THE FIFTY-THREE MURDERS

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Capture of the Virginius --- Trial and Execution of the Prisoners.

THE HORRIBLE STORY IN DETAIL.

Burriel's Bloody Deeds More Fully Exposed.

Spaniards' Shame for the Great Outrage.

Commander Braine's Interview with General Morales After the Murderer's Flight.

Visit of the Americans to the American Prisoners in the Jail.

ON BOARD U. S. SLOOP-OF-WAR JUNIATA, SANTIAGO DE CUBA, NOV. 27, 1873. } The swaggering cutthroats who have made the name of this ragged town so notorious prohibit the transmission of any despatches by telegraph, except those which they may supervise and enlorse. I was unable, therefore, to forward the announcement of our arrival here yesterday evening or to send the shocking details of the inhuman butchery perpetrated on the officers, crew and passengers of the American steamer Virginius, obtained from an authentic source, and the subse quent proceedings taken on their behalf. The tragic story has not yet been half told; a more revolting narrative it has never been my lot to hear Happily the number at first reported murdered was somewhat exaggerated, 53 men "only" having been riddled to death; but that fact you will see anon was due neither to the forbearance nor the humanity of the fiends who did the deed.

THE VIRGINIUS' CAPTURE. It is not my province, at this stage, to comment upon the capture of the Virginius. It is conceded on all hands that she carried the proper papers from Kingston, Jamaica, Commander Cushing, of the Wyoming, having personally examined the records at that port and the testimony of Joshua A. Rowe, master of the American schooner Village Belle, sets forth that on the night of October 31, when about 40 miles from Santiago de Cuba, he was boarded by the Spanish war steamer Tornado. and having inquired tae name of the vessel, sailed towards the coast of Cuba. Rowe, in an affidavit, further declares that, between three and four p'clock on the afternoon of the same day, the Tor nado being still in sight, he saw two other steam ers, and observed that all three were steering toward the coast of Jamaica. One of the steamers he knew to be the Virginius, and on the following morning the watch on deck reported two of the steamers returning toward the coast of Cuba.

SEVENTY MILES FROM CUBA WHEN CAPTURED. From his knowledge of navigation Rowe affirms that if the Virginius was captured at ten P. M., as alleged by the commander of the Tornado, she could not have been less than 70 miles from Cuba. It has been a matter of some surprise to many that, considering the insignificance of the Tornado as a war vessel, the outraged people on the Virginius did not show some resentment at the insult thus wantonly perpetrated on the high sea in violation of all right and justice. Little, however, did the victims dream of the terrible fate in store for them. Apart from the fact that the machinery of the Virginius was disabled, Captain Pry confidently assured those on board that no danger would be fall them, and that at most the vessel only would be confiscated. So they quietly resigned, without even a shadow of resistance-all hands submitting to the indignity of being placed in irons. I may add that with characteristic heroism the com mander of the Tornado fired several shells at the helpless vessel. Photographs of the spectacle are selling here by the score. I have read the commander of the Tornado's official report of the capture, and in his blind egotism the facts of the outrage are altogether forgotten by that intrepid mariner.

THE PEOPLE ARE CUBAN SYMPATHIZERS. You have doubtless heard a great deal about the reloicing here on the night the Tornado enstand forth on their behalf. Scruppious care was taken to prevent the United States and British consuls from seeing the prisoners—in fact, the un-fortunate victims were summoned to receive their sentence of death. Half a score of rascals ordered to present themselves as accusers, prob-ably at so much a day, and of course they accused as well as they could express themselves. In the way of mockery nothing could have been more complete. The paid ruffians swore away, doubt

less, until they were ordered to desist. MURDER WAS THE AIM IN VIEW;

how well it was accomplished needs no comment. But if there was some semblance of formality in the case of the four persons named-for, mark you, the "Martial Court" was bound to be ceremonious, and the thirst of its gayly buttoned members was not so great that they could not spare an hour or so to relish the burlesque with pleasant anticipation-I say if the parties ordered to condemn Bembetta and the others were content to check their appetites, just for form's sake,

POOR FRY AND HIS CREW,

to say nothing of the passengers, had no such mock courtesy extended to them. Tried and condemned in 10 minutes ! Verily the accusers, whom the crew never saw before, did their work with promptness. True. Captain Fry declined to answer all the ques tions put to him, vainly protesting that by the laws of nations he and his crew had committed no offence that justified his or their imprisonment as pirates. In vain did he plead that he commanded an American merchant vessel, furnished with all properly certified papers, which he had delivered to the boarding officer of the capturing vessel. I am told that nearly all of the crew were ignoral of what the Tribunal desired of them and why they were tried. The poor fellows were marched in single file before Captain Fry, whose simple identification of them as members of his crew sealed their fate forever. But it is useless to dwell on this part of the proceedings. With a fixed determination to murder the people at all hazards, and that too, promptly, lest the superior authorities at Havana or elsewhere might step in and spoil the feast, there need be little mention of the form of trial. Condemned to death. Bembeta, Cespedes, Jesus del Sol and Ryan were hurried off to jail. Their execution was fixed for the morning of the

