

FOREIGN NEWS.

CUBA.

MOVEMENTS OF GEN. LESCA—THE HEAVIEST ENGAGEMENTS OF THE WAR—STRENGTH OF THE FORCES UNDER QUESADA.

HAVANA, March 8.—The Government has received and made public official dispatches giving details of the advance of Gen. Lesca from La Guanaja to Puerto Principe. On this march the heaviest engagement since the beginning of the rebellion was fought. Gen. Lesca found the enemy, to the number of 4,000, strongly intrenched on the Sierra de Cubitas. Artillery was brought up, and commenced a vigorous fire upon the works. Covered by the batteries, a column of regular troops, 1,500 strong, attacked the enemy's fortifications with the bayonet. Both sides fought with determination, and the havoc was fearful. Gen. Lesca reports his loss at 31 killed and 80 wounded. The loss of the rebels is estimated at upward of a thousand killed and wounded. The Government accounts claim a victory for Gen. Lesca, and assert that the insurgents are much disheartened by their defeat. A detachment which left Puerto Principe for Santa Cruz, to obtain supplies brought to that port by the fleet, returned on the 2d instant with provisions and ammunition, having made the march both ways without serious interruption. The entire available strength of the rebel forces now under Quesada is estimated at 7,000 men.

BANDITS IN THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT—FOUR PRIESTS AMONG THE CUBAN PRISONERS—THE PERUVIAN MONITORS.

The commanders of a British gunboat and a French steamer, which arrived here to-day, report that they passed in the Bahama Channel the Peruvian monitors in tow of two steamers, with a Spanish man-of-war following in their wake. Gen. Puello has left the town of Santo, Espiritu. He has divided his command into three flying columns to scour the country. The *Diario* reports that the rebel leaders in the province of Santo Espiritu have deserted their men.

In the Eastern Department bands are roving between Holquin and Gibara and committing great depredations and outrages. They carry the rebel flag, but are disowned by the insurgents themselves and denounced as bandits. A steamer arrived here to-day from Cienfuegos with a number of prisoners, among them four priests.
