

THE SPANISH GUNBOATS.

Progress of the Fitting Out of the Mosquito Fleet—Rumors of Armament—The Cubans Keeping an Eye on the Vessels.

Work on the Spanish gunboats is progressing with great rapidity, and the scenes about the Delamater Iron Works remind one very forcibly of war times, when every arsenal and shop in the country was taxed to the utmost in furnishing vessels, arms, munitions, &c. Fifteen of the thirty gunboats contracted for by the Spanish government are completed by the shipbuilders, Messrs. Pollon, of Brooklyn, and Thomas Black, of Greenpoint, and are lying at the Delamater Iron Works, foot of Thirteenth street, North river, awaiting their machinery, the last of which was completed in the ships yesterday. The other fifteen vessels have been built at the shipyard of Mr. Mallory in Mystic, Conn., and the last of the number was launched yesterday. They will be immediately brought to New York to receive their machinery. All of the gunboats will be completed on the 1st of January, and will then be turned over to the Spanish officials in New York. One of the vessels is already finished, with the exception of sails and a little light work, and will make her trial trip next week. The contractors for the gunboats do not anticipate any further trouble from the United States authorities, and expect to turn over the vessels to the Spanish agents on the 1st of January without hindrance.

A rumor is in circulation that arms and munitions of war are being placed on board the gunboats at Mystic, but this report is somewhat improbable from the fact that the vessels are as yet mere hulks, and are to be brought to New York for completion. In their present condition there are no means for concealing arms on board, and even if there were, it would be very hazardous to place arms in the vessels before receiving their machinery.

The Cubans have an eye upon the work, and will of course spare no means to prevent the departure of the gunboats from New York. This they expect to accomplish, and Spain may possibly not get possession of her cruisers until after the exigencies which necessitated their construction shall have ceased to exist. At the headquarters of the Cuban Junta, No. 71 Broadway, the usual activity prevails, but the exact nature of the business transacted by the many military looking visitors remains a mystery to the uninitiated. These operations, however, are not without importance to Cuba, as a very few days will demonstrate. No news has been received by the Junta from the revolution since the last Cuban intelligence published in the *HERALD*.

Dr. A. T. Simmons, a resident of Ontario county, this State, is among the recent arrivals from Cuba. He has been in the habit, for several years past, of passing his winters in Cuba on account of his health, and had combined with his sojourn the practice of medicine. At the breaking out of the late rebellion he states that he was practicing medicine at Santiago de Cuba, but had gone temporarily to Puerto Principe to attend upon a patient. While at the latter place he was arrested, his trunk, private papers, \$1,500 in American and twenty dollar gold pieces and a rifle taken possession of by the authorities, and himself thrust into prison. After seven months' imprisonment, the latter part of it in the city prison at Havana, and during which time he asserts he endured all the pains and penalties of a rigorous prison life, he was finally released and allowed to come to the United States. His trunk and a portion of his papers were returned to him, but restoration of his money and rifle was refused. He asserts that there were no justifiable grounds for his arrest and keeping his property. Since his return he has written letters to President Grant and Secretary Fish, laying before them the facts of his treatment at the hands of the Cuban authorities, and asking that our government demand an indemnification for his losses.