

Grant and our Foreign Policy.

Much anxiety is felt to know what will be General Grant's foreign policy in regard to those more important questions that are now engaging the public attention, to wit: in the case of the Alabama claims against England; and in the case of the Cuban revolution.

The stipulations of the treaty made with England by our Minister, Reverdy Johnson, do not seem to have given that general satisfaction to the commercial interests of this country as to warrant the expectation that Grant will either approve or the Senate ratify the same. It is thought that that treaty will be rejected, and negotiations in regard to the Alabama claims commenced *de novo*. Upon that important measure all the ability-wisdom and diplomacy of General Grant and his Cabinet will soon be called into requisition. It is a most delicate and important matter and presents many points that will severely tax the ability of the new administration to successfully master.

Abstractly considered, the case does not seem to involve any very difficult points. If it can be made to appear that the Alabama and other Confederate privateers escaped from British ports by the negligence or connivance of the government, it would be but a simple act of right and justice to demand of that government full reparation for all damages sustained by the depredations of those vessels. And there is no doubt, perhaps, but that the British government would assent to that proposition.

But the demands of our people will not be satisfied by such a solution of the difficulty. It is sought and urged by many to carry the proposition to the extreme verge of demanding of the British government satisfaction for the entire damages of the war for a considerable period of its duration, on the ground that by recognizing the rebellious states as a belligerent power, and *de facto* government, "the English government thereby prolonged the war by indirectly giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

This demand, we think, proceeds more from an over sensitive pride of nationality, than from a conviction of intrinsic right and justice. But from whatever source the demand may proceed, it is nevertheless made by a large and influential element, and the administration will be bound to give it a respectful consideration in maturing plans for the settlement of the matter. It is these outside issues of feeling, prejudice, pride and passion that will complicate and render difficult of solution the great questions involved in the Alabama case. We shall look with much interest and deep solicitude for some indications as to what will be the policy of General Grant on this subject. We have great confidence, however, in his wisdom and moderation, and believe that he will be able to satisfy all the reasonable demands of the people of this country and at the same time fully vindicate and preserve the national faith and honor.

The Cuban question also involves some points of difficulty that give additional interest to the inquiry as to what will be the course of the administration in regard to that island. We have also some old scores against the Spanish government which will doubtless, to some extent, influence the policy of our government in regard to the revolution now going on in Cuba. It is very generally demanded that our government shall, at the earliest practicable period consistent with decent propriety, acknowledge the independence of the island of Cuba. And it is our very deliberate opinion that President Grant will not postpone or delay that recognition one moment beyond the limit assigned by the popular opinion of the country.