Captain Province and Captain Fisher are among them. These men are good citizens, and in any encounter with the Spanish troops, will render a good account of them. Our information is derived from a gentleman who has two brothers in one of the companies.

MOVEMENTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, August 23, 1851.

Aspect of the Cuba Questions—Important Correspondence between Mr. Webster and the British and French Ministers—Stand taken by Mr. Webster.

The news from Cuba has made a profound impression on everybody here. Spain is an ill-advised country, and her bitterness conduct in regard to the unfortunate prisoners fallen into her hands will only serve to multiply the sympathizers throughout the Union. Our opinion of purchasing Cuba was once offered, under Mr. Polk's administration—when a few persons in Madrid vested with power, sent an agent to Washington for that purpose. The transfer could then have been made quietly, and without creating any suspicion on the part of other European powers; but Mr Polk, considering the price too high, higgled about it, and spoiled the whole undertaking, by committing to Mr. Saunders, our Minister in Madrid, the task of striking an advantageous bargain. Meanwhile, the British and French ministers, with diplomatic skill and tact in our Minister lost the whole.

Since then, Spain declares that she will not sell; that it is now a matter of honor with her, to show to the world that she is able to keep possession of the Island, &c. The British and French governments, too, may have given Spain some assurances of co-operation; but I doubt whether, when the worst comes to the worst, England or France, or both, would seriously attempt to enforce Mr. Guizot's foolish notion of an "American equilibrium." The great idea of this continent is, the right of government of themselves (*Cuba* included), and not of balancing one State against the other; though some madmen, even here, have, at times, indulged in such a dream.

Some eight or ten weeks ago, before Mr. Webster left Washington, the British and French diplomatic functionaries here hinted, in a semi-official manner, at the necessity in which their respective governments might be placed *to prevent the attempts of our citizens to seize upon Cuba; to which Mr. Webster, I believe, gave a very comprehensive reply, stating that the government of the United States had not to threaten any foreign power, and would not listen to such threats.* Mr. Webster's note remained unanswered by Sir Henry and the Minister sent us by Mr. Louis Bonaparte. Mr. Webster may have progressive ideas; but the administration, of which he is the head and front, has gone, and Daniel Webster cannot stand any longer on the Albany platform. He must quit the concern—the sooner, the better for his reputation.

Some correspondence, which has been agreed upon between Mr. Webster and Mr. Marcoleta, the Minister from Nicaragua, but the latter refuses to sign it until the political treaty between the two powers, which is not yet definitely agreed upon, is about to be signed. Mr. Marcoleta wishes to sign them both at the same time, and as written home for instructions; but Mr. Webster has made it a condition that abandoning the Mosquito coast, requires that Nicaragua should recognise King Gallinipper the First, and that Nicaragua refuses to do this. The condition that Mr. Webster proposed the signature of the otherwise unaccountable delay, on the part of England, in the execution of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

POZZI DI BORGO.

WASHINGTON, August 24, 1851.

Cuban Affairs in Washington—Cabinet Meeting—A Messenger Sent for the President—The U. S. Steamship Saranac, &c. &c.

A meeting of the Secretaries of the Treasury and Navy Departments and the Postmaster General was held, yesterday, and it is understood they decided to send immediate information to the President, and to account from the Navy Department, including that as yet no official information has reached the government on the subject.

The Saranac is all ready for sea, at Norfolk, and if the President cannot be heard from by Tuesday, she will sail with Governor Letcher, for Vera Cruz, calling, on her way, at Havana. She will carry out a special messenger, who has been dispatched forthwith from Norfolk for Havana, with Commodore Parker, of the Home Squadron, on board, who has been instructed to inquire into the facts of the late outrage, and to demand the release of the American citizens recently shot at that place, and to ascertain the proofs under which they were put to death. It is now pretty well ascertained that the armed expedition which invaded the Island. A full investigation will also be had into the circumstance of being at the United States mail steamer Falcon by a Spanish cruiser.

At the same time that these steps are being taken, requisitions will be made upon the Spanish Minister, for the military and naval officers of the government, to take all legal steps, and employ all means at their command, to check and break up any attempt to fit out expeditions against the territories of friendly powers, and to seize any vessels, and arrest all persons who may be concerned therein; it being the fixed determination of the present administration to carry out treaty obligations and to enforce the laws of the land, the recent violation of which, in the case of the expedition of the Island of Cuba, has caused the deepest regret.

