

## The Present Aspects of the Cuban Question.

The recent news on the state of affairs in Cuba is a little mysterious and mixed up; but there is no reason to suppose that the Cuban cause is failing, but rather the contrary. Indeed, the reports received in Key West for the Junta in this city are of a most promising character, representing that the patriots in Cuba are in the best of spirits and that the battle of Las Tunas resulted in a decided victory for the insurgents. If the report from Madrid be true, that General Sickles has withdrawn his note to the Spanish government—although it must be remembered that this report has been previously contradicted—General Sickles may have acted in consideration of the existing embarrassments of the regency. The question of a successor to the throne of Isabella now troubles the Spanish government, and probably the future of Spain, as balanced between a monarchy and a republic, a kingdom governed by a prince of the house of Savoy or some one else who may yet turn up, or a continuation of the regency, is sufficiently embarrassing, without entertaining any proposition of the American Minister, and, with a proper sense of delicacy, General Sickles may have withdrawn his note; but whether he has or not it will not affect the action of the United States government with regard to Cuba.

Spain, meantime, is sending armaments to Cuba; but there is no doubt now that at least one privateer is out to intercept the Spanish vessels and do all kinds of damage to the Spanish flag on the high seas. She bears the ominous name of the *Alabama*, though not the original one, and, it is said, was seen off Sandy Hook, drawing close upon the *Hornet*, which latter vessel sailed from Halifax the other day, after undergoing a fruitless search by the Dominion authorities, but, no doubt, despite the supervision of the detectives, carrying supplies and ammunition, stored away somewhere, for the uses of the *Alabama*, and, perhaps, enough also for her own services as privateer number two. In all probability these vessels carry letters of marque from some recognized government to save them from the consequences of piracy. May it not be from Peru? That republic is at war with Spain, and is therefore warranted, according to the rules of war, in harassing her enemy wherever she may find him.

It is said by the *London Times* that there is but little hope of a compromise between Spain and Cuba; that if the Cubans lay down their arms and send deputies to the Cortes they may become "as Canada," and even become independent, which Canada is not; but disarmament is the ultimatum, for Spain yields nothing to compulsion. Now this is all nonsense, and not worth a thought. The future of Cuba is in the hands, not of Spain, but of the United States. Spain may send reinforcements of troops to Cuba if she will, and disgrace her escutcheon by brutal murders and savage cruelties, as she is doing, but the settlement of the Cuban question lies with us for all that.

Under these circumstances is it not time that our government was doing something—making some move just now, towards the solution of the difficulty? The public appears to be of one mind about the matter, and that is that the Cuban patriots should be recognized at least, if not befriended. We notice that in the platforms of both parties—democratic and republican—in this State, adopted at Syracuse, the recognition of Cuba finds a strong endorsement. There is no doubt that public opinion tends in that direction, and the administration can hardly fail to see it.