

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

Friendly Offices in Relation to Cuba—Reputed Policy of Our Government.

WASHINGTON, July 30.—During a recent debate in the Spanish Cortes on the provincial policy of the Government, Señor TELLENES denounced the Cabinet for having entertained the proposition said to have emanated from Minister SICKLES for the sale of Cuba. It is known here that there are parties in Spain who are anxious to sell Cuba to the United States, and who occasionally mention with earnestness the subject to persons connected with the Government of that country, but without the authority of that of the United States. It will be recollected that two years ago Gen. SICKLES was instructed by the President to offer to the Cabinet at Madrid the good offices of the United States for the purpose of bringing to a close the civil war in the Island of Cuba on the following basis :

First—The independence of Cuba to be acknowledged by Spain.

Second—Cuba to pay Spain a sum as an equivalent for the entire and definite relinquishment by Spain of all her rights in that island, including the public property of every description, to be secured by a pledge of the export and import customs.

Third—The abolition of slavery in the island ; and,

Fourth—An armistice pending the negotiations.

Should Congress assent, the United States were to guarantee the payment of the sum proposed to be paid by Cuba to Spain.

The good offices of the United States were accepted, but accompanied by such bases proposed by Spain as were considered by the President inconsistent with any practicable negotiation. Accordingly, the tender of good offices was withdrawn, but will be renewed whenever they can tend to a settlement of the contest which was at that time and is now devastating Cuba. Nothing has since been done by our Government in that direction. No new formal proposition has been made for the alienation of Cuba from Spain. While the Government of Spain has repeatedly shown a friendly disposition toward the United States and a desire to accommodate or settle all our differences, it has met with much embarrassment, "which Spain freely admits," from the volunteers in Cuba, who are not in accord on this subject with the Home Government. There is a prospect, however, of obtaining satisfaction, at least to some extent, through the United States and Spanish Commission now organized in Washington ; but which has not yet actively commenced the adjudication of claims arising out of the insurrection in Cuba. While our Government is not now engaged in any effort to acquire the Island of Cuba, it adheres to its policy heretofore declared, namely, "not to permit Cuba to pass from Spain into the hands of any Power other than the United States."