

## The Spanish Gunboats.

It is probable, though not certain, that the fate of the thirty Spanish gunboats built in this country and at present under the surveillance of the United States agents will be decided in a short time. The Spanish Minister having made a demand on Secretary Fish for their delivery in the name of Spain, the American government will have to take some decided action on the subject. The assurance that these vessels will not be used against Peru, it is said, has been given by the representative of Spain, and under such circumstances it is difficult to see how the United States can hold them under the extra-judicial proceeding which has been taken to detain them. If this will hasten the government to take decided action in relation to Cuba we shall feel pleased, and the American people will rejoice in the action of the Spanish Minister in thus bringing the matter to a head. A Spanish man-of-war arrived at this port on Saturday. Four or five more are expected within a short time. What is the meaning of all this show? It can hardly be that the Spaniards imagine that this, to them, formidable demonstration will awe the government of the United States into acquiescence with the demands of Spain. This cannot be. President Grant has taken his time to consider about the departure of this mosquito flotilla, and no amount of show will change him from his purpose. At all events the demand of the Spanish Minister will tend to bring the subject to a crisis—a consummation much desired by the American people.