

The Cuban Question—Information Wanted from General Banks.

There have been several resolutions submitted to the House of Representatives for the recognition of belligerent rights or the independence of Cuba. There have been several of a similar character also offered in the Senate. The resolutions in both houses have been referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Knowing the implacable hostility to Cuba and pro-Spanish feeling of Mr. Sumner, the chairman of the Senate committee, there is little hope of the Senate resolutions being acted upon, unless Mr. Sumner's colleagues should insist that a report be made. But we did expect General Banks, the chairman of the House committee, would act differently, and that he would promptly report in favor of the Cubans. When Mr. Fitch, of Nevada, offered a resolution ten days ago "to grant belligerent rights to the republic of Cuba," and moved its reference to a select committee of seven, General Banks had it referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, of which he is chairman. Looking at the very decided course General Banks took in favor of the Cubans before he went to Europe, and at his expressions of sympathy for them and confidence of their success immediately after he returned, we had no doubt that his motion to have Mr. Fitch's resolution referred to his own committee was for the purpose of reporting back promptly and favorably that resolution to the House. We believed he wished it to take that course in order that greater weight might be given to it, that he might take the lead in a question he had at heart, and that the Cuban cause might be better promoted.

It is a matter of surprise, therefore, that no action has been taken by General Banks and that he remains silent about Cuba. Did his trip to Europe have the effect of weakening his love of republican liberty in America? Has he become enamored with monarchical institutions and despotism? Or has he, since his return to Washington, fallen in with that little clique of Spanish admirers and enemies of Cuba, of which Mr. Sumner, Secretary Fish and Attorney General Hoar are the head and front? Has Massachusetts become such an enemy to freedom and to a people heroically struggling for self-government that General Banks dare not follow the generous impulses of his nature? We should like to know the cause of his present apathy or indifference. Perhaps the administration, being deluded itself by the false hope held out by Spain of selling Cuba, has deceived General Banks and induced him to check any expression by Congress. Is the grave of Cuban liberty and hopes to be in the Congress of the United States, so far as the power of that body goes? And are Mr. Fish, with Mr. Sumner and his Massachusetts confères in Congress and the Cabinet to be the gravediggers? If so we may well mourn over the humiliation that has come to this mighty republic—to this republic which through all its history has been the friend and champion of people everywhere struggling for freedom and republican independence. We advise General Banks to cut loose from that clique of enemies of liberty and Cuba, to return to his first love, and to take a bold and independent course on this Cuban question. He will gain much more by that. If he makes himself the champion of Cuban independence he will touch the popular heart and become more prominent by that than by anything else he could do. Now is the time to act, and we hope he will not lose the opportunity.