

The Cuban Junta and the Hornet.

CAPTAIN HIGGINS' ACTION DENOUNCED.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29, 1869.

General Butterfield's Resignation.

General Butterfield's resignation as Assistant Treasurer at New York will not be accepted until his successor shall be appointed, which will take place in the course of a few days.

The New Secretary of War.

The new Secretary of War visited the War Department to-day and had a lengthy interview with General Sherman. The Secretary has determined to take possession of his office on Monday next. To-day a number of friends called and were received.

The Cuban Privateer Hornet—Unfavorable Comments of the Cuban Junta on the Conduct of Captain Higgins.

Considerable comment of an adverse character has been made upon what is termed the mismanagement of the Cuban Junta in the matter of the privateer Hornet. It has been charged against them that they employed an ex-Confederate for a commander and subalterns of the same stripe, which only injured their cause in the minds of a large number of people in the Northern States. Señor Lemus has made a statement to your correspondent relative to this matter which puts it in an entirely different light. According to Mr. Lemus the Hornet was presented to the Cuban Junta by certain parties, who stipulated that as a condition precedent they should have the selection of her officers and crew. This was agreed to, with the understanding that a portion of her crew should be Cubans. In their anxiety to get a ship the Cubans were glad to accede to any proposition, and believing that the parties who had so generously come to their aid would place the proper kind of officers on board the Hornet they were content to have their country represented by a few marines and seamen. The Junta had no knowledge of Captain Higgins nor of any of his officers, but they supposed he had his heart in the business and would do his best for Cuba. No persons could be more surprised than were Mr. Lemus and his friends when they heard that Captain Higgins had run his ship into the port of Wilmington. They supposed she was on her way to Cuba, and had made arrangements to supply her with coal and stores all along the coast of the United States and off the British possessions in the West Indies, so that she could not be compelled to put into port at all, except on account of shipwreck. As soon as Mr. Lemus heard that the Hornet was seized he addressed a letter to Captain Higgins asking for an explanation of his conduct. Captain Higgins, however, did not reply to this letter, and has acted all along as if he did not recognize Mr. Lemus in his official position as representative in this country of the Cuban republic. Mr. Lemus does not charge Captain Higgins with treachery, but he has his suspicions that all is not right. Indeed, all the facts and circumstances would seem to point to the conclusion that the Hornet was run into the port of Wilmington for the purpose of having her seized by the United States authorities. It has been discovered that the wife of Captain Higgins left New York soon after the Hornet sailed south for the purpose of joining her husband at Wilmington, and arrived there about the same time as the ship. Mr. Lemus thinks that perhaps Captain Higgins had a dread of being captured by our navy, and imagined that if he could put into an American port and come out again without molestation he would be safe from all danger from that quarter. Wilmington, however, was the worst place he could have selected for his experiment, if he entertained this idea, as the sequel has proven. Altogether it is manifest that the faith of Cubans in Captain Higgins is considerably shaken.