

SPAIN AND CUBA.

Opinion of the Madrid Press Upon the Note of General Sickles in Reference to Cuba—Immediate Action on the Part of the Government called for.

The *Imparcial* of Madrid recently published the following article in reference to the action of the United States government respecting Cuba:—

During the whole day of yesterday serious and painful reports were circulated in this capital respecting the Cuban question. It was said that the representative of the United States, General Sickles, had handed our government a note from the Washington Cabinet, in which it was stated that the state of opinion in the North American republic would probably force it to make a recognition as belligerents in favor of the rebels of Cuba. We received this information with reserve, and deferred giving it in our provincial edition until we had assured ourselves of the fact. Other journals mentioned the report as certain, and prepared, with their usual warmth and enthusiasm, to excite the patriotism of all parties and all classes, in order to agitate opinion and to offer resources to the government with which to combat the new danger that threatens us. General Sickles has not given any account to our government of the note referred to by our contemporary. The representative of the United States, when once accredited to our government, immediately made declarations in the sense of the supposed note, but at the same time stated that when public opinion, which in no country has such influence as there, would oblige the Washington Cabinet, then only would it adopt such serious measures in reference to the Cuban insurgents. On how many occasions we have not discussed the affairs of that colony, how often have we not called attention to the danger that threatens us, in case the revolution is not quelled within a short space of time? because the cause of the revolution daily gains ground in the opinion of the people of North America, and especially in the democratic party, ever ready to avail themselves of all pretences against the government of General Grant. But we have always thought that, whatever might be the progress made by filibusterism in the opinion of that country the government of General Grant, on account of its own prestige, and paying just tribute to the treaties and the prescriptions of international right, would not decide to recognize the insurgents as belligerents until public opinion became manifest through the medium of the legitimate organs of a free country—that is, through the medium of the *Chambers*—a belief in which we still persist. No fresh reasons exist—at least not for the present—to believe that the Cabinet of Washington will decide upon taking such a serious determination, and modifying the sentiments expressed to our government by General Sickles. However, even if the note in question does not exist, it seems beyond doubt that the Ministers of State and the Colonies have received serious communications from our representatives in North America, in which mention is made of the great progress made by filibusterism in that country, and the agitation raised by parties to oblige General Grant, sooner or later, to recognize the Cuban insurgents as belligerents. It is useless to state how terrible such a blow would prove to our cause. If now, notwithstanding the sincerity with which that government has acted and which we duly appreciate; if, notwithstanding the means it has adopted in order to preserve the movement in our province any other character than strictest neutrality, and not giving the insurrection that of a rebellion against a legitimate government; if, notwithstanding this, we repeat, the Cuban insurrection has received fraudulent assistance from the United States, both of men and resources, to the extent even of their becoming its chief support, an estimate can easily be formed of the importance that the insurrection would acquire if provided with equal means of fighting as ourselves. The same means to foment the war in the interior of the island as to commit hostile acts against our ships of war, by arming corsairs that would enjoy equal rights and protection as our marine in all the ports of North and South America.

There can be no doubt respecting this danger, it is not illusory, countenanced by the political organization of that great nation, and aware of the irresistible impulse obtained there by parties when by force of activity and perseverance they succeed in gaining the interest of public opinion, it is possible that the Cuban insurrection will not terminate during the present year. General Grant's government will find itself driven to adopt a measure, by Congress, that is in open contradiction of the principles of neutrality accepted by all civilized nations, but which will not prevent that nation, as on previous occasions, from committing similar acts. Meanwhile, and previous to the moment when we recognize the insurgents as belligerents, we think not. — The

cannot have long seen the life or conduct observed by Spain during the war with the South. The organization of the Confederate States was relatively independent, and the war from the outbreak was conducted by regular disciplined troops, who based their operations on the principles of humanity and the rights of man. The rebels of Cuba in the course of a year have not been able to organize more than numerous parties, whose principal arms are incendiarism, robbery and murder. The Confederate States held entire provinces, large cities and important strong places, whereas the Cuban insurgents have not been able to retain one plot of ground in security—not a town, not even a small village. The Confederate States from the first moment had a regular government organized, that acted orderly with all the prestige and power of the Confederate States, having their own resources to cover their expenses. So far the Cuban insurgents have not been able to organize the least shadow of a government, and the most complete anarchy reigns among their chiefs. We repeat again, is it possible that General Grant, under these conditions, will recognize them as belligerents? Even the mere suspicion would infer an insult to the government that at present rules the destiny of that republic. However, before the moment of real danger comes, before the Congress meets, government must not lose sight of public opinion in that country, and strain every nerve in order that when the American Congress meets the revolution shall have received its death blow, which at the same time will crush the hopes of the North American filibusters.