

Why Delay?

If, as is alleged in some quarters, the delay of the Government in recognizing the belligerent rights of the Cuban republicans, and its excessive zeal in preventing any aid reaching them from this country, where Spain is free to do as she pleases—we say, if this delay, or this zeal, is in any way influenced by what is called

the “Alabama question,” then the Government is equally wrong and foolish. It is true that the English press seek to establish a parallelism between the Cuban insurrection and the Southern rebellion, and insist that we are bound to observe in the contest between Spain and Cuba the same line of conduct that we claim Great Britain should have pursued as between the North and South in the late civil war.

But there is no parallelism in the two cases, and even if there were, the action of Europe, and especially Great Britain, would be our warrant for pursuing toward Spain and Cuba precisely the same course that Europe and Great Britain pursued toward the United States and the so-called “Confederate States.” Because we sought to establish certain principles which Europe fails to admit or adopt, we are

not bound to observe them ourselves. The exalted virtue of restricting our freedom of action, while other nations claim and exercise the utmost latitude in theirs, does not prevail in practical affairs.

We repeat, there is no parallelism between the case of the South and that of Cuba, on whatever grounds considered. Cuba is occupied by a people unanimous in opposition to