

The Execution of General Goicouria.

A brief but terrible telegraphic despatch from Havana, in yesterday's HERALD, announced the execution of that brave old Cuban hero, General Goicouria. The words are few and there are no details, but there is no doubt that he was quickly and in indecent haste garroted. He was taken into Havana a prisoner on the night of the 6th, a "verbal" court martial immediately assembled and sentenced him, and at eight o'clock the next morning he was executed. Of course he had no trial, or but the mockery of one, and he was condemned by drum-head court martial. The unseemly haste with which he was despatched was prompted, no doubt, by cruel revenge in part, for he had been nearly all his life devoted to the cause of Cuban independence. But another object the bloodthirsty Spaniards had in view, probably, was to prevent any appeal from the United States to spare his life. Though a Cuban born General Goicouria was, we believe, a naturalized American citizen. He had been a resident of this country a quarter of a century, had been engaged extensively in business and was well known to the business community of this city and of New Orleans. Probably an effort would have been made to save his life; but the Spaniards were resolved to prevent this and to have his blood. Goicouria was truly a martyr to Cuban freedom, for he faced many dangers and carried his life in his hand, as it were, for that object. Whatever may be thought of his prudence there is no one that will not admire his patriotism and heroism. We do not know what the American government will think or do, if it can do anything, in this case of barbarity; but we do know that the American people will denounce it as a disgrace to this age. No other people calling themselves civilized but the Spaniards would be guilty of such brutality and inhumanity. No rebel lost his life in our civil war except on the battle field. We executed none for rebellion. All the civilized governments of the world are coming to the same humane practice except Spain. The brutal way she is conducting the war in Cuba deserves to be execrated by all nations. Our own citizens—native born Americans—have been butchered in cold blood on mere suspicion. Is it not time that the government of this great republic should denounce Spanish barbarity in Cuba and demand that the war be conducted with some regard to humanity and the civilization of the age?