

The Cuban Delegation and the President.

The Cuban delegation which arrived here early this week have been working very diligently for their cause with leading government officials. To-day they called upon President Grant and had a long interview, Mr. Francisco Fesser acting as spokesman. The gentlemen who accompanied him were Señores Echeverria, Delmonte and Cisneros. The President received them very cordially and listened to what they had to say with profound attention. Mr. Fesser made a manly statement in behalf of his country. All that he asked, he said, was the most common fair play. He begged for no favors or assistance, but remarked that he thought the great republic should not set the example of aiding a European power in crushing out the free aspirations of a noble people, struggling heroically to obtain their independence. The course at present pursued by the United States government, he said, was entirely one sided. The Spaniards were allowed every privilege; they were permitted to repair their ships, obtain arms, coal, provisions, ammunition and everything necessary for their support, while poor struggling Cuba, a weak Power fighting against a strong one, was denied the same privilege. There was not an ounce of powder expended on Cuban soil by the Spaniards that was not supplied from some port of the United States, yet Cubans were not allowed to send to their country ships, ammunition or provisions. President Grant here remarked that the delegation must remember that there was one important difference between Spain and Cuba. Spain has a recognized government, but Cuba has none. To this Mr. Fesser replied that that was the very difference that he and his compatriots desired to see obliterated. The United States government, said he, make use of the *circulus vitiosus* in dealing with the United States. They say we are no government because we are not recognized, and that we are not recognized because we are no government. The United States tie one of our hands behind our back and allow Spain to have both hands free and then expects us to fight on such unequal terms. Mr. Fesser further said that Cuba competing with Spain was like two men fighting in the street, one of whom only had one hand and the other both hands free to use. Give us, he said, the most ordinary fair play, which is all we ask, and then let the best man win. Mr. Fesser made a powerful appeal for belligerent rights, and was occasionally backed up by the other members of his delegation. The President, though extremely courteous and kind to his visitors, was very guarded and careful in his remarks. When Mr. Fesser concluded his address, the President briefly remarked to him that he (the President) in his position of Chief Magistrate could do nothing but execute the laws of the country. That Congress, however, would soon assemble and no doubt would take the matter into prompt consideration, and adopt the best course that could be followed under the circumstances. After leaving the Executive Mansion the delegation had pleasant interviews with Vice Admiral Porter and General Sherman, who expressed sympathy for their cause.

(The Bradley-Eichen Salt)