

## FROM CUBA.

HAVANA, March 8.

The Government has made public official dispatches giving details of the advance of Gen. Lesca from La Guanaja to Puerto Principe. On this march the heaviest engagement since the beginning of the rebellion was fought. Gen. Lesca found the enemy, to the number of about 4,000, strongly entrenched on Sierra de Cubitas. The artillery was brought up and commenced a vigorous fire upon the works covered by the batteries. A column of regular troops 1,500 strong attacked the enemy's fortifications with the bayonet. Both sides fought with determination, and the havoc was fearful. Gen. Lesca reports his loss at thirty-one killed and eighty wounded. The loss of the rebels is estimated at upwards of one thousand killed and wounded. The Government accounts claim a victory for Gen. Lesca, and assert that the insurgents are much disheartened by their defeat.

A detachment which left Puerto Principe for Santa Cruz, to obtain supplies brought to that port by the fleet, returned on the 2d inst. with provisions and ammunition, having made the march both ways without interruption.

The entire available strength of the rebel forces now under Quesada is estimated at seven thousand.

The commanders of a British gunboat and French steamer, which arrived to-day, report that they passed in the Bahama Channel the Peruvian monitors in tow of two steamers, with a Spanish man-of-war following in the wake.

Gen. Puello has left the town of Santo Espirito and divided his command into three flying columns to scour the country.

The DIARIO reports that the rebel leaders in the province of Santo Espirito have deserted their men.

In the eastern department bands are roaming between Holguin and Cebra and committing great depredations and outrages. They carry the rebel flag, but are disowned by the insurgents and denounced as bandits.

A steamer arrived to-day from Cienfuegos with a number of prisoners, among them four priests.