

NEW YORK CITY.

Extraordinary Activity at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard.

SPANISH OFFICIALS ANXIOUS ABOUT CUBAN MOVEMENTS.

Twenty-Two of the Spanish Gun-Boats Launched.

MINISTER ROBERTS THINKS THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO SAIL.

An Intercepted Letter from Roberts to De Rodas.

HE IS AFRAID OF THE ACTION OF THE NEXT CONGRESS.

GREAT CAUTION ON THE PART OF THE BANKS

SCARCITY OF GOVERNMENT BONDS IN THE MARKET

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE COMMERCIAL

New York, August 31.—The active preparations at the Brooklyn Navy yard continue. Over a dozen war steamers and the iron-clad Dictator are being prepared for sea. Over three thousand men are actively at work at the yard.

The revenue cutters are stationed off the Narrows, in watch for another Cuban expedition. All the deputy Marshals are on duty tonight. The Spanish Consul is in a fright, and asserts that the expedition is about leaving. The cause of the scare is the fact that fifty Cubans came from Philadelphia this morning, and went into camp at Beavertown, New Jersey.

The Cubans have a vessel lying off the Atlantic Dock, Brooklyn, but she is empty, and is not ready to sail.

Ten thousand dollars' worth of arms belonging to the Cuban Junta have been sent to Boston. If any expedition sails, it will be from that port.

Two Spanish gunboats received their armaments at Mystic to day. Twenty two of these gunboats have now been launched.

The Cuban Junta have advice from Mystic, Connecticut, that the Spanish naval agent there is organizing the crews for the boats soon to be launched. This agent informed a gentleman of Mystic, day before yesterday, that no difficulty would be placed in the way to prevent these boats going to sea, or at least so he was assured by Minister Roberts. He had enrolled a number of seamen, Americans with Spanish, who were to be kept in readiness to embark whenever any of the boats were finished.

The following intercepted letter from the Spanish Minister, Roberts, to General De Rodas, has been forwarded to us by a prominent patriot. It came by the Missouri.

LEGATION OF SPAIN, }
WASHINGTON, August 22, 1893 }

"To Caballero De Rodas, Captain General de Cuba

"DEAR SIR—In reply to your communication of the 16th instant, relative to the probable future action of the Government of the United States, I can only answer you from opinions formed by myself, after having given due attention to the subject, by consulting with gentlemen we regarded distinguished with and Administration.

"Respecting the gunboats ordered by our Government, they are being pushed to completion. Twelve of them will be ready to receive their armaments by the 15th of September, but, under surrounding circumstances, I have advised the agent not to purchase any armaments for the present. I am inclined to believe that if the vessels were ready for the armaments, and they were shipped, it would give a new excuse to the Administration to seize more firmly upon the boats, while the present standing order for their retention is a mere formal affair, or so considered by me. I think that it would please the Administration if it could have some more potent excuse for holding them until Congress meets in December. The shipment of American seamen, even to take the boats into Cuban waters, will necessarily have to be dispensed with, and other arrangements made but there will be time enough to act in this case after I obtain more satisfactory information regarding the designs of this Government.

"As things stand at present, I note a manifest change of opinion among members of the Cabinet of General Grant. Secretary Fish is the most inflexible of the Cabinet, still I fear that he respects our rights more on account of the old question with England than out of any respect for our Government.

"Respecting belligerent rights being granted to rebels, I am loth to believe it will be conferred in haste. The press of this country is clamorous, and may yet succeed in forcing the Administration into granting belligerent rights to the rebels.

"Our greatest fears are that the gunboat release question will be delayed until Congress assembles, and that body, I must confess, will not be slow to indicate to General Grant that Cuban independence must be acknowledged.

"I have repeatedly urged my Government to forward at least fifteen thousand more men to Cuba, and with the least possible delay. Also, I have urged that a manifestation should be made of an intention to forward reinforcements, which would dampen the zeal of American sympathizers and decrease the popularity here of the insurrection.

"If General Prim possibly can, he will forward six thousand men to you in October. Consequently you will have to rely wholly upon your present command for continuing your supremacy until you can be reinforced.

"Upon what you say regarding conducting an expedition into the Central Department, with Trinidad or Nuovitas for an objective point, I am unprepared to extend you any counsel. It appears to me of most vital interest, that no report should be allowed to fall into the hands of the rebels, for I am made aware of the one fact that a number of commercial "

New York and Boston are perfectly willing and ready to supply shipping and goods for the rebels, when they shall have a port of entry.

"The draft sent me for paying Delamater & Co. was duly presented, paid, and the amount accepted by the firm.

"Respecting the next installment, it should be paid according to contract, for its non-payment may cause not only annoyance, but unnecessary delay.

"When I receive further instructions and advice, I shall be prompt to communicate to you.

"Yours most respectfully, ROBERTS."

It has been reported that General Sickles has never made propositions to the Spanish Government, for the sale of Cuba. The whole story was a hoax. The operations of Mr. Forbes were entirely on his own hook, and without authority from Washington.