

this hemisphere, and, perhaps, on the globe. If free or annexed to the United States the trade with it would be exceedingly valuable—that is, if our government be wise enough to prevent the island becoming a second St. Domingo. If the action of the United States should avert the fate of destruction and desolation which now threatens Cuba, and the Cubans acquire their independence, the trade would become in a short time incalculably valuable. Looking at the matter, too, in a political point of view, the present is the most opportune time for the acquisition of Cuba, for settling a question which has long occupied the public mind, for extending and strengthening republican institutions on this side the Atlantic, for fulfilling our national destiny in the absorption of contiguous American territory, for practically carrying out the Monroe doctrine, and for increasing the grandeur, power and commerce of the republic. With such objects in view and such motives for action there is not a great nation in the world that would not have made the independence of Cuba a fact long before this. England, France, Russia, Prussia, Austria and even Spain herself would have studied only their own interests, progress and aggrandizement in such a case. We need not cite examples in history—in what is occurring constantly with the great nations of the world—to show the policy all pursue. Every one is familiar with the facts. Will our government and statesmen comprehend the broad American policy that is required of them, the destiny of the republic, and the aspirations of the people? That is the question. Cuba is pre-eminently a case involving these great national considerations, and we must soon know whether the government can comprehend its opportunity and duty or not.

Cuba—A Broad American Policy Required.

There seems to be some reserve with the administration, and consequently an unusual reticence with the Washington newspaper correspondents, on the policy of the government with regard to Cuba. This leaves room for a good deal of speculation. Consequently that portion of the press which evidently is under Spanish influence pretends to believe the President will ignore Cuba in his message to Congress next month. Of course such an opinion has not been formed from any information obtained from General Grant or from the State Department, and no doubt has been manufactured either by the American agents of the Spanish government or by the newspapers themselves under Spanish influence. We cannot expect the President will reveal at present precisely what he intends to say or recommend to Congress about Cuba, and perhaps he has not yet made up his mind fully on the subject. In the month between the present time and the assembling of Congress events may occur to modify existing impressions. As he will act in accordance with public sentiment, probably he may deem it important to ascertain what the views of the representatives of the people are before he decides upon the course he will take in his message on the Cuban question.

But we are not left in the dark entirely as to General Grant's views and sympathies relative to Cuba, and, therefore, can form a better opinion of what policy he may develop in his message than that offered by the Bohemian press or Spanish agents. The views of the President were given at different times during the last summer and fall through the correspondence of the HERALD, and, indeed, so were those of the Secretary of State. We know, then, that General Grant warmly and heartily favored Cuban independence, and that Mr. Fish expressed himself in a similar manner on this subject. We know that he cordially sympathized with the Cubans in their struggle for liberty, and looked forward to the time when the United States could recognize them. Even the excessively conservative Secretary of State admitted, months ago, that recognition and Cuban independence were only a question of time. The action of the government, too, through our Minister at Madrid, in proposing to negotiate with Spain for the independence of Cuba, shows that as far back as last spring the administration was earnestly at work to bring about the freedom of Cuba. To suppose that the President would now, after the Cubans have heroically maintained the struggle, and that with better prospects of success, abandon the object he had in view and the Cuban cause, is unreasonable, and would imply a degree of imbecility and vacillation on the part of the administration which is not consistent with the character of General Grant and which the American people cannot believe. Throughout his history and public career General Grant has shown that he entertains broad national views on all questions pertaining to the progress and perpetuation of republican freedom on American soil and to progress and grandeur of his own country. This was seen in his bold proposition to march an army across the Rio Grande and drive the foreign imperial intruders from our sister republic of Mexico. In fact, he has shown the same broadly national sentiment and fearlessness on every occasion when republican institutions on American soil and the progress and grandeur of our country were in question.

How, then, can we believe that the President will ignore Cuba in his message to Congress, or that he will abandon the cause of the Cubans, after all that he has said and the effort he has made to secure their independence? To be silent about Cuba when the public mind is full of the subject and in expectation of a definite policy being declared would be acting like the foolish and timid ostrich, which hides its head under the sand without considering that its whole body is exposed to view. The Cuban question is too prominent and too popular a one to be ignored, and we do not think there is Spanish influence enough at Washington to blind the President to this fact. At all events, it is certain neither the people nor their representatives in Congress will ignore it. As to the sympathy of the American people with the Cubans there can be no doubt. It exists in every section and among all classes, except, perhaps, with Mr. Sumner, who thinks of nothing but his speech on the Alabama claims, and who would sacrifice the liberties of any people for the fancied glory connected with that, or with the exception, possibly, of a few copperhead politicians and weak old fogies, who would fence in the United States to prevent any further expansion or progress. But the question of Cuba is not one of sympathy only, despotic and cruel as the Spanish government of the island is, and much as the American people may desire to see the Cubans free, but important American interests, principles and progress are involved. Cuba is the richest island in