THE PENDING QUESTION

Admiral Polo Defends Spain and Believes There Shall Be Peace.

The Virginius Not an American Vessel.

Contradiction of the Statements That Minister Sickles Was Mobbed.

Castelar Interviews the British Minister.

The Result Supposed To Be That "Our Friendly Relations" Shall Continue.

A COURT OF ARBITRATION SUGGESTED.

NEWS FROM SPAIN.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. The Reported Violence Toward Sickles Pronounced False-An Interview for Peace Between Castelar and the British Minister-Talk About Arbitration.

MADRID, Nov. 22, 1873. The reports that violence had been offered by the Madrid populace to General Sickles, the

American Minister, are pronounced false. CASTELAR AND MINISTER LAYARD IN CONFERENCE President Castelar had a long conference to-day with Mr. Layard, the British Minister. The result

of the interview is favorable to the continuance of good relations. A COURT OF ARBITRATION SUGGESTED.

The idea of submitting the case of the Virginius to arbitration is much talked of Should this course be agreed to the German Emperor is indicated as the probable arbitrator.

BRITISH PRESS OPINION.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. The London Times on the American Demands.

LONDON, NOV. 24-5 A. M. The Times to-day says a demand for the surrender of the Virginius could not with justice be maintained; but the other demands reported to have been made on Spain by the United States are such as England might well join in.

ADMIRAL POLO IN DEFENCE.

Arguments Why No Insult Was Offered to the American Flag-The Virginius Was Not a United States Vessel-Burriel Acted Only in Accordance With Law-The Telegram from Spain Concorning Minister Sickles.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23, 1873. Admiral Polo, the Spanish Minister, who has hitherto maintained a strict reserve on the subject of the Virginius imbroglio, accorded to your correspondent an interview at a late hour this evening. The Admiral expressed his fully and frankly on the grave complications which threaten to involve this country in a war with Spain, as he is evidently desirous of placing before the American people what he considers the real facts of the case of the Virginius, knowing full well that when the question of peace or war comes to be decided upon our Congress and government will be led by pub-

Your correspondent opened the conversation by remarking that it was the accepted belief we were

Admiral Polo replied :- "Yes; war has stared me in the face from the newspaper prints for the last fortnight or so, and I suppose there is a great deal of talk about war; but I doubt very much whether those who are clamoring for it represent the real sentiments of the American people at large. There is certainly no occasion. not even a pretext for war, except it be to find employment for the many idle people about New York. It is said they must be provided for, and therefore war would be a good thing. Perhaps it would, but I think it is a queer way of solving the labor problem."

Your correspondent here queried whether the insult done to the American flag was not a good pretext for war

Admiral Polo said-"There has been no insult done or intended to the American flag, because the Virginius was no more entitled to it than to the flag of Venezuela, and perhaps not quite as much. I ask you, in the name of fairness, shall the great flag of this country serve as a cover for the lawless acts of a set of adventurers who, except as a temporary expedient, care no more for it than for a mere rag? When the facts of the whole career of the Virginius will be laid before the

perty. The authorities acted upon that knowledge in enforcing with the utmost rigor the municipal law governing such cases. I deplore most sincerely that the orders of the Madrid government did not arrive in time to stop the executions. Regarding the capture of the Virginius, I am sorry to say that may people in this country have the mistaken idea that the same laws of evidence apply to nations in their dealings with one another as to criminal cases. A statement of a certain fact by one friendly government to another ought to be sufficient evidence. Diplomatic action should not be hampered by the requirement of sworn amdavits and other legal instruments of that nature. They are right and proper in criminal cases, but seem like chicanery in luternational dealings. The American government has been repeatedly notified of the character of the Virginius. Why was she not brought back to the United States and turned into a bond fide merchant vessel?

Are the present complications likely to lead to a war with Spain? was the next query of your correspondent.

