

**Fragment of a letter from John L O'Sullivan to Pedro de Agüero,  
December 21, 1849**

“...On the return of Mr. Madan from the West (November 13th.), the General sent Mr. Pepe Sanchez to explain his arrangements made, and to invoke such union and cooperation. Mr. Pepe Sanchez spent the greater part of the day, (Nov. 15th.) in his duty, as did Mr. Gonzalez two days after (Nov. 17th.) Hearing that Mr. Madan regarded himself as personally aggrieved by the General's action independent of him, ample explanations were made to remove a sentiment which the General regarded as so unfounded and ill allowed to affect the pending question, so pernicious to Cuba. He invited a comparison between the two contemplated expeditionary plans. In regard to the officer to be at the head (Mr. Madan making a point of his engagement with the Western officer) he offered to leave to the capitalist who were to furnish the money the choice between the two, Mr. Madan refused these offers. Persisting in believing himself to have been deceived and aggrieved, he insisted on the General's abandonment of his own arrangements and the adoption of his, upon the Western officer being placed at the head, and the enterprise being conducted in his way. This was refused by the General, though he urged strenuously that there should be union and cooperation of the two. Mr. Gonzalez, the second of the friends sent thus by the General to appeal, explain and remonstrate on his behalf, reported that he understood Mr. Madan as having almost, if not wholly, yield his own objections, after long discussion, (though still feeling personally aggrieved) and, as a patriotic sacrifice, appearing almost prepared to comply with his views, but desiring to consult with others, before answering decidedly. The next intimation of his sentiment announced that he had relapsed back into a determination not less decided than before, and the demand now pressed upon the General that he should consent to the establishment of a controlling Junta de Gobierno, which should be the centre whence should emanate all authority, all organization, and all action, even the General's own commission. This demand was accompanied with the maintenance still of the other plan, opposed to that already organized by the General, which indeed Mr. Mason adhered to with great inflexibility...”