

The letter of the poor Cuban prisoners who were massacred by the Spanish soldiers at Jiguani to the foreign consuls, which we published yesterday, shows how these unhappy people dreaded the fate that befell them. This appeal to the Consuls of England, France, Prussia and the United States would not have availed under any circumstances, probably, but could not if even the consuls had been disposed to interfere, for the signers of it were dead men before any action could have been taken. Such is the brutality of the Spanish soldiers and Spanish volunteers that these unfortunate Cuban prisoners apprehended violence or death from those who should have guarded and protected them. Their language is extremely touching and prophetic. They say:—"We do not fear the sentence of the authorities; we do not fear to stand before any tribunal; we do not fear the rancorous hatred of our enemies, nor the slanders so freely circulated against us for the crime of daring to be liberals; but we have a dreadful apprehension as to what will be our fate and that of our families." And then, as if foreseeing their fate, they add:—"And this apprehension is converted into a horrible fear when we call to mind our imprisonment, with the circumstances of which you are acquainted—that deed, which, had its full intent been carried out, would have deprived several innocent men of their lives, men whose removal was wrapped in mystery like our own—and this fear is converted into a terrible reality when we reflect that in a lonely region, in the midst of a civil war, we, accused of political offences which have never been proved, may meet our death from an attack, an encounter, a simple skirmish, a mere suspicion from those having us in charge." How surely and dreadfully did these poor victims of Spanish oppression realize the fate they apprehended! They were murdered in "a lonely region" by the brutal guards who escorted them and should have protected them. We know of nothing more horrible in the history of civil wars. It could not have occurred in this enlightened and civilized age with any other people than the Spaniards. It is sufficient to cause our government and the other governments of the civilized world to declare the war in Cuba a barbarous one, and to insist, in the name of humanity, that it must cease. If there were a spark of courage in the Secretary of State, or if the administration represented the American people on this Cuban question, such a protest would be sent to Madrid as would starve the Spanish government. Spain, in the atrocious conduct of the war in Cuba, has placed herself beyond the pale of civilization and international comity, and should be proclaimed the enemy of humanity.