

WASHINGTON.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS SENT TO ADMIRAL HOFF—HE IS ORDERED TO PREVENT AMERICAN VESSELS BEING SEARCHED BY SPANISH CRUISERS—THE MARY LOWELL CASE IN THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT—FAVORABLE CUBAN REPORTS—THE GLOBE CONTRACT—IMPORTANT REVENUE DECISION.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TIMES.]

WASHINGTON, May 2, 1893.

The Secretary of the Navy has called the attention of Admiral Hoff, commanding the North Atlantic Squadron now in Cuban waters, to the fact that armed Spanish vessels are in the habit of searching American merchantmen, not only in Spanish waters, but in the neutral waters of the Gulf of Mexico, for the purpose of ascertaining if any deserters are concealed in those vessels, or that they contain arms and other contraband material for the insurgent Cubans. The Department directs that the Admiral keep a vigilant watch hereafter, and prevent any such infraction of international law, and advise him that his duties are to protect not only American citizens, but American commerce as well. He is also ordered to prevent American war vessels from searching merchant vessels, it being their duty to protect American trade, and not to molest it.

The State Department has succeeded, through our Minister to England, and the evidence forwarded to him by Secretary Fish, in transferring the responsibility in the Mary Lowell case from our Government to England. The latter Government, it appears from information which has reached the State Department, has presented the claims arising from the seizure of the vessel by the Spanish Cuban authorities to the Spanish Government at Madrid, and demanded their settlement.

Trustworthy Cuban advices received here indicate a determined effort on the part of the Spanish forces to hold possession of Puerto-Principe and Nuevitas, and the railroad between. Quezala has been pressing them hard, and the Spaniards found it necessary to maintain connection with the coast, or be hemmed in at Puerto-Principe. Count Lesca's recent expeditions to Santa Clara have cost too much. It is believed that the Patriot General will impede the reopening of the railroad, to effect which is the chief object of the Spanish commander. The Captain-General has found it necessary to disarm two battalions of volunteers. The Cubans declare Gen. Dulce to be greatly alarmed at the almost uncontrollable ferocity of the volunteers, fearing that it may compel American interference. He has recently renewed his attempts to bribe leading patriots into leaving the Island. Gen. Cespedes has been offered a free pass for his family, and \$20,000, if he would abandon Cuba. Gen. Felix Figuerola, one of those who rose with the original force last October, and who has since proved himself a very useful soldier, was offered \$20,000. These propositions were made through citizens empowered by the Captain-General and were spurned at once. It is declared that some who sought to accept the proffered amnesty, issued about six weeks since, were recently murdered by outposts of volunteers. Several citizens, suspected of Patriot sympathies, have been taken from the Santiago de Cuba Jail at night, and murdered by order of Dulce's Chief of Staff. The universal sympathy with the revolution was recently acknowledged by the Spanish Gen. Miguel Lopez, operating in the Remedios District. He issued an address to the people, inviting them to return to their homes, which he owns were abandoned entirely at the approach of his column. He states that the laborers as well as the land-owners alike abandoned their property to "wander in the woods," the truth being that all are in the Patriot lines. The tone of all Cuban advices is very hopeful, and all refer to pending movements, which promise early and decisively-favorable results.