THE HUMILIATION.

Work on the Iron-Clads Suspended by Order of the Secretary of the Navy.

Minister Sickles' Anxiety to Report the Friendliness of His Relations.

Not Even an Opinion Given by Him on the National Question.

BRITISH WAR VESSELS AT SANTIAGO.

The Butcher Burriel Embarks on Board the Trinidad for Havana.

NEWS FROM MADRID.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Minister Sickles' Attitude—Denial of the Truth of Recent Reports—A Complaint by the Spanish Press.

LONDON, Nov. 24, 1873.

The agent of the Associated Press here is authorized by Minister Sickles to say that there is no foundation for the report published in New York, on the 21st, to the effect that he (Mr. Sickles) had broken off social relations with the Foreign Minister, and that he expressed the opinion that war was inevitable. The agent is authorized to state there is no foundation whatever for the despatch; that the official and personal relations between Minister Sickles and the Spanish officials are unchanged, and that Mr. Sickles has not expressed any opinion as to the result of the pending question.

The Spanish press complain that the enemies of Spain telegraph false news to the United States.

Captain General Jovellar Promises President Castelar the Obedience of Cuba.

MADRID, Nov. 24, 1873.

President Castelar has received a despatch from Captain General Jovellar assuring the home government that the authority of the Republic will be obeyed in the island of Cuba.

NEWS FROM CUBA.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

British Vessels at Santiago de Cuba—General Burriel Embarks for Havana Without Receiving the British Commodore De Horsey.

HAVANA, Nov. 24, 1873.

The British gunboat Woodlark arrived at Santiago de Cuba on the 18th, and on the following day the ship-of-war Danae, with Commodore De Horsey, senior officer at Jamaica, on board, arrived from Port Royal. General Burriel embarked on the steamer Trinidad for Havana before Commodore De Horsey came ashore.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

The Secretary of the Navy Department Countermands Previous Orders.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 1873.

The Secretary of the Navy to-day directed that orders be issued to suspend work on the iron-clads, and to detach from the large vessels recently ordered into commission all officers, to await further orders. Transportation of ordnance stores to Key West will also be stopped.

There is no possibility, it is said, of settling the diplomatic controversy between Spain and the United States for many months to come, which accounts for the orders for retrenchment.

Lieutenant Colonel James Forney, of the Marine corps, while the Spanish war fever was at its height, applied for permission to take command of a battalion of marines. The war cloud having blown over, the order for the formation of the battalion has been countermanded. Had there been occasion for the services of the battalion, it is understood that Lieutenant Colonel Forney would have been assigned to the command.

Marshal Serrano Said To Be the Coming Man in Spain—The War Feeling Declining, but the Naval Preparations Go On—Speculations as to Where the Spaniards Would Attack Us and Their Poor Chances Against Us—Naval Contracts.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 1873.

There is nothing really new to-day in regard to Spanish affairs except the intimation, merely through British sources, of a probability of Marshal Serrano being declared military dictator. It will be recollected that Marshal Serrano was, in the summer of 1872, charged with the formation of a Cabinet. At that time he was in the Pyrenees, at the head of the forces operating against the Carlists. An uniorseen phase in the situation was suddenly caused by an order issued by him granting extremely liberal terms to the Carlists in Navarre, in which it was stipulated they should immediately cease hostilities and give up their arms.

THIS ACT OF CLEMENCY,

assumed to be the result of an understanding with the Carlist chiefs in the Basque provinces, was at once characterized and denounced as the convention of a *mujer vieja* (old woman), and so violent and universal were the expressions of disapproval it encountered that even the President of the Council *ad interim*, Admiral Topete, yielded to the pressure so far as to admit, in his place in the Chamber of Deputies, that public opinion had found just occasion for alarm in the reported terms in the transaction. This declaration was immediately followed by the resignation of Marshal Serrano, not only of his military command, but also of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. The return of the Marshal to the capital at once restored his prestige. His late colleagues heard his explanation and assured him of their support. The Cabinet of Marshal Serrano left office after the very brief tenure, even in Spain, of seven days. With this Cabinet the United States succeeded in adjusting several of the questions then pending between the two countries.

ABATEMENT OF THE WAR FEELING—OUR NAVAL DEFENCES IN CASE OF NEED.

