

THE GUNBOATS AT SEA.

Cuban Millibunters on Board of Every Gunboat—News of a Spanish Disaster Expected.

Thus far we learn nothing of interest from the Spanish flotilla now on its way to Havana. That one expedition to intercept and destroy these vessels has failed our readers know, and many, no doubt, imagine that all danger to the gunboats is at an end. In this they are wrong, for we are informed by persons who know every soul on board of them that each vessel carries among her crew a number of men who have sworn to serve the Cuban cause when and where the opportunity offers. This is no longer a secret to those who are posted on Cuban matters in this City. And it is also well known that many of these men, although they shipped on the gunboats as coalpassers and firemen, are good engineers, and have all the requisite knowledge to command the boats, if at any time they should have occasion to do so. On so long a passage as that from this port to Havana, with but one old-fashioned war vessel to watch them, it would be strange, indeed, if a few of the gunboats, by adverse weather or otherwise, do not become detached from the convoy. In such an event, these determined men, few though they be, will undoubtedly make an attempt to obtain the mastery over the Spanish crew, capture the vessels and run them into a Mexican port. The Cubans in this City hourly expect some such joyful tidings, and bid everybody to "wait and see."

The expedition, whose start and failure were duly chronicled in these columns, was not, as some people profess to believe, an imaginary enterprise. We know, having had the most ample proof, that 300 men were enlisted in New-York and organized to pursue and destroy the flotilla. Those men on board of the gunboats at sea were a portion of that very organization, and, although the remainder have failed to coöperate with them as described in yesterday morning's Times, are resolute and interested enough in the ultimate success of the undertaking to make a desperate effort by themselves.

The Gunboats at Anchor Inside the Capes of the Chesapeake.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 22.—Sixteen of the Spanish gunboats, convoyed by the frigate *Pizarro*, have arrived inside the Capes and anchored in Lynn Haven Bay.