

Shipment of the Armament of the Embargoed Spanish Gunboats—The United States Marshal Puzzled—The Privateer Hornet.

An article lately appeared in the **HERALD** descriptive of the Spanish gunboats now being made ready for active work in Cuban waters, and reporting their present condition. It was stated that notwithstanding the seizure of the mosquito fleet by the United States authorities, some time since, on the allegation of interested parties that they were intended for service against the republic of Peru, with whom this country is on the most friendly terms, work was not suspended on the boats, but, on the contrary, the greatest energy was manifested by the builders in getting them completed and ready for sea.

The agents of the Spanish government must have acted under the best advice and with a full knowledge of the temper of the authorities at Washington. They had abundant proof that the seizure of the gunboat fleet was a ruse and that no opposition would be offered to their departure on their murderous errand when they were ready for sea. Orders were sent to the West Point foundry for the casting of thirty 100-pounder Parrott guns and for the supply of 3,000 cases of shot and shell, and other fixed ammunition for the service of the guns. This order was filled last week, and on Monday the steamer, **Euterpe**, Captain Gates, owned by Messrs. **W. & Co.**, the builders of the fifteen boats, at Mystic, Conn., was sent to Cold Spring and took on board the guns and ammunition, with which she steamed to the city. She was put on the regular line for Havana and was assigned by her owners a berth at pier 20 East river.

Early yesterday morning a gang of men were at work filling her up, a large quantity of hay in bales being placed over the guns and ammunition to hide it from the eyes of the curious. She was advertised to sail yesterday evening. About twelve o'clock yesterday an affidavit which declared that the **Euterpe** was about to leave the port with the armament of the Cuban privateers on board was handed to United States Marshal Barlow by some person unknown. The Marshal had previous knowledge of the affair, and had been watching the **Euterpe** at Cold Spring and until her arrival at the wharf in this city; but the very explicit information contained in the affidavit called for active interference, and accordingly a number of deputies were detailed to make inquiries and watch the vessel.

In the meantime, the Marshal requested the Collector of Customs to refuse a clearance to the **Euterpe** pending the result of certain inquiries addressed to the President by telegraph. General Grant had not answered the Marshal's message up to a late hour last night, and matters remain in *statu quo*. While there can be little doubt that the guns and ammunition are intended for the Spanish gunboats, it is a puzzling question for the Marshal whether it is his duty to seize the **Euterpe** or not. The shipment of arms and ammunition to a port of a foreign country with which the United States are at peace is not forbidden by our laws; but there is abundant evidence that this armament will be put on board the Spanish gunboats if allowed to be sent to Havana. The government has decided that it could not consistently permit the departure of the gunboats, and now the guns and ammunition for them are about to be sent away from the port. This question is a puzzler to the Marshal, but it is not likely that anything further will be done in the matter until the President is heard from. The **Euterpe**, in the meantime, cannot leave. The Cubans in the city were as much puzzled yesterday as General Barlow.

The privateer **Hornet** is now on the coast of Cuba and in a few days will be duly commissioned in a Cuban port as a regular Cuban man-of-war. It is well understood by the friends of the young republic that the ship is well officered, manned and armed, and that it would be pastime for her commander to run down every boat of the mosquito fleet. These considerations, therefore, will prevent the Cuban leaders here from taking any active part in the controversy respecting the right of the **Euterpe** to depart on her errand. Pending the settlement of the matter questions are rife as to whether there is "a leak" in the State Department, by which the agents of the Spanish government have been able to discover that the stoppage of the gunboats was but a temporary measure of expediency, and that they will be allowed to go on their work of destruction.