

The Assassination in Havana.

Additional particulars regarding the assassination of Mr. Isaac Greenwalth in the streets of Havana show that it was a most fiendish and cowardly murder, almost without a parallel in late years. Had the deed been committed by a tribe of uncivilized savages it would have aroused feelings of indignation and of horror, but perpetrated as it was by men calling themselves Christians, we can find no words sufficiently strong with which to denounce it. Greenwalth, the unfortunate victim of Spanish ferocity, was a peaceable, unoffending man. To all intents and purposes he had no sympathies with either side; and yet this man, for no offence whatever, unless the wearing of a blue necktie be considered one, was most brutally murdered by the unrestrained and ferocious volunteers of Spain. The murderer of Castañon met his victim face to face. The advantage, if any, was on the side of Castañon. But Greenwalth was attacked by a crowd, and, while mortally wounded and staggering to the police office, he was stabbed with bayonets and knives, beaten with sticks and subjected to every indignity, and while the wretched cowards were inflicting these barbarities the unfortunate victim fell dead at their feet. Even then they were not satisfied. Their lust for blood was not satiated. They tore the clothes from the body—scarcely cold in death—inflicted further indignities and then cast it into a hole.

It is difficult to imagine a more fearful story in all its dreadful details than the murder of Mr. Greenwalth. The question now comes up, what action will Secretary Fish take in this matter? We have from time to time called attention to the treatment of American citizens in Cuba. It is a well known fact that the Spanish authorities there entertain very little respect for American influence in that quarter. Instances are not wanting to show that men have had to deny their nationality and seek the protection of other governments for safety's sake. Americans are openly despised solely on account of the weak, timid and pusillanimous conduct of the administration. Take any other nation—England, France or Prussia, for example—and its citizens command respect. This should be the case with the United States; but it is not. We hope this late outrage will convince the administration that the policy which it has been pursuing towards Cuba is false and productive of bad results. A change is necessary, and prompt action is required. The American people demand this, and the demand must be respected.