4th inst. Their protestations fell as

SNOWFLAKES ON THE SEA. In vain did Vice Consul Schmitt exert himself to the utmost. A telegram forwarded by him to Kingston, Ja., was detained by the government here. All hope was nipped in the bud-no strategy was left untried to carry out successfully the nefa rious plans in view. Mr. Schmitt sent a communi cation to the Governor asking him to give a reason for the non-transmission of his telegram, and at the same time requesting leave to see the prison ers. The document was treated by the excellent hidalgo with contempt. The protest which followed met with a similar fate. Repeatedly had Ryan sent to the Consul to visit him in order to make his will before a notary.

CONSUL SCHWITT PLEADS BEFORE BURRIEL. At ten o'clock the night preceding the execution Mr. Schmitt, having been twice refused admission to the jail, proceeded to the palace, where he was violently abused by Burriel for daring to interfere. Hyena-like he paced the room exclaim ing that the executions must take place forthwith that none of the prisoners could be seen, despite their earnest appeals, and that, in fact, the Consul had a good deal of presumption in the premises The voice of His Excellency could be distinctly heard all over the plaza in the frenzy of his declamation. It was reported next day that the Consul had been peremptorily ordered off, the fact being however, that Mr. Schmitt, finding the rufflan in exerable, quietly took his departure, leaving His Excellency to rant and bellow at will.

THE "SLAUGHTER HOUSE."

This was the scene of the murder. I visited it this afternoon, and saw enough to make the blood run cold, heard enough to make one shudder at the atrocity of a deed without a parallel on record. A truthful eye witness has told me the story. Shortly after six o'clock on the morning of the memorable 4th, Bembetta and his compatriots were marched from the city jail handcuffed. The sun shone forth brilliantly, the entire male population of Santiago came forth to see the spec Surrounded by over 500 soldiers and followed by 15,000 persons the prisoners walked up Marina street in single file. Ryan had his coat off. and, poor fellow, wore the broad brimmed sombrero so familiar to those who knew him in the States. Clergymen followed in the wake and praved ferently for the victums who were about to die, The multitude kept pace with the procession, but not a word or token indicated consonance with the dire proceeding. The "slaughter house" was a mile away, and beneath the burning sun the four men tramped briskly to the fatal spot. Scarcely a word was spoken on the way, though now and

why rehearse the story with which the world is MURDERING THE CAPTAIN AND CREW.

I have already intimated that whatever show formality was exhibited towards the victims who perished first, but little time was spent in dealing with Captain Fry and his crew. His protesta were as chaff in the wind. He was a pirate, they said, and that was enough. The accusers were on hand again, and the crew, ignorant of what was going on, were condemned. Fry was a popular man and honest withal, and when the members of the crew were arraigned in his presence he, in re sponse to inquiries, identified the individuals as belonging to his vessel. That was sufficient. To mber of 37, including the Captain, they were the n taken from the Tornado and marched to jail. where

THE SENTENCE OF DEATH

was read to them by order of Ramon Branderis. Commandant of the Marine. This was on the 6th of November, and the day of execution was set down for the 8th. On the following morning a clegram was received here from Kingston, Jamaica, notifying the English Consul that the war vessel Niobe would leave that port for Santiago. The evening previous, and apprehensive lest, with characteristic pluck, her commander would interfere in the cause of hu manity, the time of the execution was changed, so that instead of allowing the prisoners time for preparation until the morning originally fixed for the execution, they were hur ried to their doom, marching in rows of four from the jail. Almost the same heartrending scenes marked the brutal exhibition, which rendered its predecessor so sickening to behold. The manacles from the 37 men were removed, after which they were ordered to face the dead wall in a kneeling posture. This time

THE FRIGHTFUL TASK OF SHOOTING was entrusted to the sailors of the Tornado, who, to their credit be it said, at first declined the office. They were, however, finally compelled to perform the dreadiul duty assigned them, though 1 am told when the fatal shots were fired they averted their heads that they might not see the results of their ghastly work.