The war feeling in Washington seems to be upon the decline, although naval preparations are as active as ever and large numbers of officers are being detailed for duty daily. Three iron-clads will be ready for sea in ten days and four or five more will be ready in six weeks. Much has been said about the formidable Spanish iron-clads entering our ports in case of a war with Spain; but old and experienced naval officers here express the opinion that no one of the Spanish iron-clads or any armored ship of the foreign Powers could enter New York harbor except in case of an extraordinary tide, and then great care would have to be exercised. Even if they should get in they would be like a stranded whale and fall an easy prey. The great draught of these vessels—none of them drawing less than 26 feet—renders them of no use, except in very deep water. About the only port on our coast which they could enter without trouble would be Newport, R. I. It has been argued that, in case of a war with Spain, the policy of the Spaniards would be to attack our ports along the coast, but this is not believed by our naval officers. They express the opinion that

THE SPANISH NAVY WOULD CONCENTRATE ABOUT CUBA

with a view to prevent an attack by the American forces on that island. Should they attempt to come on our coast they would be used up very soon. The Spaniards would no doubt make every attempt to break up our commerce on the high seas; but our wooden vessels would not be entirely useless, as many suppose would be the case. Armed, as many of them are, with 11 and 15-inch guns, they would be efficient to a great extent in protecting our commerce against Spanish vessels of similar construction which would be used to prey upon American commerce. It must be borne in mind, too, that several of

THE BEST IRON-CLADS WHICH SPAIN HAD ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE INTRANSIGENTES

at Cartagena, and before they could be used against us some arrangement would have to be made by the Spanish government to reconcile this disorderly element at home and regain possession of the vessels, which is not at all probable. Every Spanish ship captured or disabled by one of our vessels would be out of the way entirely, as their places could not be supplied, the Spanish Republic being very poor and heavily in debt. Hence it is believed their navy would soon be destroyed. Most of the vessels they now have were built in either England or France, and as the means for furnishing iron alone suitable for a ship's armor are very limited in Spain, they could not carry on the building of vessels of war to any extent, while we could easily send out new and powerful ones frequently. The wooden frigates of Spain are inferior to ours and would not be able to wage a successful fight with American vessels of this class.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

John Roach was at at the Navy Department to-day and received a contract for building engines and machinery for the new sloop-of-war at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. He was the lowest bidder at $630,000. The Navy Department has lately given a contract to Mr. Cramps, of Philadelphia, to repair the iron-clad Nantucket. Also to the Harlan & Hollingworth Company, of Wilmington, Del., for the repair of the Lehigh, and to John Roach for the repair of the Passaic and the Jason. John Roach has contracts for two new sloops-of-war at $580,000; engines and machinery for the Tennessee, $300,000; repair of four monitors (Passaic, Jason, Wyandotte and Nahant) at $720,000; engine for a torpedo boat at $200,000 or $300,000; two engines at $360,000. He has out of the $3,200,000 appropriated for the new sloops-of-war contracts to the amount of $895,000.

NAVAL PREPARATIONS.

The Peaceful Turn in the Tide of Affairs Not Apparent at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Notwithstanding the change in the tone of the administration organs from a warlike air to that of piping peace, there is no falling off in the order of preparations at the Navy Yard of this station. The business of each department is being prosecuted with unwonted vigor, and when the daylight fades the gas burners are lit, and the profits of the gas company are increased a hundredfold. The mechanics are doing well, and are earning considerable money in making over time. The yard yesterday was in a shockingly muddy condition, as is always the case during rainy weather. This state of affairs could be readily remedied at the trifling expenditure of the amount requisite to pave the streets. It is not creditable to the government to permit such a neglect to exist so long on such an important station. Plenty of laborers and pavers are now out of employment who would gladly serve Uncle Sam by laying a proper pavement and cleaning the yard thoroughly were the opportunity afforded them. Owing to the storm and the lull in the war excitement there were not many visitors to the yard yesterday other than prominent ward politicians, adherents of the administration, who came to urge the employment of certain party workers "here, there or elsewhere" in the Navy Yard. All these men are indignant with the Secretary of State for weakening in the attitude taken upon the Cuban question. There were all sorts of rumors circulated to the effect that work would be discontinued upon the Colorado, Minnesota, Florida, Roanoke and Dictator, as there was no longer any danger of war. Inquiry made by the writer of Captain Ransom, however, showed that, as above stated, the work of preparation would be pushed forward with all possible vigor, and he hoped to have the Colorado ready to go into commission in the early part of next week. The only delay will be to obtain a crew. She will require 600 men to make up her complement. Recruiting is progressing slowly, seamen being scarce. Of landsmen any number can be shipped, but green hands require so much drilling that they are of little use on a man-of-war for other than laboring purposes. It was supposed that the monitor Dictator, which was brought on here from New London, was nearly ready for service, but upon a careful examination it has been found that the bolts are drawn from her boilers, and it will require three weeks' labor to fit her out.

THE ARAPILES,

Spanish iron-clad, remains on the dry dock at the yard. Yesterday a mechanic who was at work on the vessel enlived the monotony of the occasion by what is termed in common parlance "taking a fall out" of one of the officers of the iron vessel. The naval Don who was subjected to the indignity was closely inspecting the work upon which the mechanic was engaged, when he suddenly exclaimed, with an air of contempt and disgust, "No good; bad work; no good!"

"What is that you say?" angrily retorted the workman.

"No good, no good!" repeated the officer.

