

THE CUBANS.

The charge made by their foes that the soldiers of Céspedes are primarily responsible for the horrors of the war in Cuba has already been met. We have, however, additional and interesting confirmation of the defense which the friends of Cuba have brought forward—proof cumulative that Gen. Céspedes had not issued his decree of reprisals until after repeated protests. This decree, the provisions of which have not yet been fully summoned in testimony, prescribes—first, that volunteers taken in arms shall be shot at once; second, Spanish soldiers of the line may hope for mercy; third, the enemy's goods shall be confiscated; fourth, Spaniards who surrender voluntarily shall be well treated; fifth, all neutrals, excepting foreigners, will be judged and punished according to their offenses. This is the substance of the decree by which the Spaniards seek to justify Count Valmaseda's order for butchery, and which administers the extreme pain of war only to those who in almost every city of Cuba, and wherever they have appeared in the field, have been the assassins of patriots. The humane and intelligent sentiment of the United States cannot be expected to admire or do aught but shudder at a war destitute of pity on one side, and accepted in agony and hate on the other. But it is important for us to understand that for wrongs done to bleeding and burning hearts, for the ruin of properties and towns, for the laying waste of whole sections of country, and for the public assassination of hundreds, the country whose obstinacy and rage protracts a vain war should be held responsible at the bar of civilization.

We have before us a letter of Gen. Céspedes to Gen. Dulce, in which, at date of January 14, complaining that his communications have been unnoticed by the Spanish commanders, he charges upon them the burning of mills, the killing of animals, the outrage of families, and, in particular, the assassination of Gen. Arango when promised safe conduct by the enemy. The Spaniards had long ago practiced the murders which now they preach, and we cannot again heed the standing falsehood that their foes are cruel, and not they.

The two victories lately achieved by the Cubans, and the two successful landings effected by their auxiliaries, are to be added to

the signs which seem to foreshadow the ultimate triumph of the patriots. By their two last expeditions they have been supplied with five thousand arms, along with ten field guns and over a million of cartridges. "Send us guns and powder," privately writes Gen. del Marmol, who has heretofore been experimenting on the Spaniards with wooden guns, "and I promise to satisfy you." The Cubans are now receiving just such help as they need, and we trust their friends will not relax their efforts.