Admiral l'olo said :- "I believe there will be no war upless the senseless clamor of a few should prevail over the American government. If you drive the Spanish authorities from the island, which cannot be done so easily as some people here suppose, what government would you substitute? Americans who have hved in Cuba know that the Cubans are incapable of self-government. There remains, then, annexation to the United States. Well, if you must have the island, if that is what you call "manifest destiny," take it, if you can, but get a stronger case than that of the Virginius as a pretext for aggression. I do not think it would be generous for this great kepublic to take advantage of the difficulties of a struggling sister Republic, although I am of those who believe that a war with a foreign power would have the effect of uniting the whole Spanish nation for the defence of the national

Your correspondent then alluded to the reported attempt to mob the American Minister at Madrid. Admiral Polo answered:-"I am authorized to contradict the whole report telegraphed regarding General Sickles, having received a telegram from Madrid in the following words:-

Contradict reports of hostile demonstrations against the American Minister. General Sickles is treated with sincere friendship and respect. Some excesses in the monarchical press have been immediately suppressed."

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

War Feeling Subsiding-Duration of Diplomatic Correspondence-The Convention for the Settlement of American Claims-Friendliness of the Spanish Minister-No Violence Done to Sickles.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23, 1873. The Spanish question is everywhere discussed with more calmness than it was last week, and the impression seems to prevail to a greater extent than heretofore that there will be no war between the United States and Spain. It is expected in official and diplomatic circles that the correspondence on the subject of the capture of the Virginius and the proceedings which followed will be of brief duration. If this should be so it would be against all experience, for among other things, the fact is revived that when

THE LLOYD ASPINWALL. a legitimate merchant vessel, was seized by Spanish authority more than three months clapsed before she was released and restored to her owners. the proceedings to that end extending to the governments of the United States and Spain and the Cuban authorities. Our government, it is known, has repeatedly protested against the treatment of citizens of the United States in the Island of Cuba, and, owing to the earnest efforts of the Secretary of State,

A CONVENTION WAS CONCLUDED between this country and Spain in February, 1871. for the settlement of the claims of such citizens or of their heirs against Spain for wrongs and injuries committed against their persons and property on the Island of Cuba, or within its maritime jurisdiction, since the commencement of the pres-ent insurrection. The commission was accordingly organized, but has done little business in the way of decisions, owing to the continued disturbances preventing the taking of the necessary proofs in relation to some of the most important cases. There is nothing to show that in this matter Spain is not acting in good faith. One

of the most serious complaints is that

THE PROPERTY AND ESTATES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE ARBITRARILY EMBARGOED. in violation of the provisions of the treaty of 1795. The Secretary of State more than three years ago complained to the Spanish government, through General Sickles, that the Spanish authorities in Cuba seemed to be clothed with absolute power for the commission of such acus as were plained of, but when redress was sought this government was referred to the distant Cabinet of Madrid, where it was often found necessary to refer again to Cuba for information, and the case was thus suspended and delayed, to the injury of the parties and at the hazard of irritation from delay, of which the necessity was not apparent to impatient sufferer or to the public. The President had respected the Spanish claim of sovereignty over the Island of Cuba during the present contest against a strong sympathetic pressore from without, and it was added, that Spain owed it to the United States, as well to her own traditional sense of justice, that her sovereignty should not be used for the oppression and injury of the citizens of this Republic, and in this connec-

to the continuance of the Spanish Republic, is poked upon as evidence of the pacific determination of their colleagues from New England. Besides which, those now here from that section have expressed similar opinions. The controlling influence for this course is the belief that a war would very materially injure the commercial interests of the Northeastern States.

