

CONTINUED FROM THIRD PAGE.

Spain which have disgraced every one of the innumerable political convulsions to which Spain has been subjected during the last forty years.

THE SITUATION.

Negotiations Still Pending and the State Department Ominously Silent.

Secretary Fish and Secretary Robeson Report at Cabinet Council.

The Heroes of the War of the Rebellion in Council.

Grant and Sherman Discuss Military Prospects with Serious Motive.

THE VIRGINIUS'S SINKING.

A Midnight Rumor Saying That Castelar Surrenders to Grant.

Premier Gladstone Pronounces the American Demands as Just.

THE ANSWER, IF TRUE.

A Rumor Announcing Castelar's Concession to President Grant's Ultimatum.

Washington, Nov. 28, 1873. The rumor at midnight was that the Spanish Ministry had agreed to the ultimatum of the President.

The Chronicle has a special from a correspondent in New York as follows:—

"I am just in receipt of a cipher despatch from Madrid, which says that a despatch just received there from Gladstone, instructs the British Minister at Madrid to say to Castelar's government that the British government considers the ultimatum of the United States moderate and that it ought to be promptly accepted."

This inference is regarded as indicating great anxiety on the part of Great Britain to prevent any collision between the United States and Spain in which she might suffer.

Minister Layard says that this instruction was the result of a long meeting of the British Cabinet. It has had a marked effect upon the situation at Madrid, and will do much to prevent collision.

The State Department Refuses Any Information—Fears of New Complications—Friends of Castelar Telegraph to Madrid Daily the Herald's Views.

Washington, Nov. 28, 1873. Secretary Fish positively refuses to give any information respecting the present state of the negotiations. It is believed here that this reticence on the part of the Secretary is sufficient proof for the conclusion that Spain is still dallying about her concession to some of the demands made by the United States. The anxiety manifested here is intense to ascertain the probability of a Spanish refusal, and, though the peace sentiment largely prevails, yet

THIS INCOMPLETENESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, which it had been believed would have been by this time concluded, has revived to a considerable extent the fever which was created when the insuit to the American flag became fully understood. The accuracy of the Herald's despatches from Madrid giving a detailed account of the action of the government in regard to the difficulty, so carefully concealed by the officials here, has made the Secretary of State dread the publication of news as to the exact progress that has so far been made in the negotiations, in the fear that

UNFORESEEN COMPLICATIONS MIGHT ARISE. In view of the fact that the Herald's news has been received by the country as a genuine report of the position of the United States government toward Spain in the Virginia case, and that consequently the public are in possession of the questions to which Spain must reply, affirmatively or negatively, the State Department is resolved not to allow any information to leak out

which could possibly serve as a basis for a judgment respecting the answer of Spain until, beyond all doubt, the official answer to our ultimatum had been formally received. Secretary Fish to-day admitted to Senator Harlan that everything the Herald had published in connection with the demands made by this government upon Spain was correct, and had been telegraphed from the State Department to Madrid. The Secretary further stated that

FRIENDS OF CASTELAR in this country daily telegraphed him the views expressed by the Herald on the pending question, and that the gravest importance was attached to them by the Spanish President. This was another reason why Secretary Fish refused to-day to make any communications from which the probabilities of peace or war might be inferred.

Increasing Excitement—Reticence of Officials Caused by the Incomplete-ness of the Negotiations—Revival of the Rumors About General Sickles' Departure and the Scuttling of the Virginias.

Washington, Nov. 28, 1873. Much excitement exists on the Spanish question, which is heightened by the reticence in official quarters to give information concerning it.

THE WITHHOLDING OF INTELLIGENCE is based on the impropriety of imparting information on the present stage of the negotiations, which indicates their incompleteness. Although it has been repeatedly denied that General Sickles

has left Madrid for Paris with the Virginias has been scuttled.

THE REPORTS ARE PERSISTENTLY CIRCULATED to-day and believed by many who seem to place no confidence in official utterances. The mere reticence on the part of executive officers to converse on the subject is regarded by many as being

CALCULATED TO LESSEN THE HOPE lately entertained of a peaceful solution of the difficulty. But at present nothing official has transpired to warrant a definite statement concerning it.