"Take that, then, you Spanish ——— and see if it's any good," said the pugilistic mechanic as he dealt the Spanish officer a telling blow on the jaw, knocking him down. Of course the workman lost his job, but he claims

THE FIRST KNOCKDOWN,

The work on the Arapiles is being done by men from the Delamater Iron Works, of New York.

In the spar shop, of which Mr. Dodge is master, there are 40 men engaged in turning out the masts and yards required for the Minnesota and Swatara.

In the blockmakers' shop, of which W. H. Gleavy is master, work is pushed forward night and day, turning out blocks of the most modern and approved pattern, together with panelling, railings, &c. It will be no fault of the 40 skilled men in this shop if the Spanish game of "injury and insult" is not blocked. They are willing to contribute their share to the success of the navy. The iron-clad shop, boat house, oakum mill and other workshops are in full blast.

Naval Assignments.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 1873.

Commander Edward P. Lull has been ordered to temporary duty in command of the torpedo station at Newport, R. I.

Master Joseph R. Hobson to the Despatch.

Pay Director C. J. Emery, to duty as inspector of provisions, &c., at the Boston Navy Yard.

Paymaster W. N. Watmough to the Brooklyn.

Chief Engineer E. B. Latch, to duty as mechanic of the Board for the Inspection of Ships.

Lieutenant N. R. Smith has been detached from ordnance duty at the Boston Navy Yard and ordered to Key West for duty as inspector of ordnance.

Lieutenant H. E. Nichols, from the Idaho, of the Asiatic squadron, and ordered to return home and report arrival.

Lieutenant Jefferson F. Moser has been detached from special duty at Washington and ordered to the Despatch as executive officer.

Lieutenant Seaton Schroeder from the Canandaigua and ordered to the Pinta.

Pay Director George Davis from duty as inspector of provisions, &c., at the Boston Navy Yard and ordered to the flagship of the North Atlantic station and also as fleet paymaster of that station.

Assistant Paymaster Z. J. Brown from the Navy Yard at Portsmouth and ordered to the Pinta.

First Assistant Engineer H. H. Clive from the Canandaigua and placed on sick leave.

Philadelphia Navy Yard—A Force of 1,300 Men at Work—Progress on Monitors—Vessels Chartered for Carrying Stores—Clothing Ordered by the War Department.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Nov. 24, 1873.

There are 1,300 men now employed at the Navy Yard. The monitor Ajax was taken off the dry dock yesterday, and the Terror takes her place to-day. The monitors Nantasket and Jason have been sent to private yards for repairs. It is reported that all the monitors at League Island will be put in order at once.

VESSELS CHARTERED TO CARRY STORES.

The Navy Department this afternoon chartered from Stephen Flanagan & Co., one of our largest vessel owners, their largest tug. It will be laden with naval stores and start to-morrow for Fernandina, Fla. It is then to be used as a despatch boat. Agents of the Navy Department also chartered this afternoon three of the largest and best schooners they could find here to load with naval stores to take to Key West. These schooners will carry 4,800 tons.

ORDERS FOR CAVALRY AND INFANTRY CLOTHING.

Orders were received at the Arsenal to-night to make up an additional stock of cavalry and infantry clothing. The Arsenal is now filled with clothing left over after the end of the rebellion, but the War Department evidently thinks there is not enough stock on hand. The Philadelphia Arsenal has the largest stock of clothing of any similar institution in this country.

Charlestown Navy Yard—A Force of 2,105 Men Employed.

BOSTON, Nov. 24, 1873.

The following is a list of the workmen employed in the Charlestown Navy Yard:—In the Construction Department, 1,078 men; in the Civil Engineers' Department, 272 men; in the Steam Engineers' Department, 361 men; in the Equipment Department, 298 men; in the Ordnance Department, 87 men; in the Provisions and Clothes Department, 9 men. Total, 2,105. On Saturday 100 new employés in the dry dock were discharged, while an equal force was added to the Steam Engineers' Department. It is expected that the Franklin will be ready for sea in two weeks.

Torpedoes for the Saco, at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

NEWPORT, Nov. 24, 1873.

A large number of torpedoes for the Saco, at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, are being sent from the torpedo station, via New York.

The Ossipee and Mahopac Lying Off Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, Nov. 24, 1873.

The United States steamer Ossipee, convoying the monitor Mahopac, has arrived from the Norfolk Navy Yard, and both are anchored off the fort.

A WITNESS OF THE MURDERS.

A New Yorker Tells the Story—Imprisonment of G. W. Sherman, a United States Citizen, for Making a Sketch of the First Execution—Cavalry Horses Ridden Over the Corpses of the Murdered Men.

Among the passengers from Havana, on the last voyage of the mail steamer City of New York was Mr. George W. Sherman, an American citizen who was present at Santiago de Cuba upon the occasion of the recent frightful massacre of the crew and passengers of the American steamship Virginius.

