

Barbarities in Cuba—The Report of the Committee of the House.

Every mail from Havana continues to bring accounts of the terrible barbarities perpetrated there, many of them too horrible to commit to public print. Both parties have for some time been committed to what is now called the retaliatory practice of shooting all prisoners, although it is evident that it was first begun by the Spaniards. Such has too often been the practice in the countries south of us, and it has become a general belief that it is an indispensable feature of their race. The proclamation issued by General Cespedes in January last fully relieves the republican government in Cuba from this accusation. In that document the Cuban leader details the correspondence he had with Brigadier Muñoz in December, then commanding the Spanish forces in Santiago, and expressly states his wish that the war should be carried on more in accordance with modern practices. The Spanish commander having treated his demand with contumely and persisted in his cruel practices, the Cuban General was forced, in self-defence, to adopt the same policy and to decree reprisal in its most ample terms.

This state of things is a disgrace to a nation calling itself civilized, and a shame to the age in which it is practised. The passage of the resolution reported yesterday by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs at Washington will exercise some influence in this matter; and the knowledge by the Spanish volunteers, who now control the policy of the colonial government in Cuba, that the people and government of the United States will not look unmoved upon these barbarities, will have a good effect. Let Congress do its part towards stopping these horrid practices by passing at once the resolution agreed upon by the House Committee, and we will trust to General Grant what further action may be necessary in the matter.
