FREE CUBA.

Cespedes Retires from the Presidency.

SALVADOR CISNEROS SUCCEEDS HIM

The Battle of La Zanja—Spanish Defeat.

Two Hundred and Sixty Spaniards Killed and 400 Rifles, with Much Ammunition, Captured by the Cubans.

Circumstantial Details of the Battle of Holguin.

MANZANILLO, Nov. 20, 1873.

A most remarkable event has just taken place here; remarkable when we take into account the recent execution of the prisoners of the Virginius.

On the night of the 17th three officers, who belonged to Colonel Dieguez's column and who were taken prisoners by the insurgent forces, quietly came into town, having been set at liberty by the government of the Cuban Republic. These officers were accompanied until near the entrance of the town by an insurgent party, and were the bearers of a letter from the Cuban Major General Calixto Garcia, in which he begs the Spanish government to carry on the campaign in a civilized manner and not wage a war after the fashion of savages, which has been hitherto the course of the Spanish soldiers and their officers.

But how little does Calixto Garcia know the history of these Visgioths—that fatal race who arose from the south of Sweden, and, defeated by the Huns, overrun Thrace, leaving behind them

A WAKE OF BLOOD AND RUIN!

You may rest assured that Cespedes has ceased to be the President of the Cuban Republic, and that his successor is Salvador Cisneros, Marquis of Santa Lucia, and a native of Puerto Principe. The reason of the change appears to have been the bad state of health of the former, but the fact is that the latter at present occupies the first place of the Republic, this duty having fallen upon the Marquis as President of the Cuban Cámara (Chamber of Deputies), until elections can be held. Calixto Garcia is spoken of as the probable candidate for the Presidency.

At another time I shall give you all the particulars and official data in relation thereto.

The following proclamation by Vicente Garcia, before the attack on La Zanja, October 12, and the official reports of that action, with a list of prisoners and a number of other important and interesting documents have reached your correspondent through a "special" by the underground railroad, and will, no doubt, be read with interest by the HERALD readers. It is as follows:—

Spanish domination in Cuba is rapidly reaching its end. Its defenders are defeated throughout the territory of the Republic. The enemy scarcely dares to come out of his entrenched towns, and 'tis there we must seek him.

Those Cubans who, with our enemy, were his principal support, are now recognizing their error, and are everywhere abandoning him and coming over to our side, to our aid. Receive all such as brothers. We are about to march against the enemy's encampment of "La Zanja." Perhaps you may not be called upon to fight, provided the garrison will surrender to save their lives; but, should it be necessary, recollect that you carry with you the elements of victory, without which assurance I would not expose the life of the least of my soldiers.

At all events your well-known valor will conquer those opposed to you. Your discipline and exact obedience to the orders of your chief, and the consciences of free and civilized men will prevail over your foes. Spare the conquered; avoid all useless shedding of blood; respect the defenceless and succor the weak.

Act thus and the country and myself will be well content, having no punishment to inflict but only good actions to reward. Viva Cuba!

VICENTE GARCIA, Major General.

The following is the report of Major General Vicente Garcia to the Secretary of War, concerning the action of La Zanja, on the 12th of October:—

No. 126. HEADQUARTERS
ZANJA DE CABANIGUAN, Oct. 14, 1873.

TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR:—

The reaction in our favor among the people and volunteers of this place being almost complete, and knowing that the enemy kept in his forts quite a store of munitions of war, I determined to attack them on the night of the 12th inst. in the manner stated in the "order of the day" of that day, a copy of which I send herewith.

At four o'clock in the afternoon, after reading to the troops the decree of the President of the Republic of the 16th of August last, relative to the regularization of the war on our side, and the address (copies of which I also accompany), I took up the march from Rincon Hondo with 300 infantry and 50 cavalry of the second division, which I considered a strong enough force to obtain the result I proposed. I arrived in the vicinity of this town at about eight o'clock in the evening, where I was joined by the volunteers José Rafael Ramirez, Francisco Cediño and Manuel Fonseca, who were to act as guides.

Advanced guards were stationed on the roads leading to this place, and at ten o'clock (night), according to the preconcerted plan, Colonel Angel Mestre, with 50 men, attacked the principal fort, which is square in form, with an entrenched ditch and stockade. The guard was surprised and overpowered, and Major Felipe Rodriguez, with one party, rapidly entered on one side, and Captain Vicente Cortina on the other with another party, both falling upon the garrison, who had their headquarters within the storehouse, in the centre of the fort. The garrison was

COMPLETELY SURPRISED, AND SURRENDERED

without firing a shot, only a corporal and four soldiers escaping. In the hand-to-hand fight, which lasted a short time, two of the enemy's soldiers were killed and a number wounded, among them the ensign commanding and three others who resisted. The garrison belonged to the Third company of the battalion Cazadores de Aragon.

Simultaneously Captain Julian Santana attacked the advanced work, some 300 yards distant from the principal fort, and making a signal agreed upon with the volunteers stationed there, and aided by them, he penetrated into the post, making four regular soldiers prisoners, without the firing of a shot; but one was wounded for attempting to resist.

