

The Neutrality Resolutions Before Congress.

Almost every day, for some weeks past, the Washington correspondents have been telling the public that the committees on Foreign Affairs of both houses of Congress were about to do something, or had agreed to do something, favorable to the Cubans. A number of resolutions to that effect have been offered and referred to these committees. But the mountain has brought forth nothing yet; and if we may judge from the latest reports it will only give birth to a little mouse after all. The result of all the resolutions, speeches, conferences of the foreign committees and labors of the friends of Cuba is likely to be only a string of neutrality resolutions that will put the Spaniards and the Cubans on the same footing. This is a very small mouse for such a mountain to bring forth. Perhaps this would be better than nothing, though it comes late to benefit the insurgents materially, and after Spain has received all the aid in war materials she needed from the United States. Never before did so great a nation as this exhibit such weakness and vacillation. Both the administration and Congress seem paralyzed by timidity. Neither the public voice nor public policy can dispel their fears or nerve them to face this question in a manly spirit. No wonder that Spain is boastful and threatening; no wonder that American citizens are slaughtered with impunity by the bloodthirsty Spanish volunteers; no wonder that our Consuls, the representatives of this great republic, are obliged to flee for their lives and to take shelter under a foreign flag. The conduct of the government must make every true-hearted American feel deeply the shame and humiliation brought upon the country. Instead of these neutrality resolutions, why does not Congress direct the President to acknowledge the belligerency of the Cubans? No unprejudiced person can deny the fact that the Cubans are belligerents. Eighteen months of war against all the power Spain could bring to bear and the successes of the Cubans prove beyond doubt that these people have won the character of belligerents. This country ought to hail the opportunity afforded to extend republican institutions in this hemisphere, instead of aiding a European despotism—and the worst despotism in the civilized world—to crush the rising liberties of an American people. Every principle of policy, right, justice and humanity calls for a prompt recognition of the Cubans as belligerents. Spain would have no just cause for complaint. We owe her nothing. She recognized the Confederates early in our war and gave them most efficient aid. Are we afraid of Spain? If so let us tell the Cubans plainly that we abandon them. But let us not pursue a weak and vacillating policy, for that will make the mighty American republic contemptible in the eyes of the world.