ALFARO,

about whom so much has been said, upon receiv, ing the first wound in the back, sprung from the ground, and, turning to his executioners, med in a tone of anguish, with hands up lifted "Barbaros, por que no me mataron de una ver ?" ("Barbarians, why do you not kid me at once ?") and, staggering back, he fell upon the ground, dead. The sailors, who did their brutal work so reluctantly, took little or no aim, and in several instances several volleys were required to finish the irightful job. The result can hardly be imagined. Human beings writhed in every pos-ture, and the learful cries of pain which rent the air sent a thrill all through the spellbound spectators. My pen cannot describe the havoc that was made, nor will I attempt to picture the scene. the very recollection of which caused my narrator

to pause for breath. THE LAST BATCH.

Was Burriel now appeased ? Not at all, for the Niobe had not yet arrived, and, there being no appearance of her on the evening of the 7th, 12 more victims were ordered to the "slaughter house" on the following morning. Poor fellows, they were mostly Cubans by birth, and like the others met their fate heroically. They spoke to those surrounding them in cheerful tones, and even when pierced with bullets shouled aloud "Cuba Libre," dying like martyrs. This was the last batch disposed of-in all 53 persons. As in the case of the four first mentioned the bodies were carted off to the graveyard where pits were dug. six corpses, clothes and all, being huddled together in every hole. I have good reason for belleving that about as many more would have followed in their wase, nearly all having been sentenced to death or the chaingang, but for

THE TIMELY ARRIVAL OF THE NIOBE.

whose commander promptly protested in person against the execution of any persons taken from the Virginius and claiming the protection of the British government. This checked the appetites of the butchers, who, however, declined to give any information bearing upon the capture of the vessel or touching the nationality. Following this came a manly and dignified protest from commodore De Horsey, of the English war steamer Danae, in which he emphatically denounced the outrage in unqualified terms.

BURRIEL IN FEAR OF JUDGMENT.

But now the tide of public opinion began to flow towards the shores of Cuba. Let it be known that Burriel had never received the sanction of his superiors for the commission of the crime with which he stands charged. As the horror of the deed began to unfold itself, now that the excitement had temporarily subsided, he saw that justice was on his track, and, learing more immediate vengeance than he was, perhaps, prepared for, Burriel fied to Havana. It 18 the custom in this ancient spot for the troops to turn out in Iull force whenever the chief official either comes of goes. In this instance the withered warriors did not appear. but a rumor was abroad that Burriel was about to run, whither no one knew. Inquiries were set on foot, but the report was promptly and audaciously denied. It now appears that, at two o'clock on the morning of the 18th Inst., his bombastic Excel lency sneaked on board the steamer bound for Havana. Whether he has yet been elevated to the yard arm of an American man-of-war I have not een advised: but I have little doubt that, once in the hempen noose, he will be hoisted with commendable promptness. Thus the situation remains Fifty-three souls have already been sent to their last account through the wanton barbarity of a cruel monster bereft of every element of manhoos and decency.

phile law or pretext, but a local proclamation of which he or they had hever heard, and he has this or preserved in the base of the preserved in the preserved of the served in the served in the stated, to character the vision to serve has the served of the served of the the or November. The served of the served of the the served of the served of the served of the the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of the served of served of the served of the served of served of served FRY'S LAST LETTER TO HIS WIFE. LAST HOUR.

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Commander Braine, in Company with Other Americans, Interviews Burriel's Substitute, General Morales-Visit of the Americans to the Jail-Orders for Better Food and Clothing for the Ameri can Prisoners.

ON BOARD U. S. SLOOF-OF-WAR JUNIATA, SANTIAGO DE CUBA, NOV. 30, 1873. } Upon the arrival of the Juniata here the 26th inst., after a splendid passage irom New York, the usual courtesies of the port were extended. Vice Consul Schmitt came on board in the evening and set forth the existing state of affairs, though, owing to the insults he had received from some of the officials, he was unable to impart definite information on some particulars. Mr. Schmitt has through out the entire affair displayed considerable manliness and ability, as his acts and documents attest. Despite the rude repuises he received at the hands of Burriel he nevertheless persisted in performing his duty to the last, and had his telegram to Aspinwall not been intentionally delayed by the authorities there is no doubt that much odshed would have been averted.

THE AMERICANS' INTERVIEW WITH MORALES. Commander Braine lost little time in communicating with the Governor General, Morales de los Rios the substitute of Governor Burriel, who ran away, An hour was arranged for an interview, and on Thursday, accompanied by Commander Cushing, Vice Consul Schmitt, Lieutenant De Long, Lieutenant Chipp, Lieutenant Hutchings and your correspondent, Commander Braine proceeded to the palace, where General Morales awaited them in the reception chamber. The affair was very formal and dignified throughout, the officers appearing in ful dress. The interview was conducted through an interpreter.