SENATOR MITCHELL'S VIEWS. Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, said that as a new member of the Senate he hardly cared to have his opinions published. He had, however, no hesitation in characterizing the action of the Spanish colonial authorities as outside of law and a shame to humanity. The Virginius at the worst was but a blockade runner and could not be classed as a piratical vessel; but even pirates were entitled to fair trial before execution. In the whole civilized world the worst of criminals were accorded such rights, but in this case both leaders and crew were brutally massacred without a proper trial, for the drumbead court martial which pretended to sentence them could not, in any sense of the word, be seemed a legal tribunal. First, the status of the vesset should have been established by a civil court, and pending this no proceedings could legally be taken against those captured aboard of her. If she was not liable to seizure the prisoners were not properly in the hands of the Spanish authorities, and would have had to be released. If the vessel was a lawful prize, then the Criminal and held them to a strict account for their acts. Whatever penalty had been thus inflicted the United States could not have complained of. All the forms and requirements of law would have been complied with. Spain would have upheld her authority, and the example would have had the proper effect. It would have shown that, while she was ready to act firmly and energetically in punishing those who were proved to be assisting the Cubans in revolt, nothing was to be done hastily or against international law. What has made the ple of the United States so infuriated is the brutal ferocity and bloodtnirstiness of the Spaniards. No chance was given the poor victims to have a word said in their defence. They were sentenced to death without a hearing. Not alone is the sauctity of our flag involved in this question, but humanity demands that some steps should be taken which will effectually prevent the repetition of such an outrage, He had confidence that the administration would be true to itself and the country in its action, and would be strongly sustained by Congress.

MR. BLAINE'S OPINIONS Congressman James G. Blaine, who expects to be re-elected Speaker, arrived here this morning, but was not at home to the numerous callers who visited his residence. He was asked by an intimate friend if he had yet prepared the list of committees of the House, in anticipation of his being chosen Speaker, and replied emphatically that he had not. Many important interests have to be consulted before he could determine how the com mittees should be organized.

REVERDY JOHNSON'S VIEW OF THE CASE.

High Handed Outrage by the Spaniards-Law and Justice Demand a Friendly Settlement.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 23, 1873. In a letter addressed to the Baltimore American, after stating reasons for his silence hitherto. Reverdy Johnson gives the following opinion on the Virginius case:

In common with civilized men everywhere, I thought, and still think, that the execution of those who were captured on board the Virginius was barbarous in the extreme and a gross outrage on the sacred laws of humanity. But the capture of the vessel and the subsequent conduct of the captors involve questions which I think by no means suited to the discussion of town meetings, but which should be left now to the deliberation of the President and Cabinet at the council board, where a just conclusion is most likely to be reached as to what the rights and the honor of the nation demand. Certainly no one can reasonably doubt that the President will do all that he constitutionally can do to secure the one and to vindicate the other. Such meetings, therefore, as have been and as are proposed to be held seem to me to be unjust to him, because, though not will not be equal to the emergency unless urged by the voice of the people. For this reason I declined being present at the late meeting at the Maryland Institute, and would also decline to participate in any other meeting.

PRESENT OPINION. can give my opinion upon the question which properly grew out of the capture of the Virginius

and what tollowed it.

First-Was the capture a legal one? From the beginning of our government we have insisted that an American vessel, regularly documented and carrying our flag, cannot in time of peace be visited or searched on the high seas. mainly for violation of this doctrine that the war of 1812 with England was declared, and although at the termination of that war the claim of England was not formally renounced, it was practically abandoned and has never since been acted upon. The immunity of a vessel carrying the necessary documentary papers and flag rests upon the theory that ocean is open to all alike, and that a vessel of any nation, while in that element, is, in contemplation of law, a part of its national territory and as exempt from invasion as the soil itself. The treaty of Washington of the 9th of August, 1842, negotiated between Mr. Webster and Lord Ashburton, contained an article which the British government supposed our government regarded as a denunciation of the right of visitation and search. There was a passage in the annual Mes sage of President Tyler to Congress next succeed. ing the date of that treaty that created this impression, and under it Lord Aberdeen, then British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, sent a despatch to Mr. Fox, the Minister at Washington, to correct the supposed error according to the view entertained upon the point by Her Majesty's government, and requested him to read it to Mr. Webster, Secretary of State.

