

# THE CUBAN PUZZLE.

## Spanish and English Influence Over Secretary Fish and Senator Sumner.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 1870.

The craft and extraordinary attitude of our government towards the struggling Cubans has long been a puzzle to the people; but it must remain so no longer.

Secretary Fish is controlled wholly by Spanish influence. It is unnecessary to state here by what means or whom through. Such is the fact. No unprejudiced person can have five minutes' conversation with our Secretary of State without plainly seeing that he is a determined enemy of the people of Cuba and a vigorous partisan of Spanish interests.

Hon. Charles Sumner, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, is far more of a friend of England and English interests than of the United States. A confirmed egotist, he cannot see that the favors shown him by English leaders at the time of the Brooks difficulty were merely part and parcel of the English programme for fomenting discord in the United States, rather than honors shown him as a statesman. At that time Mr. Sumner was on the weakest side, and of course English sympathy went out towards him.

Years later, when the relative strength of political parties in this country was changed, English sympathy turned accordingly towards the weakest. In fact, Mr. Sumner must be regarded as an American with British views and sympathies. This is well established fact, and must be fully comprehended in order to understand the course of the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations upon the Cuban question.

The very last spectacle that Mr. Sumner and his British coadjutors desire to witness would be the United States following the example set by England during our late rebellion. By recognizing the rebels as belligerents England destroyed for the time being the commercial supremacy of the United States, and established a precedent that Mr. Sumner and his British friends are eager to prevent us from following in any instance, not knowing when it might be applied to their disadvantage.

If the Cubans are recognized as belligerents, in accordance with the precedent already established by England, what is there to prevent our recognizing in the same way the next English colony that resists the exactions of the mother country? Hence Mr. Sumner's course. Hence the sentiment of the British press favoring the acquisition of Cuba by the United States by purchase, negotiation, or in any way other than recognizing the Cubans as belligerents.

It must be borne in mind that Mr. Sumner has been chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations for many years past and has been long charged with the control of our foreign affairs. It was not to be expected that the new President would at once take a position in direct opposition to that assumed by the Foreign Relations Committee of a Senate avowedly in sympathy with and strongly supporting his administration.

President Grant distinctly announced that he should have no "policy" in direct opposition to that of Congress; and as Congress has thus far allowed its Cuban policy to be wholly controlled by Mr. Senator Sumner we shall find no difficulty in fixing the responsibility upon that gentleman. Whether he will be permitted to mismanage our foreign affairs much longer remains to be seen. A change is anticipated.

## American Citizens Speaking Out on Cuban Affairs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

In the HERALD of to-day I notice an account of the arrival of the dead body of the Spaniard's victim—the murdered Greenwath, cut to pieces by Spanish bloodhounds because he dared to dress to suit himself. Now mark the point to be quoted:—

"The utmost secrecy was observed in the movements of those having charge of the body. \* \* \*

The funeral will be conducted without any display or public demonstration, \* \* \* as such an event would incite the savage and uncontrolled volunteers to renew their violence against the Americans, and especially against those that had been attacked. \* \* \*

The case is just this, then:—The free and independent citizens of New York dare not openly receive and respectfully inter the remains of a murdered friend for fear that a band of cutthroats in a friendly nation may resent the act upon the unoffending citizens of a country too weak and played out to venture to protect its children against—Heaven save the mark!—the representatives of the formidable power of Spain. What, in Heaven's name, is to be said in defence of the government of a great nation that makes such a foul record possible? Oh, my country, how art thou fishified! Men of New York, is it possible that these things can be? Are you to be governed, cowed, dictated to in your own free city and at your very hearthstones by the ghost of Spanish power, a miserable effete force that has not strength enough to govern itself? Oh, shame! where is thy honor? For what do we keep a navy? Of what practical use is it if not to protect our citizens abroad, and make the nation respected the world over? Those gentlemen banded together and known as the Cuban League, where are they? Why do they not act and at once sur up the whole people, and instruct our representatives to demand immediate reparation for the foul murders done, security for the future, and belligerent rights to Cuba? In this way only can these Spanish bloodhounds be muzzled. AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

FEB. 16, 1870.

DEATH OF A WAR CORRESPONDENT.—A despatch from Louisville last night announces the sudden death of Charles D. Kirk, a well known journalist of that city. He died upon the street from a hemorrhage of the lungs. Mr. Kirk will be remembered as a brilliant war correspondent, who wrote over the signature of "C. de Kay."—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, Feb. 15.