

CUBA.

The Proposition for the Purchase of the Island—Céspedes' Government Consenting—Intentions of the Cubans if the Proposition is Rejected—Cuba to be Turned into a Wilderness.

WASHINGTON, August 23, 1862.

The Cuban envoy, Mr. Lemus, is awaiting here with much anxiety intelligence concerning the negotiations known to be in progress between Minister Sickles and the Spanish government. Mr. Lemus is fully posted as to the nature of the proposition which General Sickles, under instructions from Secretary Fish, has made to Regent Serrano and his Cabinet with regard to Cuba. This proposition was communicated some weeks ago to the Céspedes government in Cuba, and Mr. Lemus was authorized to approve it as the representative of the patriotic Cubans. Upon receipt of these instructions he immediately communicated them to Mr. Fish. This put an end to the movement on the part of the Cuban Junta to oppose the purchase of Cuba from Spain, and the protest which it was announced had been prepared by the Junta to be forwarded to the President and Secretary of State was withdrawn. At the last advices which Mr. Lemus received, through Secretary Fish of course, Spain had not rejected Sickles' proposition, nor had it been accepted. The Spanish government had asked time to consider it, and General Sickles was hopeful of its acceptance. Mr. Lemus does not credit the cable despatch published a few days ago announcing the acceptance of the proposition by Spain. If such had been the fact he is confident that Secretary Fish would have been informed of it quite as soon as the agent of the Associated Press in London. Mr. Lemus says if Spain does not agree to Sickles' proposition within two or three months, it will no longer be valuable to the Cubans. At the end of that time they expect to be in a condition to warrant them in refusing any proposition to purchase the island from Spain. If the negotiations fail it is the purpose of the Cuban leaders to make the island uninhabitable, and thus drive at once the Spaniards and themselves from it. They will destroy everything calculated to sustain life. Rather than see the struggle assume this shape Mr. Lemus thinks the government of the United States will interfere on the ground of humanity, in which course it is believed she would be sustained by all the civilized nations of the globe.