Commander Braine opened by stating that he was pleased to meet the present Governor of Santiago de Cuba, because he believed he was humane at heart; in reply to which General Morales stated that it afforded him equal pleasure to meet the Commander of the Juniata. The ice having been thus broken Commander Braine proceeded, in a firm though courteous tone, to explain the object of his visit. It was, he said, to obtain the fullest details of the trial, condemnation and execution of the people taken on board the American steamer Virginius. "I may mention," he added, "that intense teeling prevails in the United States on account of the recent outrage that has been perpetrated on the American flag. The country has risen to a man."

Said General de los Rios, "The affair has given the Spaniards equal concern as regards humanity, but there are certain reasons, which will be made known, and which no doubt will be furnished to the United States government by the proper authorit ties."

Commander Braine then stated that he desired to see the records containing a list of the persons tried, condemned and shot, and asked to see, per-

should be publicly restored. The Governor inuired in what manner that could be done, and Commander Braine replied, "By putting them on board the ship I have the honor to command." The Governor stated that he could not do so without orders from his superiors. Commander Braine asked if the people taken from the Virginius were executed by the authority of the highest ruling power on the island or by the government here. The Governor said it was by order of the government at this place. "Well," inquired Commander Braine, "Could not the same power that ordered their execution order their release?" The Gov-ernor replied in the negative. The people were executed by an order previously issued by the Admiral commanding the naval forces of the island, or were executed by virtue of an order issued by General de Rodas. "But," asked Con Braine, "were there not passengers on board the Virginius?" "But," said the Governor, "you must recollect that there were many Spaniards among the passengers, and one among them is a deserter from our army on the island." "Yes," observed Commander Braine, "but they were taken from an American steamer on the high leas."

The Governor stated that on the night of the arrival of the Virginius in this port an order was found issued by the late Captain General, and it was under his order that the trials and executions took place. Commander Braine stated that he would remind the Governor that both the United states and British governments protested against that order, and informed the Spanish government that they would not allow any such interference while a state of peace existed. At most the Spanish government could only confiscate the vessel and cargo.

At the conclusion of the interview Commander Braine handed the Governor his protest, in which was forcibly pointed out the unquestionable viola tion of international law and the outrage denounced in appropriate language. The protest closed with a demand to see the official records setting forth the names, nationality and occupation of the prisoners now incarcerated.

THE VISIT TO THE PRISONERS.

At four o'clock we proceeded to the city prison, which was thronged with officials. Commander Braine's request included all the persons now liv ing that were taken from the Virginius, irrespective of nationality, but there seemed to be some misunderstanding on this point, as the Alcalde declined to allow any of the prisoners to come forward except those claiming American citizenship. The Governor was finally appealed to; but, it seems he also misunderstood the request. In reference to the capture of the Virginius, the prisoners were not allowed to be interrogated, but on all other points tree scope was allowed. In all

THIRTREN PRISONERS PRESENTED THEMSELVES. namely :-- Henry Knight and Charles A. Knight, of Greenwich street, New York ; William Wilson, of Baltimore; Alfred Parker, Baltimore; Edward Scott, Salem, N. J.; Leopold Rizo, New Orleans; Arthur Rivera, Hudson street, New York: Henry Canal, Second avenue, New York; Philip Meitzler, Charleston, S. C.; Ramon Ardiamos, New York; Manuel Menesis, Philadelphia; Silbeno Escarel, New Orleans; Francis V. Tapia, Houston street New York. The prisoners were wretchedly clothed, many of them being barefooted, and all wearing traces of deep anxiety and privation. Henry Knight, in response to several interrogatories, stated that he was 16 years of age; lived at 74 Greenwich street, New York: went on board the Virginius more by invitation than anything else; worked in the engine room. In response to the interrogatory, "What do you need?" he an-swered "I need food more than anything else." He said the prisoners were fed poorly, on beans and rice, and had no means of keeping themselves clean. There was only one tub in the prison yard for 100 men. Had neither soap nor towels. He had already been tried, but did not know what his sentence was.

Charles A. Knight, brother of Henry Knight, said he was an engineer and substantially corroborated the evidence of the previous witness. Had no ciothes and could hardly eat the food given in the prison.

William Wilson, aged 24 years, was a seaman on the Virginius. Had no clothes except what he stood in, and said he could not eat the rice and beans given in the prison. It was served out twice a day. He had no shoes. All the clothes and napers belonging to the people on the Virginius were taken away in the Virginius and never returned. He had already been tried on the Francesca de Borgie. Could not speak Spanish and did not know what he was tried for. Nobody appeared in his behalf. The trial lasted ten minutes but he could not understand what it was all about. He was not asked any questions. Did not say anything. They asked Captain Fry if he recognized me as one of the crew and that was all.

