

WASHINGTON.

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WASHINGTON, July 4, 1899.

The Interview Between the English and Spanish Ministers—News from Cuba.

I have ascertained from an official source that the recent conferences between the English Minister and Señor Roberts, the Spanish Minister, about which so much has been said in the newspapers, has no significance as touching public affairs. Mr. Thornton's visit was of a friendly character, and the only subject of importance mentioned was the case of the vessel Mary Lowell, captured some time ago by a Spanish war steamer. This was brought up incidentally; but no conclusive arrangement was proposed on either side. The Spanish Minister received a despatch to-day from Cuba which states that everything is going on smoothly so far as the Spaniards are concerned. The excessive heat and the prevalence of yellow fever had, to a great extent, put an end to operations on both sides. The new Captain General, De Rodas, is making preparations for an active campaign against the insurgents as soon as the warm weather is over and the health of the troops shall have improved. He proposes to call for fresh reinforcements from Spain; and hopes with these to follow the insurgents into the interior and to those parts of the island hitherto held almost undisputed by the Cubans. The Spanish Legation does not take any stock in the news sent here from Key West. There they say the Cubans have complete control of the sources of news and manipulate everything to suit themselves. What comes from Havana direct they regard as the only correct information that reaches the public.

Instructions to Minister Sickles—No Negotiation for the Purchase of Cuba.

The instructions to Minister Sickles were drawn at the Department of State with much caution, and soon thereafter sent to him in New York under such circumstances as to preclude the possibility of a premature disclosure of their contents; but from what has since transpired in official circles it is safe to assert that there is no instruction relative to the purchase of Cuba.