FIRED ON SANTIAGO.

Another American Warships Begin the Bombardment.

FORTS AT SANTIAGO DE CUBA TESTED.

Shots Lasted from 3 to 3:45 p.m.—Schley Forces His Way Into the Harbor Result Unknown.

Port au Prince, Hayti, May 31.—About 2 o'clock this afternoon a squadron composed of four battleships, probably the entire New York displayed the flag of Rear Admiral Sampson, and a number of torpedo boats, hove in sight off here with heavy guns of the forts and the harbor of Santiago de Cuba. The American ships were distinctly visible against the forts and the water.

The town of Morro Castle, La Socapa and Punta Gorda suffered no damage. The cannonade was very persistent and caused a heavy smoke to arise, continuing for some time, when the firing ceased completely.

The Spanish authorities maintain their silence as to the number of warships, and were not to be seen anywhere.

According to advices from a Spanish source the American warships and the torpedo boats were engaged in the combat at Santiago. A careful reconnoitering by the batteries of Morro Castle until 3:45 p. m., when the charges of cannon began to be heard at sea off the port. These discharges continued until 4 o'clock, then entirely ceased. From the nature of the reports it appears to judge of the naval results at the encounter.

"SHLEY AT WORK.

Washington, May 31.—President Roosevelt this morning received advices indicating that Schley is engaging Cervera's fleet and forcing him out of the harbor of Santiago. Intense interest is manifested. The navy department has no confirmation of the report, but has every reason to believe them entirely reliable.

A private cablegram to the Washington Post from Hamilton, Bermuda, says that Admiral Schley's fleet at Santiago and the forts there at that point and says Schley has forced his way into the outer harbor, and at last reports was attacking both shore batteries and fleet.

FLEETS ENGAGED.

Cape Haitien, May 31.—[Consolidated, via the Associated Press.]—All day yesterday the people from Haitien say that about 2 o'clock this afternoon the American fleet at Santiago de Cuba began to bombard the batteries of Morro Castle, La Socapa and Punta Gorda.

At the same time the admiral's flag ship and ships have been engaged with the Spanish warships. The firing was continued for about 3:45 p. m. At 3:45 the commanding became less heavy against the fortifications, but was not entirely discontinued in the vicinity where the fleets were engaged.

Morro castle is at the entrance of the harbor of Santiago de Cuba, 14 degrees to shoal on the shape as La Socapa and, in a short distance inside the other entrance, Punta Gorda, is situated on a point well inside the harbor of Santiago de Cuba, showing that the American fleet has entered the harbor according to the Havana advices of Tuesday last, and has engaged the Spanish fleet in the harbor.

The correspondent of the Associated Press, who was on the naval station about the same time, also heard sounds resembling a cannonade. The wind was in the right direction to carry the detonations to him.

It seems certain that the fleet the Madrid government has in pursuance of turning backward across the front of an overpowering force.

REPORT DISCREDITED.

Washington, May 31.—Naval officials absolutely discredit the news from Cape Haitien to the effect that Admiral Sampson forced the entrance to Santiago bay and engaged the Spanish fleet in the harbor.

While no official advices have been received from Schley since the battle is recognized as probable, naval officials confer with positiveness that it is not only improbable, but under the circumstances utterly impossible, that an attempt should have been made by the American commander to force an entrance to the bay.

The latest official advices received from Admiral Sampson are to the effect that a collision which came into this afternoon, and in that the commander-in-chief of the Spanish fleet is to try to enter the harbor of Santiago. While the contents of the dispatch were not made public, the impression here was that the navy department indicates that Commodore Schley is still engaged in the bombardment just when the Spanish vessels are in the harbor. The battle follows:

Nothing from Schley's fleet has sighted another vessel if the Viscaya class to Santiago harbor.

The officials declare that Schley would not endeavor to force his way into the harbor in view of the great difficulties of navigation, which would have to be surmounted in the effort. The channel to the harbor is said to be hardly three-quarters of a mile long, and at one point only about 60 yards wide. While the channel has plenty of water to float the ships, it is tortuous, and at places dangerous. At one point it is said to be impossible for a ship to turn around, and naval officers say that it would become necessary at some stage of the game for a warship to back out, if not quite to a full stop so as to make the turn. Shore batteries on both sides of the channel, and a vessel running it would afford a target which even a Spanish gunner could not fail to hit.

BUTCHER A CHILD.

Twelve Years Old Killed and Quartered Cruel to Spanish Tyranny.

Key West, Fla., June 1.—A prominent Cuban here has received the following letter from his son, who is a member of the Florida expedition, dated May 26th:

"Dear Father:—At last we are in Cuban soil, in the midst of our brave and valiant brothers. The Spaniards avoid us, but little in this section and we are with the most disastrous results to themselves. Since our arrival we run of almost incessantly and have had three engagements, and are nothing the worse. Antonio Maceo is with us, having had no rest since he landed on the morning of the 26th. He is the largest landed to date, and very as concerns arms and ammunition, but also provisions.

"Moments we learned of obtained communication with the Cuban forces from Tampa yesterday at Brig. Gen. Lee and his staff. Today we expect further reinforcements.

"Provisions and fruit abound in this rich and especially plentiful. Horses are plentiful, but cattle are scarce. We are sold, however, that soon are very plentiful in Camaguey.

"The Spaniards are abandoning the interior villages and are retiring from the seacoast. At this place we found the forts abandoned and in ruins. The Spaniards in this vicinity number only about 2,000 men. The natives are poor, not having sufficient clothes to cover their bodies. They relate horrible stories of Spanish soldiers.

"The native population consists chiefly of widows and mothers, whose husbands and sons have been murdered by Spanish soldiers. A board of inquiry was held over whose number was reduced to four in one day. A few days ago a child twelve years old was killed and quartered by the soldiers.

"At this writing the insurgent corps under Brig. Gen. Paris has past, all armed, but over half naked as our troops are in rags.

"We have this morning consisted of a store of plantains, corn and smoked beef, which we found.

"Gen. Rangelly leaves camp today to report to the seat of government."

Supplies for Manila.

Washington, May 31.—Assistant Secretary Roosevelt said today that the department was engaged today in negotiations for additional transports for transporting troops to Manila. However, the day passed without the negotiations being closed in any one case.

The commissary's department is laying in fully three months' supplies for 20,000 men at San Francisco, which would seem to indicate that the troops to reinforce Admiral Dewey will approach that number.

It was rumored today that troops from Iowa, Tennessee, New York and other states would be ordered to San Francisco, but the officials declined to say whether those reports were correct.

SPAIN'S IS A PAPER FLEET.

That at Cadiz Not Powerful Enough to Menace American Ships.

Washington, May 31.—The frequent reports from Spain, through other countries, to the effect that a formidable fleet is being prepared at Cadiz to sail for the West Indies in aid of Cervera, causes considerable interest here. Naval officers through private means of communication have pretty well satisfied themselves that the Cadiz fleet is a paper fleet.

In addition to being antiquated, most of their vessels are broken down in every way, and before the fleet could get to the West Indies engineers and firemen would be compelled to work over their engines wherever they did run. There are some vessels, although a very few, at Cadiz of modern type, but they are not numerous or powerful enough to give our navy any serious concern.

Of course it is not to be understood from this that our naval officers are pleased at the contentions against surprise at Santiago. They have their secrets as well as the Dons west end of Cuba, so that they may receive much notice if any of the Cadiz fleet was expected to be used to the