Yesterday afternoon a HERALD reporter paid a visit to the National Hotel, in Cortlandt street, and after scanning the numerous visitors seated in the reception room saw among them a dark complexioned gentleman, wearing a "chalico" vest, with "*becerro birado*" shoes and a large pith hat, or sombrero. In answer to a question from the reporter Mr. Sherman, for such he proved to be, replied that he had arrived from Santiago de Cuba, where he had been imprisoned by the Spanish authorities for taking sketches of the butchery of the first victims—viz., José Jesus del Sol, Pedro Cespedes, General W. A. C. Ryan and General Bérnabé Varona.

The following is the story given by Mr. Sherman:—

A GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

"I have been residing for some time back in Santiago de Cuba, and saw several of the wholesale executions or butcheries. I will give you the following details of the first four men killed, prefacing it with the remark that I saw the Virginius brought into the port of Santiago de Cuba, on the evening of the 1st inst., the time being five o'clock as nearly as I can remember, with the Spanish colors flying. Of course you know all about the hasty trial and Burriel's excuse for not replying to the urgent letters of Vice Consul Smith, on account of his religious observance of All Saints day. The slaughter house where the first butchery took place is about 1,600 feet square, which gives a lineal frontage to each side of about 400 feet. The men in question were placed in front of this place, which is an adobe building of about 13 or 14 feet in height (in which are imbedded thousands of bullets), with an overhanging roof, while on the ground a gutter has been constructed to receive the rain which may trickle from off the roof. Ryan refused to kneel, although repeated efforts were made to make him do so. I knew it was Ryan, because he had no beard or mustache. The men were all bound and placed near the gutter just described. After many rounds had been fired the men were considered dead, but it was found that Ryan was not dead, and a sword was plunged into his body—but not into his heart as stated. The first blows given were into his abdomen. The soldiers who had been detailed to do this work by General Burriel were wretched marksmen. After this a number of cavalrymen came on to the spot and

RODE THEIR HORSES OVER THE BLEEDING CORPSES

till they were in an almost unrecognized state. The four heads were cut off and placed on poles, and carried round by the people in triumph. The bodies were then, or, rather what remained of them, placed in a cart and taken out to a marshy spot, about a mile from the place of execution, and dumped out like a load of dirt in an open ditch where a few inches of mother earth were, perhaps, placed upon them by order of Burriel; or, perhaps, not. I felt quite ill over the sight of this bloodthirsty work. I, however, endeavored to make some sketches of the harrowing scence, and for this I was arrested and thrown into jail, until I was released after I had been kept for three and a half days in that noisome pen. It made me terribly ill and brought on a relapse of a fever attack from which I had been suffering for some time. I, however, obtained my liberty through the mediation of our Consul General at Havana. I saw likewise the second and third executions or butcheries. I believe that the break in the interruption to the telegraph wires was a Spanish ruse of Burriel to allow no communication with the Captain General till the majority of the Virginius people had been shot and he had accomplished his wholesale slaughter without receiving waiting orders from Havana or Madrid.

AN INTERVIEW WITH CAPTAIN FRY.

"I saw Captain Fry, the commander of the Virginius, while in prison, and I thought a good deal of him on account of his fortitude. He leaves eight children, I believe, but the chief engineer of the Virginius leaves nine, I am told. It was impossible for me to say more than a word or two of sympathy to Fry. There is no doubt that the survivors of the Virginius will be condemned to long periods of imprisonment, including also the mere boys who had the misfortune to be on the ill-fated craft. We Americans, living abroad, say that our government invariably fails to protect its citizens when in trouble as the British government does, and I am of the belief that nothing will be done for an indefinite time about the Virginius matter. Perhaps reams of correspondence will be exchanged between the so-called Spanish Republic and the United States, or perhaps the matter may be handed over to Kaiser Wilhelm to adjudicate upon. What a mockery of retributive justice, continued Mr. Sherman, with bitterness! As long as they have coal at Washington to warm their toes from a good big stove our rulers don't care a snap what happens to outsiders.

"Cuba is in a complete state of anarchy, and from my recent experience I can give you the following sample:—I was twice fired at for refusing to give the password of 'Spain,' when challenged, while travelling, as to 'Who goes there?' In conclusion, all I have to say is that if ever the United States was called upon to act with energy it is at the present moment, for the national honor is at stake."

HOW IS THIS?

Consul General Hall, in his official despatches to the State Department, dated Havana, November 13, says that no executions had taken place subsequently to those reported on the 8th, amounting in all—according to our official reports—to 53 persons. The *Eco de Cuba*, under date of November 13, has the following:—

THE LATEST NEWS.

At going to press with this number we have received papers from Santiago de Cuba. According to them 57 more of the pirates apprehended on the Virginius were shot on the 10th.

The trials were being prosecuted with activity, and well informed persons have given us to understand that only about 18 persons will escape the extreme penalty of the law; some—as engineers, minors of age and others who were forcibly embarked—will be spared, because they did not know where they were going. It was considered that only four or five would obtain absolute liberty.

