

# TELEGRAPHIC NEWS

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**Despondency of the Patriots at the Arrest of  
the Cuban Junta in New York—Deserters  
from the Spanish Army—Skirmishes in the  
Eastern Department.**

WASHINGTON, July 11, 1869.

Letters have been received in this city from prominent officers in the Cuban army of the republic via Nassau and Key West, with dates to the 1st inst. The intelligence of the arrest of the members of the Cuban Junta and others who desired to give practical aid to the Cubans who were struggling to achieve their independence had been received, and produced a most profound impression of surprise and regret. No other news could have caused such a feeling of despondency. One of the writers states:—"It came like the news of the death of your nearest and best friend, your only friend, and the feeling of all seemed to be that we were alone and must expect no assistance. However, all seeing that it is now 'liberty or death,' for no mercy can be expected from the Spaniards, will fight as only men driven to such desperation can fight."

Letona, who has succeeded Lerca in command of the troops garrisoning Nuevitas and Puerto Principe and guarding the railroad between these cities, is reported to have met with a serious loss in the desertion of some two hundred of his troops to the standard of Quesada. They report the dissatisfaction among the Spanish troops to be increasing every day, caused by the frequent changes lately of the commander of these posts and the generals and regimental commanders.

Frequent collisions were reported between the outposts of the two forces in the Eastern Department, with but small loss on either side, though the Cubans claim an advantage of position, and of earnestness on the part of their troops.

The Spanish commanders continue to execute all prisoners immediately on their capture; even those who are wounded are executed on the field. General Quesada has hitherto respected the rights of prisoners. This policy is giving dissatisfaction in his camp, and a number of his followers demand the right to retaliate.