party of Matanzas has been dissolved, to express a change of opinion and approval of the revolution.

The autonomist party of Havana is likely to follow suit. The principal officers and most influential members cannot agree. The majority acknowledge the increasing importance of the revolution and the number who favor free Cuba constantly grows.

From the interior of the island come reports showing that members of the autonomist party are abandoning it one by one.

The newspaper *El Pais*, the organ of the autonomist party and about the only paper read by the Cubans, has published of late such strong articles against the revolution and in favor of Spanish sovereignty that more than 1,500 persons have stopped taking it. The subscription list continues to shrink every day.

The regulation rifle (Mauser) used by the government is too complicated for the Spanish soldiers, and misfires are constant. They are being replaced by Remingtons.

Business men are called to meet at the produce exchange to raise money to carry on the war. Few representatives of the larger houses were present. The subscriptions amounted to \$100,000.

The Santiago mine owners have notified the government that they will have to suspend work if not allowed troops enough to protect them for they are often raided by the rebels, who take all their provisions. The government has given an evasive answer.

The closing of the mines would send many men into the insurgent ranks.

NEW YORK, June 17.—A special to the *Herald* from Panama says: Members of the Cuban colony here say they have received news from Cuba that Captain General Martinez Campos was wounded by a shot from the rebels while he was on board a yacht at the port of Guantanamo.

No confirmation of this report has been had from Santiago de Cuba.

NEW YORK, June 17.—A special to local paper from Key West, Fla., says: Private advices received in this city state that Maceo, Rabi and Miro, with 7,000 men in Awas, captured a train loaded with 135 Spanish troops between Gibara and Hoiguin. They also captured \$80,000 in silver, 1,000 rifles and 50,000 rounds of ammunition.

On Friday Pedro Toraes and band burned the town of Camael near Mantanzas.

NEW YORK, June 17.—A special to the *Herald* from Key West, Fla., says that two Spanish spies, Claro Diaz, from Baracoa, and Ramon Postal Martinez, of Ranzanillo, are reported to have been sent to the rebel headquarters by General Martinez Campos to poison General Antonio Maceo. A price has also been set upon General Jose Maceo's head.

The men sent to accomplish this work, it is asserted, will pretend to be deserters from the Spanish army. The Maceos have both been warned, however, and will probably be upon their guard.

NEW YORK, June 17.—A special to the *Herald* from Philadelphia says: There is a suspicion in shipping circles here that the excursion steamer *Brighton* which left port several weeks ago ostensibly to engage in the passenger trade in South America has, like the tugboat *George W. Collins*, entered the service of the Cuban revolutionists.

The *Bridgeton* passed to sea on Thursday, May 23, at 9:30 p. m. The *George W. Collins* preceded her less than twenty-four hours.

The *Bridgeton* was last heard from on June 3, when she sailed from St. Augustine, Fla., having touched at Beaufort, N. C., on her voyage.

HAVANA, June 17.—General Pedro Mella, civil governor of Puerto Principe, and 900 cavalry, have arrived at Puerto Principe, the capital of that province. All the troops are prepared to take the field against the insurgents in three days.

The commission, which on its own account is taking steps to bring about a conference between representatives of prominent residents of Puerto Principe and Maximo Gomez, desire Rafael Myntoro, the autonomist leader, to preside. They expect the result of the conference will be the restoration of peace in Cuba. A detachment of 600 cavalry from the province of Santa Clara has arrived here. In the Duabo the insurgents lost twelve killed and thirty wounded.

In view of the peaceful attitude of the province Puerto Principe, the captain general has given up the idea of proclaiming martial law there. A special judge has been ordered by the government to proceed to Alfonso Doce, the province of Matanzas, to commence proceedings against the parties who circulated false reports of an insurgent outbreak in that province.