THIRD EDITION.

5.00 A. M.

BOMBARDMENT OF HAVANA IMMINENT

Sampson and Schley Have Formed a Junction and Will Jointly Move Against the Cuban Capital.

THOUSANDS OF TROOPS TO BE LANDED IN CUBA AT ONCE

Plenty of Big Warships Now Available to Afford a Safe Convoy and the Army of Regulars Now Concentrated at Tampa Will Form the First Expeditions.

FITZ LEE'S CORPS WILL BE AMONG THE FIRST TO LAND

In all Probability, and When the Regulars Have Been Transported a Big Invading Army of Volunteers Will Follow-Naval Experts in This Country Agree that the Defences at Havana Can be Silenced and Captured by the Formidable Combined Fleets of Schley, Sampson and Watson, While Enough Vessels of the Right Kind Can be Afterwards Spared and Sent Out to Hunt for the Elusive Fleet of Cervera. and Rid the Seas of Spain's Principal Squadron-Activity Along all CADIZ FLEET READY FOR SEA. Lines May Now be Looked For, Such Activity as Will Surprise the Public in Its Quickness and Completeness of Results-United States Government has Seized the Telegraph Office at Key West and Suppressed all Newspaper Despatches Bearing on the Coming Attack on

WITHIN NEXT 24 HOURS EXPECT TO HEAR OF A GREAT NAVAL CONFLICT

The state of the s

TO CRUSH CERVERA'S FLEET.

Schley, Sampson and Watson Fixing For Him, But Where Is He?

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, May 18.—Notwithstanding that the Navy Department has cabled to every United States Consul on the Northern coast of South America and in the West Indies today for the whereabouts of the Cape de Verde fleet, it is confessed by the naval strategists tonight that they know nothing about where the elusive Spaniards are.

JUST WHERE THEY WANT THEM It is regarded as extremely probable that the Spanish vessels will proceed to San Juan, and this is just where the Navy Department would most like them to be, as thus located Sampson and Schley could crush them without difficulty.

ficulty.

The probabilities are that Sampson's, Watson's and Schley's fleets are together tonight, arranging the three squadrons in better formations for the capture of the Spanish fleet, and the reduction of Havana.

The navy officials said tonight that monitors are already before Havana prepared to resist any atempt of the Spanish fleet to get into that harbor, should it appear.

The secrecy at the Navy Department has been redoubled.

EFFORTS TO SECURE PEACE.

Mediation of European Powers Again Broached—The Alleged Terms, Etc. By Cable to The Morning Post.

Olbraltar, May 18.—The Spanish fleet at Cadiz is ready for sea. It is expected that it will sail for the Philippines at the end of the current

It is reported that 11,000 troops will company the fleet.

LATEST FROM THE FLEETS.

onfirmation of Previous Statements bardment Near.

pecial Telegram to The Morning Post.

Newspaper Despatch Boat Brings Details of Attack.

FORIS WERE NOT SILENCED

And the Only Loss of Life Occurred as Sampson's Fleet Was Steaming Away-But They Were so Badly Danaged as to Render Them Practically Useless for Any Further Defensive Operations of Consequence-Why the Bombardment Occurred—The Spaniards Fired On the Flag of Truce.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Key West, Fla., May 18 .- The newspaper despatch boat arrived here today, bringing the details of the bom-bardment of San Juan on May 12th.

By Cable to The Morning Post.

London, May 18.—A despatch from Paris to the Daily Mail says that negotiations are being conducted to secure peace between Spain and the United States, which the former is willing to make if she is allowed to retain Porto Rica and the Philippine Islands, possibly only the latter.

Hanotaux, the French Poreign Minister, is preparing the way for mediation, and Austria is working in the same direction.

It is likely that the suggested terms will take definite form in a few days. ers and men were greatly disap-pinted.

res and men were greatly disapointed.
They did not give a rap to shell with-rate defenses like those at San wan. They went there fully expecting the Spanish fleet, including the badly torpedo-boat destroyers, were here, and orders for an attack were twon under the supposition that the banish fleet was in the harbor. The American fleet was deployed for a attack on the land defenses and we enemy's ships simultaneously, speal instructions being given to look at for the dreaded destroyers and to order the dreaded destroyers and to order the dreaded destroyers and to order the fire on them if they speared.

