

Hurrying Up Spain.

Spain refuses to part with Cuba on any terms. That is the Spanish style, and of course this is the only answer that could reasonably have been expected from any proposition that our government has authorized General Sickles to make. But what then? Simply that as Spain is imperative in her mood we must be imperative also. Shall and shall not are as good on one side the Atlantic as on the other, and it is for us to show Spain that she cannot carry things in this neighborhood in that Quixotic temper that she is best pleased to indulge. The conduct of our government in its relations with that Power, in view of the barbarities its agents have practised almost in our presence, has gone to the verge of permissible forbearance. No doubt it was wise enough on the part of the government to try that plan, in the hope that Spain would see the impossibility of accomplishing anything in Cuba with a nation utterly demoralized at home. But we have waited patiently, and we now know that Spain will see nothing, but will insist on keeping up in our neighborhood a hopeless war in which our very word could turn the balance against her. We must now adopt toward her those very measures which European Powers adopted toward us in our recent war, without giving us even the grace of a fair chance to try what we could do. No doubt the seizure of the Spanish war vessels constructing here is the initiation of this policy, and our first reply to Spain's insensate determination to pursue her present futile endeavors to crush Cuba. This first act is a good one, and opens our case boldly and clearly, inasmuch as its direct consequence is that Spain cannot wage war this side the Atlantic without our consent. Three thousand miles is too far to send war ships and too far to send soldiers, as England found some eighty years ago. There must be a base of operations nearer the objective point for any efficient action, and this Spain cannot have if she cannot have it here. She has limped through a whole summer in the fancy that she had it, and now, just as her ships are ready, she finds that they are taken from her, and with them is taken, of course, what can never be re-

stored—the inestimably valuable time necessary to build them. By this blow, therefore, she will be very greatly crippled, and upon this failure and the encouragement it will give to the republicans there will follow, perhaps, such an assertion of the liberal strength that all nations will justify our recognition of Cuba.