After sending the prisoners to our forces in reserve, where their wounds were attended to, the order for a sack was given, limiting the same to the storehouses already mentioned and to four of the principal stores of the town.

As soon as we got possession of the forts our flag was raised over them, and I still remain in the place, transferring the large amount of booty we seized. This is composed of 46 Remington rifles, 30 Belgian rifles, 140,000 cartridges, lead, machetes, horses, clothing, medicine and other useful articles, too numerous to mention.

If the foregoing victory is pleasing to me, it is not the less so that we obtained it without loss of any kind; that our forces acted with decision, order and discipline quite admirably, not a single transgression of orders having been made. If any of the enemy were killed it was because they did not accept the quarter offered them, but resisted to the last.

The number of volunteers and able-bodied men now ready to follow our standard are 45. The remainder—women, old men and children, for the greater part—have chosen to remain here.

As it is not necessary to hold this place, when I leave it I shall set the prisoners at liberty to go where they will. Some of them have applied to me for permission to enter our ranks. I have courteously refused them, and stated that they had better leave, afterwards think over their resolution, and provided they still entertained the same sentiments they might

TAKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PASS OVER

to us, assured that they could be welcomed and considered according to their merits, and the rank equal to that which they held in the Spanish service might be retained by them, and that a higher would be granted if it should appear upon their presentation that they had performed any important service.

I send a list of the prisoners. Those who were wounded were carefully attended to, and those who died were given Christian burial.

With sentiments of the highest consideration and esteem, I am, &c., VICENTE GARCIA,
Chief of the West of the Department of Cauto.

The following graphic letter, under date of October 18, is from Lieutenant Colonel Fernando Figueredas, Chief of Staff to President Carlos Manuel Cespedes:—

I commence this letter by congratulating you for the activity displayed lately in that district, and for the brilliant results obtained under the immediate direction of Major General Cespedes, by the Bayamo forces. At the same time, I can state that the forces operating in this department under command of the gallant Major General Calixto Garcia have nothing for which to envy those of the First division of that army corps. The forces in the East also have had their brows often crowned with the laurels of victory—marching from triumph to triumph.

Of this you may form a slight idea by extracts from the different military reports which have been presented to the government by Major General Garcia Iñiguez, and which I have the pleasure to send you. You may circulate them among your friends; those in the interior as well as those outside, as they keep strictly to the details furnished officially to us, and, therefore, are confined to the truth.

On the 16th of September General Garcia, at the head of a brigade of the Holguin division, from its camp at Barajagua, marched toward the western line. On the 18th, at nine o'clock in the morning, he attacked the Spanish encampment of Guirabo, about a league distant from Holguin. The enemy, surprised at the presence of our soldiers,

ABANDONED THEIR ENTRENCHMENTS,

which, together with the village, were destroyed by the Cuban forces. Twelve were made prisoners and a number of arms and all the war stores captured. A mounted force from Holguin attacked the rear guard of the invading column, and after a short fight it took to flight, leaving three rifles, six horses and side arms behind them.

Upon the 20th, while marching towards Calabazas, the enemy, 500 strong, attacked with a great deal of energy, but receiving suddenly, and almost at the muzzles of the rifles, the fire of our vanguard, which had ambuscaded him, the fire became general and lasted for two hours, at the end of which the enemy retreated, pursued by the First squadron of the Holguin cavalry, under command of their chief, Lieutenant Colonel Limbano Sanchez. In this fight we lost a lieutenant killed and four soldiers were wounded.

On the 21st General Cespedes joined General Garcia at the head of part of his division, and Colonel Peralta in charge of his brigade. On the 25th the forces were encamped at Santa Maria. Colonel Leiva Vidal and Lieutenant Colonel Chala were ordered to destroy the telegraph line from Tunas to Holguin, which was done for the distance of two leagues.

At half-past nine o'clock A. M. on the 26th the enemy again appeared on the same road by which the patriots left. Upon hearing the firing of the advanced pickets Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Cespedes was ordered to hold with his battalion the bank of the river upon which the encampment was situated, while Lieutenant Colonel M. Dominguez (Bayamo) and Lieutenant Colonel Felipe Herrero (Holguin) were ordered to support him.

