March 12, 1899

I have the honor to submit herewith for your perusal the despatches, No. 11 and 12, dated the 27th of Feb., from Rear Admiral M. K. Stringfellow, commanding the North Atlantic Squadron, relative to affairs in Cuba.

Please return the despatches to this Department after availing yourself of their contents.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

N. B. In order to avoid any confusion,

[Name]

[Title]
Admiral Coorff to Mr. Wells.

North Atlantic Squadron,
U.S. Flagship, "Contrococt" (2nd Rate)
Cayana, 29th January 1869.

Sir,

I had the honor to inform the Department by telegraph on the 25th inst., of the late excitement in Havana, sending my dispatch by the steamer "Beaufort" to Key West, for the reason that all telegraph communication is subject to the inspection of the Captain General, who appoints a Censor to control their business.

The difficulties refer to
Hun. Gideon Wells,
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington. 3d
red (v - in my despatch - com-
menced on Friday evening
the 22nd) in the Teatro Fuen-
theatre, upon which oc-
casion the Cuban and -
Spanish elements among
the audience discharged re-
volvers - and as the people
were hastyly leaving the place-
a battalion of Spanish volun-
teers - drawn up in front
of the entrance deliberately
fired a succession of volleys
killing, and wounding a
number of Spaniards and
Cubans - including two (2)
women - also endangering
the lives of the foreigners
who happened to be present.
Saturday, the city was extremely quiet, but on Sunday evening at eight o'clock two of the officers of the vessel in riding down to the landing passed the Campo Marte—a large open place—used as a parade ground; and upon the opposite side, these gentlemen observed a force of about two hundred Volunteers drawn up in line deliberately firing into a cafe—as also upon the house of a wealthy Cuban—Mr. Aldana—well known in the United States—and highly respected; his furniture—
picture and other handsome as well as valuable works of art were destroyed. It is said to the amount of forty thousand ($40,000) dollars.

Later in the evening the Louvre, a celebrated cafe, the resort of citizens of all nationalities was attacked by the Volunteere in the same manner who purposely fired into the billiard saloon and cafe, where quiet and properly people were playing cards and otherwise amusing themselves.

It is asserted by the friends of the Volunteer, as an excuse for their bloody
work, that some one, sup-
posed to be a Cuban, fired
field shots from the bal-
cany of the Consulate - but
this is denied by many -
among them, three of the
Officers of the Flagship
who were in the place at
the time, and state that
they heard no shots fired
until the general attack
from the street.

Among the killed were
two (2) Germans, one of them
a Clerk in the Consulate
of the North German
Union, an Englishman, and
an American citizen (Mr.
Cohner).
In consequence of the above disorderly state of affairs I have issued an order requiring all officers to be on board their ships at sunrise, and when ashore an day time to be in uniform. The most respectable Spanish residents and foreign merchants, through their Consuls, have requested General Dulce to disarm these men, or to send for Regular troops to take their places, as the only mode of preserving the peace. The City is now guarded by the Marines and sailors of the Spanish
frigates "Gerona" and "Saltad" who keep matters quiet and the volunteers in check, the Captain General having ordered the most disorderly of the latter to their quarters and as a consequence of this order, the disgraced soldiers have threatened his life and accuse him of treason to Spain and partiality to the Carib, on account of his wife who was born upon the Island.

I visited the Acting Council General to confer with him on the subject
of making a joint or separate protest on this transaction, also others of an
insulting nature which had been committed against our citizen. The
Council read me a letter he had already forwarded to the Captain-General, cover-
ing all the grounds of complaint, and requesting the
body of Mr. Kohner to be given over to his friends, it
being then in possession of the police which has since
been promptly complied with.

A small American
Schooner called the "Ipitic"
from seventy to ninety tons was recently captured by a Spanish gunboat under suspicious circumstances, being out of her course, bound to Sicily, and found at anchor in one of the windward ports of the Island. The Captain represented that he had gone in there to purchase a vessel which he noticed on shore. The matter was represented by the Governor, and he was strongly advised leaving here a protest for (2000/) two thousand dollars damage. I have exchanged.
visite, salutes, &c. with the new Spanish Admiral, my interview with him as well as with the other authorities have been uniformly pleasant and agreeable.

Very Respectfully
Your obedient Servant

Henry H. Herff
R. Admiral

Commod. N. A. S. Navy