THE TORNADO'S BOARDING PARTY.

Report of Midshipman Don Angel Ortiz Mawasterio—How He Found Things on the Virginius—Hauls Down the American Flag and Hoists the Standard of Spain.

[From the Echo de Cuba, of Havana, Nov. 15.]

Mr. Ortiz gives the following account of the boarding of the Virginius:—

ON BOARD THE TORNADO,
SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Nov. 2, 1873.

In consequence of instructions received from you to proceed and capture the ship which you had chased during the afternoon and at night of the 31st, I embarked in the quarter boat of this corvette, accompanied by the first engineer and four firemen, besides the boat's crew, which was indiscriminately made up of persons from all classes of the sailors and troops on board this ship. In those moments of enthusiasm it was impossible to prevent those who wished from embarking in the boat. Having pushed off from this ship I directed my course towards the steamer chased. At nearing and finding her full of people I remarked that any aggression on their part would be energetically chastised by our forces. After this the boat came alongside of the steamer and was, with my assistance, made fast to her. At the same time I ordered all the people on the boat to board the chase, which was properly effected after I had boarded. As soon as I found myself on deck I inquired for the captain. As soon as he presented himself he said that the ship was the American merchant steamer Virginius, whose papers I demanded, and they were delivered to me. I notified him that from that moment the ship was captured and he and all the crew and passengers were prisoners at my orders. At the same moment I ordered our people to take possession of the helm and ship, commissioning the first engineer to take charge of the engine, telling all of them that our presence there would be no obstacle in the way of the corvette's sinking the ship as soon as any aggression might be noted, and that every attempt to disable the machinery, boiler or ship would be immediately and energetically punished by the forces under my orders. In possession of the ship, I learned from the first engineer that the engine was in working order, although it suffered from defects which I shall mention further on. Midshipman Don Enrique Pardo having opportunely arrived with reinforcements in another boat I ordered him to remain on board with half of the crew, and proceeded to embark the prisoners, in conformity with the orders which you had given me. Having completed this task with the aid of the boats that successively arrived, with the exception of the captain and 16 persons, the people on the Virginius were transferred onboard the corvette. The Midshipman of the Navy Don Enrique Pardo, from the first moment of his presence on board, accompanied by some of our sailors, made a scrupulous search of the ship, finding in the forecastle a considerable number of people, whom I ordered to retire toward the quarterdeck to send them to the corvette under your command. I must observe that even after I was on board, goods belonging to the cargo were thrown into the sea from the prow.

After finishing the disembarkation of the prisoners and securing the disembarkation of those who remained, I had time to examine the state of the ship, which was in a very lamentable condition. The furnaces were not only dirty because of the considerable quantity of grease and hams with which they had been fed, but also the machinery and the packing were in bad condition; for they had suffered much during the chase.

The vessel was making a considerable quantity of water in a badly caiked point that there is towards the prow, under the water line generally, on account of the bad condition of the bottom; for she has labored much during the chase. It not being possible to reach the forward section of the ship, for want of means of communication, the rest of her and the machinery were attended to. Her aspect was truly repugnant. She was not only full of grease and broken boxes, that served as packing to the rest of the cargo, but also in a notably abandoned condition. The dead angle of the port hole was very much damaged, because from this place the cargo of arms and ammunition was thrown into the water, to do which they had mounted a block and pulley, that as yet remain in the same place. The cabin was in disorder, trunks open, clothes thrown about, portmanteaus entirely destroyed, and in all parts of the ship unmistakable signs that everything of any value had been thrown into the water. Not only were there open arms boxes there, but even cartridges of rifle and revolver, boxes of leather, belts, machetes and insurgent cockades. Under the coal there are barrels, but it has not been possible for me to divert the people's attention to examine them, because I could not neglect guard duty, which has been strictly attended to without intermission. Saddles, insurgent buttons and a portion of papers and effects that were scattered about in all directions have been gathered up by my orders. After finishing the work of transferring the people, the officer, Don Henrique Pardo, returned to the corvette, and I confided to him the papers which the Captain had delivered to me, so that he should place them in your hands, and by him I informed you verbally of all that had happened; the state in which the ship was found; the measures that had been executed, as also of having taken down the American flag, which, as a pirate, the ship should not be permitted to use, and raising instantly our standard. After finishing the capture, transferring the people and dictating the measures which at each moment I thought urgent, and finding, upon proof, that the engines were in working condition, the second officer of the corvette came on board to take command. I made formal delivery of it to him, reporting the services of the individuals who had accompanied me. Their zeal, activity, intelligence and devotedness had shown me to what degree each one had engraved on his heart the distinctive characters of an honorable and brave man.