PRESIDENT MACMAHON'S PROSPECTS

The Coalition of Conservatives vs. the Mation--Troublous Times Coming.

PABIS, Nov. 27, 1873.

The election of Marshal MacMahon to a seven years' Presidency of the French Republic is an event of which the full significance may not have struck all Americans. The first impression would be that France was now assured of seven years' rest; but second thoughts will show that this imprudent election has simply prepared a new era of revolutions. Foreigners cannot afford to regard such a prospect with indifference. France plays so noisy a part in the world's affairs that all nations have an interest in seeing her quiet, and it is, therefore, important to examine what are the conditions under which MacMahon's rule will be inaugurated and what presages may be drawn from these conditions.

We may at once express the belief that none of France's impending troubles will come from MacMahon himself. The Marshal is no genius, but he is honest, and in his own stolid way will do his best to govern impartially. It may even be said that if he had been elected for his seven years' term six months sgo his government would have proved popular and strong; for, until recently, MacMahon was supposed to be a disinterested soldier, averse from party intrigues, and his name, consequently, had a weight and prestige which placed it outside and above other names. Unfortunately the royalists have compromis MacMahon. Using his name as a cover to their intrigues and arbitrary official acts they have discredited it; and the new President, instead of being acclaimed by the liberal conservatives of France, has become merely the nominee of a party and, what is worse, of a disorganized and divided party, who represent only a minority of the nation. The faction which has placed MacMahon in power is, indeed, made up of legitimists, constitutional royalists, a few Bonapartists and some weakkneed republicans, all of whom are well aware that if a general election were held at this moment the members returned would, for the most part, be thoroughgoing republicans, who would choose Thiers for their President and not Mac-Mahon. These coalesced conservatives have, therefore, combined to seat a President in deliberate opposition to the popular will; but how long can their anti-liberal union last and how will MacMahon be able to retain his power if once that union should be broken ? A new constitution will shortly have to be debated on, and here the conservatives are almost certain to split. Legitimists and constitutionalists have been able to agree about a President, but they will not keep together on questions of universal suffrage, the composition of an upper house and the independence of muncipalities ; whereas on all these points the large republican minority will vote compactly from first to last. What then if on any of the con stitutional clauses the conservatives should be beaten? The President may dismiss his Ministera and summon a more liberal Cabinet, which would hold together till the dissolution of the Assembly; but then there will be a general election and one of two things will happen: either the country will vote in its present mood and return an overwhelming majority of republicans pledged to a distinctly liberal policy, or by dint of administraive pressure the constituencies will be brought to elect a majority of royalists, who will instantly commence intriguing again to restore a king. But in either of these eventualities MacMahon's post tion will be most precarious; and he will stand between the alternatives of resigning or keeping his Presidency by an act of violence-that is, by a coup d'état.

For let us consider the first hypothesis. If the next election should result in a republican triumph the new Assembly will not be content with such a compromise as a semi-royalist, semi-liberal Ministry, but will insist on a Cabinet of its own men-that is, politicians like MM. Jules Simon, Grevy and Gambetta. Now MacMahon has declared that he will govern only on "conservative principles," in other words, that he will not accept such Ministers as those just named. He would, therefore, be compelled either to retire before the republican majority or to defy it; but in the latter case he would be repeating the game which Charles X. sought to play in 1830 and which led to a revolution. On the other hand, supposing a royalist Chamber to be returned, MacMahon would then be surrounded by his own friends. But these triends do not conceal that they have only put up MacMahon as a stop-gap and that if they could command a working majority in the Legislature their immediate object would be to restore a monarchy. If the President submitted with a good

smoothly, but it is just possible that he might ob-

ject to having his Presidential term cut short, and

With

me hasten to contradict the ill-founded ramors on that score, for I can assure you that of the thirty odd thousand inhabitants of this place more than half witnessed her advent with sorrowing hearts. A thorough inquiry into the state of affairs here confirms the impression that three-fourths of the people are Cuban sympathizers, and were it not for the prompt and terrible punishment that would overtake them would rise in arms to-morrow. As It is many of the reluctant volunteers in the Span niah cause suffer more from fear of detection, wel knowing their fate if even suspected, than they do from the physical privations they are compelled to undergo. And it may as well be here stated that to

BURRIEL. THE NERO OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. and his complacent advisers in Santiago de Cuba for it was here, and here alone that the murder was planned and executed; to Burriel, a name which forever more will be synonomous with tyranny and inhumanity, that the world must look for retribution. I suppose that you are aware that he had fied from this place, doubtless anticipating the penalty of his crime. He left secretly in a steamer bound to Havana, where, I understand, his reception was far from encouraging. I have digressed thus far to show that whatever punishment is to be meted out in connection with this appailing tragedy, it should fall in the proper cuarter. There can be but one opinion as to the parties involved, for the executions took place long before even the authorities at Havana were made cognizant of the deed. To Santiago de Cuba, then, must the defenders of the outraged people look for vengeance.