To this communication Mr. Webster, on the 28th of March, 1843, replied in a letter to Mr. Everett,

to public law as understood, it is believed, not only by England and the United States, but by all other nations, including Spain. the Virginius was thus possessed of the flag and documents or had obtained them fraudulently, or was using them for an illegal purpose, are matters for inquiry, which our government has no doubt already made. It will be no justification of the capture that the object of the enterprise was to render assistance to Cuban insurgents. If that was the case the offence at the time of capture was a violation of the neutrality laws of the United States, and not of the sovereignty of Spain, and the United States alone possessed jurisdiction over the subject. We abandon our sovereignty if we permitted Spain or any other nation to capture vessels of the United States because they may, at the time of such capture, have violated our laws. The capture of this steamer on the high seas then was as gross a DISREGARD OF THE AUTHOBITY OF THE UNITED

as it would have been if the Tornado had seized her in the harbor of New York, and she was as much under the protection of our government in one case as another.

CARRYING THE SHIP TO A SPANISH PORT. If I am correct in the above view the next point is, Had Spain a right to carry the vessel into a Spanish port? Clearly she had none? Her doing so was but a continuation of the original wrong, and was an equally palpable and indefensible outrage upon our sovereignty. But, conceding that at the time of capture the vessel was not upon the high seas, it is not pretended that she was in Cuban waters, within a distance of one league from the shore, and had, consequently, subjected herself to the jurisdiction. When captured the only offence she had committed was one against the United States. Supposing that she contemplated landing men and arms in Cupa in aid of the insurgents, it was but an unexecuted purpose, as wholly so as when she left New York. This purpose she might have abandoned; and if she had, no wrong whatever would have been done to spain. She, too, was liable to capture by an American man-of-war, and to be brought into the United States for judgment for a violation of our neutrality laws; and then, also, no offence would have been committed against Spain or wrong done her. Can it be doubted that the steamer before the capture, or even afterwards, while being carried to Cuba, could have claimed protection of any United States man-of-war, or that it would have been the duty of the latter, if present, to have prevented her capture or to have recaptured her, and by force, if necessary. That this would have been done by any of our naval ficers, may, I think, be considered certain.

WHAT WOULD HAVE ENSUED. If it had been done could Spain have justly complained? Would our government have rebuked the officer? On the contrary, would be not have been accorded praise for protecting an American ship and maintaining the honor of the American flag? The illegality of the capture of the Virginius by the Tornado and the responsibility of Spain for the consequences seem to be too plain for serious

Third-The atrocities committed on the crew and passengers of the ill-fated steamer, independent of the sacred laws of humanity, were without justification or excuse under the public law of the world. Not having been legally captured, they were not prisoners of war, and were as much exempt from the jurisdiction of Spain as when they stood upon American soil, and Spain is, consequently, as responsible to the United States for their execution as she would have been if she had gotten possession of the men by invasion of our territory. What shall be the measure of the redress for these wrongs may be safely left to the judgment of the President.

The difficulty should NOT LEAD TO A WAR with Spain, it is almost impossible to imagine that the great and good men who are at the head of that government will besitate to render every indemnity for past wrongs and security for the tion of our honor. President Castelar is well known as an enlightened statesman, and one who is firmly attached to the republican form of government which he is now using his great talents firmly to establish and preserve. If prompted by no higher motive, he cannot fail to that an unrighteous war with the trustrate his patriotic designs; and President Grant, equally just and patriotic, and necessarily desirous that the Republic of Spain may be continued, will avoid demanding of her any apology or indemnity inconsistent with her rights and With permission, however, I will as briefly as ! | honor and not necessary to maintain our own. and vonrobedient serven REVERDY JOHNSON.

> ANOTHER LEGAL VIEW OF THE CASE.

> Opinions of Dr. Woolsey, of Yale Col-

lege. New Haven, Conn., Nov. 23, 1873. The following views were presented by Dr. Woolsey, at the law school on Saturday noon, concerning the capture of the Virginius and the treatment of her passengers and crew, in the light of international law:The recent case of the Virginius presents Heelf

to us under two aspects:-

First-The seizure of the vessel was irregular, or is claimed so to be.

Secondly-The cruel treatment of the persons, or of some of the persons found on board, calls for our attention.

