

Spanish Outrage and Spanish Finance.

The course of policy and naval action which have lately been observed and pursued by the Spanish officers serving in the waters of Cuba and off the Bahamas have been fully reported in Europe, where the news is likely to produce a reaction seriously detrimental to the interests of the executive now endeavoring to consolidate a government in Madrid, and may even-tuate in complicating England in the trans-atlantic irritation prevailing in consequence. By special telegram through the Atlantic cable, dated in London yesterday, we are informed that the United States Minister at St. James', in accordance with instructions from Washington, had just had an audience of Lord Clarendon, Foreign Secretary, in the course of which he made a formal demand on his lordship for explanation relative to the case of the American ship *Mary Lowell*, captured by a Spanish war frigate off one of the islands of the Bahama group, at a moment when the trading vessel was completely in charge of a British revenue officer and with the seal of the Queen's revenue department on her hatches. John Bull learned at the same time that the American fleet serving in the West India waters was to be increased—news which produced quite a sensation in commercial circles—a feeling likely to affect the project of a new Spanish loan which is about to be placed on the English market most injuriously. The Spaniards of to-day are unfortunate both in diplomacy and finance.

Contemporaneous with our report from London we are informed from Washington that Secretary Fish has at length taken a strong position on the Cuban question. Señor Roberts, who represents the Madrid Cabinet near our government, had two interviews with the Secretary yesterday, when he was informed that the Union fleet in the West India waters had been ordered to protect American citizens, and was requested to say if Captain General Duloe had proclaimed that vessels arriving off Cuba with men, arms, or ammunition on board should be treated as pirates. Señor Roberts was unable to give a distinct reply, but said he had telegraphed to Madrid for explanations, which had not yet been received, and finally "caved in" in presence of the statement of our coming policy made by Mr. Fish.

Living in the misty haze of the history of a national power supported by military plunder from abroad, the people of Spain cannot come down to the actual realities of the nineteenth century, which disclose their weakness and reveal how effete the nation has become. The Cuban revolution is likely to demand the active interference of President Grant at an early day, while this outrage on English commerce is almost certain to bring a British squadron off the island. The Spaniards cannot avoid their fate. All things are for the best. Let us "conquer a peace."