

signals. The result of the experiments so far as they were carried out was considered to be very satisfactory, and more trials will be made.

Active Warfare in Cuba.

HAVANA, Dec. 16.—On the morning of the 30th of November from 900 to 1,000 Cubans attacked the fort and town of Cascorro and after a sharp struggle succeeded in capturing the fort and hauling down the flag of Spain. This act, however, caused the loss of the leader of the storming party, Major Arango, who was killed inside of the fort, the Spaniards also losing a colonel and two lieutenants, and about twenty soldiers killed and wounded. A large lot of arms and ammunition was captured in the fort, which the Cubans took off safely.

On the night of the 6th the village of Sieria, near Cienfuegos, was captured by the Cubans numbering about eighty, and the forts defending the place were attacked, but without success. After the sacking of the stores they were burnt, the forts in the meanwhile keeping up a fire on the Cubans who lost three killed and five wounded. However, their coolness did not desert them, and they took plenty of time in arranging the captured property for transportation.

On the same night about thirty Cubans attacked the fort and village of Matienpo, and truly the place was not ill named, for the Cubans made it lively for the Spaniards. They captured large quantities of stores, as well as arms, ammunition, and provisions. The Fort was garrisoned by guardia civiles, who were snugly ensconced in the fort, and having heard no noise for some time, thought that the Cubans had gone off again. So they mustered up courage and made a sally, but much to their discomfiture, were greeted with a discharge from the rifles of the Cubans, who were watching the fort. The Guardia civiles returned at a quicker rate than they came out. After the Cubans had taken all that suited them, they left very quietly, without being molested and without losing a single man.

Several other small skirmishes between the Cubans and Spaniards have taken place lately in the Cinco Villas.

The troops from Spain do not arrive. Most of the regular soldiers are sick in the hospitals, and the few that are well are helping the volunteers and the newly drafted men, together with the colored firemen, in garrisoning the various forts and intrenchments, very seldom daring to show their faces outside them. There are times when they pass days without food on account of the non arrival of a convoy, said convoy having most probably been gobbled up by the Cubans. How the Spaniards are to end the insurrection by pursuing this line of conduct is incomprehensible. The Cubans are increasing in strength daily by reinforcements from the Spanish army, regular as well as drafted men from this island, the regular soldiers objecting to being mowed up in intrenchments and forts, without anything to eat and no pay, so they gladly join fortune with the Cubans, where at least the get enough to eat, and enjoy more liberty.

The Cubans in Havana are somewhat disappointed by the message of President Grant. They had strong hopes that something definite was to have been recommended. Still, the Cuban nature is very sanguine, and they build their hopes and expectations

upon the slightest of foundations, and are now awaiting anxiously for that special message which President Grant promises upon the affairs of Spain and Cuba.

The Spaniards, on the contrary, are wrothy, but take it very evenly. Nevertheless, there is a feeling of apathy, engendered by the disgust and suspicion inspired by the acts of Gen. Concha and his whole staff of officeholders. They know that they are being bled for the support of the army of cormorants who arrive weekly from Spain to fill the int positions under Government, but as they see no remedy they remain passive, pay as little as they can in the shape of taxes, and as for the volunteers they vow that not another one of them will go out campaigning.

Threatened War With Spain.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—It is an open secret here that our relations with Spain at the present time are very unsatisfactory, and that a war between the two countries may be precipitated at any moment. Spain, while complying with Great Britain's demand for indemnity in the Virginius case, has thus far taken no steps toward complying with our demand in the same case, and which should properly have precedence. An active correspondence is going on between Secretary Fish and Minister Cushing concerning the points at issue, which shows a strong desire on the part of this Government for the abolition of slavery in Cuba, and equally strong desire for the independence of that island. With regard to affairs in Cuba, Secretary Fish writes:

War still rages; there is no chance in the military situation, and this condition of things grow day by day more unsupportable to the United States. The policy of the United States in reference to Cuba, at the present time, is one of expectancy.

The points at least between the two Governments, briefly stated, are as follows: First—The existence of slavery in Cuba.

Second—Injury to American citizens in Cuba without adequate means of demanding immediate reparation on the spot.

Third—Wrong done American citizens by the embargo of their property for a alleged disloyalty. Restoration is demanded by the Government.

Fourth—Indemnity in the Virginius case.

Fifth—The expressed desire of this Government for the independence of Cuba.

To this must soon be added the offence committed by Spain in the detention of the American schooner Wm. Wilson. No official information has yet been received here of the boarding of the American schooner Wm. Wilson, six miles from Porto Rico, in the passage from a port in Spain to Turk's Island, by a Spanish cruiser, as reported in the press despatches of the 13th inst. It appears the schooner was hoisted by the firing of three blank cartridges from a Spanish war vessel, boarded, her cargo and destination ascertained, and she was then allowed to proceed. This case when officially presented by the Government will demand its immediate attention. As reported, Spain has been guilty of a breach of international law, for which she must be held to account.

On the 16th of June, 1858, the Senate of

the United States unanimously adopted a resolution in these words:

Resolved, As the judgment of the Senate, that American vessels on the high seas in the time of peace, bearing the American flag, remain under the jurisdiction of this country to which they belong; and, therefore, any visitation, molestation, or detention of such vessels on the part of a foreign power is in derogation of the sovereignty of the United States.

After the passage of this resolution Great Britain formally recognized the principle thus announced, and other maritime powers and writers on international law assert it. The President, in his message transmitting the Virginius correspondence to Congress said:

No state of war existed conferring upon a maritime power the right to molest and detain upon the high seas a documented vessel.

And the Attorney General, in his decision in the case, said:

Spain, no doubt, has a right to capture a vessel with an American register and carrying the American flag round in her own waters, assisting or endeavoring to assist the insurrection in Cuba; but she has no right to capture such a vessel on the high seas upon an apprehension that, in violation of the neutrality or navigation laws of the United States, she was on her way to assist the said rebellion.

The detention of the American schooner William Wilson on the high seas by a Spanish war vessel is therefore clearly a breach of the international law which this Government cannot afford to overlook.

It is well known to the authorities here that for months past Spain has been making extensive naval preparations to defend China.

General de Cissey has just written a highly complimentary letter to Colonel Reffye, Director of the Arsenal of Tarbes, on the subject of the breech loading field piece invented by him, and now adopted in the French service. The War Minister says that the regiments have the greatest confidence in their new piece, and that the only guns which have been damaged were some made by private firms during the war. "The system of artillery, which the army, through gratitude, has called after your name, has allowed us the space of fifteen months to reconstitute our field batteries." General de Cissey also mentions that "our first line of defence" will also soon be armed with the Reffye guns. These guns were first used in Paris during the siege. General Ducrot had them when he crossed the loop of the Marne and attacked the German lines at Champaigoy; the Reffyes were then highly spoken of; but not only were the troops not used to them, but the weather was so bitterly cold that the breech apparatus had not fair play.

A letter from Berlin, the writer of which is entitled to credit, says: "To the ordinary military budget 226,000,000fr. has to be added, devoted to the manufacture of muskets and cannon, the construction or strengthening of fortresses, and the construction of strategic railways. This extraordinary expenditure, spread over years, has been long voted, and the 226,000,000fr. to be voted for 1875 brings up the entire war budget to 626,900,000fr. with 36 millions for the navy. The bill on the Landarmy will be passed without any amendment, and it is calculated that for the cadres of this new contingent, 6,262 officers will be required."