

Washington Rumors About Cuba.

It is now reported in Washington that the statement about the administration preparing the way for the purchase of Cuba is a canard, and that the State Department denies giving General Sickles any instructions to that end. It is also said that Senator Sumner has written to Washington deprecating any action on the part of the government with a view to recognizing the Cubans as belligerents, as such a course might damage us in the settlement of the Alabama claims. Then, again, it is stated that a prominent radical Senator from the West is preparing an elaborate argument in favor of according belligerent rights to the Cubans at once. Now we have reason to believe, notwithstanding the reported denial of the State Department, that General Sickles' mission has special reference to the condition of Cuba and eventual destiny of that island. It would be strange and a short-sighted policy on the part of our government if it had not. As to Mr. Sumner, he has but one idea on the question. He can see nothing only through the medium of the Alabama claims. But we think that on the reassembling of Congress not only one Western Senator will take ground in favor of the Cubans, but that there will be both in the Senate and House of Representatives a powerful movement for Cuban belligerent rights or independence. Nine-tenths or more of the American people cordially sympathize with the Cuban patriots and wish them success, and our representatives in Congress will learn and be impressed with this fact during their sojourn among their constituents. The administration is not acting in accordance with popular sentiment in straining a stupid and un-American law to the injury of the Cuban cause and in support of Spanish tyranny and oppression. The action of the House of Representatives at the close of the last session indicates what we may expect next winter. This bugbear of the Alabama claims ought not to deter the United States from a plain duty to those who have been heroically struggling now a long time for independence and republican principles. It would be a shame for this great country to ignore the principles upon which our own independence was achieved and government founded, and to abandon that American policy declared in the Monroe doctrine which we have all along proclaimed. There is no parallel between the hasty action of Great Britain in recognizing an integral portion of this republic as belligerent and the recognition by us of the Cubans as such after a long, heroic and successful struggle. We think this bugbear of the Alabama claims will be swept away when Congress meets, agreeable to the sentiment of the country, and we advise the administration to be wise in time and not to needlessly continue in conflict with the popular will and the sympathy of Congress.