

Spanish Outrages and the Palliatory Conduct of Our Government.

Our correspondence from Havana published yesterday gives a particular and impartial account of the shooting of Americans by the bloodthirsty Spanish volunteers, of the unprotected condition of our citizens generally, and of the anarchy existing in the island. The four young men from New York—Greenwalth, Foster, Johnson and Gardner—who were assaulted and fired upon by the volunteers had been in Havana only three weeks, and since their arrival had been engaged in the business of manufacturing for a drug establishment. They were peaceable working men, and no pretence is made that they had anything to do with the war or contending parties in Cuba. On Sunday they took advantage of the leisure they had to go to a photograph gallery to have their likenesses taken, and dressed themselves with care for that purpose. They followed the fashion, so common in the United States, of wearing blue cravats, and this, it is pretended, was the cause of the outrage. A man wearing the hat of a Spanish volunteer, and armed, shouted to them to halt, and then, in the most ruffianly manner, immediately grabbed the necktie of Greenwalth first and then that of Foster. As these unarmed men backed away from him he fired at Greenwalth, who fell. A crowd soon gathered to the spot and other shots were fired, by which Johnson and Foster were seriously wounded. Greenwalth died a few minutes after he was shot, and his body was carelessly and hurriedly thrown on a bier and taken off for burial. Both Johnson and Foster were seriously wounded, but may recover.

It is evident that these bloodbound volunteers are intent on committing outrages on Americans, and that there is little or no protection for our citizens in Cuba where Spain or these Spanish volunteers rule. Neither these bloody-minded miscreants nor the Spanish authorities have any respect for or fear of the United States government. This outrage on the four young men is but a repetition of similar outrages upon our citizens in Cuba ever since the war commenced. It will be seen by a communication published in another part of this paper what a state of things exists. An American gentleman, who has just returned from Cuba, where business had detained him three months, states that he was frequently accosted by the volunteers and impertinently asked if he was an American or an Englishman, implying significantly that they would be civil to Englishmen, but not to Americans. As this gentleman says, they fear the vengeance of John Bull, but laugh at the idea of the United States government extending protection to its citizens. He was compelled, for the first time in his life, to deny his country and hail as an Englishman for self-protection. Englishmen may well boast of their country, for it does protect them. In fact, the British government assumes that its citizens are right in any difficulty abroad until proved otherwise, and never fails to throw the protection of its flag over them. Every one acquainted with the history of Rome knows, too, what glory and protection it was to any one who could claim the privilege of being a Roman citizen. That was a remarkable characteristic of the Roman republic, and did very much toward giving it the power it attained and in making it both feared and respected throughout the world. But under our feeble rulers—especially under the present weak, timid and time-serving administration—American citizens have to deny their country for self-protection. Is it not enough to make the blood of every true American boil with indignation and shame? This great republic—the first Power of the world—cringes before a weak and demoralized nation like Spain! Yes, more than that; the government of this mighty and free country has become the friend and ally of the worst European despotism against an American people and our near neighbors who are struggling for liberty. Only think of the United States being the friend and apologist of the worst form of mon-

archical tyranny, and that on American soil! Yet it is a fact. The whole conduct of the government with regard to Cuba proves it. The best friends of Spanish despotism and the worst enemies of Cuban freedom are the men who control the government—such men as Sumner, Fish, Hoar, Boutwell and others—men who heretofore have been most vociferous in the cause of freedom.

Whatever pretended investigations may take place relative to the late outrage at Havana upon our citizens, we have no hope of anything being done to exact justice or to prevent the recurrence of similar outrages. There may be, possibly, some pretended trial of parties in Havana for the outrage, either of the criminals themselves or of other criminals that may be substituted as scapegoats, and there will be, no doubt, a good deal of diplomatic palaver, to save Spain and the Spanish authorities on one hand and to humbug the American people on the other; but that will be all. Captain General Rodas and the Spanish government are responsible, but the administration will not hold them to that responsibility. The brutal volunteers will continue to outrage and insult American citizens and will remain, as they are, the ruling power at Havana. The Spanish government, bad as it has been at all times in Cuba, has been virtually deposed by a worse one. The only real government there now claiming to be under the Spanish flag is a revolutionary one—the government of the volunteers. Mr. Secretary Fish is trembling now even, according to news from Washington, at the chance of war with Spain in consequence of Senator Sherman's resolution to grant belligerent rights to the Cubans. From fear of this the whole influence of the administration will be used, it is said, to prevent the adoption of that resolution. What can be expected from a government that can act so cowardly? There is no soul, no lofty patriotism, no sympathy with republican freedom, and no statesmanship in it.