THE PEOPLE SILENT AND ASHAMED. Of the trial and treatment of the prisoners I cannot yet speak definitely. The people talk as if in whispers-converse with a foreigner is almost an impossibility. But since the first fatal day on which the helpless victims were hurried into eternity, a pall has hung over the place, and it is no figure of speech to say that those in whose soms there yet linger some sparks of humanity bow their heads in shame. However temporarily exhilarated on the night the Tornado conveyed her prize to this port, the horrible events that followed quickly dispelled all the joyous demonstrations that preceded them. In a word, despite the feeble pretences of the murderers, the perpetration of the crime has received the disapprobation even of the Spanish residents.

THE MOCK TRIAL.

It may not, perhaps, be too late to recall some of the scenes that marked the sad fate of those so wantonly butchered, since the correctness of the reports hitherto published may be questioned, in view of the reticence of those who could furnish the details. There were in all, at the time of the capture of the Virginius, 155 souls on board. When conveyed to this port they were distributed among the several Spanish gunboats then in harbortaken off in irons, without being allowed even to change their clothes or provide themselves with means by which to counteract in the smallest degree the discomforts of their painful situation. following morning the wretched farce of trying the prisoners was gone through, a proceed which, for injustice, ignorance and rascality, is perhaps unparalleled in any age or country. The "cribunal." as it is significantly termed, consisted of a Fiscal, or "instructor accuser," and a few other minions, ready and willing to do the bidding of their master, Burriel, who was chief of the so called martial court. Before this hopeful body

BEMBETTA, CESPEDES, JESUS DEL SOL AND RYAN were brought for condemnation. They were the chiefs, and it behooved the Star Chamber to make hort work of them. There was no advocate to

hinged windows of the rickety dwellings beneath which the cortége passed. Once through Christina street and the suburbs were reached. Meanwhil the crowd rushed towards the "slaughter house" to make good their point of observation. This, by the way, is the place where dogs and cattle recei their final knock, a little square, with stalls, and enclosed by walls some seven or eight feet in height. It was outside the southern wall of the "slaughter house" that

THE FOUR MEN WERE RIDDLED TO ATOMS IN THE FOLLOWING STYLE:

A little to the right of the iron entrance gate the four men-Ryan, Bembetta, Del Sol and Cespedeswere drawn up together, then separated about a yard, with their faces to the wall, from which they stood about two yards. The ragged volunteers stood in the rear and at convenient positions to keep the eager crowd at bay. At this time-seven o'clock-the soldiers were probably ten yards in the rear of those about to die. Clergymen were in the immediate vicinity of the condemned, and now. amid breathless silence, Antonio Fernandez, the functionary deputed to carry out the orders of Governor Burriel, commands attention, and, in shrill and ominous tone, proclaims the fiat of his chief. Perhaps he had noticed some looks of pity in the throng, or perchance has heard a sympa thizing word; for, in a voice harsher than before, he shouts out, "If any one here, word or act, shall show teelings in favor of the (condemned he shall die." And now the time had come. At a signal from the Cataian volunteers in charge, ten men tell into position behind each one of the prisoners. who had meanwhile been separated still further apart. The prisoners, whose manacles had been removed, were then commanded to kneel and the volunteers ordered to prepare, the muzzles of their guns being some two yards distant from the backs of the prisoners. Just as the final word was about to be given Ryan sprung to his feet, and, facing the volunteers, laid bare his bosom. It was of no avail, for in a twinkling he was forced to his knees, and in less time than it takes to tell it four souls had taken their flight, their bodies lying prostrate on the ground, completely perforated with bullets. Thus ended the first revolting exhibition.

THE INHUMAN BURRIEL

The crowd departed in silence, tBurriel's thirst was quenched for one day at least. By and by there came two carts to the ground drawn by mules, and a 20 minutes' journey took the bodies to the cemetery, where a pit was dug, and all four dumped in together just as they fell.

WIPING OUT ALL TRACES.

I strolled through the graveyard this afternoon, and while in conversation with the sexton was informed that were he to point out the graves of the murdered persons he might suffer death. While inspecting the spot where the victims met their nate I noticed that the ground where they knelt, and which had been saturated with blood, had been carefully scraped, while the wall itself, thoroughly riddled, had been plastered over to conceat the marks of human brains scattered along it for full 30 yards. I am told that fully two-thirds of the bodies were not recognizable after death.

