

The English Press Regarding the Designs of America on Cuba.

The London *Morning Post* of the 22d ultimo observes:—

The West Indies, with the exception of Hayti, which is independent, pertain to several European Powers—to Great Britain, France, Spain and the Netherlands, and one of the islands (St. Bartholomew), belongs to Sweden. It is quite apparent, therefore, that a blow struck by the United States at one of the group would practically be struck at all, and it would be no unreasonable presumption that if Cuba was wrested from Spain, Jamaica might in turn be taken from England and Martinique from France. The question, therefore, of a possible combination presents itself. But whatever community of interest has existed between Great Britain and France in dealing with European affairs, Spain, although geographically a Western Power, has for a variety of reasons long been thrown out of account. It is impossible (the *Post* continues) to shut our eyes to what is passing on the American continent or to the obvious bent of American policy. The recent acquisition of the Danish possessions in the West Indies, and the purchase of the profileless and barren territory which pertained to Russia in Northwestern America, are evidences of a desire on the part of the United States to acquire piecemeal all possessions on the mainland or adjoining it which belong to European Powers. The only matter in doubt is whether, when the American government is unable to induce a sale, it will endeavor to effect an annexation. That, if such should be the designs of the President and his advisers, they should begin with the Spanish possessions is natural enough. Spain is the weakest of the three Powers holding substantial possessions in the West Indies, and peculiar circumstances furnish something like a pretext for the appropriation of Cuba. Where pretexts are desired, however, pretexts are easily found, and it may be for France and Great Britain to determine whether, in the event of these designs on Cuba being carried into execution, they will aid Spain in retaining her colony or calmly look on.

The London *Ort* makes the following comment:—

We understand that the subjoined information from New York is correct. Since it was received the assertions have been so far verified that the Spaniards having seized the *Mary Lowell*, which was hovering suspiciously on the coast and attempting to communicate with the insurgents, the American government have sent a large iron-clad fleet to demand her restitution. The Spaniards will, no doubt, make a brave fight for their possession, but it may be snatched from their grasp before a tripartite alliance can be formed for the joint defence of European West Indian possessions. In these days the *fait accompli* is a triumphant answer to all remonstrance, and if General Grant seizes Cuba, it is more than questionable whether England and France would make it a *casus belli*, and seek to wrest his prey from his grasp:—“Grant is now run mad on the subject of Cuba, and will undoubtedly give aid in some manner to wrest that island from Spain. Whether that would be complacently looked upon by France and England, you have a better opportunity of judging than I have. But the complications which would arise, might involve this country in war with European Powers. The feeling against England and France and Spain is being carefully worked up in Congress and in the public press, so as to prepare the people for the steps which Grant desires to take. He and his intimate friends ardently long for a foreign war. This will not only give acquisition of territory, but will afford ample field for honor and give a new lease of power to the present administration. The entire feeling pervading the high officials is one of hatred to England, and to France in a less degree. In a day or two a yacht will leave here for Cuba, ostensibly for the purpose of a pleasure party. Its real mission is to learn the exact condition of affairs and to communicate with the leaders of the Cubans. The persons on board will be informed what to do by this government. The coast of the island is so guarded by Spanish cruisers that it is impossible for larger vessels to run in, and several expeditions have been run off lately and failed in landing. The Cuban organization is active and in readiness to move against the British possessions as soon as any difficulty arises, and the highest officers of the army and navy look to a serious quarrel at an early day. With these views you may look for fresh demands on the Alabama question. Knowing what I do, I forewarn you that there is a heavy storm brewing ahead.

The Anglo-American Boat Race.

[From the London Daily News, April 23.]

Not only the lovers of manly sport—but the whole British public will be glad to learn that an Anglo-American boat race has been arranged, and that it will take place in August next, upon the Thames, at Putney. The challenge has come from the other side of the ocean, and has been cordially accepted on this side. We shall all appreciate and admire the courage of our American brethren. They have sent their challenge to the victorious Oxford University Club, and are themselves coming across the ocean to meet the Oxonians on the very scene of their successive triumphs. It is easy to predict for them an enthusiastic reception. The interest of the British public in such competitions has given the Oxford and Cambridge race almost national importance; the interest of two nations in that of August next will give it international importance. The Americans will not find that in rowing on an English river they necessarily have the feeling of the crowd against them. They will not be reminded that they are among strangers. The multitude will feel that they have deserved success, even if they fail to attain it, and if they win, no Englishman will grudge them the laurels they have come so far to pluck. We trust that the race now arranged will be only the first of a long series. Such international competitions are in every way desirable. A friendly rivalry in our chosen pastimes is one which will develop friendly feelings on both sides. We have both learned something from competition on the ocean. We may learn something now from competition on the river.