

WASHINGTON.

Rumor of a Quixotic Threat from Spain.

War to be Declared if Cuba is Recognized.

Stout Young America Truck- ling to the Dons.

JUDGE DENT IN MISSISSIPPI.

General Sherman Favor- ing His Election.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21, 1899.

Spain Bullying the United States—The Administration Backing Down on the Cuba Question—Minister Sickles' Note Repudiated—Recognition of Cubans as Belligerents a Basis of War by Spain.

There were many rumors flying about town this morning of the prospects of a war with Spain, but they were all set at rest this afternoon by a more definite story, which at once gained ground, that there is to be a clean back down on the part of our government. It is declared that Sickles exceeded his instructions greatly in presenting propositions for the sale of Cuba to the Cubans, and our government is so alarmed by the violent and belligerent tone of the Spaniards that it has formally repudiated General Sickles' action, and has pledged itself to censure its representative at Madrid. This will, of course, result in his resignation. Those in authority here disclaim any intention of desiring to effect a settlement of this question, except in the most friendly manner, and the present excitement in Spain is attributed entirely to the injudicious utterances of Minister Sickles. A statement is made here this morning, apparently well founded, that the Spanish government has notified the American authorities that the recognition of the Cubans as belligerents will be regarded as a direct intervention in Spanish matters, and a just cause for a declaration of war. It is noticeable in this connection that during the last few days there has been a marked change in the sentiment expressed toward Spain by officials here. More caution is observed, and fewer words of hostile character spoken. It is a clean back down on the part of our government under the threats of the Spaniards, and it is so regarded here by most men. The shame and indignation of all who have heard the news know no bounds.