

THE CUBAN PRIVATEERS.

The Government Orders the Detention of the Privateer Cuba.

Arraignment of the Officers of the Privateer Before the United States Commissioner at Wilmington.

A Day Set Down for the Examination.

CONTEMPLATED EXPEDITIONS

Action of the Cabinet in the Case of the Privateer Hornet—The Vessel to Be Detained—An Investigation into Her Character Ordered—Another Expedition Contemplated.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5, 1869.

The Cabinet meeting to-day was brief, and the only question of interest discussed was the case of the privateer Hornet, of Cuba. After a careful consideration of the matter it was agreed that the Hornet should be detained until an examination can be made into her character. Her officers and crew are to be taken before the United States Commissioner at Wilmington and examined. What will be the result of the matter is not known. It is thought in official circles here that the Cuban ran into Wilmington for the purpose of being seized, her officers and men fearing that they might be pursued either by some United States, British or Spanish vessel. It is but just to add, however, that this opinion is not shared by Cuban sympathizers here. The Spanish Minister is particularly well pleased with the decision of the Cabinet.

Information has been received in Washington of a Cuban expedition consisting of 400 men, with an abundant war material, which will leave the vicinity of New York.

The Privateer Cuba—Arraignment of Her Officers—Charges Against the Vessel—Answer to the Allegations—It is Decided to Hold Her Until an Examination is Made.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Oct. 5, 1869.

This morning the case of the Cuban privateer Hornet was taken before General Allen Rutherford, United States Commissioner for the district of Cape Fear. Judge Person and Mr. French appeared for the government, and George Davis and Judge O. P. Mears for the defendants. The parties were arraigned on the charge that they did accept and exercise a commission to serve a foreign people in war, to wit, the people of Cuba, against the people of Spain, a country with which the United States is at peace; and did fit out and arm, and did procure to be fitted out and armed within the limits of the United States a certain ship or vessel called the Cuba, with the intent that said vessel shall be employed in the service of the people of Cuba to cruise and commit hostilities against the people of Spain—a country with which the United States are at peace—and did enlist and serve on board of said vessel, with intent to cruise and commit hostilities against the people of Spain, in violation of the statutes of the United States and of the act of Congress of the 20th of April, 1815. The government not pressing the matter the parties were not required to give bonds for their appearance at the time specified, but were placed in the custody of United States Marshal Neff, who released them on parole on their personal assurance that they would not leave. Counsel for the government made the point that the vessel had been fitted out in the United States as charged in the indictment to cruise and commit hostilities against a government with which the United States was at peace, and, to make it a *prima facie* case, they asked for continuance to allow time to secure the presence of witnesses for the government from New York and Washington.

Counsel for the defendants opposed the motion for continuance, contending that the United States had no right to hold them, as the vessel was commissioned by a regularly organized government, the republic of Cuba. The ship put in at Smithville in distress, and it was contrary to the law of nations to detain her. Commissioner Rutherford decided it was a *prima facie* case, and granted the government until Monday, the 11th inst., to produce witnesses.

The Cuban Expedition Delayed—Whereabouts of the Recruits—Intentions of the Leaders.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5, 1869.

Your correspondent, who left the Florida coast last Saturday, announces the reported departure of the Cuban expedition on Friday as premature. The expedition was delayed at Cedar Keys, owing to the non arrival of the Lillian's convoy from New Orleans with additional troops. About 2,200 men are scattered about the Florida Keys, and it was expected they would embark on Saturday or Sunday, as the Lillian was reported lying off, awaiting the tide. The Florida Railroad two weeks ago transported to Cedar Keys ten carloads of war material, consigned to gentlemen in Galveston, which is now at a point out of the reach of United States officers. Artillery was brought out from New York on a schooner and put aboard a vessel in the Gulf. It is positively asserted by officers high in command that Steadman and Magruder will go out on the Lillian or Teaser or in the next venture. The detention of the Hornet at Wilmington may delay the final departure for Cuba, as she was to be a convoy. The Lillian is commanded by Eloy Comancho, the pilot who, in March last, captured the Spanish steamer Comanditario, and who went out on the last trip of the Alabama.