

The Cuban Fillibusters

The N. Y. Herald's New Orleans dispatch says preparations are actively on foot in that vicinity for a formidable and well organized expedition to aid the insurgent Cubans, and it will no doubt be of a serious character. Men are being engaged rapidly and sworn to secrecy, and a number of brass howitzers have recently been purchased there and sent to some unknown destination. There seems to be no lack of money, but there is so much blowing at street corners and so much publicity and gasconade that the matter may drop through from pure mismanagement. The government officers either cannot or will not take any effective steps to stop the movement, and no definite instructions can be obtained from Washington regarding it. It is stated that the command has been tendered to Harry Hays, an ex-Confederate Major General, who through his personal popularity among his old soldiers and his knowledge of Spanish warfare, could collect around him at a day's notice two or three thousand veterans.— Notwithstanding that very considerable pecuniary inducements have been held out to him, he declines on the ground that he is too old and has too good a law practice to give it up. Gen. Steedman remains the probable leader. He is brave, but wanting in prudence, discretion and self-command, and if he gets off will make either a striking success or a most complete disastrous failure. Collector Casey, who is a brother-in-law of the President, says openly that he does not want to hear or know anything about expeditions of any kind, and District Attorney Morgan states that his appeals to Washington for definite instructions are answered only with vague generalities. Marshal Herron, who has recently returned from Washington, hints that he shall keep up appearances but do little.

Dispatches from Savannah to the Advertiser lead the friends of the Cuban revolution here to believe that General J. B. Steedman has made a successful landing in Cuba with a picked force of men. The expedition has been in preparation for a number of months, General Steedman himself spent two weeks in Havana, and during the latter part of the time was so far under arrest as to be ordered quietly by the Captain-General to report to him daily. The first rendezvous of his party was on one of the islands near New Orleans. When Admiral Hoff received his first order the headquarters of the expedition were changed to a point on the Florida coast. A blockade-runner, captured from the rebels in the late war, was obtained, and the belief is that near one thousand men, well supplied with arms and thoroughly accustomed to their use, have made a landing on the Cuban shore. The revolutionary leaders have been fully acquainted with General Steedman's movements for some time. Information has been received to the effect that bodies of men are nightly drilling in New York, whose ultimate destination is Cuba, though they will probably not leave direct from the city. It may be stated in this connection that the Navy Department had just added five vessels to the South Atlantic squadron, so that it now consists of eleven vessels, with an aggregate of one hundred and eight guns.