

THE SPANIARDS AND CUBANS IN NEW YORK.

Affairs at the Junta—The Hornet and the Enterpe—The Spanish Gunboats and the United States Marshal.

Intense excitement prevailed yesterday in Spanish and Cuban circles in this city, in consequence of the news of the morning and the rumors which were flying about in the afternoon. While the hot-headed Dons were depressed in spirits and exceedingly abusive of the general government, the Cuban leaders preserved a calm serenity, which could only be the result of conscious innocence and intimate knowledge of the intentions of the authorities at Washington. The history of the Cuba, or, as she is still called, the Hornet, is now well known, but hitherto she has not received that attention which her importance would seem to demand. There is an important question of law at issue concerning her, and the attempt to solve it may possibly result in war. An American vessel started from an American port, and afterwards seized, searched, and finally freed in a British harbor, and sent to sea by her owners as a man-of-war, or privateer; it was evident from the first that she would be the cause of no little trouble. The Spanish agents hoped to fasten the blame of her departure as a pirate on the United States government, and make her the occasion for a declaration of neutrality on the part of the authorities at Washington as would greatly benefit the Spanish regency; and the Cubans hoped that her peculiar case would hasten the acknowledgment of the belligerent rights of the Cuban republic by the President and Cabinet. This was the burden of conversation yesterday in places where Dons and Cubans most do congregate.

The bulk of opinion favored the idea that Captain Higgins, commander of the Cuba, had sank the administration and forced the acknowledgment of the belligerency of the Céspedes government, and it was universally conceded that the entrance of the Cuba into the port of Wilmington was a *ruse de guerre*, and was not caused by the supposed want of coal or supplies. The advantage which would naturally attach to the captain of the Cuba in having at the outset of his cruise an acknowledgment by the United States authorities that ~~he was~~ legitimately employed in ~~lawful~~ warfare against Spain was evidently ~~in~~ ^{to} account, and the risk of running ~~her~~ ^{into} Wilmington was doubtless well ~~weighed~~ ^{weighed} and finally accepted with the object well ~~defined~~ ^{defined}. No little surprise was expressed in the city yesterday that the administration ~~should~~ have been so prompt in declaring ~~its~~ ^{its} position toward the Cuba, and the only explanation offered was that President Grant had finally made up his mind to

take a decided stand against the pretensions of Spain and in favor of the Cuban patriots. The action of the Cabinet in granting permission to the Cuba to remain in port twenty-four hours is a virtual acknowledgment of the belligerent rights of Cuba. No nation can rightfully accord such a privilege to a vessel of a province or dependency of a nation with which it is at peace unless for the purpose of giving an open acknowledgment of the belligerency of that province or dependency. Without the recognition of the Cuban republic by the United States the Washington authorities cannot regard the Cuba in any other light than as a pirate, except by taking ground which will speedily result in war with Spain or the formal recognition of the insurgents as an independent power.

The action of the government therefore is justly regarded as significant of its action in the future. These considerations formed the staple of animated conversation in Spanish and Cuban circles in the city yesterday, and were discussed from every point of view, and in accordance with the political bearings of the speakers. At the Cuban Junta headquarters great satisfaction was expressed by leading Cubans that the administration had at length taken a determined stand, and one in perfect accord with the hopes of the patriots and the wishes of the majority of American citizens. The rooms of the Junta were thronged all day and the utmost enthusiasm was manifested by the visitors. The idea of the Cuba having to go into Wilmington for coal was regarded as an excellent joke, several vessels being stationed outside that port for some time laden with the precious mineral for the use of the ship. In fact, enough transpired in conversation with the leading Cubans to show that the man-of-war sailed into Wilmington merely for the purpose of getting a character from the United States government previous to her voyage in search of Spanish merchantmen.

At one o'clock yesterday Señor Zanco received the following laconic despatch from the commander of the Cuba in reply to a telegraphic inquiry of the morning:—

WILMINGTON, Oct. 1, 1892.

She is not armed.

R. HIGGINS.

The *Euterpe* still lies at pier 20, her owners afraid to let her proceed to sea. The answer of Mr. Secretary Fish to the letter of Messrs. Mallory was considered somewhat evasive, if not ironical, and the assurance of the determination of the government to avenge any and every insult to its flag by privateers, while being considered unnecessary, was not thought entirely satisfactory. The fears of Messrs. Mallory are, however, entirely groundless, as the Cuban officers would not dare to molest the *Euterpe* while sailing under the United States flag. That the Spaniards and Cubans also have a perfect right to ship arms and ammunition from this and other ports as articles of merchandise, is undoubted, and nothing can be done to prevent them.

The sailing of vessels of war is another affair altogether and calls for governmental interference. If the *Euterpe* were a Spanish vessel and chartered by the Spanish government to carry munitions of war from this port to Havana the case would wear an entirely different aspect; but being one of a regular line of American steamers, and engaged in legitimate trade, she cannot be libelled, seized or interfered with in any manner. The guns are undoubtedly intended for the Spanish Mosquito fleet; but nevertheless their shipment is perfectly legal. If proof were given that at or even outside the harbor the guns and ammunition would be transferred to a Spanish war vessel it would be proper for the government, under the affidavits of the Peruvian Minister, who libelled the gunboats, to stop their shipment, but not otherwise. It would seem that the Spanish agents are convinced that their game is up in the Antilles, and that it would be a foolish expenditure of money to send the guns and ammunition to Cuba while there was not the least prospect of the gunboats being allowed to depart on their mission.

These gunboats, thirty in number, are nearly all ready for sea; the fifteen vessels at the Delamater Iron Works especially being in a forward state of preparation. A few of them are ready to move out at a moment's notice. No. 1, which made a trial trip down the bay recently, is quite ready for service. A rumor prevailed last week that an attempt would be made to run out one or two of these boats, whether the government was willing or not; but there seems to be no just grounds for supposing that the Spanish government would court certain discomfiture in that manner. There are no officers or men on board the boats at present, and, so far as could be ascertained, no provisions necessary for a voyage to Havana.

The supervision of the flotilla was transferred by Marshal Barlow to the Navy Department some weeks since, and Captain Harmony, of the navy, has now charge of them at the Delamater Works. He is exceedingly watchful, and there is not the least probability of any attempt being made to run the gauntlet of his vigilance. The gunboats will continue a standing advertisement for the Delamater Works for many a day to come.

One of the *HERALD* reporters dropped in on United States Marshal Barlow yesterday for the purpose of ascertaining his views on things in general—Cuban in particular. The General said, in answer to the several questions put to him, that he considered the action of the government in permitting the Cuba to remain in the port of Wilmington for twenty-four hours as a virtual acknowledgment of the belligerent rights of the Cubans; but that it was no affair of his, and he had no right to dictate to the government. His jurisdiction embraced New York coast, part of New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts. If any attempt was made to violate the law within that district he would be prompt in arresting the guilty parties. General Barlow further stated that he had heard rumors of expeditions being prepared by the Cubans at this port, but that he did not believe them. Everything was very quiet so far as he could learn. The *Euterpe* might start for Havana whenever her owners liked, but the Spanish gunboats would not be allowed to depart.