

If Spain possesses statesmen they ought now see with chagrin the disastrous loss of a great opportunity. Slavery is practically dead in Cuba—no thanks to Señor Lopez de Ayala, supposed to have been the special purchase of the Cuban man-traders; no thanks to Gen. Prim, who had visited the island and understood its needs; no thanks to Fernando Serrano, who had once urged, and again ceased to urge Cuban rights, and who knew that Slavery was at the bottom of all Cuban wrongs. The Portuguese have taken the lesson blindly taught by Spain, and stepped over her. By a decree of the 25th of February last, Portugal abolishes Slavery. Until April 29 of 1878, all ex-slaves of her colonies are to be in a state of Chinese apprenticeship, when they will be admitted to the rights of Portuguese citizens. In a decree dated Dec. 14, 1854, Portugal had manumitted all slaves belonging to her government, and gave others the chance of buying their own freedom. It cannot, therefore, be pleaded for Spain that she has lacked spur and example right at her own door. Her failure to accept the chance of abolishing Slavery, and thereby of saving Cuba, is the most formidable proof we have of her political bluntness and defect. Even at this late day we have no assurance that Spain will quicken her pace against Slavery.

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