

# SPAIN.

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## How the Spaniards Regard American Sympathy for Cuba.

MADRID, March 28, 1869.

The persistency with which Cuban sympathizers in the Congress of the United States bring forward their resolutions recognizing the independence of Cuba, and the fact that such a resolution was unani-

mously adopted by the House of Representatives, have occasioned a very deep feeling throughout Spain. The additional fact that the Senate has a resolution of a like nature under consideration produces a spirit of uneasiness and bitterness in all classes of society. The Cuban insurrection is generally believed here to be dying out through powerful repressive measures and its own exhaustion, and the Spaniards claim that, at such a time, the attitude of the American Congress is calculated to give renewed life to an inexorable undertaking which is designed to wrest from the control of Spain one of her richest and most important possessions. Spain regards such an attitude of the representatives of the people of the United States as unfriendly to this country, and unjustifiable in every way. Spain, during the great rebellion in the United States, it is claimed, preserved a strict neutrality, which leaned, if anything, in favor of the government. Unlike some other of the great Powers, she enforced with rigor the laws relating to the rights of hospitality extended to rebel cruisers. They were not refused the right to enter Spanish ports for necessary supplies and repairs, but their stay was made as brief as possible, and the repairs allowed the ships were only such as were absolutely needed to enable them to reach another port of another nation. The rules and regulations were in all cases firmly and loyally enforced, as against the rebels, while a great latitude was observed in applying them to the men-of-war of the United States. In this way Spain proved to the United States her friendly feeling and sympathy. And it is held unjust, unfair and ungenerous for the United States to adopt a course so hostile to Spain at the moment she is exerting herself to the utmost to put down a rebellion which is as unjustifiable as it is unreasonable, since Cuba could enjoy with the mother country all the liberties and rights gained by the revolution of September.

It was hoped here since the government of the Union passed from the hands of the slaveholders that there would be no more filibustering, no more illegal attacks on the rights of Spain in Cuba, and no more intrigue to occasion trouble. The days of illegal expeditions against that island had passed, it was supposed, and the Spanish government could hereafter rely upon the loyal friendship and kind sympathy of the United States government to put a stop to all hostile acts against her dominion in Cuba. Instead of this natural state of affairs the government of the United States assumes a hostile attitude, and proposes to go so far as to acknowledge the independence of the island before that independence has been gained, and while even its prospects were never worse. The people of Spain cannot understand the causes that induce the United States to perform so unfriendly an act as to lend its moral support to a falling cause, unless it is from motives of pure aggrandizement. In fact, it is generally believed that this sympathy and secret support for the insurrectionists is merely the first step of the United States to gain possession of the island, and the Spaniards declare it to be unworthy of a great and noble people.

There are a very few Spaniards who do not see that Cuba must eventually fall into the hands of the United States and become part of the American Union. But they would like to see this result attained in a fair, natural and proper way, and not by force and intrigue. If the people of Cuba could vote in a fair, untrammelled way on the question of separation from Spain, and the majority of the votes should be in favor of that act, it is certain that no great number of Spaniards would favor their retention under the Spanish dominion by force. (1) They would regret the loss of the pearl of the Antilles, but they would not spend a dollar or risk a life to prevent its consummation if legitimately carried out; only they would demand a reimbursement for all the money spent by Spain in great public works in Cuba—a proposition fair and just. But to have the island torn from the mother country by force and violence is a contingency that the Spaniards cannot contemplate with indifference and against which they will spend every dollar and lose every man they can muster in the peninsula.

The resolution to put down the Cuban rebellion is firm in every one's mind here, and all are determined, at whatever cost, to attain that result. The unfriendly attitude of the United States will only induce them to renewed exertions to quell the disturbance in that far-off island. Meanwhile it is probable that some diplomatic correspondence will arise on the subject, and some questions will be asked not only by Spain, but by several great Powers, as to the intentions of the United States government.