

and showing the red flag, while the movement of launches belonging to the insurgents was incessant. Everything was apparently ready at about 2.30 p.m., but owing to a sailing vessel crossing the bar at that time, the firing did not begin until 4.45, by which time all was clear again.

The ball was opened by two shots from the cruiser *Guanabaria*, followed almost immediately by Villegaignon and the *Aquidaban*. Then the forts opened, and from that time until seven o'clock the firing was very heavy.

Many shots hit Santa Cruz, and a couple of shells which were seen to fall into that holy place must have made its garrison feel uncommonly ill. Lagé and Villegaignon were also hit, the former badly; the *Aquidaban* was struck once, and it is reported that a big gun in Sao Joao was disabled by a shot from Villegaignon. What the loss in the forts amounts to, no one can tell. The papers are dumb.

The practice all round showed a great improvement when compared with previous efforts. The shooting from Villegaignon was at times very good, as also was the firing of the *Trajan*.

This is the biggest artillery duel which has taken place so far, and was really worth seeing. The day was dull, and at times the ships and forts were almost hidden in mist and the dense clouds of their own smoke. As night drew on and darkness fell, the scene was magnificent, but terrible. The darkness of night and the canopy of smoke, broken every instant by the flashes of the guns and bursting of the time shells, the sharp rattle of the smaller guns and the deep crash of the heavy ones, the howling and shrieking of the shells, and the whistling of the solid shot as they sped on their errands of death and destruction—all helped to impress on the mind the bombardment of the forts on the 10th of October, 1893.

During the hottest part of the firing, a sailing vessel came to the mouth of the harbor, right in the field of fire, and anchored. It is not known if she was struck. Some days ago the rigging of the *Beagle* was very much cut up by the fire of the shore batteries.

Wednesday the 11th passed quietly, in spite of the fact that renewed fighting was expected. At 12.30 on Thursday morning, the 12th, the sound of heavy artillery was heard, and on looking out it was seen that Santa Cruz was firing seaward, every now and then being answered by some vessel outside. The firing lasted over an hour.

The 11th was a public holiday to commemorate the anniversary of the discovery of America. The *Trajan* fired the customary salute. It was again expected that a new engagement would be begun, but owing to the foginess nothing happened. At 9.45 p.m. Santa Cruz again opened fire on some vessel outside, while the search lights from the Gloria Hill and the *Aquidaban* made very pretty play. It seems that the night previous, one of the merchant steamers attached to the fleet succeeded in quietly passing out! It is said to have been the *Meteoro*—at any rate she is not in her place now. The sea-going torpedo boat *Marcilio Dias* is reported to have entered safely. This does not say much for the vigilance of the forts.

The *Cidadi do Rio* has published a manifesto from the officers and men in Villegaignon, giving their reasons for joining the fleet.

They make the statement that the bread supplied from shore was poisoned,

and they offer to submit it for proof at any time. A government which can descend to such a villainous proceeding cannot possibly last long. A Brazilian was heard to remark, "I did not think we could go back to the time of Catherine de Medicis."

The *Illustrated London News* and *Graphic* of Sept 23rd have the most absurd accounts of Brazil. In the *News* the picture of the Ouvidor is tolerably true to life. It represents the Ouvidor where the Rua Goncalves Dias crosses it. It is nearly always crowded there. The building on the left with the ladies on the balcony is a famous hotel known as the *Provencaux*; the corner building with the name Crashley & Co. on it, is a well-known fruit and confectionery shop. Crashley's is away down the street on the opposite side. The artist who made the sketch put Crashley's name on as an advertisement. Just near this corner, on the right hand side, is the Café Londres, a favorite resort of Englishmen. Away at the back of the picture, on the left may be noticed a church tower—this is almost directly opposite the church of the Lapa dos Mercadores, which was so badly smashed up by a shell from the *Aquidaban* on the 25th Sept. Nearly every flag pole shown in the picture has now got a foreign flag hanging from it. France, Germany, England, Spain, Portugal—even Uncle Sam—all are represented. At the corner shown in the sketch can always be found several flower, and one or more news boys, who are quite as capable as any in crying the names of the papers they have to sell—and they are numerous.

