

WASHINGTON.

Senator Sumner's Latest Views on the Cuban Question.

Chevalier Webb Diplomatising in Havana.

BUTLER AND THE GEORGIA BILL.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1870.

Senator Sumner on Cuba—His Friendship for the Insurgents.

Senator Sumner, in conversation with a gentleman yesterday, stated that much has been said in regard to his course on the Cuban question. He pronounced himself a friend of Cuba, and remarked he would rejoice to see her independent. Any action of this country, he contended, would lead to a war which no one believed would last any time, and there existed no shadow of doubt as to the result. The provisional government of Spain, it was his opinion, wants war, and the result of such a struggle would be to unite the rival factions which distract the country and wind up in Prim's accession to the throne. He thought this transition would be from constitutional monarchy to absolutism. A war, therefore, would subserve Prim's ambition exactly. He thought the course of events was towards the independence of Cuba. In case of war the most we could get would be Cuba and Porto Rico, and these will gravitate into independent relations with the United States without the expensive resort to war. The Senator was quite enthusiastic and eloquent on the subject. It is understood at a timely opportunity he will give his views publicly. It is remarkable how much these views of the Massachusetts Senator resemble those expressed yesterday by Secretary Fish in a private conversation. Our Premier agrees that war between Spain and this country would be very short and would result just as Sumner predicts. It is worth stating, moreover, that Mr. Fish indicated in his remarks yesterday that should Congress pass a strong resolution urging the Executive to grant the Cubans belligerent rights the administration would not resist the request, but would immediately act in accordance with the expressed will of the national legislature. This, Mr. Fish thinks, would result in the Spaniards exercising the belligerent right to search suspected vessels on the high seas, and would speedily lead to war between the United States and Spain.

The Outrages on Americans in Santiago—Chevalier Webb in Havana.

In a recent letter received from Havana by a Western member of Congress the following language occurs:—

General Webb is here and yesterday had long interviews with the Captain General and the Military Governor, and also with the British Consul General and with the Consul General of Prussia and others, and last evening, when discussing with several Americans the affair of our shipmasters and the massacre of Americans at Santiago, all of which is the town talk, he said he had read the particulars of the Santiago outrage in a despatch to the British Consul General and corrected the rumor that five instead of two American citizens were murdered. To-day I am told that a copy of the despatch alluded to has been furnished either to General Webb or Consul Biddle or Hall to be forwarded to Washington, and from inquiries I infer they would not deny that Hall did get a copy and that he will send it by to-day's mail. This is only an inference, but I have no doubt that the fact is as I imagine. At all events, Webb did say in my presence and in the presence of others that he had seen the despatch, and that the outrage is so unpardonable that our government will no longer hesitate to act with decision, and he denounced in bitter language the neglect of our citizens here by our Navy Department. There is a panic among Americans, and all who can leave will do so without delay. Their only chance of safety is in refuge on board the English frigates, freely offered, and it was this panic that caused so many of us to be at Webb's rooms last night without any concert of action. General Webb pledged himself to write to the government and urge upon it to order at once a vessel of war to each of the principal ports of the island.

Quere—is he not sent here by the government to report upon the state of affairs?