

These Spanish Gunboats.

Thirty Spanish gunboats are being built in this city, or in the neighborhood, for some object which up to the present time it is difficult to determine. The Peruvian government believed that Spain had hostile intentions towards the Peruvian nation; but this idea being ridiculed by Serrano's agents here we let it pass. Chile may also be regarded safe. It is hardly possible that the proud Dons will again attempt the undertaking of reconstructing the Dominican republic, and as for this warlike fleet being intended for operations against the Ever Faithful Isle, it is sheer nonsense; for have we not been informed, time and time again, by good and reliable authority—Spanish, of course—that the Cuban revolution is a mere nothing; that the insurgents have no government, no money, no men in arms, no sea-ports, in fact, that they have nothing that can entitle them to recognition? To be sure, Spain has sent troops to Cuba; but then it must be borne in mind that the Spanish treasury is full, the people are proud and warlike and ambitious for display, and perhaps the forces that have been or are being sent from Cadiz are only intended for exhibition and to impress upon the youthful republic of the United States what it might expect if it should dare to recognize the insurgents. What if four governments have already looked with favor and sympathized with the rebels? They are only republics. But that Spain is not pleased with their action is evident from the fact that she has set her foot down and declared that no further recognition will be permitted. In face of all this would it not be madness for the United States to recognize the patriots? Can anything more forcibly be asserted in vindication of non-intervention on our part? Has not Spain a standing army, a great navy, immense resources and powerful allies? Has she not a fleet of gunboats building here which, in the event of their getting to sea and having no Cuban ports to guard, might, if the United States government was so reckless as to recognize Cuba, blockade our harbors and destroy our commerce? What if Spain did shelter the Sumter and the Alabama before her government recognized the belligerent rights of the slaveholders' rebellion? Had she not a perfect right to do so, for is she not strong, and was she not at one time mistress of the seas? Things have taken a more serious turn than the people think. Without a standing army what could we do against Spain? These are thoughts which are worthy of consideration, serious or otherwise. Is the republic of the West, then, in danger? or what does the threat of Spain and Spanish journalists amount to? Simply his—idle bombast, and nothing more. Why,

the United States would, if Spain became presumptuous, think no more of chastising her than a schoolmaster with his birchen rod would hesitate to flog an ill-behaved boy. Let these blustering, bombastic Spaniards cease this nonsense and speak of the situation as it presents itself as thoughtful and sensible men.