

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

MADRID, May 6.—A dispatch from Havana says the American newspaper man Hamilton, captured on board the Key West filibustering schooner *Competitor* will be released, but the other persons captured at the same time will be shot in spite of protests from Washington.

NEW YORK, May 6.—The *Herald's* correspondent in Guayaquil, Ecuador, telegraphs that the province of Manabí suffered terribly from earthquakes in Puerto Viejo.

Houses were thrown down, many persons were buried alive in the ruins, and many others injured. The province of Manabí is in the northeastern part of Ecuador.

LONDON, May 6.—Col. John A. North, who died last evening, was 53 years old. He was universally known as the "Nitrate King." He was very wealthy. He had ventures in nearly every part of the world and his nitrate fields are better than any gold mine in existence. His expenses every year, outside of his business, was more than \$500,000, and his income is supposed to be more than \$5,000,000 a year. He had cement works in Belgium which brought him a fortune and which were, until he saw them, nothing but a brick yard.

He was an Englishman by birth and he came from Yorkshire. His father was a coal merchant, who brought him up as a civil engineer and put him into business as soon as he was able to do anything for himself. He was connected as an employee in a steamship works when his father died, leaving about \$30,000 to his family. Young North, though he was then married, at once gave his share of his estate to his mother, and shortly after this he went to South America with his wife to seek his fortune. He went there as a civil engineer and soon saw the immense possibilities for fortune making which exist on the western coast of that country. He invested in a number of different speculations and made money. He then began to buy nitrate and kept buying from time to time until he at last got control of the biggest nitrate fields in the world. He made millions by buying guano and it seemed that everything he touched turned into gold.

From Monday morning till Friday every week he devoted his whole attention to business. But at the end of the week he sought to obtain enjoyment from his vast wealth and opened his country house to guests and friends, entertaining lavishly. He was never ashamed of his humble beginnings, and he secured social recognition through the friendship of the Prince of Wales.

In 1895 he ran for Parliament and was defeated. He had never before interested himself in politics, and was not seriously disturbed by the rebuff. His opponent was no less a personage than Gladstone himself, and yet he expected to win. He told the voters that he did not know much about politics and that anything proposed by Lord Salisbury was good enough for him.

Colonel North was impulsive, liberal and generous. In person he was of

medium height and moderately stout. In manner he was bluff and hearty. He leaves a widow and one daughter.

LONDON, May 6.—As a result of an inquest today upon the remains of the late Colonel North, a verdict of death from natural causes was returned. The physician testified that he previously had noticed symptoms of heart disease which he asserted was the cause of the colonel's death.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 7.—H. H. Holmes was hanged in Moyamensing prison this morning. The drop fell at 10:12½. Half an hour later he was pronounced dead. The neck was broken by the fall.

Even on the scaffold he was probably the coolest man in the solemn assemblage. In a few well chosen words he proclaimed his innocence of any murder, including that for which he was convicted and hanged. He declared the only wrong-doing in taking human life for which he could be held responsible consisted in the death of two women who died as a result of criminal operations at his hands. He did not name these victims.

NEW YORK, May 8.—A dispatch to the *Herald* from Havana says:

The crew of the alleged American filibuster, *Competitor*, will be tried in the arsenal at 6 o'clock this morning. Five of the men were permitted to send a letter to the American consul and to talk with one another last evening for the first time in nine days.

When seen by your correspondent in prison they were awaking in hammocks and talking Spanish. Captain Alfredo Laborde showed deep sores in his wrists cut by ropes. He said: "They tried to force me to make some sort of a confession. I assured them that I had told the truth from the outset though they tried to make it appear that I had knowledge of everything though I was really a victim."

"I had a wrecking license permitting general freight and passenger business and sponge fishing along the Florida coast, though from a distance special custom house papers are necessary. I arranged to carry twenty-four passengers from Key West to Lemon City. We started at night. When near Capeable, the leaders, Colonel Monson, one Taguerde and five others came into the cabin. They said they had expected to find a steamer waiting for them on which they wished to re-ship for Cuba."

"They ordered me to sail about until it came but I refused, they seized the boat, saying: 'Well, we will do as we see fit.' They had a pilot of their own and compelling us to be silent by threats they steered for the Cuban coast. I received only \$2 for each man and never thought that I would carry them so far. When we reached the coast and had almost unloaded the Cubans ashore a Spanish gunboat appeared and began firing. I sent the mate to raise the American flag but the Spaniards kept shooting at him until he turned below. There was a quantity of dynamite on the deck and fearing an explosion we got into the water to keep at a safe distance. The gunboat continued to fire at us though we did not resist."

Wm. Golden, the mate, is an Englishman. Captain Laborde says he has been naturalized. Onajillon, another prisoner, is a native of Kansas. He says he became correspondent for a Jacksonville paper and this was his first newspaper work. He has been waiting some time for a chance to secure a boat for Pinar del Rio, he says.

"Did you expect to land in Cuba from the *Competitor*?" I asked.

"I expected to land and transfer," he answered.

Captain Laborde turned and remarked: "That is the only thing for which I blame you, for not telling me in advance."

"I wonder what became of the three other members of the crew who were captured," he continued. "They are not here. I fear they are dead. Only two of the crew are here besides myself and the mate."

The owner of the *Competitor* is Joseph Wells of Key West.

HAVANA, May 8.—The campaign in Pinar del Rio has taken an active turn. Gen. Ochoa, Capt. Gen. Weyler's chief of staff, gave orders that Gen. Altamira should be sent in pursuit of Antonio Maceo. Complying with these instructions, Gen. Altamira came up with Maceo at the farm of Candelaria at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The insurgents made a firm stand, and sustained the fire of the troops five hours. Apparently they had no intention of retreating then, but reinforcements under Col. Valcarlos joined Gen. Altamira and the insurgents then began to give back, still stubbornly resisting, however. The march was toward Guayacaman, in a series of skirmishes, from position to position. The insurgents in their flight received the cannon and musketry fire of the troops.

The official report says the troops had seven killed and Capt. Manuel Cerrera and Lieut. Marina, Lieut. Cecilio Gomez and twenty-two soldiers wounded.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—Prof. George Burr, holding the chair of history at Cornell university, who has been working in Washington under the direction of the Venezuelan boundary committee for the past two months as special historical expert, sails tomorrow from New York for Holland for the purpose of making an examination of the Dutch records bearing upon the boundary controversy. The special reason why the commission desires to have these archives examined is that reference is made to them in a general way in the British Blue book and by historians, without specifically designating the particular documents upon which the statements of the Blue book and of the historians rest. It is therefore deemed important to see the original documents.

NEW YORK, May 9.—A special to the *Herald* from Kingston, Jamaica, says:

Cuban residents have received advices announcing the safe arrival in Cuba of an expedition in aid of the insurgents which recently left this island. The vessel conveying the expedition was chased by a Spanish cruiser and compelled to land her men and cargo in the vicinity of an encampment of government troops, which, however, was avoided by a flank movement.