

Exciting News from Cuba.

The telegraph brings us the important intelligence that a Spanish war steamer arrived at Havana, with Mr. E. R. Codrington, the Consular Agent of the United States at Gibara, a prisoner on board and in irons. The cause of his arrest is said to be that he was suspected of complicity with the rebellion. We trust there is some mistake in the statement that a consular officer of the United States has been arrested and placed in irons "upon suspicion of complicity." The present bitter hatred of the Spanish volunteers in Cuba for everything that looks like a liberal view of the revolution now going on there, and particularly their vindictiveness towards everything American, which they look upon as the exciting cause of their present troubles, are not likely to make them the best judges as to what constitutes reasonable grounds for "suspicion of complicity."

In their violent anger at seeing Cuba slipping from the grasp they have so long held upon the island, the Spanish volunteers, who now control the policy of the government, are blind to everything like reason and justice. Their course towards the Cubans who have been arrested merely on suspicion in Havana has done their cause immense harm in the estimation of the civilized world; and the arrest of a consular officer of the United States, unless most conclusively sustained by facts other than their own angry denunciations, deprives them of all consideration in an international point of view. If they will not respect the obligations of international comity they are not entitled to claim protection from them, and place themselves in the position of an insane neighbor who insists upon burning his own house to the imminent prejudice of his neighbor's. Such insanity must be restrained by force.

Admiral Hoff is upon the ground, armed with the diplomatic authority of the Navy Department, which is the only diplomatic authority the Captain General of Cuba will respect, and we trust he has taken immediate cognizance of the case. A reference of the case to the sovereign power at Madrid, three thousand miles away, would be simply a denial of justice. Mr. Codrington's case must have an immediate and fair examination, and if wrong has been done the reparation must be made at once by the power which committed the wrong. Consignment of the case to the slough of diplomatic correspondence would be practically conceding permission to the Spanish volunteers in Cuba to do whatever their blind anger may dictate against American consuls and American citizens.

In the meantime, Congress should take up and pass the resolution offered by General Banks authorizing the President to do the needful in the matter of recognizing the belligerent rights of the patriot Cubans. Delay in this matter can only add to our subsequent difficulties in this field, and we call upon General Butler to put his shoulder also to the wheel and push the Cuban resolutions through. We must protect our consuls and our citizens in Cuba in all their rights, military commissions and suborned testimony to the contrary notwithstanding. While Congress is doing this we confide in the naval diplomacy of Admiral Porter.