

Our News from Cuba—The Opportunity of the Government.

Our correspondence from Havana and Nuevitas, published yesterday, confirms in every particular the special despatch in the HERALD of Sunday last relative to the complete defeat of Puello's forces and success of the Cubans under General Jordan. The Spanish Consul and Spanish agents here pretended to doubt the news we published, and made extraordinary efforts to throw discredit upon the despatch. They were afraid of the effect upon the American government and public, and were silly enough to suppose they could destroy the facts by simply denying them. It was the old story of the ostrich burying its head in the sand and forgetting that all the rest of its body was exposed. Such simple and red tape officials do not comprehend the enterprise and mission of the press. The independent press of this country has the means and expends large sums of money to get at facts before the governments most deeply interested hear anything about them. It will be remembered that the HERALD furnished not only the American public with the important news of the Abyssinian war in advance, but that it gave to the British government and press the first information of the storming and taking of Magdala. Our news from Cuba of the important battle of Guaimaro showed the same enterprise and reliability. Though the Spanish officials here pretended to doubt it, we knew it was reliable, and said so. The letters of our correspondents now corroborate what had been previously stated in the special telegram to this paper. If government officials, Spanish, American, or any others, could understand the mission of the independent press and its means and opportunities, they would trust to that sooner than to the statements of their own agents. Spanish canards and bombastic declarations of what the Spaniards are doing and going to do will be received hereafter in their proper light.

A new aspect is given to Cuban affairs and the Cuban question by the success of General Jordan at Guaimaro and by the news generally of the condition of things in Cuba. There may be contingencies in the war not always looking so favorable to one side, for that is the fate of war generally; but this success of the patriots shows they have strength enough, not only to whip the Spaniards in an important and well prepared battle, in which considerable forces of all arms were engaged, but that they have both the skill and courage to maintain the struggle for independence. When we consider, too, the disadvantages they have labored under from the first—wanting arms and materials of war, and that they were poorly organized till lately—when we consider that they were under the necessity of creating nearly all the materials with which to fight their enemy, and that but little aid has been obtained from abroad, it is fair to conclude they will never be subjugated by the Spaniards. In this victory at Guaimaro General Jordan has shown that he was just the man the Cubans needed and the man for the occasion. He is one of the best educated military men of America, or of the world, has had great experience in war, and is no doubt more than a match for any general the Spaniards can send against him. Cespedes, the President of Cuba, showed his wisdom, discrimination and liberal mind when he made this American General Commander-in-Chief. Cespedes himself is evidently a man of great resources, tenacity of purpose, coolness, courage and prudence. With two such men at the head of the revolutionary movement the Cubans have good reason to believe their cause will be successful.

What, now, ought the United States government to do in the case of Cuba? It has been too indifferent and too slow heretofore. In fact it has given aid and comfort to the Spaniards, and has acted more as the enemy of the Cubans and the cause of liberty than the friend. While the lamented General Rawlins was living, and a member of the Cabinet the President was disposed to recognize the Cubans as belligerents or their independence. Indeed, it is understood that it had been resolved upon and the time fixed for issuing a proclamation of recognition. After Rawlins' death the policy was changed. The President listened to the cold and narrow-minded men in his Cabinet and to the misrepresentations of Spanish agents, and abandoned the Cubans. The Secretary of State and Attorney General, backed by Senator Sumner, made the President believe that the Cubans had no chance of success, and, in fact, that the insurrection was "on its last legs." They made great efforts to deceive the American people in the same way, for the purpose of covering up their own weakness and narrow-minded policy. They did not venture to avow themselves enemies of republican freedom on American soil and thus openly oppose public sentiment, though they really were, but pretended that the Cubans were incapable of carrying on the struggle for liberty. This pretext will hold good no longer. The battle of Guaimaro has settled that. What, then, ought the government to do now? Undoubtedly it should recognize at once the belligerent character or independence of the Cubans.

Congress has begun to move in the matter. The resolution of General Logan, which was adopted by the House of Representatives on Wednesday, to the effect that the people of Cuba have for more than fifteen months carried on active hostilities against Spain for independence, and that they have established and still maintain a *de facto* government, and instructing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to inquire what reasons, if any, exist why the republic of Cuba should not be recognized by the United States as a belligerent, indicates that the representatives of the people are ready to sustain the administration in support of the Cubans. The address of Mr. Howe in the Senate, by special leave, on the Neutrality laws, shows also that the Senators are disposed to aid Cuba in her struggle for freedom. There is no doubt that Congress would have taken decisive action in the matter some time ago had it not been restrained by the administration. The majority being of the same party as the administration, they did not wish to oppose it or act independently of it. The time has come, however, when the administration must either act in accordance with public sentiment and the wish of Congress or it will sink into irretrievable disgrace. As to the President himself, we have no doubt his

heart is right, and that he would willingly assist the struggling Cubans. He has now a glorious opportunity to do a great thing, to acquire the beautiful and valuable island of Cuba for the United States, and to make himself more popular on this than on any other question of the day, or that can come up during his term of office. Under the existing state of things the Cuban question is the pre-eminent one of the time. Will he cut loose from the trammels that surround him and take a bold, independent and patriotic course? Let notice be given to Spain that she must quit Cuba, and that this country cannot be led into lengthy negotiations, with the prospect of being cheated in the end, on the pretence of acquiring the island at some future day, and when public opinion in Spain may be ripe for such a transfer. Spain will never consent willingly to sell or part with Cuba, and the United States may as well face the question boldly at first as at last. The golden opportunity is just now. If Spain chooses to go to war, let her do so. We will soon take all she possesses in this hemisphere and blow up her seaboard cities at home. As to the damage she could do to our mercantile marine, that would not be a large item in the general settlement of accounts. The advantages would be greater than the loss. It would lead, probably, to the repeal of our absurd navigation laws, and in the end would build up a much larger mercantile marine. A war would unite the American people. The old flag once unfurled in a war with a foreign country would rally the people of both sections again to fraternal feeling with each other. It would give England, France and Europe generally another lesson of the power of this mighty republic. We need not fear a war if Spain should be foolish enough to make one. At all events, the time has come when we should secure the freedom and annexation of Cuba. It is, as we have said, a glorious opportunity for General Grant. Will he seize it? If he should not, it will remain for Congress to take the initiative and force the administration to carry out the will of the people.