

The Cuban Republic.

The independence of Cuba has been officially acknowledged by one nation. Peru has led the way for the other republics of South and North America. We published yesterday the text of the decree promulgated by President Balta declaring that "The independence of the island of Cuba from Spanish dominion, and also the republican form of government therein established are hereby recognized." Peru, it is known, is one of the most important and flourishing republics of South America. It has a larger population than any other, except New Granada, and its action will soon be followed, no doubt, by the other republics of that continent. Nor will Mexico be slow in following the example. Indeed, we may expect to hear shortly that the independence of Cuba is recognized by all the nations of America, South and North, except Brazil and the United States. Brazil, of course, can have no sympathy with the Cubans or any other people struggling for liberty and to establish a republican form of government. As a monarchy she is naturally the friend of Spain and royalty everywhere. Her government is an anomaly and a pernicious exotic on American soil. But what of our own government? What will the United States do with regard to Cuba? Will it follow the example of Peru and recognize the independence of the Cubans? The encouragement or support thus given by Peru or that will be given by the other smaller republics of America to the Cubans will have a good effect; but after all their success and the fate of their rich and beautiful country may depend upon the action or inaction of the United States. It is true the Cubans may prolong the struggle, or even conquer their independence ultimately, without the recognition or interposition of the American government; but what would Cuba be worth afterwards? What horrors of war and what a terrible sacrifice of life would be the consequence of such a cold-blooded policy?

The question arises here, then, what will our government do? We hear from Washington, we hear from different points of the country where the President and his Cabinet are perambulating, and we hear indirectly from the mouths of General Grant and Secretary Fish, that the administration cordially sympathizes with the Cubans, and that it is taking measures to secure their independence. Nor can we doubt that it is so. General Grant, we feel assured, is sincere and earnest in his desire to see Cuba free, and the Secretary of State has expressed the same desire too plainly to doubt his sincerity. Congress has already spoken in the most emphatic manner. The unanimous vote of the House of Representatives expressing sympathy with the Cubans was full of meaning and indicates further action on the part of Congress when it reassembles. There is but one sentiment on this subject throughout the country. The people of all sections and classes are for the Cubans, and wish the government to take measures for their independence. Why, then, this delay? If it be the policy and determination of the government and people of the United States that Cuba shall be free, why does the administration hesitate and temporize so long? It seems to us that the time has come when the Cubans should be recognized as belligerents at least, and thus give them the same status and privileges as the Spaniards in the purchase of materials of war. The government did well in placing an embargo on the gunboats being constructed here for the Spaniards, and it is to be hoped that these war vessels will not be allowed to leave the United States; but it should not stop at this point. Arms and munitions of war are frequently shipped here for the Spaniards in Cuba, while the Cubans are denied this privilege. Let the belligerents be put on the same footing. This will neither seriously affect our peaceful relations or negotiations with Spain nor the Alabama claims, and might stir up the Spanish government to a more prompt settlement of the Cuban question.

Judging from the news which we have received lately from Spain, it is evident the government at Madrid, as well as the Spanish press and people, begin to lower their haughty tone about subjugating the insurrection and holding on to the island of Cuba at all hazards. The latest telegraphic despatch from Madrid says:—"The journals here are despondent about Cuba, and demand fuller official information of the state of affairs on the island." Nor can Spain fail to be impressed by the views of the leading journals of Europe, which show that the only solution of the Cuban difficulty is to turn the island over to the United States or cede its independence. In every point of view, then, we think the time has come when our government should speak in unmistakable language to the Spanish Regency as to its policy concerning Cuba and the inevitable destiny of that island. Delay may only create complications, perpetuate the horrors of a most atrocious system of war, and make the island, like St. Domingo, which also was once the richest gem of the Antilles, comparatively valueless to us or to the world. This is the paramount question of the day, and we hope the administration will act on it promptly and with decision.