

Spanish Outrages on Americans and the American Flag.

The old saying that whom the gods would destroy they first make mad is being verified in the case of the Spaniards in Cuba and the Spanish naval officers on the waters of the Antilles. In a letter published to-day in another column it will be seen that the Spanish war steamer *Andalusia* captured an American brig, the *Mary Lowell*, lying in British waters at Nassau, and with a British pilot and sailors on board, hauled down the American flag and towed the brig away. In yesterday's paper, too, we published a despatch from Havana showing that the Spanish war steamer *Moctezuma* had arrived, with the consular agent of the United States at Gibara, Mr. Codrington, on board, and bound in irons. We know not which to be most astonished at—the temerity or the stupidity of the Spaniards. They seem to think they can insult, imprison and put in irons American citizens and representatives of the American government with impunity. They have the audacity to seize an American vessel and haul down the American flag in the harbor of a friendly Power. Such outrages to a great nation have hardly a parallel in history. One outrage following another in this manner shows plainly that the Spaniards are acting upon a system, and by high authority. They either calculate upon the imbecility of the American government, or they are mad with revenge and disappointment.

We shall say nothing about the grave insult to the British in taking the vessel of a friendly nation from their harbor of Nassau, and when a British pilot and crew were on board. That the English government must settle itself. We only express the hope that no sympathy for Spain may prevent such timely and proper action as is due both to itself and the United States. But our government should act promptly and decisively in the matter. If England, France or any other great Power were in the position we are with regard to Cuba and Spain and had been so grossly insulted—its flag torn down and its citizens and official representatives put in irons—it would make short work with Spanish rule in Cuba. No false or sentimental apology, which would only be followed by other insults, would be accepted. Shall this great and proud republic submit? Will our government pocket the insult? What does General Grant say? What does the Secretary of the Navy or that brave American sailor, Admiral Porter, say? It is time that a bold and decided policy should be commenced with regard to Cuba and American interests there. As long as Cuba belongs to Spain we shall always be subject to insult and trouble. The shortest and best way to settle now and forever all difficulty relative to that island is to send a powerful fleet out there at once and to recognize the independence of the Cubans.