

Our Plain Duty to Cuba—Surprising Hesitancy and Weakness of the Administration.

We suppose that if England, France and every other nation outside of the American Continent were to recognize the belligerent rights or independence of the Cubans our excessively conservative, careful and timid administration might then take into consideration the propriety of doing the same thing. But neither the action of the independent nations and sister republics of America in recognizing the Cubans as belligerents, nor the fact that Spanish rule has ceased in the island and that the only respectable organized government there now is that of the Cubans, seems to have any influence upon the administration. True, we published a despatch from our correspondent at Washington yesterday stating that in an interview one of the Cuban representatives had with the Secretary of State that dignified and wonderfully cautious official did admit that the state of affairs existing now in Cuba is anomalous and gives a different aspect to the question. It is surprising that Mr. Fish saw so far or admitted as much as this. The wonder is that he did not seek an explanation or advice from the Spanish Minister before he ventured to express himself in that way. It is said the Cubans are inspired with hope of some action on the part of our government from the language of the Secretary of State. We dislike to say anything discouraging to the Cuban patriots, but we fear they have little to expect from our weak and timid administration.

Conduct so un-American, so impolitic and imbecile, so opposed to the popular sentiment of the country, and showing such a want of comprehension of great national interests as has been exhibited by our government in this Cuban matter, is enough to make every American blush with shame and indignation. If ever we speak of the Monroe doctrine again or talk of an American policy for the American Continent the world will laugh with ridicule at us. This mighty republic has abdicated its former higher position in American affairs and policy and has become less than a second rate Power. Chile and Peru have recognized the Cuban patriots, and the other American republics no doubt will soon follow their example. The United States, which ought to have been first, hesitates, and is not likely, out of fear or deference to Europe, to do anything. How are the mighty fallen! There is no Spanish government in Cuba. Captain General Dulce was deposed, and those left nominally in authority are absolutely under the control of the revolutionary mob, called volunteers. The only respectable organized government, as was said before, is that of the Cubans under the presidency of Cespedes. These are facts known to all the world except to the conservative old fogey at the head of the State Department and to General Grant. Great questions of national policy and national interests seem to be beyond their grasp. The honor, glory, welfare and future of the country are being sacrificed through their imbecility. In fact, there is far better ground or cause for impeachment in the miserable policy of the administration with regard to Cuba than there ever was for impeaching Andy Johnson. There is no question as to the public sentiment of the country being in favor of Cuban recognition, yet we see this remarkable anomaly that the actual government dares, and has the power for the time, to oppose the will of the people. We are ashamed of the administration, and all we can say to the struggling Cubans is, put no trust in the State Department or the President, but rely upon your own brave hearts and stout arms.