

England Keeping a Sharp Lookout.

We perceive from some comments of the English press on the reported departure from this port of a Cuban filibustering expedition or two that John Bull is keeping a sharp eye on American neutrality. The London *Star*, for instance, says of this country that "her neutrality laws must be thoroughly and effectively enforced or she will lose the hold she has gained on public opinion, which insures the fair consideration of the Alabama claims." Is it there ye are? But, again: "The departure of eight hundred men from New York harbor," we are told; "appears to be an infraction of neutrality just as flagrant as the escape of the Alabama, and which could have been more easily prevented." This is, indeed, begging the question. But it will not do. The activity of the government in enforcing neutrality in reference to Cuba is and has been that of extraordinary zeal in behalf of Spain. Mr. Fish is quite as earnest and vigilant in this business as was Mr. Seward in arresting and breaking up the Fenian movements for the invasion of Canada, and evidently for the same object of avoiding a charge of British neutrality.

The simple truth is that if our government still withholds the recognition of belligerent rights from the Cubans it is because it does not wish to spoil those Alabama claims by following England's tempting example. Mr. Fish no doubt expects to get Cuba in some other way; for otherwise he would not be so careful in avoiding the opening of any loophole of escape to England on those Alabama claims. The British government may depend upon it that if the administration at Washington contemplates the purchase of Cuba it also calculates upon making England, on those Alabama depredations, foot the bill. Otherwise there would be neither sense nor purpose in the present rigid neutrality policy of General Grant.