

the claimants' nationality. That the majority of the claimants are real bona fide citizens of the United States is undoubtedly true, but the question arises, Can citizens of the United States, naturalized according to law, and who, after obtaining their citizens' papers, returned to Cuba with a Spanish passport, in which they were styled Spanish subjects; who landed here and subsequently resided here as such, and in no instance presented any claim to be inscribed as foreigners—can such persons be considered citizens of the United States? There are cases where naturalized Cubans took out an American passport, which they kept quietly in their pockets, and at the same time took out a Spanish passport, whereby they are called Spanish subjects, kept the American passport in their desk, and at the outbreak of the rebellion, nine or ten years subsequent to their naturalization, presented themselves at the United States Consulate, demanding protection as American citizens. Such cases were reported by the respective Consuls to the State Department, and the answer was, "that such persons would be considered American citizens whenever they returned to the United States, but that the Consul could not recognize them as such." Other cases occurred where the party, after naturalization, returned under the same circumstances, and in addition accepted some position of honor or profit under the Spanish Government—places which no foreigner can fill. It will be a very delicate matter to sift this question of citizenship, and these claims may give rise to some nice points for the Supreme Court and Congress to discuss; but the *Diario's* assertion that all persons must have been citizens before the outbreak of Yara, does not hold good, because a Cuban may have made his first and second declaration previous to the 10th of October, 1868, while the five years' residence after his first declaration might not expire until 1869 or 1870. Such persons, if they remained in the United States and did not take an active part in the revolution on the island, must undoubtedly be considered and treated as American citizens, even if they have walked in half a dozen Cuban processions or furnished funds to supply QUESADA or CRONEROS with money. The walking about the streets of New-York, with a rosette pinned on the coat, or the giving away of one's money is no offense against the laws of the United States. The *Diario* continues:

"The authorities of the island should be consulted in each case, respecting the truth and the importance of the damages claimed. The information is absolutely indispensable, as otherwise the damages would reach fabulous amounts. The private interests tend always to exaggerate the sums claimed, and the truth can only be found in the data, which the Spanish authorities can furnish. It is unnecessary to say, that respecting the nationality question, the claimant ought also to be heard in every case where any doubt exists."

This last sentence sounds well in Cuba, or before a drum-head! Court-martial, in the woods. Does the *Diario* suppose that a commission composed of gentlemen—leaving the question aside whether they are Americans or not, and unbiased by political hatred or party feelings—does it think it possible that they would not hear and listen attentively to any testimony which could clear up matters, whether it would be for or against the claimant? Modern commissions investigate; *Yo el Rey* does not exist with them, and these three words don't decide cases in the nineteenth century. And now the *Diario* flatters the vanity of the Spaniards in Cuba, and at the same time expresses a very plain threat against the United States, bringing the fable of the bullfrog and the ox vividly to mind. The *Diario* says:

"The Superior Government knows that the Spaniards in Cuba are ready to sacrifice their lives and property for the honor of Spain, which is their own honor. Moderation is the inseparable companion of firmness, as bragging is the companion of debility. Whoever pretends to injure Spain in Cuba will find himself face to face with the Spaniards who inhabit it; soldiers of the fatherland, who provoke nobody, but who do not bend before the will of others."

Does the *Diario* mean that it would advocate resistance to compliance with such arrangements as a Joint High Commission would agree upon? The *Voz de Cuba* says:

"Why should not the claims of Spanish citizens, who were injured during the war with the South, be treated as well as claims of American citizens against Spain?"

Here the question arises to what extent the United States are responsible for damages caused to Spain by the fitting out and sailing of the various filibustering expeditions, but the *Voz de Cuba* draws a poor comparison when it takes the *Alabama* question as a model, because the Government of the United States invariably attempted to stop filibustering expeditions, the people of the United States having also afforded small aid to the Cubans in that respect, because they are firmly convinced that whenever they want Cuba they can have it without asking the permission of the Spanish or Cuban Governments. The people might murmur a little at first and be dissatisfied, but the history of Florida, Louisiana and Texas would repeat itself, and in less than ten years no stronger American could be found than the sturdy son of Asturias, the daring Biscayan, the industrious Catalan, or the intelligent Cuban, while the few dissatisfied would be overruled by the immense majority, who love to learn, work and live in peace.

QUASIMODO.

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

The Claims of Americans Against Spain—Press Discussion of a Possible Commission of Settlement—The Chances of Annexation.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, May 13, 1871.

The Havana Press is discussing with much warmth a paragraph taken from the Washington correspondence of the *Times*, published on the 2d inst., and referring to the proposed Commission which is to settle the differences and claims existing against Spain, and growing out of the present war in Cuba. The concluding sentence of the paragraph reads: "This Commission will be unlike the Mexican Commission in this—that there are no counter claims to be brought against this Government." The *Diario* thereupon says:

"Is it to be understood that this Commission will limit itself to treat the claims of American citizens, without having the power to discuss such claims as with Spanish citizens may have been pending, in order to secure some indemnity? Is it to be understood that Spain has bound herself to accept as binding whatever the Commissioners may agree upon? It is absolutely necessary that only the claims of real American citizens, publicly known as such before the outbreak of the revolution of Yara, be admitted, examined and discussed. Consequently, it is necessary to ventilate scrupulously the nationality of the claimant previous to entertaining his claim. If the contrary were the case, it would give rise to repugnant trickery, which cannot be admitted or patronized by the Government of a great nation, (the United States,) which is morally interested in justice being done, and in seeing that, under its protection, no frauds be committed."

The *Diario* touches here a very sensitive point, and is perfectly correct in demanding proof of