HERE THE FIGHT COMMENCED

and was kept up with ardor by both parties during some time, at the end of which the enemy was slacking his fire, but without yielding ground. Brigadier Maceo was ordered to leave the position which with part of his division (Holguin) he had taken, and advance against the enemy on the centre, accompanied by General Cespedes' escort; while Colonel Vidal and Lieutenant Colonels Silva and Guerra were to advance on both flanks. This movement was effected with precision, and the strength of our forces falling suddenly upon the enemy, who was hemmed in on both sides, and alarmed at the vigor of our attack, took to flight. The commander of the enemy's column, nevertheless, with several officers and soldiers whom with difficulty the officers held back, dismounted and endeavored to make a stand,

COVERING THEMSELVES WITH THEIR HORSES;

but, charged upon by our troops with vigor, men and horses came to earth pellmell, and the men were all made prisoners. As our men were exhausted by their efforts in the attack Lieutenant Colonel Sanchez was ordered to pursue the flying enemy with his mounted men, thus finishing their defeat and assuring upon our side a complete victory. The result of the fight was as follows:—Two hundred and sixty killed, the greater part by the machete, and left on the field. Among them were the best guide of the Spaniards, Captain Juan Fermin Silverio, the surgeon, and a number of officers; 150 horses, either killed or wounded, and consequently their housings; 400 Remington rifles and about 30,000 cartridges, together with the commissary of the column and its medicine chest; two cases of instruments and medicine; also, 73 prisoners, among whom are the commander of the Spanish column, Colonel Angel Gomez Diegues, alias El Chato; Major Wenceslas Macias, and Lieutenants Juan Cuadrado and José Ferrer Monzo, wounded. The first has four balls in his legs. Captain Andres Cayal, Lieutenant Aurelio Rosales, Sub-Lieutenant Peñalver and an assistant surgeon are also prisoners.

Our losses consisted of the gallant Majors Miguel Masferrer and Peralto, who fell at the first discharge. The glory of giving up their lives for their country also fell to Lieutenant Aurelio Socarras, and a sergeant and corporal. The wounded are Major Marrero, Captain Angel Gonzalez, Lieutenants Augustin Rivera, José Soto, Juan B. Silva, Rafael Diaz, and eight privates.

Part of the foregoing account of this important action I have made from information furnished by one of the Spanish lieutenants, who fell into our hands—a young man of education and fine manners, who tells me that Colonel Gomez Dieguez (since died of his wounds) and a number of the other chiefs and wounded officers are now with General Garcia, under full liberty, dining at the table of the General and attended by the assistant surgeon of their defeated forces. According to their own request, Major Masferrer was buried with all the honors of war, his entire battalion marching in his honor and firing the usual volley over his grave.

General Garcia, in view of the delicate state of the health of the prisoner, Major Macias, had him taken, with one of his soldiers as servant, to the nearest Spanish fort, availing himself of that opportunity to address a note to the Spanish General, Sabas Marin, commanding operations in the Holguin district, communicating to him the disastrous fate of Colonel Dieguez's column, and also that, duly authorized by the government of the Republic,

HE PROPOSED A CHANGE OF PRISONERS,

officers one for another of the same rank, or two privates for every Cuban he held, begging him to send his reply by means of a flag of truce to his headquarters, promising to respect it, whatever might be his determination. General Marin has paid no attention to this proposition.

I repeat again, all the prisoners have been treated, as they themselves assert, with the consideration to be expected from men who fight for a principle. The officers are allowed servants. It is said that Colonel Dieguez, upon finding himself a prisoner of Calixto Garcia, begged him to shoot him. But the General read to him the President's decree of last August, which, as you know, enjoins upon all military commanders to respect and cause to be respected the lives of those who fall into their hands as prisoners. A Spanish lieutenant states that several officers, after using five shots from their revolvers, put an end to their existence with the sixth bullet. He himself attempted it, but his pistol missed fire. Such was the fear which the Spaniards had of falling into our power as prisoners.

Would to God they would follow our example, and in some measure regulate a war which has drawn to itself the attention of the whole world for its horrid barbarity, and which civilized nations have decried for its inhuman proceedings.

General Garcia, aware that the victory he has just gained offered him a brilliant opportunity to carry into effect with success operations against the enemy, took the strongest part of his column and determined to penetrate into the interior of the rich zone between Gibara and Holguin. Notwithstanding the heavy storm that was raging at the time he set out. Our column, on the morning of the 29th, arrived at the village of Mano, halting for about two hours at the estate of the same name, which was destroyed.

The march was kept up, and we entered by Guabasiabo, Minas, Ingenio, Marino, Los Güiros and Telasco, the column leaving behind wherever it went a wake of ruins and ashes, destroying the most productive part of this rich district. At Velasco 18 firearms were seized and 102 prisoners made of the inhabitants, but they were immediately released. On the 2d of October, while our forces were encamped at Chaparra, they were attacked by a column of the enemy, about 1,000 strong, organized from corps at Holguin and Tunas. Lieutenant Colonel Cespedes, who had already previously prepared an ambush, opened fire upon them, and he was reinforced by Lieutenant Colonel Dominguez with his battalion.

The enemy advanced into the centre of the encampment and then fell under the fire of the Holguin division, which had taken up advantageous positions.

Colonel Peralta, with part of his brigade, opened a deadly fire upon the enemy. Meantime Lieutenant Colonel Silva, with part of his battalion, made a flank movement to the right and attacked them in the rear. The enemy's forces ceased firing, and took up a quick march; but all our troops being now united in their rear made a vigorous charge upon them, which caused them to break into a precipitate retreat, although making frequent stands and fighting during the pursuit, which lasted two hours. The enemy left 22 dead bodies on the field, but it was afterward learned that they took off 58 others and a great many wounded; besides a number of rifles and horses were captured. On our side we lost three killed and some officers wounded.

