

Secretary Fish Defining His Position.

The Secretary of State defines his position on the Cuban question very freely and fully in our special correspondence which we published yesterday from Garrison's. He tells us what the views and feelings of the administration and of the individual members of it are with regard to the Cuban struggle for independence and the ultimate destiny of Cuba. He gives us also an insight of the schemes and dodges of the Spanish Minister to make the United States government an instrument in supporting Spain and against the patriot Cubans. He explains, too, the ground our government took for seizing the Spanish gunboats; and makes a very good case. In all this and in favoring the public with such an explanation of the position the government occupies on the Cuban question Mr. Fish shows his good sense. But more than that, he is inspired with a vigor and determination which we hardly expected to see in him. Still he manifests uneasiness at the impatience of the public, and makes a lengthy plea for the tardy action or want of action on the part of the government in favor of Cuba. His conservatism is excessive, for in his zeal to make the United States appear very respectable in the eyes of the world he may lose sight of the opportunity to accomplish an important object. He may let the suitable time for carrying out a great national policy pass by, and be the indirect cause of unnecessary bloodshed and ruinous devastation in Cuba.

If the neutrality which he proclaims to be his policy between Spain and the Cubans be enforced, that will be an important step, and would amount to a quasi recognition of the belligerent rights of the Cubans; but if Spain can buy arms and other munitions of war in this country and ship them freely to Cuba, and the Cubans cannot, that is a one-sided sort of neutrality. Non-intervention, he says, will be the policy of the administration until the provisional government of the patriots of Cuba manifests signs of a national existence. Are not these signs manifest enough already? We think that the people of this country would respond "yes" with singular unanimity. All great governments strain a point in such cases when the national will urges it and where national interests and policy are in question. Much as we commend Mr. Fish's outspoken language and views and the action he has taken so far, we fear his excessive conservatism amounts to causeless timidity. It is to be hoped, however, that the government will not let the cause of Cuba and republican liberty suffer by any unnecessary delay in formally recognizing the Cubans as belligerents or the independence of Cuba.