

THE CASE OF JULIO SANGUILLY

NEW LIGHT ON THE WHOLE AFFAIR

How the Agitation in Congress Prejudiced the Case—Sanguilly Made to suffer through the Eagerness of His Friends to Stop President Cleveland and Secretary Olney—Their Course Upheld—The Attempt to Precipitate a Conflict between Spain and the United States—How Sanguilly Was Eventually Saved from His Enemies, as Well as His Friends—But for Mr. Cleveland's Honesty, Sanguilly's Fate Would Have Been Different.

Washington, Oct. 6.—The celebrated case of Julio Sanguilly is presented in a semi-official form in a pamphlet issued to-day, by Sanguilly's counsel here, Jose I. Rodriguez. It tells the story in detail, and gives a number of letters passing between Secretary Olney, Senator Sherman, Consul General Lee, and the United States minister at Madrid, Mr. Hannis Taylor, not appearing in the State Department publications and heretofore unpublished. As a whole, the document upholds the course of President Cleveland and Secretary Olney, and points out that the agitation in Sanguilly's behalf in Congress served only to prejudice his case. After stating that the attention of Congress and the public was not attracted to Sanguilly "until the very moment in which through skillful diplomatic management, the release of Sanguilly from imprisonment without further suffering or humiliation, had been secured," the writer says: "But that moment was one of extreme perplexity, which the friends of Sanguilly will not easily forget. Through an exuberant outburst of patriotic zeal and most commendable humanitarian feelings on the part of certain members of the United States Senate—through a noble although misguided sentiment of general compassion, industriously worked up in their minds, and in the minds of the kind-hearted people of this country by willful misrepresentation of the facts of the case, and by stories propagated by false friends and intimates about wrongs and sufferings and indignities perpetrated upon the prisoner, which in fact were never perpetrated or attempted to be perpetrated, through the desire of certain Cuban agitators, without authority to speak for the prisoner, or posing as his friends, urging extreme measures of precipitating, if possible, a conflict between the United States and Spain, aiming at no other end and seeking no other thing than the advancement of the cause in the advocacy of which they were engaged, through the temptation into which many distinguished public men of this country seemed to have been led of concurring in a case which involved the liberty and perhaps the life of a citizen of the United States of America, into an instrument of opposition to the ideas and principles represented by President Cleveland and his Secretary of State, Mr. Olney; through the circulation of a certain part of the press and through many other causes and circumstances, a condition of things which might have proved fatal was created at once. A measure of doubtful justice and of more than questionable efficiency, calculated perhaps more to irritate Spain and embroil the United States of America in a war with that nation, than to save Sanguilly, and proceeding upon an imperfect knowledge of the facts of the case was attempted to be rushed through the United States Senate exactly at the same time in which the determination already reached by Spain to comply with the wishes of the United States of America and set Julio Sanguilly at liberty, was being carried into execution.

"Thanks to divine providence through the righteous attitude of the State Department, through the firm stand of some honorable Senators who were then called organs of the Governor General of Cuba, or of the Queen of Spain and against whom the friends of the measure acknowledged to have used a little by-word of badinage," through the co-operation of the Spanish minister; and perhaps through the earnest appeal of the prisoner's counsel to the honorable chairman of the Senate committee on foreign relations the crisis was averted and the most gracious act of Her Majesty, the Queen Regent of Spain, to whom Sanguilly personally was not absolutely a stranger, could be carried into effect in Havana without the slightest difficulty. When the echo of the speeches which were made in the Senate and of the applause which their most fiery passages had elicited from the galleries had not as yet died out, Sanguilly, already a free man, was joining his family and preparing to leave the island of Cuba. Warm hearts and cool heads had once more overpowered the furies of blind excitement."

Dr. Rodriguez says his study of the case "led him to the conviction that the Spanish authorities of Cuba would never voluntarily release his client as long as the Cuban war should give the slightest sign of existence. And at the same time he never thought that in spite of this undoubted Spanish determination to keep Sanguilly within the walls of Fortress La Cabanas, more for fear of what he might do if released, than for anything else, there was any reasonable possibility of turning Sanguilly's case into a casus belli or of making it the subject of bellicose demonstration or displays of force."

For this reason it was determined that "diplomatic action toward a pardon would best serve Sanguilly's interests. Sanguilly approved this and in a letter to Dr. Rodriguez said: "Hope, which I have not yet revived in my soul through your action. Do all that you can, my dear friend, to secure my freedom through a pardon, or if not possible in that way, try at least to obtain my release on bail. But I pray you to prevent, if possible, my being sent to Madrid." The steps leading up to the pardon are then given, with all the correspondence between Havana, Madrid and Washington.

The conclusion of the pamphlet says in part: "The Sanguilly case reveals prominently above all its other features and in the most striking similitude with all the phases of the national situation in Cuba ever since 1825, that a feeling of deeply rooted almost insurmountable distrust is the prevailing element in the relations between Spain and Cuba. It bears testimony exactly the same as the Cuban problem as to whether willingly or unwillingly accepted and each time better established, that in all questions concerning the action of Spain in this continent the United States of America is a party to the contention, and that in obedi-

ence to eternal laws, historical and social, as inevitable in their effect as the laws of nature, the wishes of the government of the United States of America has always to prevail in the end. And it shows, in fine, and in no lesser a degree than the Cuban problem, that all attempt, no matter how much accompanied by noise, and alleged popular support, to force upon the administration an undesirable attitude, or the manner and the form in which its duty must be performed, is foolish to the extreme and dangerous even if it is sincere.

"Had it not been for this giant, who is called the American government, had it happened for its executive and diplomatic departments to have been entrusted to less faithful hands or to persons of less supreme manliness and political honesty than President Cleveland and his Secretary of State, Mr. Olney, the fate of Sanguilly would have been very different. Thanks to the courage of those two great Americans, to their wonderful power of resistance to improper pressure, from whatever side, and to their kindness toward the prisoner in whom they saw only a fellow citizen, Julio Sanguilly is not still lingering inside a Spanish fortress or serving a sentence as cruel as ignominious."

"The intervention of the Achilles of the Cuban war of 1895-1898 saved Sanguilly upon the field of battle. The intervention of the Achilles of American diplomacy saved him now from his enemies and perhaps also from his friends."