On the 8th, and in the Spanish encampment Yareyal, 80 mounted men organized and kept on the march for Two Rivers, Laconia, Guayabales and Jesus Maria, which villages, all within six leagues of each other, were totally destroyed. On the morning of the 9th, at four o'clock, General Garcia, at the head of his cavalry, passed near Holguin and within rifle shot of its fortifications, and at eight o'clock encamped near Guayabal, after having effected a raid and one of the most important operations which has yet been performed by our forces.

NEWS FROM HAVANA.

Discussion of Possible Hostilities—Noise About American Display of Force—200 Spanish Letters of Marque To Be Issued in Case of War—The "Constancia" On the "Herald"—Butcher Burriel Not Lionized—Assassination of Count Penalver—Minister Soler Regarded as a Natural Curiosity—That "Profound Calm Which Reigns in Cuba"—The Fortifications Being Armed.

HAVANA, Nov. 26, 1873.

The question of the hour, and even of every minute, as the *Diario* calls the all-engrossing question of the capture of the Virginius, still occupies the press of this city, and is the subject of general conversation. The possibility, or the probability, of a war between Spain and the United States is the topic of most general interest. The opinions of the American press, while sneered at and condemned by the Spanish commentators here, have their full weight as expressing the views of the mass of the American people, and are therefore attentively studied. The *Diario* almost daily devotes two or more columns to the task of reciting and reviewing each.

The resolutions lately passed at the Steinway Hall meeting in New York, and the allusions to the difficulties surrounding the new-born Spanish Republic, are especially galling to Spanish pride; which declares that

THE MOST SAVAGE INSULTS

would be more acceptable than such mortifying condolences, and demands that the government and people of the United States shall be just and respectful to old Spain; that nation, they allege, which, when she was mistress of the New World, and had more force than any other in this hemisphere, instead of crushing us in our birth, stretched her hand to George Washington, and aided him to found the States; which, in the progress of time, was to declare herself the arbiter of the destinies of America.

The *Diario* also refers to the display of force now being made in the United States, and says, "Right is better than might. Let the two governments discuss the question, and should it result that Spain ought to give satisfaction, let it be asked without any display of strength and undoubtedly it will be given." The *Diario* concludes the article from which I am quoting as follows:—

The profound calm which reigns throughout Cuba, from Cape San Antonio to Punta Maisi, presents a singular contrast to the agitation of the principal cities of the American Union. The Spaniards—or, if you like, the volunteers—of this province, who have so warmly applauded the capture of the Virginius, without thinking at all of its legal consequences, see with the greatest calmness the momentary ebullition existing in the neighboring Republic, and do not give the least importance to its noisy declarations. With the consciousness of duty and the firmest resolve to perform it, they await events, and, while awaiting them, have not the puerile vanity to say, "We are sure to conquer;" but have the noble pride to state that they know how to conquer or die.

The *Gorro Frigio*, the most radical of republican newspapers here and the opponent of the present system of government, reproduces from the journals of the interior the following, which it denominates "*Muy bueno*," or very good:—

We are told that in Havana there are 200 letters of marque signed in blank, in case any nation should wish to middle in what does not concern it. Although convinced that this occasion will never arise, despite the noise and threats of the "Johnatham's," *(sic)* sons, it is well that they should know how we would receive here those who perform the *rôle* of a bugaboo for children.

The *Constancia*, whose editor has on various occasions for months past, addressed letters in his journal to different persons, under the fictitious guise of an old grandmother—by the way a fit disguise—has lately addressed a labored effort to the proprietor of the NEW YORK HERALD, in the following terms, inspired by the article "Vox Populi" in the HERALD of the 18th.

HEALTH AND FRATERNITY.

* * * With what foundation do you say in your number of the 18th inst. that an insulted people demands satisfaction? Of what insult do you speak and of what satisfaction, citizen?

The speeches of Evarts, Cox, Darling and others, with which you regale us, cannot make either hot or cold to the true-hearted Spaniards, who, notwithstanding the unhappy state of our country, have never doubted in its future, because we have never gone back, as have some traitors, cowards and low minds, on her glorious past."

I find among the memoranda of my notebook that a Spanish General, a native of Cuba to boot, and in command of the army of operations of Rosillon, during the latter part of the last century, ordered a number of officers to be marched past the troops, each one with a

DISTAFF AND SPINDLE IN HIS HAND,

because they had behaved like women in the last action that took place; wherefor, doubt not, citizen, that the Spanish people of Europe, Asia and America will always treat, as did that Spanish General, those political cowards who allow themselves to be imposed upon by the ridiculous gasconades of meddling foreigners.