The officer, Pardo, was present everywhere; the first engineer, Don Santiago Mockabee; the sailing master, Duque; the corporal of the marines, Torres, whose knowledge of English helped me greatly, and in general all, each in his place, I may say with satisfaction, exceeded his duty, not only before, but also in the moment of and after capture. An instant of rest has not been indulged in until after the ship anchored in this port. All the goods found remain where they were, waiting for the parser to make an inventory of them. The Captain and prisoners have been treated with all sorts of considerations due to men in misfortune, compatible with the security of the ship; and of this treatment I have the satisfaction to say that they are all thankful.

This is everything that I can say to you as the officer charged with the boarding and capture, and as commander of the ship up till the moment of starting home; it remaining only to say that the engineers of the Virginius have, while coming here, lent estimable services, worthy of eulogy.

I profit by this occasion to congratulate you for the very signal service which you, with the ship under your command, have lent to the country, due to your intelligence, energy and enthusiasm. I am also requested by the individuals who are at my command to compliment you for the well directed orders which you gave me.

God guard you many years!

ANGEL ORTIZ MONASTERIO.

PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT TOWN.

People Becoming Disgusted with Governmental Lily-Livered Dilatoriness—What a Merchant Thinks—A Cuban Voice for Cuba—Startling Suspicions—Have All the Prisoners Been Murdered?

There can be no doubt that the extremely cautious movements of the government are gradually impressing the public mind that there will be no war with Spain, and that the people are composing themselves, with illy-concealed chagrin, to learn, in the course of events, that the government will be "dickered" by Spain until the nation is cheated out of the reparation which is its due. The intimations thrown out by despatches from Madrid and Washington, published yesterday, fell like a wet blanket upon the people at large, and had a visible effect.

Among all classes of people these despatches were construed as mere avant couriers of the policy of the administration. A HERALD reporter conversed yesterday with scores of people in various classes of society—merchants, importers, lawyers, clerks and tradesmen, and every one of them frankly conceded the belief that the government did not mean to push things resolutely. A conversation with a merchant in Beaver street led to the expression of his views to the effect that the government intended the present naval demonstration only as an auxiliary to diplomatic action. "Don't you observe," he inquired, "that there is nothing being done in the way of preparing any military demonstration? I look upon that fact as extremely significant. If we are even likely to go to war it is but reasonable to assume that the government would at least

RECRUIT THE REGULAR ARMY

to its fullest possible strength. That might be done in the course of a month; but the raising, organizing and equipping of volunteer troops would take every day of three months, with all the benefits of our past experience, before they would be in condition to embark. Our navy has been sadly out of order, and the vessels must be put in trim to keep them from rotting, and the government is simply killing two birds with one stone. It takes advantage of this opportunity to put the vessels in order, well knowing that there will be no outcry made against it by the old fogy economists on account of the emergency of the situation, and, at the same time, as I said before, it will be useful to back up the diplomacy. Depend upon it, Mr. Reporter, you will have a warfare of quills and red tape that will last two years out of this Virginius outrage, but our navy will not be called on to fire a single shot."

This conversation fairly illustrates the general opinion, and there is no doubt of the fact that the public disgust is also very general on the subject.

AMONG THE CUBANS

there was a somewhat depressed feeling in consequence of the prevailing sentiment. They, of course, are desirous of some direct form of interference by the government of the United States, so that it may lead to at least a recognition of the struggling Cubans as belligérents. With this much conceded to them they claim that they could unquestionably achieve their independence, though in general terms their most prominent leaders in this city express their complete indifference as to whether the island is to be independent or to be annexed to the United States.

A PROMINENT CUBAN

said yesterday:—"We desire only to wrest the island from Spanish domination, and are willing to do all we can to-morrow to bring it into the Union of American States if this government will recognize our belligerency. The Cubans, as a people, do not ask that the American people shall fight for us a war which we inaugurated, but if circumstances should enable them to furnish us arms coequally with the rights which Spain enjoys in that regard we can conquer the island, in fact overrun it, ourselves. Put 40,000 stand of arms in Cuba to-morrow and we will guarantee that 40,000 Cubans will rise and grasp them—Cubans who at present remain passive solely because they have no arms with which to become aggressive. Spain recognized the belligerency of the Southern Confederacy within less than three months after Fort Sumter was fired on. We have maintained for five years a rebellion which, however desultory Americans may consider it, Spain has been powerless to subdue, and it would be not at all ungrateful of the United States to recognize us now, considering

THE COURSE WHICH SPAIN ADOPTED

toward this country. Spain maintains slavery in the island, but the Congress of the Cuban Provisional Republic has passed a law abolishing slavery wherever they dominate any part of the island. Americans claim to be opposed to slavery; they can help the cause in Cuba if they will. Then, sir, let me call your attention to the sympathy which many prominent men ask for Spain as 'a sister republic.' Now, sir, I can assert that our little struggling Republic of Cuba, and which your people have not yet chosen to call 'a sister republic,' will be a republic when the present sham Republic of Spain is wiped out, which I think you will find to be the case before another six months, or, at most a year, has passed. If those men have such strong yearnings for young republics, why did they never express it toward our little Republic when it was battling against the monarchies of Isabella and Amadeus?"

