

than the Spaniards. On the other hand the Spaniards have nothing but mob government. They deposed and packed off at short notice Captain General Dulce, the highest Spanish authority, and these revolutionists have assumed complete control over the other Spanish officials whom they set up. There is no legitimate Spanish government in Cuba. The Spaniards are the revolutionists and the Cubans, as was said, have the only respectable government on the island.

We hold that there was reason enough for the United States to recognize the belligerent rights of the Cubans before the volunteers deposed Dulce and set aside the power of Spain, but with that revolution the administration at Washington ought to have recognized instantly the government of Cespedes, either as a belligerent or an independent one. Peru and Chile had nobly led the way, though the great American republic should have been first, and the least this republic ought to have done was to have followed. Were the United States to recognize the Cubans all the other American republics would quickly follow the example, and then the question would become an American one on the broadest scale. Spain would cease her efforts to hold the island, and the Powers of Europe would give themselves no trouble about the matter.

A great many Americans are already in Cuba and with the patriot army, and more will go. If the war continues long serious complications may arise. The government could avoid these by recognizing the Cubans. But there are stronger reasons for our government to do so. Our commercial and material interests, the inauguration of a great national and an American policy in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, and the appeals made to our humanity by the cruelly oppressed and struggling Cubans all combine to urge the recognition of Cuban belligerency or independence. Spain is building war vessels and obtaining all the materials of war she wants in this country. Yes, she may be doing this to make war on our friendly sister American republics, and no one hinders. Yet Cuba can obtain nothing. Even her representative and patriot sons are arrested in New York at the instance of the Spanish Minister and by the connivance of our government. Is not this cruel, impolitic and enough to fill every American heart with indignation? It is all nonsense to talk of increasing our complications with England on the question of the Alabama claims by conceding belligerent rights to the Cubans. There is no parallel between the two cases of Cuba and the South. Besides, we have a great national and republican policy to carry out on this Continent and its islands, and we are powerful enough for that. Europe understands this, for it was proclaimed in the Monroe doctrine and has been asserted over and over again. The situation of Cuba calls imperatively for the application of that policy, and if we had a capable and strong government the opportunity would be seized without further hesitation and the Cubans would be free.

The Cuban Question—Extraordinary Conduct of Our Government.

The old saying, that "whom the gods would destroy they first make mad," appears to be peculiarly applicable to both General Grant's administration and the Spanish government in their conduct with regard to Cuba. The unnecessary and unjustifiable arrest of the Cuban representative and members of the Cuban Junta in this city can have no other effect than to help the cause of independence in Cuba, to swell the numbers of sympathizers, to make more Americans join the patriot army, to arouse a general feeling of indignation against the Spanish authorities and Spain, and to create contempt for our own short-sighted and pusillanimous government. The act will be so universally condemned that the Spanish Minister will have cause to regret it, and the administration will sink lower than ever in public estimation.

The Washington correspondents say the Secretary of State denies having any knowledge of the matter previous to the arrest. Did the United States officials here act without authority from Washington? Was the District Attorney so anxious to serve Spain, and so ready to be the instrument of the Spanish Minister, that he did not in such an important matter consult the wishes of the government? Have the courts of the United States become a sort of inquisition, to be used at the pleasure of foreign representatives for vindictive purposes and to destroy the boasted freedom of the republic? It seems so. Whether Mr. Fish or the Attorney General took any direct action or not in the arrest of the Cubans the administration is to blame; for it is certain the subordinate United States officials in New York would not have ventured to act in the matter had they not known it would be agreeable to the government. They and the Spanish Minister saw, from the general conduct of the Secretary of State relative to Cuba, that they could pursue this high-handed course with impunity. Indeed, there is little doubt that they felt assured of the approbation of the administration. Nor has anything been said or done to show that the administration is not pleased with the arrest of the Cuban patriots. It has no regard for public sentiment or for the emphatic voice of Congress in favor of Cuban independence. Weak as it may be in every other respect it has been bold enough in the case of Cuba to defy public opinion and to act contrary to the expressed wish of Congress. The arrest of Mr. Lemus and the Cuban Junta is the natural consequence of the weak, un-American and pro-Spanish policy of the government, whether ordered by the State Department or not.

We said the administration is short-sighted; that it does not see the opportunity of carrying out a broad, national and grand American policy in the case of Cuba; that it is wilfully blind to the actual state of affairs in Cuba, and that it has no comprehension of our present and future interests in that island and in the whole group of the Antilles. But, worse than that, it is the enemy of liberty and friendly to the worst despotism that disgraces the civilized world. Month after month the Cubans have been increasing in power, until they are, in fact, the only respectable organized government on the island. They have not only proved themselves strong enough to hold their ground, but have been constantly advancing, increasing in numbers and materials of war, and are to-day better disciplined and handled