The director of this journal has already reminded you, citizen, of the military commissions of your own country during the past war, and will some day address you at length on the subject of the confiscations of properties belonging to Confederates and United States citizens who had not rebelled against the unity of the Republic, and the means employed to return them without lowering the dignity of Congress or of the executive power. At present I will limit myself to reminding you that your proposal to interfere in our affairs, under the pretext that Cuba is but a short distance from the United States, is absurd. Is not England just as far distant from Belgium, Holland, France and Germany? But to whom does it occur to say that she has a right to interfere in the interior affairs of a neighboring nation? * * *

I will only say that we have the right to do as we have done, and as the governments of Italy, France, England and the United States have done at all times. Why did not the United States declare war against Great Britain in 1857, when John Lawrence published his rewards, after the bloody executions in India, of

FIFTY RUPEES FOR EVERY SEPOY PRESENTED TO HIM DEAD

or alive, with his arms, and 25 rupees per head for the unarmed ones? Why, in 1868, did not the people and the government of the United States declare war against Great Britain because British officers ordered more than 2,000 prisoners to be hung or shot of those who rose in Jamaica? Is it not true neither, citizen, that the greater part of those who were thus hung or shot in Jamaica suffered this tremendous punishment without being duly tried? But what is true is that in 1865, in Virginia and other States of the great Republic, regenerators and regenerated performed acts resembling those done in Jamaica.

We, the Spaniards, have many vessels and many cannon to mount in them, and in the Antilles, as in the Philippines, in the Peninsula and other Spanish possessions, the immense majority of Spaniards will when occasion arises cause to defile past with distaff and spindle, those few politicians who, through cowardice or compromise, allow themselves to be carried away by your political gasconading friends. D. XI."

Part of the press of Havana abstains from any editorial remarks on the present situation of affairs. The general opinion has been formed from the impression of the New York correspondents of the *Diario* and *Voz de Cuba;* who do not vacillate in asserting that the United States do not want war, and that it is not convenient to Spain. Furthermore, that there exists no motive why these two nations should appeal to force to settle an affair easily arranged diplomatically. This, he says, is also the opinion of the most enlightened men of the Union, and this opinion has been publicly declared by the most eminent statesmen and juris consults of the United States, who, he says, have not hesitated to mention the right that has aided Spain in this affair, according to the principles founded in the international code. The same correspondent affirms that Mr. Caleb Cushing, Senator Sumner, Mr. Woosley and a few thinking minds have recognized that

NO CASUS BELLI EXISTS

on which to base an imperious reclamation; and that they have more or less explicitly stated that Spain had the right to capture the Virginius and punish the expeditionists. In the meantime the forts surrounding Havana are actively engaged in preparing for an emergency. The government have offered $1 50 to all laborers who are willing to work on the forts. The Havana journals to-day, excepting the *Diario* and *Voz de Cuba*, which publish their New York correspondents' precocious insults to the majority of the press of the United States, and the opinions already stated above, keep silent on the question.

The *Diario* and other journals notice the recent arrival here of Brigadier General Burriel, the Commanding General of the Eastern Department, by whose orders the victims of the Virginius were butchered at Santiago de Cuba, and give as their object the desire to felicitate the Captain General and the Colonial Minister upon their safe arrival in Cuba. I am, however, informed, that he will be sent to Spain—*bajo partido de registro*—a military formality equal to a court of inquiry. It is certain that the Governor of Santiago de Cuba has not been made a lion of, as he naturally expected to be feted and feasted by that class of Spaniards in this island to whose passions he undoubtedly pandered in the hope of popularity among them. Unfortunately this same subserviency by other commanders has caused the government of Spain many complications.

The *Gorro Frigio* states that Brigadier Burriel called upon the citizen Minister yesterday; and a friend assures it that upon leaving "signs of an altered countenance were visible;" which, in plain English, means that Brigadier Burriel left crestfallen.

An assassination took place last Sunday morning at about nine o'clock and almost on the steps of the Cathedral, which has caused a great sensation throughout this city, as the victim, Don Juan Crisostom Peñalver, Count of Peñalver and San Fernando, generally known by the latter title, was a person of great wealth and influence, and closely allied with many of the principal and distinguished families of Havana, besides for many years taking active part in the administration of city affairs.

The facts of the murder are, that, upon leaving the cathedral after hearing mass, and just about to enter his own house across the street, he was stopped by Agustus Acosta y Cardenas, a nephew of the Count, and after a few excited words of conversation between the two, Cardenas drew a

LONG KNIFE AND STABBED THE COUNT

to the heart, killing him almost instantly. The Count staggered a few steps to reach his door, and fell dead into the arms of his servants, who ran out upon noticing the disturbance, while the assassin was arrested by the police, although he attempted to make his escape.

The motive of the murder was satisfaction for wounded honor. It seems that one of the Count's sons, a youth of 17, had eloped with the sister of Cardenas in order to force a marriage against which the Count was bitterly opposed because of the family of the young lady not being wealthy. This occurred some two months ago and ever since the young girl's brother has been endeavoring to force the Count's consent to the marriage but was repeatedly put off until learning that the Count had sent his son out of the country in order to prevent anything of the nature taking place, either with or without his consent. Young Cardenas seeing his sister and parents submerged in the greatest grief—the young girl in a state of decline since her shame became known—armed himself and met the Count to demand reparation for the honor of his sister and family. This being declined he plunged his knife into the Count's heart.

