

## SPANISH BUTCHERIES IN CUBA.

Extract from a Letter to the Ex-Acting Consul at Santiago de Cuba from the Brother of the Murdered American Citizen Portuondo.

The following letter, received a few days since by Dr. A. E. Phillips, ex-acting Consul of the United States at the port of Santiago de Cuba, is in reply to a brief statement of the particulars of the death of the murdered Portuondo, and otherwise fully explains itself:—

418 NORTH ELEVENTH STREET,  
PHILADELPHIA, June 6, 1870. }

Dr. A. E. PHILLIPS, Arlington House, Washington, D. C.:—

DEAR SIR—Your esteemed favor of the 25th ult. was duly received, and by me placed in the hands of Theo. H. Oehlschlager, the solicitor retained by me to represent the interests of my nephew, José Antonio Portuondo. Professional engagements of a pressing character prevented him from giving it his attention during the past week; hence my delay in answering.

Permit me again to thank you, in the name of the orphan son of him whom you strove to save, in that of my sorrowing family and myself, for your noble efforts to rescue my dead brother from the brutal hands of his assassins. Your efforts of mercy, as well as your patriotic performance of duty, in maintaining the honor and dignity of the flag you represented, were alike unavailing. My poor, unoffending brother, an American citizen, was shot to death by Spanish bullets, and the emblem of a nation's power and glory trailed in the dust and outraged by Spanish officials. Can these wrongs remain undressed?

Many years have not elapsed since an Austrian, who had merely declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States, was arrested and placed on board an Austrian vessel of war in the port of Trieste; but an American Consul was there and an American Charge d'Affaires at Constantinople to cause the guns of the St. Louis, under command of the gallant Ingraham, to cover the Austrian brig and threaten to blow her out of the water if the outrage upon the nation's dignity were not instantly atoned by the surrender of Martin Koszta.

Your conduct has given satisfaction to the American nation at least, if not to its government, and full assurance that the noble example in the harbor of Trieste would have been followed in Santiago de Cuba had a monitor or two been at your command to protect your people and maintain the honor of their flag.

On the 13th of April our attorney—addressed to the Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, a letter upon the subject of my brother's murder, desiring full information as to the action of the United States government in obtaining such reparation as I was led to believe had already been tendered by that of Spain. To this a brief answer was returned on the 21st of April, simply stating that "full particulars had been sought from our consular officers in Cuba, and that the subject was receiving the careful and earnest attention of the government." Since that time no letter or intimation of any action or demand on the part of the Department has been received by our attorney or myself. I understand that Mr. Oehlschlager will to-day address a second inquiry to the honorable Secretary as to what steps are being taken by the government to obtain indemnification and reparation for the orphaned victim of Spanish barbarity and cowardice, and the vindication of the national character.

Again thanking you for what you so nobly endeavored to do, I remain your grateful friend and servant,  
JOSE MA. PORTUONDO.