

THE SEIZURE OF THE CUBA.

Full Particulars of the Surrender—Direct Action of the President—The Crew Sent Ashore and Disbanded.

[From the Wilmington (N. C.) Journal, October 20.]

Yesterday morning Deputy United States Marshal Neff and Collector Rumley, with an officer of the revenue cutter, boarded the Cuban steamer Cuba with a writ of libel and demanded the surrender of the ship. Commander Dornin, in charge of the vessel, immediately despatched for Commodore Higgins, who repaired on board. The demand for the surrender being repeated, Commodore Higgins replied that by order of the President of the United States his vessel was lying quietly in the harbor awaiting the issue of the trial now pending before the United States Commissioner. He protested in the name of the republic of Cuba, of whose navy he was an officer, against any molestation on the part of the officers of the government.

Upon the officer insisting upon the surrender the Commodore refused to surrender to the civil officers, but would obey the orders of the President of the United States or other competent authority coming through the officers of the United States Navy. The Deputy Marshal repaired on board of the United States gunboat Frolic, and immediately Lieutenant Pearson, executive officer of the Frolic, proceeded on board of the Cuba and demanded the surrender of the ship by order of the President of the United States, which he exhibited to Commodore Higgins. That officer, protesting against the action of the government in seizing a man-of-war belonging to a foreign Power, surrendered his vessel to Lieutenant Pearson, at the same time handing his sword and surrendering himself and command as prisoners of war to the United States.

The vessel was turned over into the charge of Marshal Neff, after placing a guard of some twenty United States marines upon the Cuba. The Marshal gave orders at once to send the crew ashore and disband them. Commodore Higgins again remonstrated against this action. The men were regularly enlisted in the Cuban navy, and the action of the government officers would result in the total disbandment of the ship's crew, and would place it out of the power of the officers to man the ship if she should be discharged by the government. The crew were sent ashore and discharged.

The parole given by the officers of the Cuba and accepted by the government has been violated by the latter, and we suppose they are now in charge of the Marshal, who becomes responsible for their safekeeping until the hearing before Commissioner Rutherford is concluded.

This action of the President of the United States is most extraordinary under all the circumstances of the case. By an order the vessel is seized and virtually confiscated while she is being tried before the proper tribunal to see if she has even rendered herself liable to be tried for any violation of law—before, indeed, she had been held for trial. The disbanding of the crew effects all that Spain could do in her capture, for the officers, if the vessel should be discharged, would not be allowed to recruit in a port of the United States.

This action, of course, disposes of the case of the Cuba before the Commissioner and transfers it to the District Court. The trial of the officers will be resumed on Thursday.

The turning loose of one hundred sailors and marines, without control and without money, in our city, is an outrage upon our citizens, and the Mayor should hold, and the people ought to hold, the Marshal responsible for their good behavior. Unless some provision is made for them by the government or city we expect to hear of much trouble. If these men are citizens of Cuba that government has been grossly outraged; if they are citizens of the United States the government should make provision for them and not cast them loose to create disturbance or to suffer for the ordinary necessities of life in a strange city.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Oct. 21, 1869.

The case of the officers of the Cuba came up to-day, but no decision was given. The court adjourned until to-morrow.

Suicide of One of the Crew of the Cuba.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21, 1869.

Information has been received from Wilmington, N. C., that on Tuesday night one of the seamen of the Cuba sprang from the fourth story window of the Seamen's Home, where the crew of that vessel are stopping, and after lingering two hours died, his skull having been broken by the fall. Around his deathbed stood many of his comrades, including Captain Higgins.