

The Demand for Reparation for Spanish Outrages.

Our telegraphic advices from Washington inform us that the government is disposed to take a proper and national view of the outrages recently committed on the American flag in the case of the brig Mary Lowell and the boarding of the schooner Lizzie Majors on the high seas. The case of the first named vessel was an outrage of the most barefaced character. It is not denied that this vessel was in possession of the customs officers of the British government, in British waters, and with the seal of the Crown upon her hatches. Yet she was taken possession of by a Spanish war steamer, carried to Havana, and there condemned as a legal prize. It is not asserted that she had infringed any law, nor was she engaged in any hostile act. Reparation is due to the British government for the disrespect to its territory and flag; but not the less should our government protect the rights and property of American citizens in this case.

The affair of the Lizzie Majors is an equally palpable case of wrong on the part of the Spanish cruisers. She was boarded on the high seas and two passengers taken from her and carried back to Cuba, where, from aught we yet know, they may have been already shot, as were those taken from the British schooner Jeff Davis. No crime was alleged against them, and the utmost they could be charged with was that they were fleeing to this country to escape from the tyranny of the government and the murderous zeal of the mad Spanish volunteers. One of them was even a minor, a young lad, and the pretext for their seizure was that their names did not appear upon the ship's manifest. It is due to our own honor and to the cause of humanity and civilization that we demand the immediate liberation of these persons, that they be safely placed again on their voyage to the United States, and that due reparation be made to our flag. We rejoice that Secretary Fish is beginning to awaken to the fact that fear is not the proper guardian of American honor.

It is well that the government has taken steps to increase our naval force in Southern waters. The proclamation issued by General Dulce on the 24th of last month openly assumes the right to search and seize vessels on the high seas and to try and condemn them if it please his Excellency so to do. Had we assumed this right during our late civil war the Havana nest of blockade runners would have been broken up, and it is not impossible that the Spanish rule in Cuba might have been broken up with it. But we respected the freedom of the seas in one of the most flagrant cases which could be presented—that of Mason and Slidell—and shall not consent that Spain, in the defence of an unjust cause and an odious tyranny, shall do less. The fact that the persons seized may be private citizens and not public officers only makes such outrages the more flagrant. If Spain persists in them there is but one remedy—the annihilation of the remnant of Spanish power in the New World.