Sampson had maps and charts of Sampson had maps and charts of

red.

pson had maps and charts of
efenses and harbor, but they
misleading.

fleet appeared off San Juan at
ht, but the cable had already
nced the prospective bombardand the people had fled in ter-

der the steel decks. But they laughed in derision at the bungling and fruit-less efforts of the enemy to hit the

less efforts of the enemy to hit the ships.

Each commander fought his ship in the open, standing out on the unprotected bridge of his vessel.

Admiral Sampson occupied the Iowa as his flagship and observed the fight, glasses in hand, from the bridge.

Shells screamed around and over him, but he was unharmed.

The captains, aides and signal officers were the only ones exposed, all the others being under cover.

The net result of the engagement was that the forts were badly damaged, and practically rendered useless for any further defensive operations of any consequence.

THE LATE SPANISH MINISTER,

Senor Polo y Bernabe a Subject of Discus -His Connection With Spanish Spies.

His Connection with Spanish Spies.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
Ottawa, Ont., May 18.—In the House of Commons tonight. Mr. Charlton.
Inade an attack on Polo, declaring that Spanish spies under him had crossed over into the States.
Mr. Laurier, in reply to a query whether he had done anything to prevent this, guardedly declared that he had not done anything to hasten Polo's departure.
Polo declared today that he would eave Saturday.

THE OREGON IS ALL RIGHT.

No Longer In Dange, of Capture by Spanish and Will Soon be With Sampson. II Not Aiready in Cuban Waters Washington, May 18.—The battle-ship Oregon is safe from the Spanish float

flet.

Her long voyage from 'Frisco is practically ended.

It was officially announced by Secretary Long this afternoon, but for obvious reasons her location is not

disclosed.

Reliable information declares that she is somewhere east of Porto Rico, but many naval officials hint that she is already off the Cuban coast.

The gunboat Marietta is also with her, but the dynamite cruiser Buffalo is not.

It is declared positively that she

Delayed a Few Hours But Well on Her Way Now Probably.
By Telegraph to The Morning Post.
San Francisco. May 18.—The cruiser Charleston started for Manila today, but another delay of a few hours resulted, and tonight she was still in the harbor, trimming ship, as her cargo was badly stowed.
She will be off some time during the night, however, on her way, carrying relief to the hero of Manila.

Twenty-eight Torpedo Boats and Destroyers Will be Added.

For Uncle Sam Under the Provisions of the Recently Passed Naval Appropriation Bill-Secretary Long Invites all Shipbuilders to Participate in Bidding for the Construction of the Vessels - American Shipbuilders Will for the First Time be Given an Opportunity to Construct Torpedoboat Destroy-

By Telegraph to The Morning Post.

Washington, May 18.—For the first ime American ship builders are to be iven a chance to construct torpedo-

given a chance to construct torpedobat destroyers.

Secretary of the Navy Long today sent out a circular letter to all shipbuilders, inviting them to participate in bidding for the construction of torpedobats authorized by the naval appropriation bill.

Sixteen destroyers and twelve torpedo-boats are to be built. The contracts will be let as soon as possible, so that there will be no delay. Each destroyer must have a speed of 28 knots, and each torpedo-boat not less than 26 knots.

All of the former must be constructed within eighteen months, and the smaller craft within twelve months.

THREE BATTLESHIPS INCLUDED. By Telegrah to The Morning Post.
Washington, May 18.—Among the
bids asked by the Navy Department
today are those for the construction
of three battleships, and thirty-two
ther warships.

ALABAMA IS LAUNCHED.

By Telegraph to The Morning Post. Philadelphia, May 18.—The Alabama was successfully launched today. She is one of the finest warships in the American navy, even superior to the Lowa and Indiana, and one of the finest vessels afloat.