

Admiral Hooff to Mr. Telle.

North Atlantic Squadron,
U.S. Flagship "Contocook" (2^d Rate.)
Havana, 29th January 1869.

Sir,

I had the honor to inform the Department by telegraph on the 25th inst. of the late excitement in Havana sending my despatch by the steamer "Beaufort" to Key West, for the reason that all telegraph communication is subject to the inspection of the Captain General, who appoints a censor to control this business.

The difficulties refer-
Hon. Gideon Welles,
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington D.C.

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red to - in my despatch - com-
menced on Friday evening
(the 22nd) in the Villa Nueva
Theatre, upon which oc-
casion the Cuban and
Spanish elements among
the audience discharged re-
volvers - and as the people
were hastily leaving the place -
a battalion of Spanish volun-
teers - drawn up in front
of the entrance deliberately
fired a succession of volleys
killing, and wounding a
number of Spaniards and
Cubans - including two (2)
women - also endangering
the lives of the foreigners
who happened to be present.

Saturday, the city was extremely quiet, but on Sunday evening at eight o'clock two of the officers of this vessel in riding down to the landing passed the Campo Marte - a large open place - used as a parade ground, and upon the opposite side, these gentlemen observed a force of about two hundred volunteers drawn up in line deliberately firing into a café - also upon the house of a wealthy Cuban - Mr. Aldama - well known in the United States - and highly respected, his furniture -

pictures and other handsome
as well as valuable works
of art were destroyed - it is
said - to the amount of
forty thousand (\$ 40,000) dollars.

Later in the evening
the Louvre, a celebrated café,
the resort of citizens of all
nationalities was attacked
by the Volunteers in the
same manner who purposely
fired into the billiard saloon
and café, where quiet and
orderly people were play-
ing cards and otherwise
amusing themselves.

It is asserted by the
friends of the Volunteers, as
an excuse for their bloody

work, that some one, sup-
posed to be a Cuban, fired
pistol shots from the bal-
cony of the Louvre - but
this is denied by many -
among them, three of the
Officers of the Flagship
who were in the place at
the time, and state that
they heard no shots fired
until the general attack
from the street.

Among the killed were
two (2) Germans, one of them
a Clerk in the Consulate
of the North German
Union, an Englishman, and
an American citizen (Mr.
Cohn).

In consequence of the above disorderly state of affairs I have issued an order requiring all officers to be on board their ships at sunset, and when ashore in day time to be in uniform. The most respectable Spanish residents and foreign merchants, through their Consuls, have requested General Dulce to disarm these men, or to send for Regular troops to take their places, as the only mode of preserving the peace. The City is now guarded by the Marines and Sailors of the Spanish

frigates "Gerona" and
"Lealtad", who keep matters
quiet and the volunteers
in check, the Captain
General having ordered
the most disorderly of the
latter to their quarters and
as a consequence of this
order, the disgraced sol-
diers have threatened his
life and accuse him of
treason to Spain, and
partiality to the Cubans -
on account of his wife
who was born upon the
Island.

I visited the Acting
Counsel General to confer
with him on the subject

of making a joint or separate protest on this transaction, also others of an insulting nature which had been committed against our citizens. The Consul read me a letter he had already forwarded to the Captain-General, covering all the grounds of complaint, and requesting the body of Mr. Cohnen to be given over to his friends, it being then in possession of the police which has since been promptly complied with.

A small American Schooner called the "Arietes"

from seventy to ninety tons
was recently captured by
a Spanish Gumboat under
suspicious circumstances,
being out of her course,
bound to Lisal, and found
at anchor in one of the
windward ports of this
Island. The Captain re-
presented that he had gone
in there to encounter a vessel
which he noticed on shore.
The matter was represented
by the Consul, and she was
promptly released leaving
here a protest for (\$2000⁰⁰)
two thousand dollars
damages.

I have exchanged

visits, salutes, &c. with the
new Spanish Admiral; my
interviews with him as
well as with the other
authorities have been uniform-
ly pleasant and agreeable.

Very Respectfully
Your obed. Servant

Henry K. Hoff.

R. Admiral

Comdg. N. A. Span.