SPANISH OFFICERS BEG FOR BEMBETTA'S LIFE. Burriel was inexorable. No justice could in-fuence, no reason persuade him. He was hardhearted to the last. On good authority I have been informed that on the day preceding the execution 18 Spanish officers went in a body to the Palace to beg the life of Bambetta, in whose hands, while chief of a rebel force, their lives once lay; but Burriel was deaf to all entreaties, and the Spanish supplicants went away delected. Yet

I subjoin the following letters, which may, perhans, he read with interest in connection with the sad affair :--

CAPTAIN FRY TO PRESIDENT GRANT. U. S. GRANT, President of the United States of

JOSEPH PRY. Confederate States Navy. P. S.—The Spanish officers are very kind to me, but the United States are weak when a vessel can be captured on the high seas, with perfectly regular papers, and her Captain, crew and passengers shot without appeal to the protection of the United States

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States.

taken from the Virginius. He did not speak o Americans alone, but all those taken on board the Virginius from under the protection of the Ameri can flag.

The Governor thereupon observed that he must inform Commander Braine that among the pas sengers of the Virginius were a great many Span-

"But," replied Commander Braine, "the American flag has been violated in taking those people from under its protection."

The Governor observed that those persons met their late under a decree of the government. Commander Braine asked whether that was the decree promulgated by General De Rodas, and the

Governor nodded in the affirmative. "Roth the United States and British govern

ments," said Commander Braine, "have long since dissented from that proclamation. Besides, our government cannot recognize any punishment while a state of peace exists. There was no con traband, and, therefore, no right of seizure. These people were not found on the island, but were brought here by force, without right,"

The Governor replied with a shrug, stating that he could not enter into that question, as ne was only a subordinate officer. Commander Braine asked at what hour he could

see the prisoners of the Virginius, confined in the fail at this place.

The Governor intimated that he could see them at any time. "Then immediately," said Commander Braine.

"But," observed the Governor, "there are accusators and defenders in each case, and it will be necessary to advise them to be in attendance." He added that he would appoint four o'clock for the interview with the prisoners, and said that he granted this permission on his own responsibility and out of motives of humanity, since he had not received any orders on the subject from his superior officers.

"And now," said Commander Braine, "I beg leave to renew the protest which has already been made by Commander Cushing, and also the protest on behalf of the United States government. I have just come from the United States and can state authoritatively that the feeling and sentiments of the Spanish government, in Spain, are very much against the acts which have taken place in this city." The Governor remarked that he had no doubt the affair was very much regretted by the Spanish government on the score of humanity. Commander Braine asked how many people

taken from the Virginius were still living. The Governor replied that there were about 90 persons now in jail: that of these 19 were in the

hands of the Naval Court. "I now ask you," said Commander Braine, "to promise that under no circumstances are any of these persons taken from the Virginius to be show to death until you have notified me beforehand." The Governor replied in the affirmative, stating that he had already received orders that n further shooting should take place without instructions from his superior officers.

Commander Braine asked if he could communicate with his superior officers ? The Governor said there was communication by telegraph. In reply to Commander Braine's request to com

municate with the government at Washington via Havana and Key West, the Governor said he could do so, for he supposed there would be nothing serious in the communication.

Commander Braine suggested that an easy solu tion of this already complicated affair would be to deliver up the people now alive belonging to the Virginius; that as they had been publicly taken from the protection of the American flag they

Alfred Parker (colored), aged 31 years, of Baltimore, said he was a seaman on the Virginius. Corroborated the others as to food and clothing, and said there were no beds to lie on. The prison ars were not allowed to speak lond, but they were permitted to converse in low tones in the cell. There were between 40 and 50 persons in one cell, which was about 30 by 40 feet.

Edward Scott, a young lad of 16 years, of Salem, N. J., said he acted as pantryman on board the Virginius. Had no clothes. There was plenty to eat, such as it was, but he could not eat it.

Leopold Rizo, 25 years old, said he lived in New Orleans. Had studied law in Havana. He went on board the Virginius as a passenger at Kingston Ja., bound for Port Limon. His clothes had been taken away.

Arthur Rivera, Henry Canal, Philip Meitzler. tamon Ardiamos, Manuel Menesis, Silbeno Escarel and Francis V. Tapia were also passengers for Port Limon, and were in the same predicament as the others in respect of clothing.

BETTER FOOD AND CLOTHING ORDERED.

Those were the only persons permitted to come forward, as none others, it was said, claimed American citizenship. An order was subsequently issued by Governor De Los Rios, providing better food for the prisoners and also authorizing the Alcalde to furnish them with suitable clothing.