At this point the gentleman excused himself, as he had to keep an engagement, and took his departure.

THE GREATEST EXCITEMENT

prevailed in Cuban circles yesterday on the strength of the information contained in a paper received from Havana, dated the 15th of November, in which it was stated "We have received Santiago de Cuba newspapers announcing that on the 10th instant 57 more of the Virginius pirates were shot." It will be remembered that on the 4th Ryan, Del Sol, Cespedes and Verona were executed; that on the 7th Captain Fry and 36 of his crew were put to death, and that on the 8th Pedro Allaro and 11 companions were shot, making 53 in all.

Subsequently came the report of the shooting of 57 additional, but this latter report was contradicted by Consul General Hall on the 13th, who stated that no prisoners had been executed after the 8th inst.

Cubans in New York have continually since that time expressed to the writer their belief that

NEARLY ALL HAD BEEN EXECUTED,

and now they openly yield to the belief that the first report was true. The despatches referred to will be found in another column, and when it is considered that newspapers of Santiago de Cuba had been received in Havana announcing the executions of the 10th inst., it will be seen that they have just cause for anxiety. It is impossible to conceive that in so small a town as Santiago a newspaper could make such an error as to report 57 executions, which had never taken place. It is still less comprehensible to believe that such an error could occur in a country where everything that is printed in the newspapers is required to pass through the hands of a government censor, as the reports published in the Santiago papers must have done. This is the case as it stands, on the evidence of the Havana paper, which states, "We have received," &c., "Santiago papers." It is not merely that they have heard that Santiago papers have published certain facts.

THE DIAMOND JEWELRY

presented to the Amigos de Cuba, and which was lately exhibited at their headquarters, No. 50 Exchange place, is to be disposed of by lot on the 15th of December. Three thousand tickets have been issued at $1 each. The jewels have been appraised at a valuation of $2,500, and there are over 100 brilliants in the set. It is the gift of a Cuban lady, for the benefit of the sick and wounded of the Cuban patriot forces.

Views of Ex-Governor Fenton.

The news received in this city last evening of further outrages committed on German vessels by Spanish men-of-war in Chinese waters caused a fresh burst of indignation in the minds of the residents of this city, who are already exasperated beyond endurance over the recent massacre of the American citizens and others in the Virginius affair.

A HERALD reporter paid a visit last evening to the Fifth Avenue Hotel to learn from ex-Governor Reuben E. Fenton his views on the subject of the impending war between this country and Spain. The following is the statement of Mr. Fenton:—

"I am too busy to-night to go into the question at length, but I will say that I wrote a letter to the Cuban agents a couple of years ago regretting that the administration had not sooner espoused the cause of free Cuba. I have myself much sympathy with that struggling race. I do not say that I am in favor of war at the present moment, as the Virginius outrage may yet be settled, in my opinion, without resorting to further bloodshed. The honor of our flag must be maintained, however, at all costs. We all feel, as Americans, that our national dignity has been lessened by these repeated insults and outrages which we have had to suffer at the hands of Spain, and everybody in the United States would have been glad if something had been done ere this to stop this treatment of American subjects from the commencement, instead of waiting till the last hour, when it is impossible to do otherwise than take the matter up in sober earnest. I am pleased to see the firm stand taken by the HERALD for the sake of our national honor. What I said to you before I now repeat—I sincerely hope the matter can be settled without war. I am sorry I cannot discuss it further with you, as my time is limited."

General John Cochrane, who was present during the interview, cordially endorsed the views of the ex-Governor.

Views of Congressman W. H. Stone, of Missouri.

A reporter of the HERALD called at Barnum's Hotel to learn the views of Congressman W. H. Stone, of the Third district of Missouri. Unfortunately he was out, but the reporter met in the hotel his friend, Mr. George Bain, one of the representative men of St. Louis, who made the following statement:—

"Congressman Stone is. I can guarantee you, a warm enthusiast for Cuban annexation, and has been connected with our Cuban meetings in St. Louis. The excitement in St. Louis is intense on the subject. All the papers there are for annexation, except Carl Schurz's organ, the *Westliche Post*, which advocates the establishment of an independent Cuban Republic. We can raise 10,000 volunteers there in a fortnight to fight in Cuba. We are raising a subscription fund for the widow and children of the gallant Captain Fry."

The Republican Central Committee and the Cuban Imbroglio—Resolutions Denouncing Spanish Barbarity.

The Republican Central Committee met in Republican Hall, Twenty-third street and Broadway, last evening. The attendance was very large, and included almost all the prominent republicans in the committee—Hon. Thomas Murphy, Collector Arthur, United States District Attorney Bliss, Police Commissioner John R. Russell, Hon. Charles S. Spencer and many others. Mr. Hugh Gardner presided.

