

A Bold National Policy Relative to Cuba.

The order of the President to Admiral Hoff, in command of our naval forces at Cuba, to protect all American citizens, looks like business and a decided policy. The high-handed outrages on American citizens, to say nothing of the inhuman atrocities and uncivilized mode of warfare of the Spaniards, called for this prompt and decided action of General Grant. But it is to be hoped our government will go further than this and recognize the independence of the Cubans. The resolution reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs should be passed by Congress at once, and the President should lose no time in acting upon it. Our countrymen whose interests or convenience compel them to reside temporarily in Cuba are at the present moment placed in the greatest peril, through the bitter hatred for everything American which animates the mob of volunteers now ruling the government and the island. To add to their perplexity diplomatic intercourse in their behalf is denied to our Consul General in Havana, and they must either look for redress in case of wrong to the tardy action of a government three thousand miles away from the scene or cling to the action of our government in their behalf. In the emergency it is right and just that our naval commanders should be authorized to interfere in behalf of our countrymen.

There can be no doubt that the people of Cuba desire their independence and are determined to acquire it at any cost. This much at least has been developed in the progress of the revolution. That fact alone should be sufficient to call for the sympathy and support of the American government and people. Then the barbarity of the Spaniards in the war calls for the protest or interposition of this neighboring republic, and, indeed, for the protest of the whole civilized world. But there is another important reason why the United States should take a bold national policy with regard to Cuba. We have vast interests at stake—a large trade, and prospectively a much larger one, and a broad American policy to carry out. The opportunity has come, as far as regards Cuba, to apply the Monroe doctrine of excluding, as far as practicable, European Powers from this Continent. What would such a man as Bismarck do in such a case? What would the man who seized and annexed the small German States, in carrying out a grand national policy for Prussia, do under such circumstances? What would Napoleon, England or Russia do? Proclaim the independence of Cuba at once, and, if desirable, annex it. There would be no half-way measures or hesitation. What would General Jackson have done—that brave old American who seized Florida, when a colony of Spain, on high national grounds? Let Congress and President Grant take the same high ground and settle the question at once. Any half-way measures of a quasi recognition of belligerent rights may lead to diplomatic complications with Spain and other European Powers. General Grant has done well in his order to Admiral Hoff. Let us see if he has the stuff of Bismarck or General Jackson in him to go further, and settle at once and forever the Cuban question.