These two points have no necessary connection. The seizure would have had just the same legal or illegal character if the captured persons had been spared. If we could show that the proceeding in carrying the Virginius into a Cuban port was right, we might full to show that there was any numanity or right in whatever was done afterward. As this last part of the transaction is most easily disposed of I shall endeavor to despatch it in a few words. As a general rule,

THE INDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS implies that they are the sole judges each of them as to what their laws and punishments shall be, and to a considerable extent as to their usages in traitional sense of justice, that her sovereigns a few storm in the solution of the sense of the person and injury of accrete of the Virginius will be laid before the American December of the Citizen of this Republic, and in this counter of the Virginius will be laid before the American December of the Citizen of this Republic, and in this counter of the Virginius will be laid before the American December of the Citizen of this Republic, and in this counter of the Citizen of this Republic, and in this counter of the Citizen of the Republic of the Person of the Citizen of the Republic of the Person of the Citizen of the Republic of war. Nations control each other, however, in the usages of war by retaliation and to a degree by

require that the vessel should be allowed to go on its way? Was the reasonable ground that the Spaniards had to believe that the vessel was really bound to the neighborhood of an insurrection in order to aid in it—was this, I ask, enough to authorize the seizure of the vessel and the carrying of her for trial lato a Cuban port? In regard to the circumstances, we must here take much on faith, but the character and destination of the vessel seem to be admitted.

WHAT WAS THE OFFENCE OF THE VESSEL is the point which we would examine. If we have a correct understanding of its character, the offence was not piracy according to the law of nations; for there was no animus furential and no intention to do anything except to transport certain men and goods from one port to another. It was not treason, of course, for any but the Spaniards who were on board and engaged in the enterprise. It was not a treach of blockade, for there was, as I understand, no blockade, it was not technically carrying contraband of war, for there was, as I understand, no blockade. It was not technically carrying contraband of war, for there was, as I understand, no blockade, it was not technically carrying contraband of war, for there was not technically any war. It is difficult to define the crime, but it was a very great crime; no other than for a captain and vessel to be engaged in doing what was really a hostile act. Even more than carrying contraband, it was carrying officers of a high rank in the rebellion as near to the scene of armed contest as possible. The crime was not piracy, at least according to the law of nations, although possibly piracy by spanisn law. It is to be observed, also, that the vessel, although nominally American, seems to have belonged to Cubans and to have been engaged in no regular commerce. Now, in such a case as this, do the ordinary laws respecting the right of visit and capture apply? It seems to us that this is an extreme case, which the ordinary law of nations does not meet, and that the spanish Captain of t

of making the capture for the sate of the leads. It was a case of necessary self-defence for preventing war.

There is another case outside of ordinary law by which this may be illustrated.

THE STEAMER CAROLINE,
in 1837, was employed by some Canadian insurgents to carry men and ammunition across the Niagara River. This being discovered, an expedition was prepared to capture and destroy the vessel on the Canadian side, but did not reach it until it had returned into New York waters. There was great indignation feit at this proceeding, which involved a violation of neutral territory, besides other acts similar to those that occurred in the case of the Virginius. In the correspondence to which this act gave rise Mr. Webster said that such violation of neutrality could be justified only by a necessity of self-defence, instant, overwhelming, having no choice of means and no moment of deliberation. Lord Ashburton contended—this was in 1842—that no explanation of the act was made at the time of its occurrence. Can any one doubt that a strong nation—that the United States, for instance—would have preferred to take the risk of acting in an irregular way rather than allow such an expedition to come into its territory. It seems idle to try to judge such cases by ordinary rules.

In the present instance the Spaniards could not say there was instant, overwhelming necessity for

In the present instance the Spaniards could not say there was instant, overwhelming necessity for self-defence, but they could urge that they were practically invaded by their own insurgents, that it was necessary to seize the vessel while they could, as otherwise the insurrection would assume new proportions; in short, that the violation of neutrality was necessary and that the circumstances called for instant action.

new proportions; in short, that the violation of neutrality was necessary and that the circumstances called for instant action.

