

and the hesitation and timidity of the Secretary of State. Mr. Morales Lemus may not, under the strict interpretation of the law, be entitled to the privileges of an ambassador, inasmuch as the United States has not officially recognized the existence of the Cuban republic; but his credentials are well known at the State Department in Washington, the great events by which they are supported are of public notoriety, and it has been the hesitancy and delay of the Secretary himself, who, under the pressure of his timid appreciation of European complications, has prevented the extending to him of the official recognition to which he is entitled, and which the great heart of the country has long since conferred.

But the events which the last few days have developed make the case even worse for the administration, and particularly for the Secretary of State. It is now reported that it was under secret instructions from the Department of State to the District Attorney of New York, that proceedings were instituted before the Grand Jury and the bill of indictment found. If this be true, it must be said that in pursuing this course Mr. Fish has placed himself in the position of a public advocate and defender of the crumbling despotisms of the Old World, and exhibited a spirit which is offensive to every American citizen. Had he possessed a single spark of the true genius of statesmanship he would long since have placed the administration of General Grant above the possibility of such a suspicion. The resolution of Congress pointed out the way, and he had but to act in accordance with the expressed will of the country.

As for the neutrality laws under which this action has been taken, they are a remnant of the legislation of the past century, and express the fears of our government in the childhood of the nation, even before its bone had hardened into shape. They go much farther in their provisions than do similar laws of the European governments at whose instigation they were enacted, and would have long since been swept from the statute book if the impossibility of procuring under them a conviction from any American jury were not an admitted fact. They were a concession to the Holy Alliance made at Vienna, and against which the prescient statesmanship of Canning in England and the patriotic utterance of a national policy by President Monroe were a protest and a power among nations. President Adams followed Monroe with his warm sanction of the Greek rebellion in 1826, and since that time we have been wanting in statesmen in office who comprehended the national impulse and were capable of inaugurating a national policy. Seward approached it when, with his pen, he drove the French from Mexico, but his successor is the faintest imitation of a national statesman that the world ever saw. While his timidity and vacillation cannot affect the great results which still continue to spring from the Declaration of 1776, they may and will bring ignominy upon the nation and contempt upon the administration.

Arrest of the Cuban Minister—The Effect on the War and the Administration.

The Spanish agents, despairing of success in their military efforts in the Island of Cuba, and no doubt encouraged by the lukewarm spirit of the administration in the Cuban question, have transferred the scene of their efforts from the once "Ever Faithful Island" to our own city of Manhattan, and through the courts here have begun a war upon Cuba which is destined to rage with all the fury of the law. In accordance, as at first asserted, with private instructions from Washington the Grand Jury of the United States Circuit Court of the Southern District of New York has found true bills of indictment against Don José Morales Lemus, Minister Plenipotentiary from the Cuban republic to the United States; Don José M. Basora, Dominican Consul in New York and Secretary of the Republican Junta of Cuba and Porto Rico; Don José M. Mora, a wealthy merchant of this city and member of the said Junta; Don Francisco Fesser, another prominent member, and several other persons, whose positions are unknown, for having begun a certain military expedition against a portion of the dominion of Spain. Two of the parties, Mora and Basora, were sought late in the evening at their residences and incontinently locked up in the Ludlow street jail. The Minister was sought and found at his residence, where he declined to permit the officers to arrest him, but gave his parole to appear in the morning before the court. Accordingly all the parties appeared yesterday before Judge Blatchford and were required to give bail each in the sum of five thousand dollars to stand trial, and in the further sum of two thousand five hundred dollars to keep the peace towards Spain.

The news of this high-handed measure of attempted executive repression produced quite a sensation in Washington yesterday. Secretary Fish was questioned as to his official action in the premises, a course which, as we are informed, made him appear "a little bewildered." Recovering somewhat, he stated that he "knew nothing of the proceeding," and that "no orders had gone from the State Department for the arrest of the parties." The Spanish Minister had, however, an inkling, or more, of the state of affairs in this city. So that, if Mr. Fish did not issue the order of arrest, some other officer of high standing under the government, perhaps the Attorney General, did.

As a war movement in favor of the remnant of Spanish despotism in Cuba these proceedings amount to nothing more than the merest farce. If the case is ever brought to trial it will prove to be as great a mockery as were the recent trials of the Fenians for the attempt to invade Canada and conspiracy to liberate Ireland from British rule. As a political manœuvre to increase the public feeling in favor of Cuba, and against those who oppose the liberation of that island, it may be turned to good account, and we shall not be surprised to see it prove a powerful coadjutor with the Cuban liberators, and productive of intense antagonism to the course of President Grant and his Cabinet. In view of the large majority in Congress by which the resolution in favor of Cuban independence was passed, the timid neglect of the administration to take action in the premises and give a formal expression to the policy of the country has produced a general feeling of disgust in the public mind. Any political party which should to-day take up the cry of America for Americans, and come out in opposition to the policy which animates Secretary Fish in the Cuban question, would sweep the masses from the ranks of both of the old and worn-out political parties.

The indignity which has been heaped by a public arrest upon the Minister of a young American republic, duly accredited to our government to ask for that recognition which the march of events and the flash of its own patriotic arms has entitled it to, and which our own antecedents and national policy both urge us to grant, places in a strong and offensive light the vacillation of the government