The picture very well represents a fine day scene in the Ouvidor—the crowds of well-dressed civilians, other crowds or knots of politicians, who here discuss the political news of the day, still other groups of officers of the army and navy—the latter "fulfilling the glorious destiny of the Brazilian navy," while their ships lie rotting out in the harbor.

Then the ladies—of all sizes, from the 4 foot 6 inch slip of a girl to the 6 foot woman—and of all colours from fair, yellow-haired beauties, to the jet black, crinkly, curly-haired negress—many dressed in a style which to European eyes is more suitable to the ball-room than the street, but which, when seen on the Ouvidor, seems just the proper thing.

The mode of carrying luggage, as shown in the sketch, is almost universal here (boxes should not exceed 150 lbs., as the carregador object to carrying more).

Meanwhile the revolution in our midst is engaging our attention, the Government forces in Rio Grande do Sul are receiving particular attentions at the hands of Generals Gumersindo, Saraiva and Salgado, who have been everywhere victorious, and have driven the Government troops so hard that it is said they are now making a last stand in the city of Porto Alegre itself. Many hundreds of men have been killed. Some days ago the *Republica* and the *Pallas* took possession of Desterro, the capital of Santa Catherina, and the entire state has declared against Florian. It is said that a Provisional Government has been established; as yet it is not confirmed. It is probably true, as the Government controls the telegraph absolutely and allows nothing to pass without being fiscalized.

On Saturday, 14th October, at about 3.10 in the morning, heavy firing took place, but owing to the darkness of the night, nothing could be distinguished. From that time sleep was impossible, the constant roll

of the artillery preventing it. At some time between 6 and 7 o'clock, Villegaignon started into the combat with surprising vigor. Santa Cruz, Sao Joao and Lagé immediately responded. Then the *Aquidaban*, *Trajan*, and *Savary* opened fire, and the row became hellish. At nine o'clock firing was still being maintained with unabated vigor, and the roar did not cease until nearly eleven o'clock. Santa Cruz, Sao Joao and Lagé were hit many times and must have felt badly. Lagé hoisted a signal of distress and ceased fire for a long time. Villegaignon was also hit many times, and the papers say that a couple of guns were upset. The ships seemed to have escaped quite clear.

The firing at 3 a.m. was at a steamer called the *Uramis* belonging to the Frigorifica Company, which ran the gauntlet of the forts, and received some slight damage. The French S.S. *Sata Fe* met her outside, repairing—one of her boilers is said to be hurt.

Sunday, 15th October, was as quiet as possible—no stir in the air or sea. On Monday there was firing—heavy at that—going on against Nictheroy all the morning.

It is said that everything is in first rate order on Mello's ships. They have plenty of coal, plenty of food and plenty of ammunition. What more do they want? It seems as if they must win.

The President is doing a most outrageous thing. In spite of his promise to the Diplomatic Corps that he would dismantle his batteries on the various hills, he has simply hidden his guns, or withdrawn them for the moment.

On the 16th a pit was being prepared directly in front of the Santa Casa da Misericordia, and in this, it is said, is to be placed a six-inch gun. If this is true, the Diplomatic Corps will not interfere in a friendly way any longer, but will let the guns of the fleet deal with Florian, his perfidy and Rio itself. If this gun opens fire, God help the Santa Casa and its 1,500 sick. The guns on Villegaignon will be forced to reply, and—well, it is not nice to think of the result.

The firing of Saturday was the fiercest we have had yet—if the next duel is as much fiercer in proportion as each of the former ones has been in comparison with the one immediately preceding it, it ought to be something tremendous.

Estado do Sitio was again declared on Saturday. This time the conditions are most rigorous and it is likely they will be enforced without mercy.

On the 16th, besides the bombardment of Nictheroy, some firing took place between the ships and Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz, Lagé and Sao Joao kept up a constant and very heavy fire against Villegaignon, which did not reply. A very great number of shells fell into the latter place.

On the 17th there was a renewal of the operations of the day before. Villegaignon fired some shots at Santa Cruz and succeeded in dropping them inside. The way Villegaignon was pounded was terrible to witness. Only close night put an end to the cannonade.

One shell from Santa Cruz came into the city and wounded a Portuguese, besides doing some damage to the buildings in the Marine Arsenal. On the 18th all was quiet. It was reported to-day that the Commandante of Santa Cruz was killed by the bursting of a shell which fell into the fort. In the early morning the S. S. *Es-*