

THE WAR IN CUBA.

Views of Senator Sumner.

NEW YORK, May 7. Senator Sumner is reported to have said yesterday that he was afraid the struggle in Cuba was a little too premature, and that it would not result in anything unless the Cubans should receive material aid from outside parties. He would like, as he supposed every American would, to see the Cubans succeed, first, because it would secure emancipation to the slaves on that island, and second, because their success would end either in the independence of Cuba or in annexation to the United States, most probably the latter. He thinks there would be difficulty in our Government according belligerent rights to the Cubans, and doubted whether even that would be of much material service to the Cubans. If Isabella was still Queen of Spain it might put a different face on the matter, but there is an effort being made in Spain to establish a liberal form of government. We cannot, said Mr. Sumner, very well do anything to embarrass this movement. To take an active part in Cuba against Spain would seriously distract the home government. Mr. Sumner thought we had the right to accord belligerent rights, but the question was whether it would be expedient to exercise it. A great nation like ours could do almost anything, but it must take the consequences of its acts. He thought that a recognition on our part of the belligerent rights of the Cubans might lead to trouble with Spain. The Spaniards were not strong, but they were proud, and would show fight. What would be the result? Our commerce is not large, but that of Spain is less. In this respect it has little to lose. There would be twenty Alabamas out instead of one, and we would be the losers.

Mr. Sumner believed the annexation of Cuba to the United States was inevitable, but it would come about of itself. The present contest, if it does not result in subduing the insurgents at an early day, will end in leaving Cuba comparatively a desert.