

Spanish Cruelties in Cuba.

Spanish warfare, even at this late day, has lost none of its horrors. The brutal scenes which in by-gone years were enacted by Spanish leaders on American soil have lost none of their ferocity in this civilized age. The tragedies of Pizarro in Peru are again being repeated in Cuba, under the rule of De Rodas. The violence of Valmaseda is applauded and endorsed by his superiors. Honorable warfare is ignored; brutality almost unparalleled supplies its place. The belief in the characteristics which gave Spain her supremacy in the barbarous ages, when brute force ruled, is now the governing idea in regard to the treatment of the Cubans. Cruelty is the reigning principle for all disorders against the state. A barbarous cruelty, which civilization has entirely dispensed with, is with Spain, now behind other nations of the earth, still adhered to with the most unfeeling tenacity. Here, at our very doors, we learn of atrocities being perpetrated which would draw down the execrations of humanity even if committed by the wild Indians of the Plains, the Sepoys of the East, or the wild uncivilized tribes that roam at large through the desert plains of Africa.

Our latest letters from Cuba, speaking of the practices of the Spanish volunteers, say that during the battle of Las Tuñas a building containing a number of prisoners was fired, and all the unfortunate inmates were burned to death. The reason given for this fiendish act was that the prisoners might otherwise have escaped. Another account tells us of a company of Spaniards who, under the cover of night, stole out from their intrenchments, dressed as insurgents and wearing the lone star in their shakos, mingled with the Cubans, and while the latter slept, unconscious of the presence of a foe, they were stabbed to the heart. These are only two of the many instances which might be recorded of the cruelties that are practiced in the fruitful island of Cuba by the Spanish troops.

During the progress of the civil war in this country foreign governments, misled by the erroneous statements of correspondents whose sympathies were with the slaveholders of the South, cried out in virtuous indignation against the imaginary cruelties of the United States in its treatment of the rebels. Without inquiry into the truth of the assertions these nations calmly considered the question of interference for humanity's sake. Where now is all their sympathy, that they cannot see in the manner in which the war is being conducted in Cuba a just reason to interfere and stay a massacre which must tend to disgrace the age in which it is committed? That our own government should interpose in the matter is admitted on all sides. The time is ripe for interference. The cause of humanity, of civilization and of Christianity demands that something should be done. The people of the United States expect that President Grant should use the power at his command to prevent the useless effusion of blood. If, as all admit, it is merely a question of time when Cuba shall be independent of Spain, why not limit that time as much as possible? It is now in the power of this country to do an act at which humanity will rejoice. Let it not be delayed.
