

## THE RIOTS IN THE BARBADOS.

THE STORY OF THE UPRISING OF THE ISLANDERS, AS TOLD BY AN AMERICAN SEA CAPTAIN.

Capt. Wharton, of the schooner Alpha, who has been engaged in the West India trade for many years, and who sailed from the islands April 21, has given the *Boston Post* the following account of the disturbances in the Barbados in the latter part of April: "The confederation scheme was the source of the whole difficulty. Gov. Hennessey proposed many radical and unpopular changes in the Government of the island. The chief feature of the obnoxious scheme was the union of the Barbados, including the three comparatively insignificant Windward Islands, to be represented in one legislative body composed of twelve members, to be appointed by the Governor from the different parishes of the group. This was a change indeed. Heretofore the Legislature has consisted of two bodies, called the Council and the Assembly, made up by representatives from each of the parishes of the island, chosen by the popular vote. The native islanders objected to this summary disposition of what they considered their constitutional rights; hence the rebellion. During the month of April the situation grew alarming. The populace seemed to look upon their Governor as a tyrant, and rather than submit to his unreasonable schemes determined to destroy the sources of revenue on the islands. The merchants of Bridgeport appointed a committee to wait upon the Governor on the 21st of April to ask protection from the impending invasion, and to petition for troops to quell the rebellion in the parishes. They received his sanction and raised five companies of volunteers, making in all about two hundred and fifty men, mostly clerks, mechanics, and laborers connected with the business houses of the town. If generally armed this military body concealed their weapons, as it was considered illegal under such circumstances to expose them. Riots spread throughout the parishes, and Capt. Wharton says a dozen plantation fires during a night were no uncommon sight. The negroes burned furniture, dwellings, and crops. They dug up the potatoes, burned the canebrakes in the rural districts, and stole all the property they could get hold of, to terrify and impoverish their enemies. Troops were sent out by Gov. Hennessey to meet the rioters, and by the 24th of April eighteen prisoners had been captured, and among them a ring-leader named Morris. Seven of the eleven parishes were now in arms. Col. Clements, the Inspector General of Police, was attacked at the head of his men and received a severe cut in the head. He wounded two of the rioters and killed one of them. The City of Bridgeport was threatened by the infuriated insurgents, and many of the families of the resident merchants fled and took refuge under the flags of the merchant vessels in the bay. But they returned before nightfall to their dwellings when it was assured that the city would not be pillaged. On the 25th, as has been told in the telegraphic accounts, the Government troops met and dispersed the insurgents, killing and wounding more than forty and capturing 500 more. From that time onward the Government had the upper hand. But the feeling against Gov. Hennessey grew strong and was fearlessly expressed by many on the island. The three islands which the confederation contemplated uniting are small and of no considerable importance. Their food supplies come from the main island, and they are generally dependent upon it. The immense destruction of the potato and sugar crops will necessitate a large importation of American products, and orders have been given already to New-Orleans vessels for grain and potatoes. The prisoners captured who were not shot were taken to the Central Station in Bridgeport where they await military trial. The island at last accounts had resumed its usual tranquillity."

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