

## Cuba and the Sister Republics of America—An Opening for American Statesmanship.

The Cuban question grows apace. A few weeks since we announced the opening of the ports of Mexico to the Cuban flag, by special decree of President Juarez, and the last mail from South America brings the intelligence that Peru has formally recognized the new republic. Chile, it is stated, will do the same, and we may reasonably expect that all the sister republics of America will follow at an early day. They all have a feeling towards Spain similar, but far more intense, to that which animated the people of the United States towards Great Britain during the first generation after our war of independence. That feeling was not satisfied until it culminated in our second war with England in 1812, and a like result is evident in all the South American colonies. In fact, war exists to-day between Peru and Spain, the truce between the belligerents having been extended to enable peace to be restored through the good offices of our government.

In addition to the request for recognition the Cuban envoy in Peru has asked for a loan of the two monitors recently purchased in this country, and one of which was examined by some of the republican officials during a short visit to the Bay of Nipe, in Cuba. The spirit which animates the Cuban government, and which will produce fruit in some if not in many of the thousand ports of the sister republics, will be seen in an extract from a private letter written by General Quesada to a naval officer in this city, which we publish to-day in another column. The writer of that letter holds the important position of Commander-in-Chief of the patriot forces, and it will be seen that he looks forward to combinations which shall drive the Spanish ships from the sea. Our own experience during the late war shows how great is the evil which may be inflicted by a single armed cruiser against merchant vessels. Spanish ships are no exception to the laws which govern commercial transactions, and intercourse between Cuba and Spain would find a refuge only in powerful ships of war or under a neutral flag. We should see a return of the condition of affairs in 1830, when the complete disappearance of the Spanish flag from the ocean marked the era of greatest decay in the monarchy.

With the state of feeling which the Cuban revolution has brought out in all the Spanish-American republics we shall not be surprised to see all their ports opened to Cuban cruisers and their prizes—a measure which of itself would give a great impulse to the war against Spain, both on the part of Cuba and Peru; and a rupture of the peace negotiations between the latter Power and Spain would be no very difficult matter to accomplish. The vital point in the question would be the attitude which the United States might assume. If Mr. Secretary Fish should determine to carry his interpretation of our absurd neutrality laws to the extent of trying to suppress American sympathizers with free Cuba we might find ourselves in an anomalous position. One of these anomalies would be the fact now before us. Spain is building to-day thirty steam gunboats in our shipyards, and we could not refuse the same privilege to any of the sister republics that might ask it. But should it be denied by Mr. Fish there can be no doubt that American capital would find a way to put cruisers on the ocean against Spain if there were profit in it and harbors to use, and we should find our government and our citizens engaged in a very strange conflict with each other. These and similar embarrassments are destined to spring up continually as the Cuban question grows—and it will grow, for it is the living question among the nations of the New World to-day.

The complication opens a field of vast extent for a truly American statesman, and we hope to see some one occupy it. With all her curious crotchets about and against us, we owe a debt to Spain that it would well become us to repay to her to-day in the hour of need of her new and freedom-impelled movement. She was one of the first of the nations of Europe to recognize our independence in days when the founders of our republic were beset with enemies and doubt attended them on every hand. To-day she is in stress from the complications which attend both her home government and her administration in Cuba. Let the United States propose that a truce shall be established between the belligerents in Cuba and that commissioners shall be sent by both parties to Washington to see if some arrangement cannot be made between them, satisfactory alike to the honor of Spain and Cuba and consonant with the interests of both parties. That such a solution can be found we do not entertain a doubt, and when found it will contribute largely to the establishment of the new government now germinating in Spain and to the general interests of all the sister republics of America.