EXAMINING THE RECORDS AT THE JAIL. The following morning a communication was received by Commander Braine from the Governor. authorizing him to visit the jail and examine all the records so far as related to the age, birthplace and occupation of the people taken from the Virginius. I cannot say that the officials were overjoyed at our presence, they submitted with all possible grace. I can assure you the feeling towards us is by no means ncouraging, though they manage to smother their insolence in a praiseworthy manner. It is the intention of Commander Braine to visit the jail tomorrow, and ascertain whether the orders of the Governor have been carried out so far as the lood and clothing of the prisoners are concerned. If not, he will himself undertake the task and await results.

I may add that the written reply of Governor de Los Rios was somewhat evasive in its character, though conches in courteous terms. He concluded by asking Commander Braine not to send any more diplomatic communications to him, as, being a subordinate officer, they, embarrassed him.

THE ARAPILES BLOCKADE.

Efforts Being Made to Raise the Coal Barge.

Efforts are being made to raise the sunken coal barge Upland, which went down, with 300 tons of coal, in front of the bry dock at the Brooklyn Navy Yard at a quarter past two o'clock on Saturday morning last. Yesterday the tugboats Cyclops and Lackawanna, of the Coast Wrecking Company, In charge of "operintendent L. J. Merritt, steamed into the waters of the yard and moored near the pot where the barge went down. Two divers went to the bottom and made a survey of the wreck. After remaining below for half an hour one of the divers came up and reported that the barge was lying across the bottom of the dock, which latter projects out in the shape of an arrow head. The vessel is liable to break in two. The mud at the outer point is five feet deep and ranges to two and a hall feet in depth near the main dock. The barge is keeled over on her side, and, should she break— which is not improbable—it will require two weeks to clear away the debris. The officers of the Ara-pics are becoming reconciled to their unavoidable detention, the more as because the war cloud has disappeared. in charge of Cuperintendent L. J. Merritt, steamed

disappeared. The Navy Yard employes were paid off yesterday, and there were no discharges. The Gettysburg left for Washington with Stores.

thereupon strange things might ensue. the royalists and Bonapartists both hostile him there would be nothing left to for the Marshal but to cast in his lot with the republicans; or, relying for his support on the army and on such personal adherents as he might have in the Chamber, to rule in despite of royalists, imperialists and republicans combined. This, however, would be prætorianism. It would be the beginning of a period of military despotism and proscription recalling the days of Rome in her decline. or of Spain during the times when Narvaez, O'Donnel and Espartero, turn by turn, seized upon the government with their soldiery; and it would reduce France to speedy ruin. But, to do MacMahon justice, he is not the man to prolong his tenure of office by such means. Rather than come to war with the royalists he would resign; but, this being so, it is obvious that, whatever be the results of the next elections, MacMahon's presidency will scarcely last for a twelvemonth after them. The Left Centre republicans who voted for the seven years term. the other day would have done well to reflect on these things before they foolishly let themselves be beguiled into abetting the schemes of the royalists. Look at it which way we will the elec tion of MacMahon means confusion, unrest and conspiracies without end. Appointed to maintain order, the new President will live amid perpetual disorder; and conservatives who are attached to no particular king or pretender, but seek merely the welfare of their o try, will soon discover to their cost that true conservatism would have consisted at this juncture in electing M. Thiers. During his two years' Presidency M. Thiers showed that he could maintain order while giving the nation full freedom, and his rule was popular in consequence. It was, in fact, essentially the rule of honest conservatism equally remote from despotism and from anarchy. M. Thiers represented a plain principle, that of moderate republicanism; MacMahon represents nothing but such oppressive and antiquated theories of government as the Empire bequeathed. If Thiers had been restored to power republicanism might have been definitely established in France, and the distracting cycle of that country's revolutions might have terminated; but even if MacMa. hon succeed in retaining office for two or three years he will have founded nothing. People will simply say of him that he was a plagtarist of the Napoleons, and many will conclude that, since Cas sarism exists in form, it might just as well be restored in name.

A TERRIFIC HOUSE TUMBLE IN NEWARK Narrow Escape of Workmen from Being Killed.

In Newark yesterday forenoon a frame buildin in course of erection and nearly completed, on the corner of Sixteenth avenue and Cabinet street, was blown down by a heavy gust of wind. On the root of the building were Charles Rowle, Fritz Gruber, Charles Arnold, Adam Hargood and Oscar Fredria. When they felt the building going with them they laid flat on the root, and all escaped injury, except Arnold, who was badly A sixth man, named Martin Stickle, likewise had a narrow escape. The bouse was being built on George Herman's property by Beda Voight. The latter will lose \$1,200 by the oc currence. He claims that the house was very anh stantially built; but the opinion is divided an to whether it was the wind or the building that was very weak. The tumble down caused a torrifle