

## Important from Washington About Cuba— The Time for Action Has Come.

According to the news from Washington Cuba is looming up. The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs had yesterday a long discussion on the resolutions that had been previously referred to it on the question of conceding belligerent rights to Cuba and the repeal or modification of the neutrality laws. It is asserted that the committee regards it clear now that the time has arrived when the Cuban insurgents should be recognized as belligerents, though the matter is deferred till the next meeting of the committee. It is understood, too, that General Banks, the chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, is preparing to report shortly recommending some action favorable to the Cuban cause. Leading and prominent men of both Houses are moving in this matter, and hardly a day passes that some telling speech or motion is not made for recognizing the belligerency or independence of Cuba. At the same time the press and people of the country are active. Leagues and societies are being organized to promote Cuban independence. In connection with these movements we notice that Ben Wade, the sterling and brave old republican leader of Ohio, has accepted the position of vice president for his State of the "Cuban Charitable Aid Society." His letter of acceptance is characteristic, and shows the same strong common sense and love of freedom which he always manifested. "I am astonished," he says, "at the apparent indifference of our great republican party to the fate of the people of Cuba. Are they, indeed, weary in well doing, or do they still favor that timorous, halting, hesitating policy which added more than half to the blood and treasure in conquering our own rebellion and in giving liberty to our slaves? One brave word from our administration is all sufficient to end the strife and give peace, liberty and justice to the people of that island. Shall that word be spoken? We shall be dishonored as a nation if it is not. But whether spoken or not, Cuba must and shall be free." These are noble sentiments. They show how much the country has lost at the present time by this courageous old statesman not being in the Senate. There is hope, however, as we said, that Sherman, Morton, Banks, Carpenter and others in Congress will successfully urge the recognition of the Cubans.

Should the news from Washington prove true, as we hope it may, that the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs has become favorable to the recognition of Cuban belligerency, Mr. Sumner has been compelled to take a back seat on this question. His sophomorical rhetoric, dogmatism and obstinate hostility to Cuban freedom will prove unavailing. We may congratulate his colleagues on their good sense, patriotism and firmness if they have determined at last to take this independent course. We know not yet who were the other obstructive members of this committee that acted with Mr. Sumner, or who may have turned the scale in favor of Cuban freedom. We hope Mr. Casserly, the distinguished Senator from California, has ranged himself on the side of republican liberty and against European despotism on this Cuban question; or, if he has not yet, that he will give the weight of his name and talents in support of the struggling Cubans. It may depend upon him to turn the scale in the Committee on Foreign Affairs. We cannot believe that a man of his ability, large views and love of liberty—that he who has been the ardent friend of oppressed Ireland, and who was educated in New York, where sympathy is always extended to those struggling for liberty—should prove recreant to his principles and previous political career. Nor can we think that a Senator so young and with such a bright future before him would dig his own political grave by fighting against popular sentiment and by resisting the progress of republican freedom on American soil. Let us hope Mr. Casserly will oppose the narrow-minded and un-American policy of Mr. Sumner and show himself to be the friend of Cuban independence.

The time for action has come. The Cubans have maintained the struggle for freedom for more than eighteen months against all the formidable means and resources of their cruel oppressors and under the greatest difficulties. From the smallest beginning and with very limited means they have been gaining ground all along. A few days ago they gained an important and a decisive victory over a large force of Spaniards under one of the best Spanish generals. In fact, they broke up a well and long prepared campaign, and all the plans of their enemy. Surely a people under such circumstances are entitled to be recognized as belligerents. When we consider the brutal character of the war waged by the Spaniards it is inhumanity not to recognize the Cubans as belligerents. The atrocious and bloodthirsty conduct of the Spaniards ought to be checked, and they should be compelled to carry on the war like a civilized nation. Then there is really no Spanish government over the island worthy of the name. The brutal and murdering volunteers control everything. The only respectable government is that of the Cuban patriots. Besides, there is no protection under the Spaniards for American citizens or American interests. The murderous attack on the four peaceable young men from New York by the volunteers at Havana, and the frequent outrages on our citizens, demand the interposition of the United States. Spain will not or cannot protect Americans, and it is evident she cannot suppress the insurrection. It is the duty of our government, therefore, to put the contending parties on the same footing. Indeed, our government ought to tell Spain in decisive language that this useless and bloody war must cease and that Cuba must be free. We have large interests at stake in our commerce, and we have a national policy to carry out in promoting the cause of republican liberty on American soil. The time has arrived—the opportunity is before us—to settle this Cuban difficulty, which has given our government so much trouble all along, and, as old Ben Wade says, one brave word from the authorities at Washington is sufficient to end the strife and to give peace, liberty and justice to Cuba. Let Mr. Sumner, Secretary Fish, Attorney General Hoar and all the rest of the cowardly supporters of Spanish tyranny be set aside in this matter, and let us have a bold declaration from Congress granting belligerent rights to the Cubans and in favor of Cuban independence.