It is generally asserted in relation to this affair that the Count's conduct throughout had been most aggravating. That the indiscretion of the lovers was intended to make a marriage imperative; but the Count was bitterly opposed, and, with the command of immense wealth and influence, he had his son arrested by the police the day subsequent to the elopement, and managed to get him off to Spain. The Count was well advanced in years, but his death has thrown a great part of the

ARISTOCRACY OF HAVANA INTO MOURNING.

The Count was generally esteemed for his benevolent disposition and gentlemanly character, but in this case the sympathies of the community rest with the young assassin, who, it was erroneously reported yesterday, had finished his existence by poison. He is kept a close prisoner at the jail, and some of the principal lawyers of Havana have already offered their services in his defence.

The Minister of the Colonies still continues his examination into Cuban affairs and the state of the island; but he is regarded more in the light of curiosity than a person of any importance. On Sunday last he convoked the editors of the different daily and weekly journals of the city, and made them an address, stating his purposes and wishes, and flattering them by acknowledging the power of the press.

Yesterday the Casino Español invited him to inspect their rooms, and gave him a brilliant reception. The Volunteers improved the opportunity and organized a grand serenade, which took place in front of the Casino. It was expected that during the evening His Excellency would make a speech or offer a toast, but, to general disappointment, the evening passed away and His Excellency drank his wine and ate his sponge cake without anything further than casual conversation. His Excellency's appearance is very prepossessing, and he looks every inch the gentleman and statesman.

The Virginius Still Afloat—Heavy Importations of Flour Into the Island.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 1, 1873.

The steamer Juniata, from Havana, reports that the Virginius was still afloat when she left Havana on Tuesday last. All vessels arriving at Havana had full cargoes of flour, and 50,000 barrels had been ordered from New Orleans.

BROOKLYN NAVY YARD.

No orders have been received by Admiral Rowan to discharge any men from the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where 3,000 are now employed. The work of rattling the lower rigging was continued yesterday throughout the cold northeast snow storm by the hardy riggers on board the Colorado. This ship will go into commission to-morrow. Engineers have been ordered to the Tennessee, and she will be towed over to the Navy Yard for outfit this week. Work is progressing as usual on the Minnesota, Roanoake, Dictator, Florida and Swatara.

Captain R. W. Shufeldt yesterday relieved Captain Ransom as Executive Officer of the yard. The storeship Supply went out of commission, and the Gettysburg arrived with stores from Washington. Recruiting is progressing rapidly, a large number of landsmen being shipped.

CHINA AND CUBA.

An Independent Celestial Mission to Visit the Spanish Antilles' Gem—The Coolie Traffic To Be Investigated.

SHANGHAI, Oct. 25, 1873.

A Chinese mission is to be sent to Cuba to inquire into the condition of the coolies employed on that island. This has been done at the request of the Spanish Minister.

The Hong Kong government has issued explicit orders for all vessels destined to carry coolies between Macao and Havana to quit that port. This has given great umbrage to the Portuguese government of Macao.

The Chinese authorities have followed the action of the British authorities at Hong Kong by prohibiting the staying of these ships either at Whampoa or Canton.

A CURIOUS CUSTOMS CASE AT NEW ORLEANS.

Personal Property of Ex-President Thiers Under Seizure.

[From the New Orleans Herald, Nov. 26.]

A somewhat remarkable case now engages the attention of the Collector and Surveyor of the Port. The steamship Charles Albert, a French vessel, arrived here on the 16th inst. from Havana, in ballast, but without manifest or other regular papers. The inspectors discovered on board of her five large cases filled with costly articles of Chinese manufacture and other dutiable goods, most of which, the Captain (Caryon) declares belong to the ex-President of the French Republic, M. Adolphe Thiers, and some to himself.

An investigation of the matter elicits the following very curious story:—Captain Caryon states that his steamer was engaged in the coolie trade and that he recently carried from Hong Kong to Havana a large lot of coolies. Before leaving Hong Kong, however, a French admiral, who was at that point, purchased a lot of costly and beautiful Chinese goods, which he forcibly placed on board the Charles Albert, telling the Captain that they were presents for President Thiers and commanding him to deliver them whenever his vessel should return to France.

This the Captain remonstrated against, saying that he did not know when he should return to France, but the Admiral said there was no other French merchantman in port and he must take the cases, which he was reluctantly compelled to do. He states further that both he and his first officer purchased quite a number of valuable articles for themselves, but that while at sea, *en route* to Havana, his first officer committed suicide by springing overboard at night, and that he (the captain) has taken charge of his effects.