The Saranac was waiting at Norfolk for the purpose of conveying Governor Letcher to Vera Cruz, on his way to resume his duties as Minister to Mexico, and without great present mission being of such pressing importance, she will depart without him, and another conveyance will be provided for the Governor.

The Saranac will leave Norfolk either this afternoon or to morrow.

We notice in some of our exchanges that complaint is made of the negligence of the officers of the United States, at New Orleans, in not preventing the departure of the expedition under Lopez. We have no highly official information on the subject, and have ascertained that the most stringent orders were long since issued and renewed, in the subject, by the different departments, so that a strict enforcement of the laws of the land, the recent violation of which, in the case of the expedition of the Island of Cuba—as much and as unquoted a territory of the kingdom of Spain as Long Island is of the United States—has caused the deepest regret.

We have not failed in our duty to place the matter in a true light before them; to express the high provident delusion, in regard to the monstrous and legality of all conspiracies, and to exhibit their danger as well as their wickedness, and to demonstrate their incompatibility with the duties and obligations of the citizens of the United States, and the character of citizens of the United States. If in these efforts, we had the general co-operation of the press of the United States, instead of acquiescence in the neglect of our duty, and positive encouragement of them by another part, the great national mischief might have been averted. Though when we reflect on the feeling of the people, in the subject, in some parts of the country, and especially in the city of New Orleans and its surrounding region (the almost entire population of which, is composed of the miserable consequences of the complete success of these desperate enterprises); when we have seen many leading subscribed, and, incredible as it may appear, even editors, in the act, of cases haranguing the people at public meetings, in the midst of uproarious applause—and even officers of the United States, in the act of encouraging and thus encouraging, by example, the inhabitants of the country, as to be deterred from attempting (or become incapable) to execute the laws forbidding the fitting out from their ports of these expeditions, we feel satisfied that the power of the press, could it have been rallied to the rescue of the national honor, might have been exerted to a purpose.

Stimulated by the most exaggerated stories of the value of the great prize represented to be within the reach of the expedition, the prospect, a band of inexperienced youths, mixed up with a few veterans, and a proportion, still young, of persons who, on the battle fields of Mexico, had demonstrated, that, as a band, a savage—tempering altogether a body of men of actual courage and "heroic violence"—had been taught, by certain proper means, to fear, and, in consequence, be interested in it, to believe that by enlisting in it they had placed themselves on the high road to fame as well as fortune.

How lamentable, alas! the sad reverse of all that they had been thus taught to expect! Instead of being received with the acclamations of the people of the Island of Cuba as the instruments of deliverance, or being joined in mass by thousands at a time, (as the manufactured telegraph reports made it appear,) the enterprise, as it has been, in reality, was stretched forth by the peasantry to welcome their arrival, not as the accounts run, did a single man of the invaders, ever escape with his life. That punishment is not due—general condemnation at least—to these authors of all the frauds and deceptions, who are responsible for the unmitigated horrors with which they have overwhelmed those deluded young men who looked upon them as oracles?

To say that we deeply lament the unhappy fate of the prisoners, would be to use the most cruel deception, have that their lives in the Spanish dungeon—not to speak of those other adventurers whose fate is still uncertain—would be to use the most cruel and the abhorrent, we trust, is natural to us, of deeds of cruelty and sanguinary violence. As truly do we deplore the event, as the loss of the prisoners, or the loss of our citizens, in fact, since in our sympathy with the affliction of the wives, the parents, the brothers, and the sisters whom this event has lacerated of the objects of their pride, hope, and affections.

But we must not suffer ourselves to be blinded by the force of sympathy, to the fact that there is a duty, and, in so much of these unfortunate victims, as of those, far less innocent than they, who first blindfolding their eyes, led them to the fatal leap, that, in fact, they forced them over it into the yawning gulf. Yet, hear these very men now, in the city of New York, screaming themselves hoarse with the cry of "Liberty to Cuba!" and then posting up placards at all the corners of the narrow streets and blind alleys of the city, calling public meetings to express the strongest sympathy.

Let us, rather than the strangeness of the artifices of all these horrors, to shield themselves from the responsibility for what has passed, and exist, in the eyes of the people of the United States, as the eyes of the people to the evil deeds of these conspirators against the public peace? It is a consoling circumstance that the people of the United States, as a mass, would be brought to the bar of public opinion, in regard to the monstrous and legality of all conspiracies,