United States District Attorney Bliss moved that the election for primaries be ordered for the 9th of December. Adopted.

William A. Darling, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, submitted the following:—

Whereas the seizure of the Virginius upon the high seas, while sailing under the protection of the American flag, and the inhuman barbarity inflicted upon the unresisting crew, have aroused a feeling of universal indignation among the people, and whereas the Republican Central Committee, in common with other citizens, feels called upon to express its abhorrence of such atrocities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the recent acts of outrage upon a vessel carrying the national flag and the brutal and summary execution of the persons seized on board the Virginius demand speedy redress and such indemnity for the future as will prevent a repetition of such acts.

Resolved, That we extend our deepest sympathy and encouragement to all peoples of all countries that are struggling for freedom and for release from the power of tyranny and despotism.

Resolved, That if the people of Spain are sincerely desirous of establishing a republican form of government their first act marking the consistency and justice of their professions will be to release from subjection any portion of their territory, give liberty to the slave and to the people of Cuba a government of their own choice.

Resolved, That we rely with entire confidence upon the wisdom and patriotism of the administration and the war making power of the country to take such action as may be necessary to vindicate the honor of the nation, consistent with the obligations of the government and the best interests of the whole people. (Applause.)

The resolutions were adopted unanimously and with great applause. It was also resolved to send copies of the resolutions to the President and members of the Cabinet.

District Attorney Bliss, from the Committee on Contested Seats, submitted a report on certain contested seats in the Assembly district organizations. The gist of this report was that the charges preferred against the regular organization were quite unfounded, and there was no occasion, therefore, to interfere with the regular district association. The report was adopted with applause, and it was resolved to pay the expenses of the committee who had taken testimony.

The meeting then adjourned, after a remarkably short session. It lasted only half an hour.

JERSEY IMPATIENT FOR FIGHT.

The war feeling in Trenton and vicinity continues in the same feverish state as when the news was first spread of the inhuman butcheries perpetrated by Burriel and his horde of Spanish cutthroats. In military circles as well as in all other places where citizens are wont to assemble for the discussion of the current topics of the hour, the Cuban question monopolizes attention. The war-scarred veterans of many a battle-field and the young and rising generation are eager for the fray to a man. Judging from the free and open manner in which they all express their indignation 3,000 stalwart boys in blue could be mustered into active service within a few days from this section of New Jersey, without any promise being made them of bounty or compensation of any other kind beyond the defraying of the ordinary expenses by the government of their transportation to the "Gem of the Antilles." The Adjutant General of the State is in receipt of communications every day from the different military organizations of the State proffering their services in case of the commencement of hostilities. The colored troops are not behind time in this movement. The chances for the manumission of 400,000 of their enslaved brethren in Cuba are now so manifest that but little impetus is needed to develop their martial spirit in such a glorious cause. Captain E. J. Jordan, Company G, Eighth regiment (colored), Jersey City, has already offered the services of his company. The Third, Seventh and Sixth regiments of New Jersey, through their respective colonels, tendered their services a week ago. The whole cry is, "Revenge for the insult given to the Stars and Stripes and the annexation of Cuba to our great Republic."

BUTCHERED PATERSONIANS.

Among those captured on the Virginius and murdered by the Spaniards were three residents of Paterson, N. J., viz.:—

José Hernandez, aged 21, had been in this country one year previous to his leaving to join the Virginius, and made Paterson his home up to the night before sailing.

Andreas Acosta, a young man, was employed in one of the Paterson machine shops up to the day before he left on the Virginius.

Henry Castellano had been in this country about nine years. He was formerly a captain in the insurgent army in Cuba, but losing his health, he came back and went to Paterson, where he has been living for the past two years. He went on the Atlas and again on the Virginius, on which vessel he was captured. His rank was that of lieutenant. His brother is now a resident of Paterson.

ENGLISH INTERVENTION AT MADRID.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

The object of Mr. Layard's intervention at Madrid in the present crisis ought to be made clear to the American public. It may be broadly asserted that every step he has taken, and will take, is made in the interest of the English holders of Spanish bonds. As a rule, these English bondholders rant about the utter want of honor and patriotism in this country. Now, when it suits their interest, they call for arbitration, and if they succeed, as they desire, in adding another stigma to our flag they will laugh at us with a broader grin than ever.

Last year Spain was unable to pay the interest on her bonds to John Bull. There was immense trouble over the matter. However, by private arrangement with the Rothschilds and English merchant princes, the money was finally raised, these interested parties having taken other guarantees from Spain for the interest paid.

These few facts explain the object and motive of English intervention at Madrid. John Bull's breeches' pockets are touched in this matter, and there is nothing so sacred. Yours, &c., D. J. M.

QUARANTINE MATTERS.

The season of rigid quarantine restriction which terminated a few weeks since was a busy and anxious one, and but few persons in this section of the country were more delighted at the appearance of fr