

**The Cubans—Letter from Gov. Palmer,
of Illinois.**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 23, 1870.

Hon. C. M. Clay, New-York:

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of March 18, 1870, in which you inform me that, at the instance of my friend, Gen. JOHN A. LOGAN, I have been appointed Vice-President for Illinois of the association organized to aid the Cubans. I am obliged by this evidence of the good-will and confidence of Gen. LOGAN and yourself; but feel it to be my duty to decline the appointment.

I do not think it consistent with the public duty of the Governor of one of the United States to aid insurgents against the authority of a Government with which the United States are at peace. The Federal Government is responsible to the States for the management and proper control of our relations with foreign nations, and the Governor of Illinois cannot with propriety act as the Vice-President of an association over whose operations he has no control, and that may, for anything he can do to prevent it, violate the acts of Congress enacted to preserve our neutrality. I am an old-fashion States' Rights man. I would not interfere with the proper duties of the Federal Government, and resist all encroachments from that quarter upon the proper powers and duties of the States.

But if not prevented by the foregoing conditions from accepting this position, there are others that are sufficient to prevent me from doing so.

I have no evidence that the so-called "Patriotic Party" in Cuba has decreed the abolition of slavery, and the fact that their leader is Gen. JORDON, who was for years in arms against our free Government, to perpetuate slavery, affords me no very satisfactory evidence of such an intention. The curse of Cuba is slavery—the political slavery of one class, and the personal servitude of the black and mixed races. I have no sympathy with slave-holders or the friends of slavery; and until the insurgent party of Cuba openly and solemnly denounce the institution of human slavery, and make themselves responsible for its overthrow, I am unwilling to assist them or ask others to do so.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JOHN M. PALMER.