

Cuba—What About Cuba?

From all the late news arriving from Spain and Cuba, including the hopeful communication of General Sickles, there is evidently a prospect that the island will ere long cease to be an appenage of the "mother country," and will take shelter under the wing of the American eagle. If the Regent Serrano is wise he will not refuse the munificent offer of a hundred millions which General Sickles has been authorized to offer on the responsible endorsement of the United States for the free purchase of the island, and it is said that he is not unwilling to accept it. In the present condition of Spanish finances it would be foolish to refuse the offer now, because the Spanish government may rely upon it that they will never get such an offer again. It is the last chance, and they had better take it. Indeed, affairs in Cuba are tending in such a direction that her freedom is but a mere question of time, and she will not be worth buying very soon. We presume that the Regent sees this very clearly, although some of the old fogies of his Cabinet may lean more upon the old traditional Castilian pride than upon their knowledge of the logic of events. The threat of sending a reinforcement of Spanish troops to Cuba to put down the revolution is renewed, but the number is reduced from the original twenty thousand to sixteen thousand. We hardly believe that, in the present critical state of affairs, pending a negotiation for the purchase of Cuba, any number of troops will be sent there at all; and even if they are, this will not change the result.

With regard to the value of Cuba to this country, supposing that we guarantee the price of her independence at the comparatively paltry sum of a hundred millions, there can be no doubt or hesitation. If she is worth forty millions a year to Spain, she can be made worth fifty per cent more to us by the industry and enterprise brought to bear upon her resources. We expect, therefore, that, in view of the advanced state of affairs, tending towards a solution of this Cuban difficulty, the administration will no longer hesitate to take prompt steps in the recognition of the revolutionary government, as well as intimating to the authorities at Madrid that it is advisable to accept the financial solution already officially offered. We believe that General Grant favors such a course, although he is desirous of avoiding complications as far as possible. But some members of his Cabinet are disposed to put a drag upon the wheel and retard that action which their departed colleague, Rawlins, urged with his dying breath.