

SOUTHERN CUBAN EXPEDITIONS.

Mysterious Movements of Ex-Confederate Generals—Alleged Views of President Grant.

[From the Charleston News, March 10.]

There are so many persons in Charleston who are now or who have been engaged in the Cuba trade, that great interest has been shown in regard to everything that relates to the progress of the Cuban insurrection. We cannot say that the popular feeling has altogether been on the side of the "rebels," for men have contrasted the merciless manner in which the southern rebels were treated with the expressions of profuse sympathy which the north can find for "the rebels" in Cuba or Crete. Yet there has been a restlessness among the people which betokens the awakening of the old spirit of adventure and romance. This is particularly the case among the young men, and for weeks past it has been rumored that expeditions in aid of the Cuban insurrectionists were fitting out on the Georgia and Carolina coast.

We have not been able to obtain such information as would justify us in saying positively that any of these expeditions have actually reached their destination. Indeed, a too great publicity would awaken the vigilance of the Spanish spies, and make a successful landing difficult to any but such men as those who ran the blockade of Charleston so often during the late unpleasantness. We may, however, without compromising any one, say that Capt. Frank Bonneau, one of our most skillful mariners and bravest men, has safely arrived in Cuba. Of him no more must be said at this moment.

A few days ago some surprise was excited by the arrival in Charleston of Gen. Jordan, formerly chief of staff of Gen. Beauregard. This officer moved about very quietly, and no suspicions as to his real object were entertained until it was ascertained that he had disappeared from the city. The report is—and we have no reason to doubt its correctness—that Gen. Jordan has sailed for Cuba.

But this is not all. From what has leaked out since the departure of Gen. Jordan it is understood that he is in full accord with President Grant, and is acting with his knowledge and consent. The new president has already said that Spain is entitled to no consideration at the hands of the United States, and he is known to be strongly in favor of the acquisition of more territory. Cuba would be a dainty morsel for the radicals. There would be half a million negroes to vote and legislate and play "Old Harry" with the prosperity of the island; and there would be as many white men to rule by martial law, to New Englandize, and, finally, to reconstruct. No wonder that Grant should be in favor of acquiring Cuba. It is true that there may be a lion in the path, but an excuse can be found for the suspension of diplomatic relations. This could not better be done than on the plea that Spain was insulting and injuring American citizens. This may be the reason why Gen. Jordan, it is said, has been assured by President Grant that if he falls into the hands of the Spaniards no hair of his head shall be injured, and that no American who takes part in the insurrection shall be improperly treated by the loyalists.

This is the story as it comes to us, and we should not be surprised if there were more startling developments in the course of the next few weeks.