

The Cuban Question Before the Cabinet—General Sickles Sustained.

It is understood that the Cuban question was talked over in Cabinet to-day, but nothing was done. The general understanding was that we do not want to fight Spain, but if she insists upon war she must be accommodated. The United States is ready. The conduct of General Sickles was fully sanctioned. A despatch was read from him stating that the Spanish regency had respectfully declined the proposed mediation of the United States between Spain and Cuba.

Reply of the Cuban Envoy to Senator Sumner—Slavery Abolished in the Cuban Republic.

Señor Lemus, the Cuban Envoy, authorizes the publication of the following card:—

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24, 1899.

The following remarks having been made by Senator Sumner in a speech before the Massachusetts Republican Convention relative to the recognition of the Cubans as belligerents:—

There is another question in their case which is with me final. Even if they come within the prerequisites of international law, I am unwilling to make any recognition of them so long as they continue to hold human beings as slaves. A decree in May last, purporting to be signed by Cespedes, abolished slavery; but I am not sure of this decree, especially in view of another in July, purporting to come from the same authority, maintaining slavery. Until this is settled we must wait.

—I des're to say to the American people on behalf of my struggling countrymen—First, that article twenty-five of the Cuban constitution provides "that all the inhabitants of the island of Cuba are absolutely free." This, of course, includes the negroes, and was so designed by the patriots who framed the constitution. Second, in accordance with this clause of the constitution all slaves coming within the lines of the Cuban army are at once emancipated, as well as those who are included in the territory occupied by the Cuban forces. Third, a great many of the Cuban planters outside the lines of the Cuban army have emancipated their slaves, and this in defiance of the Spanish authorities. Many of these planters after so doing have joined the patriot army. There has been no subsequent decree made by the Cuban Congress or resigned by President Cespedes which nullifies the twenty-fifth article of the constitution, nor is it possible that any such decree can be made or issued. J. M. LEMUS.

Unfavorable Advices from Cuba—Effects of Jealousy and Spanish Gold—Reorganization of the Army—Assassination of Foreign Officers.

Advices from Cuba received to-day confirm the account of the battle of Las Tunas and the capture of Colonel Benejas' train. A letter from a distinguished Southern gentleman now in Cuba, at one time a member of the Confederate Congress and colonel in the Confederate army, states that jealousy, influenced by malignity or Spanish gold, has necessitated a reorganization of the Cuban army and compelled General and President Cespedes to take command of the army. General Jordan is to be chief of staff. This letter also gives an account of the assassination of the Marciano brothers, of Dominican birth, by the Cubans. These brothers occupied the positions, one a major general, commanding a division in the Eastern Department, under General Jordan, and the other a brigadier general. The only objection to them was they were foreigners. This assassination has caused great excitement and may result in serious disaster.