

SPAIN.

General Sickles' Despatch to the Ministry—
What the Note Said of Cuba—The Spanish
Furor—Will Rise "as One Man"—Iron-
Clade, Thousands of Troops and War-
Sickles Very Cool—Queen Isabella's Inter-
est in the Island.

MADRID, Sept. 9, 1868.

Without having seen the despatch of General Sickles, which was sent to the Ministry of State on Saturday last, your correspondent has seen another person connected with the Department who has seen it, and without pretending to know more than he does know. If his memory and eyesight of it serves him correctly, the following is a reliable version of the diplomatic document which has caused such a furor in Madrid. General Sickles sent a note on Saturday afternoon to the State Department here stating "that his government had requested him to communicate to the Spanish government that the state of public opinion in America was so strong in favor of Cuba that it would be extremely difficult to withhold much longer the recognition of the Cubans as belligerents. Furthermore that if the war in that island continued that for humanity's sake it would be incumbent upon the United States government to take immediate steps towards the recognition of the belligerency of the Cubans. The reports from Cuba from special agents were of so serious a nature that duty to humanity compelled the government to take this course."

Here we have as good an account of General Sickles' despatch as if the General himself had furnished the HERALD with a copy of it, and in a more compendious and comprehensible form. The excitement consequent upon its appearance has not abated in the least. All classes are being stirred, if not to action, to the encouragement of each other to make a more determined effort to the reduction of the Cubans to obedience to the mother country. Six thousand men will leave in a few days for Cuba, and a further number of 15,000 is spoken of as probably bound for the same destination.

La Político, Serrano's organ, speaks in this wise of Sickles' note:—"But if General Grant is working thus unconstitutionally and has given directly these instructions to General Sickles with the intention of annihilating the Spanish flag, entire Spain will rise as one man to protest, with the energy of glorious times, against these intimations. No; we will hear nothing of emancipation in such a way. No; nothing of cession. No; nothing of abandonment. Meantime, while we prepare fitting response to this Yankee note, our iron-clad fleet must instantly prepare to sail for the waters of Cuba with 20,000 men on board, while all who can bear arms on the peninsula will hold themselves in readiness to march to Cuba at a moment's notice. The sons of the illustrious warriors who conquered the New World will show the Yankee government that they will not abandon Cuba except with honor to their beloved flag; that they will fight as becomes the Iberian race, it matters not against whom or against how many. Before this force, before this grand demonstration of power, the rebellion will be speedily extinguished, and the United States shall see how Spain will treat officious and insolent interference."

The Iberian organ of the Council of State thus again:—"General Grant, to-day President of the United States, in view of these reports may take to memory the gentlemanly procedure of Spain during the late civil war in America, who alone of the nations in Europe knew how to preserve the most exquisite neutrality, and in the same way we feel inclined to believe that the American government will worthily correspond. What favorable conditions have the Cubans for this interference of America? None. Their army—and we must be pardoned for calling it one—is neither disciplined nor numerous, nor was ever found in a condition to meet the Spanish army face to face in the field. What battles have the Cubans gained? What cities have they taken? Under what walls have their arms triumphed. Nobody can answer."

La Correspondencia, *El Pueblo*, *El Certamen*, *El Centurio del Pueblo*, the *Opinion Nacional*, &c., are very belligerent and do not content themselves with doubting the existence of the letters as *El Imparcial*, but excite the masses to meet, to assemble in all the plazas for a mutual understanding upon the course Spain should follow.

General Sickles understands diplomacy to be always reticent and guarded, to answer questions of correspondents vaguely, apparently unconcerned or unaware that he had written any very great and important despatch, and the members of the Legation preserve the same commendable reserve. From the Legation nothing can be gleaned.

Minister Roberts has written a letter to his government that he sees signs of danger in the Cuban horizon; that, in fact, Cuba is all but lost if the government of Spain will not immediately despatch 10,000 more men to Caballero de Rodas.

Queen Isabella, it is rumored, has offered to cede Cuba to the United States if that government on its part will undertake to rescind its recognition of Serrano's government and recognize herself as the rightful Queen of Spain.

Generals Dulce and Pierrad are seriously ill, the former on the point of death.

The reports of Sickles' despatch has seriously affected the Bourse here. On Saturday the \$100 bonds of Spain were negotiable at 22. On Wednesday they had fallen two per cent, for this was the day after the *Epoca's* revocations. Yesterday, from the continued illness of Napoleon and the insurrection of the volunteers, they had fallen to twenty-three per cent.

Complete tranquillity has been established in the capital, though the troops are still under arms. It was a time of intense anxiety last night, but all passed off quietly.