

In the reigning dilemma of Castilian politics, the question whether Cuba shall become Spanish is about as decided as that other doubt as to whether Spain herself shall become Cubanized. Accepting for a verity the statement of Garibaldi's late letter, the Spaniards are walking "the dangerous edge of things" between revolution and consolidation. To whatever forbearance exists in her leaders, and to whatever morality the republican movement possesses, Spain owes her present unusual and semi-respectable position before the world. Will that situation continue?

Garibaldi compares the Madrid of to-day to the Constantinople besieged by Mohammed while its five hundred doctors were wrangling over leavened or unleavened bread. His character as an agitator considered, he has shown marked practicality in saying that, though a Republican himself, and not disposed to say that the Government of Spain by a Congress is irrational, he is still opposed, just now, to the govern-

ment of the Five Hundred. If kings cannot be had for asking, then it is better, he thinks, for Spain to set to work and make them out of her own raw material. Name a dictator or king, he says, but name him at once, and not at the end of two years. The Italian hero learned in Paraguay, and subsequently in Italy, that Republics are not to be had for wishing, and that the purest self-government is not an article to be knocked down at once to whoever bids. It would be as hard for Spain to get rid of herself altogether as to dispossess herself at once of the institutions to which, whether she will or not, she must more or less adapt her progressive destiny.

Almost cotemporary with the extreme debate in the Cortes over the general question of the Church, we have intelligence that several thousand Bombonists are about to march over into Spain. This may be an exaggeration unworthy of total belief; but the indecision of the country is as legible an invitation to resurgent Bombonism as could be held out.