

The United States and Cuba.

The other day the Mayor of New-York granted the use of the City Hall for the purpose of celebrating what some one with unconscious irony called the anniversary of Cuban "independence." The casualties on that occasion were as serious as on almost any of the Cuban "battle fields," for a good many weak nerves were shaken, and one man had his arm shot off. So ended the rejoicings.

If the Cuban party in this City are satisfied with the ascertained results of fourteen months' "hard fighting," it is not for us to object, but we have a right to renew our protests against the United States Government being held responsible for the issue of the insurrection. The Cubans complain of the coldness of our people toward their cause. They have no reason for doing so. There has been no lack of popular sympathy with them in their attempts to work out their independence, but, on the other hand, no considerable party in this country is in favor of our Government being made a cat's paw of by Cuban "patriots," who talk very loudly about fighting for freedom, but do not seem much disposed to join in the fight. The United States could not permit itself to be dragged into a war with Spain, and stultified in its own acts toward the rest of the world, at the instigation of an irresponsible clique, working in the dark, and unable to show that the people of Cuba either encourage or approve of their undertaking.

The Government has done no wrong to the Independence Party, and still less has it given Spain any cause of offence. If England had acted toward us in reference to the Ex-Confederacy as we have acted toward Spain in reference to Cuba, we should have been quite content. We have defeated every effort that has been made to infringe our neutrality. We have stopped vessels reported to be fitting out for service against Spain, without waiting for indictments such as were preferred by our Minister in England against the *Alabama*, prior to her escape from Liverpool. The Government has done all that a Government could do to frustrate violations of international law, and there is no reason to suppose that General Pium and his colleagues, or the Cortes, take a different view of its course.

General SICKLES has been severely attacked for placing an "indiscreet and meddling" diplomatic note in the hands of the Spanish Government. But the Cabinet at Washington are better able to judge whether the Minister's language was "indiscreet" than outside observers can possibly be, and it is satisfied that he has not acted in a way to compromise the country. We all know that General SICKLES is a diplomatist made, not born. His judgment may not be infallible. But even if the tone of his note was as bad as his assailants allege, it was withdrawn, and there was an end of it. The Spanish Government made no complaint about it, but on the contrary replied to it in a courteous spirit, and thanked General SICKLES for his proffer of "good offices," which, in fact, was originally prompted by the Spanish Government, as appears from a letter we publish in another column. It does not appear that our Minister in any way exceeded his instructions.

The United States Government has, then, been just to all parties in this difficult affair, and Secretary FISH has done nothing to provoke those hostile criticisms of which the secret enemies of the Administration make him the object. He has strictly adhered to the only policy which the nation could pursue with honor. The Cubans are as much at liberty as ever they were to achieve their independence, if they covet it. But the voice of their great cities is still silent, or is raised against the insurrection. Cubans who appear to be disinterested observers say that the insurrection is only supported by that class which has everything to gain and nothing to lose by social disturbances. The demand for "recognition" is therefore weaker than ever it was, and although it is quite possible that a resolution or two may be introduced into Congress next session in favor of our Government extending belligerent rights to the insurgents, it is quite certain that the matter will rest there. The Administration will not be forced into a false position to please a few hot-brained enthusiasts, or a handful of adventurers.