ANOTHER CASE, from which we can draw illustrations is that of Koszta, who, having already made the usual declaration preparatory to being naturalized, was seized in Smyrna, when provided with a passport there by the American Consul, taken by the boat's crew of an Austrian intgate and put in irons. It was reported that he was to be removed by the Austrian officials at Smyrna into Austria, and the captain of a public vessel of the United States prepared to resort to force unless ne were released. This led to his being put under the protection of the French Consul until the governments which were at issue could agree. Now, would it have been in accordance with international law to use force in protecting him? Certainly not in ordinary cases, but here was an extreme case. Turkey was passive and impotent, and could afford no protection. If Kosta had not been helped at all. The necessity justified, as it seems to have done in the case of the Virginius, Here, let me ask, what have the Consuls of the United States been accustomed to do in the West Indies in such cases as this of the Virginius, Here, let me ask, what have the Consuls of the United States been accustomed to do in the West Indies in such cases as this of the Virginius? Do they think it their duty to give the official papers when they know that the transaction is utterly illegal? and, if this were so, I state it hypothetically, would it not show to the Spaniards that no reliance could be placed on our anthorities in those waters to protect them against allowing expeditions really warlike to proceed under their very eyes against Guua.

You will see that this is in some respects a peculiar case. There is no war in Cuba, and yet there is war. The Virginius was an American vessel, and yet not an American vessel, and yet not an American vessel in the state of things in Cuba was in one sense a sham. The only reality about the matter wa

NAVAL PREPARATIONS.

Affairs at the Washington Navy Yard-The Stores of War Material on Hand-Progress of the Preparations-Defence of the Capital. WASHINGTON, Nov. 23, 1873.

The preparations of the government to meet any contingencies that may arise out of the Cuban complications are being pressed with the utmost vigor at the Washington Navy Yard, as well as at other yards along the Atlantic coast. Before the late civil war the Navy Yard at this point was one of the most prominent, some of the larger frigates of the old time having been constructed here. Among these might be mentioned the Brandywine, famous for having carried Lalayette back to France on his last visit to this country. During the war the exposed condition of the Navy Yard at Norfolk and the proximity of the Washington yard to the Southern coast devolved upon it a new and important branch of naval work. New shops of large capacity were erected for the purpose of carrying on the manufacture of the various descriptions of naval machinery, including iron gun carriages of the latest patterns, marine boilers, engines, &c., vast quantities of which were turne out to supply the necessities of the blockading squadrons on the extensive line of the South Atantic and Gulf coasts. A large foundry was also con structed capable of turning out any quantity of the largest castings required for ships of war. Some of the largest lathes in the United States are to be found in the machinery department. The laboratory has the capacity to turn out an immense amount of its peculiar work. There are also two large ship houses, one provided with a marine railway. Since the war, with the exception of short intervals, but a comparatively small amount of work has been turned out from the yard. A sufficient force has always been kept engaged upon such work as was absolutely necessary to the ex-

igencies of the service. MATERIAL ON HAND.

At the close of the war the government found itself in the possession of enormous quantities of material of war, which were further increased by the dismantiement of vessels put out of commissi Many guns of the heaviest calibre, including Parrotts, mine, eleven and fiteen inch Dahlgrens, nowitzers and broad mouthed mortars. Tiers of snot and shell were stored in the Navy Yard, the guns and shot being regularly painted and other proper precautions being taken to preserve them from the effects of time and temperature. All of this material is available for immediate use. The powder magazines are abundantly stocked with that explosive compound.

REVIVAL OF OLD SCENES.