Meeting of the Cabinet—Secretary Fish and Secretary Robeson Report Progress—Grant, Sherman and Sheridan in Council—Discussion as to the Required Military Operations—Complaints to United States Army Officers.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28, 1873. The regular Cabinet meeting to-day was not unusually long. The Spanish relations were, of course, the principal subject under discussion. Secretary Fish was at the White House some time before the hour of meeting in conference with the President. He communicated at the session all the despatches received and sent since the last meeting touching upon the Virginias in its new attitude. The Secretary of the Navy, who has just returned from his tour of inspection of the Philadelphia and Brooklyn Navy Yards, gave an account of the progress of work on the various ships-of-war which are now being fitted for sea. What further transpired at the meeting has not yet been divulged. Mindful of all contingencies, military preparations are being made as far as possible in the event of a rupture. The presence of Lieutenant General Sheridan in the city enables the government to have the benefit of the advice and the experience of the two highest officers of the army. General Sheridan has since his arrival had several interviews with the President, the Secretary of War and General Sherman. To-night General Sheridan dined with General Sherman. It is considered not unlikely in case of war that General Sherman will himself command the armies in the field.

THE ARMY CHIEFS IN COUNCIL. The consultations held to-day between the distinguished military officials of the government had special reference to the most expeditious and efficient method of organizing the army and its base of operations. There is a difference of opinion in regard to the best point of departure for the transports. New Orleans has the advantage of contiguity to the island and abundant facilities for storage of military supplies. New York possesses greater means of transportation, being the principal centre of the steam carrying trade of the United States; but during the winter season the passage from New York to Havana is delayed and endangered by the tempestuous weather to be encountered in rounding Cape Hatteras, while adverse weather is almost unknown in the Gulf. A patrolling fleet in Florida Channel would afford sufficient protection to transports starting from New Orleans, while on the long voyage from New York they would be in constant jeopardy of being overtaken by some fast sailing cruiser. The opinion of these officers is that coming so unexpectedly, as would be the case if present negotiations are broken off, the government would be compelled to have

an invading army at the earliest possible moment. The volunteers must always be the main defence of the Nation; but to properly organize a volunteer army for a foreign war would be a labor of months, notwithstanding the experience of our late war. It is therefore suggested, as a matter of expediency, to issue

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS—NOT LESS THAN 75,000—a portion of which to be immediately despatched to the frontier to garrison the various posts and forts in the Indian country. The regulars now occupying those posts would be transferred East, to rendezvous, in all probability, at New Orleans, at which point, in the opinion of General Sherman, the whole available regular force could be concentrated and be ready to move within the space of 30 days. The remainder of the volunteer force could be organized and equipped to follow the regulars. It is now suggested that

ONE HUNDRED MEN BE ADDED TO THE COMPANY STRANDED AT THE BAY OF MATAGON, as after his extended tour of observation through Europe General Sherman believes our officers to be the best in the world, and fully capable of commanding this number of men. It is held by these officers that it would be the part of wisdom and foresight to organize at the beginning an army of sufficient size to prosecute the campaign vigorously and to an immediate and victorious finality. Their opinion is that the strongest force of the Spanish soldiery and Cuban volunteers that can be mustered on the island will not number over 75,000 men, badly officered and poorly armed; and for this reason even as an army of invasion, they think that an equal number on our side, with our brave and efficient officers and men, our improved arms and artillery, would be entirely sufficient to accomplish the desired results. The impression is that

FOUR BATTLES WOULD END THE CONTEST IN THE FIELD. and that the siege and capitulation of Havana would be the most difficult part of the campaign. If the emergency arises, it is the opinion of the military officers that Congress should act with the greatest liberality in the matter of appropriations, as it would otherwise be a cause of hindrance to military operations, both as regards the economical purchase of supplies and the rapid movements of troops. It is estimated that by the accumulation of supplies in sufficient quantities the expedition could be provisioned for at least six months, which would obviate the necessity of depending solely upon uninterrupted communication between Cuba and the base of supplies.