On his arrival at Havana he was chartered to come to this port to take a cargo of cotton to Liverpool and arrived here, as before stated, on the 16th inst. He accounts for the absence of a manifest by saying that he had never been to America before and was ignorant of our customs regulations.

The customs officers were at a loss for some time to know how to treat the case, but finally concluded to seal up the goods subject to orders from the department. To say the least, the Captain's story is a very remarkable one and is not entirely credited. It seems almost incredible that a French admiral would send such valuable articles to the President of the French Republic in so irregular and questionable a manner, trusting to luck, as it were, to their reaching their destination.

Among the articles are a number of superb silk spreads, or quilts, very elaborately and curiously wrought in Chinese patterns, said to be worth each $1,500. There is one shawl, a sight of which would make the eyes of our city belles fairly sparkle again, valued at $1,500; a lady's magnificent ebony workbox, inlaid with ivory and gold, valued at over $3,000; any quantity of exquisitely wrought Chinese curiosities, vases, &c. The Captain is considerably disgusted by the trouble he has fallen into about his remarkable cargo, and wishes very sincerely that M. Thiers had the goods which he claims the patriotic Admiral sent him from Hong Kong.

CHARGES AGAINST A CITY MARSHAL.

The charges preferred against City Marshal Toplanyi by Dr. Walter S. Wells, of No. 737 Sixth avenue, were further heard yesterday by Mayor Havemeyer.

The complainant charges that Toplanyi, on or about the 20th of October, called upon him at his place of residence and stated that he had come to make a levy on property to satisfy a judgment obtained in the Marine Court, amounting to $200; that Toplanyi offered to return the execution unsatisfied on payment to him of $10, and the same amount to John T. Williams, who claimed to be his assistant. The offer was declined, and the Marshal left without making any levy; that complainant thereupon had served on Toplanyi a notice that the property in question was in his possession by courtesy, it being mortgaged to John J. Stell; that on the 6th of November, Toplanyi, aided by Williams and three others, made a levy on the property, which they handled very recklessly and violently; that locks were broken, furniture thrown out of second story windows, drawers rifled of articles of value, wearing apparel and everything on which they could lay their hands, thrown in and knocked about the street, and other articles were stolen by Toplanyi and his assistants; that Toplanyi was under the influence of liquor; that he pushed complainant in a room and locked him up, Toplanyi taking possession of the key, and threatening and abusing complainant in a violent manner. Complainant further charges that Toplanyi demanded the surrender to him of complainant's watch and chain, and, the demand not being complied with, drew a pistol and again demanded the watch and chain, and threatened complainant that he should not leave the room alive unless he gave up the watch and chain; that complainant, believing that his life was in danger, did give up the watch and chain; that also, under similar threats and intimidations, complainant signed and delivered to Williams a due bill for $25; that, in conclusion, Toplanyi, in a violent manner, removed his medical instruments and all other property without authority of law.

The further investigation will be resumed on Friday.

JAPAN.

Cabinet Change and a Sweeping Ministerial Reform—The Moral Force Principle Triumphant Over a War Party Ring—Relations to Corea—The Men Who Go Out of Office and Those Who Come In.

YOKOHAMA, Nov. 2, 1873.

A complete change has just taken place in the *personnel* of the Japanese government, amounting almost to what would be termed in some countries a revolution. As in England the Ministry is often split, or disagrees upon a question of either domestic or foreign policy, so here, in Japan, the late Daijokwan, or Great Council of State, has wrecked itself. I have already informed you of Soyerhima's mission to China and its results. Having been assured by China that the latter made no claim to a protectorate over Corea, and that she would not interfere in case of any war between Japan and that country, Soyerhima returned to Jeddo with a full determination to punish the Coreans for their insulting behavior of last year. Preparations were made on a rather expensive scale, and the invasion of Corea was talked about as a matter to take place beyond a doubt in the ensuing spring. The idea was popular both with the masses and the army, and several of the old chiefs were chuckling over the chance of military distinction.

AN EARNEST PACIFICATOR AND HIS GREAT POWER.

At this juncture the Embassy, which had been all over America and Europe, returned. Iwakura and old Kuge, a fair statesman and a man whose mind has just been enlightened by two years of foreign travel, saw the danger to which Japan would be exposed were she to indulge in the luxury of a foreign war. He opposed the proposed war with all his might, and has at last succeeded in overturning the Cabinet.

THE "INS" AND THE "OUTS."

Sanjo (Daijin), the Prime Minister, retires. He is replaced by Iwakura. Okubo and Kido become members of the Privy Council; Okuma becomes Minister of Finance; Ito, Minister of Public Works, and Terashima, Minister of State. Oki is Minister of Justice. The heads of the Departments of War, Religion and Education have not yet been appointed. It will be seen that four of the members of the late Embassy to Europe enter the Cabinet—viz., Iwakura, Okubo, Kido and Ito. Of the retiring Ministers the most important are Soyerhima, Saigo and Goto. Soyerhima is the ablest of the party, and has made a good Minister of State. The government is still desirous of retaining him. He has already been offered the position of Minister to England or to Russia. He has so far declined; but it is thought that sufficient pressure will be brought to bear to induce him to reconsider his determination. Saigo was Minister of War, and retires now in complete disgust, as he was the most anxious for the prosecution of the Corean war. In getting rid of Goto the government has done well. This man is corrupt enough to suit a Tammany sachem. He has had his hand in every scheme of public plunder, and has been engaged in more than one enterprise that savored very much of Crédit Mobilier or Erie frauds. The new Ministry is particularly strong. They are all able men and men of experience.

