

England and Cuba.

Our cable telegrams yesterday indicate a change of action on the part of England which may produce very strange complications in the Cuban question. Belligerent rights are to be conceded to the insurgents and such assistance rendered to them as was given to our own rebellion. In the meantime it is not improbable that complications may arise which will produce open war between England and Spain. From Nassau, via Havana, the telegraph states that "military preparations are being made in view of possible complications with Spain."

There is no doubt but this policy is in strict accordance with that which the British government has always followed in the internal troubles which from time to time have agitated the different nations of the world. England and her trade has always gained ground at the expense of other countries. Large or small commercial competitors cause no variation in policy. "Break them into fragments, they can be handled easier," appears to be the rule of foreign action. In pursuit of this, discord has been purposely fomented among foreign Powers. Civil wars have resulted, and the contending parties, weakened and reduced, have leaned for support upon the very nation which stirred the flame of war. In the history of our own Continent we find abundant evidence of this policy. There is scarcely a Spanish American State but bears witness to it. There is no bolder marked example than ourselves. While England professed to take the lead in the elevation of the human race, and especially denounced before the world every nation that was stained with slavery, she, true to her principles, urged and assisted the slaveholding power to break up institutions which were nearest in keeping with her own. This she carried to a point little short of real warfare, and thus struck at us in a manner which was more cowardly than honorable.

The object of recognizing Cuban belligerent rights is pregnant with meaning. Doing so, England would at once enlist great sympathy for herself on the part of the insurgents, and, their independence achieved, they would naturally turn for advice to the country which aided them in the hour of their greatest need. We can well understand what that advice would be. Certainly it would not be annexation to the United States. Cuba is too magnificent a commercial prize for England to let it slip from her hands, if it can possibly be held commercially when it cuts aloof from Spain. The valuable and increasing trade which already produces thirty-three million dollars of revenue for the Spanish crown is no mean prize for diplomatic or even warlike effort. The magnificent geographical position of Cuba, unsurpassed by any other equal extent of territory on this Continent, is also a tempting bait for those who are interested in pressing forward a commercial supremacy won in the manner we have indicated. In our hands Cuba would double our naval strength, neutralize the value of Nassau, and serve us as an outlying fortification for the protection, not only of ourselves, but of all the republics on this Continent. The English people understand this as well as we do, and it is, perhaps, statesmanship on their part to prevent our obtaining possession of the "Ever Faithful Isle."

The sluggish movements of our government have given England an opportunity to make this threatened diplomatic stroke of recognition of belligerent rights, and if she be quick in her movements she will completely outgeneral the authorities at Washington. Our Washington dignitaries sacrifice all national considerations to political ones, and narrow ideas, based upon a still narrower foreign policy, threaten to keep us in a secondary and shameful condition for many years.

But in the lead which England proposes to take with reference to Cuba there is another point involved, and that is our pending Alabama and other claims. The recognition of the Cubans would be a direct confirmation of the principles which were enunciated in the recognition of the "Southern Confederacy." This would be another argument which England would then have against making due reparation to the United States.

In the meantime the Spanish government appears determined that no cause shall be given to us for interfering in the Cuban trouble. Apologies are made as fast as can be wished for every petty difficulty that occurs. The passengers taken from the *Lizzie Majors* are surrendered and the proper amends made. There is but one way for the United States to proceed in the present condition of Cuban affairs, and that is the adoption of the bold policy and principles we have heretofore laid down. Cuba should be seized on the ground that it is a constant threat against us and the whole Continent so long as the island remains in the hands of any foreign Power. If England be allowed to outgeneral us here it will be infinitely to our shame and disadvantage.

Even Mexico is on the eve of recognizing the revolutionary government. It is absurd that we should follow in the track of England, and much more debasing that a timid policy should place us in the rear of Mexico.