PROVEYING THEIR SERVICES. Tenders of service continue to come to the government from prominent officers of both the North and the South. One of the latest who offers his sword is General N. B. Forrest, the celebrated Confederate cavalry general.

THE THROWING OF THE VIRGINIUS CASE INTO CONGRESS, should the two administrations at Washington and Madrid fail to come to an agreement, will not be the firebrand it would have been two weeks ago. This is everywhere seen by those who have talked the past day or two with the Senators and Representatives already here. Few of them manifest any desire for the acquisition of Cuba, and it seems pretty evident that the St. Domingo scheme and the experience of the States in Louisiana and South Carolina have checked the feeling for the annexation of territory burdened with degraded populations. New England as represented in Congress is strongly conservative on the Virginias question, with a very strong disposition to settle the rights and liabilities of the vessel before committing the country to war or other extreme measures. If the case gets before Congress in its present shape, it is quite certain that a long and tedious debate, going to the bottom of the whole subject and involving elaborate views of the rights of belligerents, the duties of neutrals, the customs of war and the law of nations will precede any active measures. In the present subdued tone of Congressional feeling, many think the chances of a peaceful outcome of the matter would be better if a public discussion at the Capitol, while Mr. Fish could still be giving a listening to modified projects of settlement. The ultimatum of the President, as printed in the Herald, is the only one that will unite the members from the West and South, and a prominent republican Congressman said that he was satisfied two-thirds of the members would support the President in his demand.

THE CONFEDERATE OFFICERS, who were graduates of West Point and resident in Virginia, are, it is said, unanimously in favor of fighting under the old flag, and will prove their loyalty whenever the opportunity offers. It is stated to-night that a bill will be offered immediately after the organization of the House to re-entrench the old officers of the army and navy who went into the rebellion.

Business at the Brooklyn Navy Yard

Yesterday—Progress of Work on the War Vessels—The Arapplies Getting Ready for Sea.

The executive officer of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Captain Ransom, who has been ordered to take command of the steam frigate Colorado, yesterday morning turned over the duties of executive of the yard to his assistant, Captain Ralph Chandler. The latter named official will be relieved on Monday by Captain R. W. Shufeldit. Rear Admiral Melancthon Smith visited Rear Admiral Rowan, with whom he held a conference yesterday concerning affairs at this station. Stores are being taken on board the Colorado, and she will doubtless go into commission about the middle of next week. Her Captain takes command on Monday, December 1, and her crew, which will number 600 men, in rapidly recruiting on board the receiving ship Arapplies. No additions have been made to the working forces of the yard during the past four days.

The tugboat which is to be placed in the divisional flag of Commodore Rodgers, cannot be ready for sea before the middle of January. There are about 200 men working on her, and her lower masts are being shipped. She is carried among naval officers, and a great many applications are made at headquarters for assignment to duty on this frigate. The tugboat is being placed in her boilers, as the old ones are rusty and worn out in many cases. Machinery work night and day on the tugboat is being pushed forward. The tugboat is being placed in her boilers, as the old ones are rusty and worn out in many cases. Machinery work night and day on the tugboat is being pushed forward. The tugboat is being placed in her boilers, as the old ones are rusty and worn out in many cases. Machinery work night and day on the tugboat is being pushed forward.

The Florida has been relieved of her wooden covering, and a force of carpenters and machinists has been at work on her for several days. The Colorado leaves the Florida will be taken down to the dock which the Colorado now occupies, and the rigging of the Florida will be taken down to the dock which the Colorado now occupies, and the rigging of the Florida will be taken down to the dock which the Colorado now occupies.

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of splendid weather. The men on board both vessels were much encouraged, and hoped to be able to make Key West in less than 10 days at the fastest. The night came on very clear, but the wind began to increase towards midnight until, at about four o'clock, it was

blowing very strong from the southwest. The monitor began to labor heavily; every sea swept her decks to a depth of at least four feet, and every rig began to show themselves on every wave. The vessel began to work loose and the water came in in streams around the base of the turret. The course was now about south-south-west, for the Powhatan had run fully 20 miles out to sea in order to avoid all shoal water, so that the Manhattan took head seas on board, which increased in size with every moment.

