

AN EXPEDITION FOR CUBA.

Preparations in New Orleans—The Command Declined by Harry Hays—General Steedman the Probable Leader—Attitude of the Government.

NEW ORLEANS, April 18, 1860.

Preparations are actively on foot in this vicinity for a formidable and well organized expedition to aid the insurgent Cubans, and it will no doubt be of a serious character. Men are being engaged rapidly and sworn to secrecy, and a number of brass howitzers have recently been purchased here and sent to some unknown destination.

There seems to be no lack of money, but there is so much blowing at street corners and so much publicity and gasconade that the matter may drop through from pure mismanagement.

The government officers either cannot or will not take any effective steps to stop the movement, and no definite instructions can be obtained from Washington regarding it.

It is stated that the command was tendered to Harry Hays, an ex-Confederate major general, who through his personal popularity among his old soldiers and his knowledge of Spanish warfare could collect around him at a day's notice two or three thousand veterans. Notwithstanding that very considerable pecuniary inducements have been held out to him, he declines on the ground that he is too old and has too good a law practice to give it up.

General Steedman remains the probable leader. He is brave, but wanting in prudence, discretion and self-command, and if he gets off will make either a striking success or a most complete and disastrous failure.

Collector Casey, who is a brother-in-law of the President, says openly that he does not want to hear or know anything about expeditions of any kind, and District Attorney Morgan states that his appeals to Washington for definite instructions are answered only with vague generalities. Marshal Herron, who has recently returned from Washington, hints that he shall keep up appearances, but do little.