The quiet routine which has generally prevailed at the Navy Yard for the last eight years has been broken in upon by the stirring note of warlike preparation, and the ceaseless num of activity, verywhere arising, recalls to mind the daily scenes during the late rebellion. The fires of th loundry are again burning, constantly turning out castings which are being shipped to the Northern navy yards. Fixed ammunition from the laboratory is being constantly shipped orders to manufacture 30,000 shells just been issued. Orders have also been issued for the immediate manufacture of a large number of new gun carriages or guns of the heaviest calibre. In the ordnance shops additional howitzers are being rapidly com pleted, and complete equipments, including trails, handspikes and ammunition boxes are being turned out for the Gatling guns to be used on shipboard. The boiler works are busily engaged in the con struction of new boilers, so as to be prepared for emergencies. The storerouses are still filled with

large supplies of equipments and other stores, which are now being daily snipped to points where most needed for the fitting out of the vessels destined for Cuban waters.

THE YARD BEING A RECRUITING RENDEZVOUS a large number of applications have been received by the executive officer who is in charge of the recruiting. Most of those who desire to enlist in the service are landsmen, but this is not the kind of material required at the present juncture, and as a consequence they are rejected. All good sailors who may present themselves are enlisted at once. The colored element seems to be unusually patriotic, the number of those who daily apply, wishing to serve their country as cooks, scullions, waiters, &c., being sufficient to man a frigate. The force of marines has been increased to such an extent by recent enlistments that the barracks of the corps are inadequate to accommodate the new recruits, which has necessitated the temporary occupation of the chapel at the yard for quarters. A detachment of seamen was taken on board

THE RECEIVING SHIP RELIEF yesterday. The Relief is one of the oldest vessels of her class in the service. She was the storesnip of the exploring expedition of Commodore Wilkes to the Southern semisphere in 1833-42. She has been housed over at the yard for some time, but the housing is to be removed and she will be put in commission to sail for Key West. VESSELS AT THE YARD.

The Shawmut, screw steamer, carrying three guns, is being calked and will be ready to sail in There are three iron-clad monitor a few days. rams at the yard—the Montauk, two guns; the Piscataqua, one gun, and the Hero, one gun. As yet nothing has been done upon these, but if the necessity arises they will be put in complete order and be used as a guard for the patrol on the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay, for which service they are eminently adapted. These vessels, while capable of effective service for harbor defence, are not suitable for sea service. The Montauk, which figured frequently in the late war, has numerous marks of her engagements. her turret and deck showing many deep indentations. Torpedo *tischments will be placed on board of each of these vessels if their services should be needed. An important feature with these vessels is that they can operate with their torpedoes at night. Large vessels in making an attack cannot move with safety at night in rivers or harbors, ignorant as they would be of the channels and of the location of obstructions. Lying at anchor, the little monitors, under cover of darkness, could approach them almost unseen, and use with deadly effect their submarine destructives. Independent of these monitors the defence of Washington would be doubly assured by the use of channel tornedges and elaborate obstructions now ready for use, the fortifications already existing, and by the adoption, if called for, of additional water batteries.

A Busy Sunday at the Brooklyn Navy Yard-The Colorado Coaling-"Don't Give Up the Ship"-Spanish Caution. In accordance with the spirit and letter of the old axiom, "Necessity knows no law," the Sabbath was not one of quiet, peace and rest at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. While the good people of the City of Churches were wending their way to their respective houses of worship in the morning a representative of the HERALD made his to the great naval depot, and presenting his pass for admittance to the officer of the guard at the York street gate was duly admitted to the precincts of the yard. The first object which attracts attention is the steam frigate Colorado, which lies at the dock at the loot of the main street in the yard. Here, on the dock, was noticeable the tall figure of Rear Admiral Rowan, who, in the plain garb of a civilian, was standing and giving instructions to the chief of equipment department. Stepping on board the frigate the writer met the gallant commander, Captain George M. Ransom, executive officer of the yard, who is pushing the work forward on her with all possible despatch, with a view to having her ready to go into commission the day Congress meets-December 1, one week from to-day. There Colorado, from which fuel was being hoisted and emptied into the capacious bunkers of the noble ship. On the spar deck a large number of riggers ship. On the spar deck a large number of riggers were making taut the "autook shrouds" and other gear, "singing Sams" (posimis), as was wittly remarked. The gun carriages are all on board, and the planking of the decks has been newly scoured with rosin. She will probably receive her battery of 45 guns on Saturday next. On the combing of the quarterdeck is the memorable motto of Captain Lawrence—"bon't give up the ship." American sailors never surrender, but the words are appropriately inscribed as a reminder to recall the glorious annals of our navy.

