

The reputed conservatism of the State Department on all questions relating to Cuba has been a cause of serious anxiety to those who are in haste to commit the government in some way to the revolution. Yesterday, however, the correspondents gave them some relief by the assurance that the Secretary of State had abandoned his hesitation, and was about to take such a stand with reference to Spain as would satisfy the most exacting. They add that Mr. Plumb, the new consul-general, is about to proceed to Havana with emphatic instructions to demand the release or speedy trial of Americans now in the custody of the Spanish authorities, and the immediate discharge of the two passengers taken from the American brig *Lizzie Major*, with adequate indemnity for the outrage. If the facts have been correctly reported of the conduct of the Spanish authorities, there is but one course open, and that is to hold them to a strict account. The Secretary of State could have no discretion in the matter, whatever his views of recognition might be.

Meanwhile the advocates of recognition are busily cultivating public opinion, and awakening a lively interest in their cause. The battle for the moment seems to be transferred from Cuba to New York; and the first purpose the representatives of Cuba seek is some emphatic expression of sympathy on the part of the people and government of the United States. The "general agent of the Cuban revolution" has issued a stirring address to the country, in which he relates its history anew and its claims upon the national sympathy. He repeats the language of the Cuban declaration of independence; and magnifies the victories of the patriots since they entered upon this perilous work. The case of Cuba has also been presented in vigorous pamphlets, some in the form of appeals to the public, others of arguments addressed to the President and his advisers. If the uprising had acquired force and consistency, or gave good assurance of maintaining itself, nothing more would be wanting. "The character of belligerency," said Mr. Canning, "is not so much a principle as a fact." But unfortunately it is the character of belligerency which up to this time is wanting. Precisely what the condition of the island is there are no means of knowing. But no organized revolutionary government exists there, with armies and resources at its command, like that which existed in most of the South American States when they were recognized under the inspiration of Henry Clay and other statesmen of that time. The New York Tribune confesses the unsettled character of the uprising, in speaking of the difficulties it has encountered:—

"We have had no reason to expect great battles thus far, and there certainly have been none. We have had no reason to expect even a fully organized insurrectionary army, and there is none;—no reason to look for the capture of important towns, or for any effort save to nurse the flame of hostility to the Spaniard, and prolong the revolt into the unhealthy summer months."

Upon this showing the letter-writers and pamphleteers have a poor cause. The President, whose feelings are said to be warmly enlisted in their behalf, has a fair judgment of facts, and is in no danger of being betrayed into a course of policy which would lead to embarrassment and possibly to war. If the revolutionary movement has anything like the strength its friends claim, it will appear before the unhealthy summer months are over. If the disposition of the people is truly represented by them, the island itself will in good time fall like a ripe apple into our lap. Spain holds the last remnants of her authority on this continent by a precarious tenure, and must yield at no remote period from sheer exhaustion. This government for the present has enough on its hands to occupy its energies, without attempting to hasten that event.