

# WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2, 1869.

## Minister Sickle's Proposition—The Obstacles to the Sale of Cuba.

A private letter, dated Madrid, from an entirely responsible source, repeats that Minister Sickle has offered the United States as a mediator between Spain and the Cubans, the proposition being as stated in the American newspapers, that slavery be abolished in the island, the Cubans to pay Spain for the public buildings, fortifications, &c.; and it is equally true that while Spain does not reject the mediation, there are serious obstacles in the way of accommodation. The impression among many of the Spanish statesmen is, however, that the island will eventually pass from the possession and control of that authority. It is stated the preliminary demanded by Spain is that the Cubans shall lay down their arms—a proposition with which, it is ascertained, they will not comply, if for no other reason, because they have no guarantee of protection in such an event from the Spanish volunteers, who, according to report, aim at the absolute rule of the island, and have a secret organization to that end.

### Alleged Forged Comfort for the Cubans.

A letter has recently appeared in the newspapers, professing to have been furnished for publication by a prominent Cuban patriot, dated Washington, August 22, and purporting to have been written by Señor Roberts, the Spanish Minister, to the Captain General of Cuba, and intercepted. In this letter Señor Roberts is represented as giving information about the status of the gunboats now building in this country for the Spanish government, stating that belligerent rights will not be conceded in haste, but that the probable future action of this government will be in favor of the Cubans. Mr. Roberts, under his own signature, to-day says the letter has not a word of truth in it, and that "the document itself is a mere awkward forgery."