Her condition was really appalling. The water in her hold was gaining on the pumps; everything and everybody below deck were wet, and water dripped from the deck beams on the wardroom table. No one had slept any during the night. Commander Yates was game however, and although the bilge pumps were manned and worked with chips, the hand pumps were manned and the Manhattan kept head on to the sea.

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SPAIN.

The Bombardment of Cartagena Resumed—Desperate Resistance by the Insurgents. TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

MADRID, Nov. 28, 1873. During the two hours' truce at Cartagena yesterday the Italian Admiral sent a vessel to the city, which returned with a number of non-combatants. At the close of the truce firing was resumed on both sides, and it continues to-day. The insurgents are making a desperate defence.

Report of the Operations During the Bombardment—Effect of the Shot in the City—The Black Flag Raised on the Forts—Two Hundred Persons Killed and Wounded. LONDON, Nov. 29—6 A. M.

Special despatches to the Times and Standard give particulars of the bombardment of Cartagena. On Wednesday the arsenal and barracks were the chief marks for the bestigators' artillery; but the cathedral and hospital were also struck. On Friday the theatre, the Protestant church and two entire streets were destroyed and 200 persons were killed and wounded within the city.

THE BLACK FLAG. The insurgents have raised the black flag on the forts. THE FIRE SUBSIDING. At last accounts the fire around the city was subsiding. LOSS OF THE BESIEGERS. The loss of the besiegers has been exceedingly small. CONCESSION TO FOREIGN MEDIATION. The officers of the foreign squadrons succeeded in obtaining an armistice of four hours on Friday night. Carlist Report of the Condition of the Republican Army.

BAYONNE, Nov. 28, 1873. The Carlists report that typhus and smallpox prevail to such an extent in General Moriones' army that it is unable to make any offensive movement.

At the celebration last night of the veterans of the war of 1812 General Sherman responded to the toast to the army and navy, saying that, as the most of those present were old soldiers, they would be glad to see the army and navy as they were in 1812. He had been connected with the army since 1840. It was not his fortune to be in the war of 1812. He was born after they were commissioned officers, and he had not reached the head of the Army of the United States, which he had attained by fair, square promotion and service. He was

GLAD TO ASSURE THE VETERANS they now have in the army as fine a set of young men as perhaps they were, and nine-tenths of them had seen service in the war of the rebellion, most of them being veterans of from 8 to 20 battles. At present the army is greatly reduced, and they who had not been West could scarcely comprehend how scattered the army is and how thin, numbering, as it does, only about 30,000 men, and one-third nearly are non-combatants. Even for the purposes of defence only it is much too small; but should the occasion arise a war with Spain or other Power they could fill the ranks by the blast of a trumpet, and stand as bravely as the old soldiers. This had been proved in the late war. The men that had come from their vocations and entered the ranks, making excellent soldiers, with an alacrity that was astonishing, and at the close of the war they cheerfully went back to their professions as if no war had occurred. It was predicted during the late war that the country would be ruined by the military when the war closed; that they would never return to their former vocations without regret, poverty, &c. In fact the whole army, regular and volunteer, were a band of thieves and robbers. But they had proved

AMERICANS CAN TAKE UP THEIR ARMS AND LAY THEM DOWN when the war is over with cheerfulness, and quietly resume their professions. This was the case of the war of 1812 and the Mexican war. We have proved that when the necessity for the military is over, the military will return to their life and make among the best citizens of this great Republic. He could say neither regular troops nor volunteers are disturbers of the public peace, but rather the saviours of it, and he could promise that

THE SOLDIERS OF 1812 WILL NOT BE MADE TO FEEL of the young men who now are in the army or may be called into it. The young officers of the army are equal to any officers in the foreign armies. A more brave, intelligent, reliable set of men could not be found. They should not think that men have degenerated, for they have not, and those of the present army would compare favorably with those who were young in 1812. As for the navy, they knew with what despatch it was being equipped, and they knew that the navy of industry, and already are our men-of-war gathering in the quarter where it looks as if they will be needed. They need have no fears for the navy, for he