On the Minnesota's machinery there were men employed, but in no other part of the ship. There was also a force of machinists at work on the Roanoke and on the Florida. This latter vessel will carry a battery of 14 9-inch and 2 11-inch guns. She is now lying at the dock, near the Swatara.

Maa also a love of machiness at work of the Roanoke and on the Florida. This latter vessel will carry a battery of 149-inch and 2 11-inch guns. She is now lying at the dock, near the Swatara. Her housing will be taken off to-day, and she can be made ready for sea in three weeks' time. The Admiral's flagship, the Flolic, is ancnored in the stream off the yard. She will assume greater importance as the harbor fleet grows in proportion to a war footing. Admiral Rowan is exceedingly reticent upon all subjects connected with the business of the yard. The monitor Dictator arrived last evening, and work will be commenced on her this morning. There are about 460 "blue jackets" on board the receiving ship Vermont. Religious services were neid there yesterday by the chapiain of the ship. Recruiting for the marine corps has been resumed.

The Captain of the Spanish iron-clad steam sloop

the ship. Recruiting for the marine corps has been resumed.

The Captain of the Spanish iron-clad steam sloop of war Arapiles, lying on the dry dock at the yard, yesterday made a minute and thorough inspection of his ship and the progress of the work of putting on the iron plates. She will leave here early next month for Cuba. There was divine service on board the Arapiles yesterday, as usual, at which all the officers and crew assisted. They have become very strict with regard to the admission of visitors, allowing nobody on board but officers in uniform. They still contend that there will be no war between the two republics, but that the Spanish authorities were correct in their treatment of the Virginius. One thing is certain, they have grown more noisy and patriotic on board the Spanish and are given to cheering justify whenever their flag is hoisted at the peak.

In the workshops of the yard mechanics were busy as "mailers," and not since the war flarry for the Union has the Sabbath stillness been so ruthlessiy invaded upon this station.

Philadelphia Navy Yard-The Manhat. tan and Powhatan Left-The Terror and Canandaigus Progressing.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 23, 1873. The Navy Yard people have been doing wonders and can claim the credit of having sent the first monitor to sea, as the Manhattan left the dock vesterday and went to Fort Mifflin to take in her powder. The Powhatan left this evening to join and convoy the Manhattan. The Pinta also left this evening for Fort Mifflin to take in ammunition and will start to-morrow for Key West. The Navy Yard has been alive to-day with workmen, and the business on the Ajax, Terror and Canan-daigua is rapidly progressing.

Arrival of the Vicksbu: Newport-Supplies Shipped to the soston and Philadelphia Navy Yards.

NEWPORT, R. L. Nov. 23, 1873. The United States steamer Vicksburg arrived this morning at the torpedo station with supplies. The order to await the arrival of vessels to take them on board here has been revoked under the present circumstances, and they are being constantly shipped over the railroad to the Boston and Philadelphia navy yards, minus, however, the combustible material connected therewith. Unusual activity prevails. Commandant Simpson Willeave here in a few days to take command of the Franklin.

Arrival of the Worcester at Key West-KEY WEST, Nov. 23, 1873. The United States steamer Worcester, flagship

of the North Atlantic fleet, has arrived in this THE WAR FURORE IN NEW YORK

Discussion of the War Prospect and Sentiment of the People-Anxious for Offcial Papers - Pedro Alfaro's Fidelity Undoubted-Captain Fry's Letter to a Friend Withheld by the Spaniards-

General Ryan and the "Egyptian Monks." There was little visible vesterday in the streets or public places of the metropolis to denote that the million of people who inhabit this city are clamorous, almost as with one voice, for a foreign,

war, for there was nothing observable outside the CONTINUED ON TENTH PAGE.