NATIVISM AGAINST ENLIGHTENMENT.

Besides the question of Corea another matter has tended to this change of Ministry. Soyerhima had agreed to a convention with the foreign Ministers, by which the whole of Japan was to be opened to foreigners under a system of consular and ministerial passports. To this Iwakura objected. Kido has issued a manifesto which is supposed to express the views of all the members of the Embassy, to the following effect:—"Much is said about Japan becoming civilized. We, who have been abroad, and have seen the most civilized nations of the globe, come back fully impressed with the necessity of Japan adopting Western ideas and Western civilization. But, hitherto, Japan has gone the wrong way to work. She has tried to jump from her former condition into a state assimilating with the Western nations. This will not do. Reform is a matter of time. We cannot expect to do in six years what must necessarily take a generation to accomplish. We must proceed slower and we shall progress more surely."

TREASURY ECONOMY.

The expenditure is to be curtailed and a thorough economical reform is promised. Again Oki, the Minister of Justice, objects to more ports being opened until Japan has perfected a system of jurisprudence that will satisfy foreign Powers, so that they may be induced to yield the ex-territorial clause. In my opinion this is at the bottom of the refusal to open the whole country. Japan feels that it is humiliating to her to allow foreign Consuls and Ministers to exercise judicial functions within her limits; and until this ex-territorial clause is expunged she will be unwilling to give foreigners liberty to settle in any part of Japan but the open ports. Such is the present position of the government of Japan. What the ultimate results of this radical change are to be are as yet doubtful, but I am rather inclined to believe that the change will have a most salutary effect upon the condition of the country.

THE PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP ARIEL.

Particulars of the Accident to and Sudden Sinking of the Vessel—Preparation for a Court of Inquiry.

YOKOHAMA, Nov. 2, 1873.

The Pacific Mail steamship Ariel left Yokohama on the 26th of October, bound for Hakodado.

At about nine o'clock on the night of the 27th, when about 110 miles from Yokohama, she struck upon a sunken reef and in twenty minutes from that time was at the bottom. Immediately upon her striking Captain Newell ordered all hands to the boats, and, through the exertions of himself and officers, got everybody into them. After landing the passengers and crew Captain Newell returned to the wreck, and already in that short time the ship had commenced too

BREAK UP.

Not a single thing was saved from her except two quarters of beef, for which the sailors had to swim. The passengers, officers and crew did not save a stitch of their clothing except what they were standing in. The loss of the Ariel is not only an unfortunate mishap to the Pacific Mail Company, but it is a terrible blow to

CAPTAIN NEWELL.

This officer, who is regarded as one of the best officers in the employ of the company, has been particularly unfortunate. About five years ago he lost the Hermann, about 70 miles from the same fatal spot. Captain Newell has not yet returned to Yokahama, but is expected here to-morrow. I am indebted to the purser for the account I now send to the HERALD. He tells me that the natives showed them every kindness. They lighted beacons as soon as they saw the rockets from the ship, gave the rescued people provisions and clothing and every facility to reach Jeddo.

I understand that a court of inquiry is to be held as soon as Captain Newell returns.

MURDER OF AN AMERICAN SAILOR.

Consular Trial and Sentence of the Culprit in China.

SHANGHAI, Oct. 25, 1873.

An inquest was held at the United States Consulate at this port on the 29th ult. on the body of Henry Bergh, a sailor on board the American ship Mary Whitridge, who, it was alleged, came to his death through ill-treatment on the part of the second officer, Matthew Reed.

The jury brought in a verdict that Bergh had come to his death through the act of said Matthew Reed, "who, according to the evidence, inflicted blows on the face, on the side of the head and on the shoulder of said Henry Bergh with his hand, with his bare foot and with a rope-bound halyard block." Reed was tried for murder before Consul General George F. Seward on the 19th of this month, and the following is the

DECISION OF THE COURT:

I am of opinion that the deceased, Henry Bergh, came to his death by blows inflicted upon him by Matthew Reed, as described and set forth in the first count of the indictment. I am further of opinion that these blows were inflicted in a cruel and unusual manner and in a heat of passion, but without intent to kill or the knowledge that they would cause death. I am therefore of opinion that the said Reed is not guilty of the murder of said deceased, but that he is guilty of manslaughter. Such manslaughter is defined in the laws of the State of New York as of the second degree, and is then punishable by imprisonment for not more than seven or less than four years. While not declaring that the Laws of the State of New York are binding upon the Court, I accept them in this instance