

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

A Spanish Account of General Sickles' Negotiations—Reply of the Foreign Minister to the "Note"—The Spanish Gunboats.

MADRID, Oct. 14.—The *Epoca* to-day publishes a synopsis of the reply made by Minister SILVELA to the note of General SICKLES, the American Envoy. Señor SILVELA says reasons dictated by national dignity prevent the acceptance of foreign mediation in a domestic affair. The intimations made by General SICKLES are received with the good will which one nation owes to another with which it is bound by ties of amity. It is presumed that the American Government only desires to strip the struggle in Cuba of its sanguinary character. The Washington Cabinet is urged to impede the departure of supplies for the insurgents, who prevent the Spanish Government from carrying out a policy in Cuba in harmony with that at home. Señor SILVELA maintains that the insurgents of Cuba are in the minority, and by no means belong to the wealthiest and most influential classes, as has been so constantly represented.

The *Epoca* makes mention of conferences between Señor SILVELA and General SICKLES, in which the former urged the release of the Spanish gunboats building in the United States, protesting that they were only to be used to protect the shores of Cuba against expeditions in aid of the insurgents from foreign countries.