

**Secretary Fish on Valmaseda's Proclamation.**

[From the N. Y. Herald's Specials.]  
 WASHINGTON, May 12.—The Secretary of State received an official copy of the proclamation of the Spanish commander, Valmaseda, a few days ago. He immediately wrote a note to the Spanish Minister, Mr. Roberts, calling his attention to its infamous provisions, and stating that such a mode of warfare was repugnant to civilization, and could not be tolerated, especially as its execution might involve the death of many American citizens who were in no way connected with the insurrection. Mr. Roberts visited the State Department, Wednesday, and complained that the tone of Mr. Fish's note was too harsh, and hardly warranted by the proclamation. Mr. Fish called the attention of the Minister to the terms of the proclamation, and plainly informed him that if the Spanish authorities kept on in this way, they would get the whole civilized world against them. Mr. Roberts admitted that the proclamation was rather strong, but thought it was issued more with a view to frighten the people into submission than any other purpose. The opinion entertained in official circles here is that if the Cubans can hold out for six months longer, Spain will be compelled to abandon the attempt to subdue them. It is ascertained from the best authority that Spain has sent about all the troops to Cuba that she can spare; besides, Spain is almost financially bankrupt. A short time ago she put a loan upon the market of \$50,000,000, and out of this only realized \$11,000,000, at the ruinous rate of eleven and a half per cent. It is thought that even now Spain would be willing to allow Cuba some such arrangement as Great Britain has given Canada, provided the rebellion would cease.

**The Secretary of State on the Triple Alliance.**

But even supposing England and France were disposed to enter into an alliance such as stated with Spain, Mr. Fish is of opinion that neither of the parties concerned could very well afford to do it. England has her hands full already, and her peculiar territorial relations in America would make her hesitate before entering upon hostilities with the United States. This, together with the discontented and hostile element in Ireland at her own door, would act as a partial check at least upon England. France, Mr. Fish thinks, will be slow to enter into any such alliance while Bismarck lives, and Prussia stands among the first, if not the first power in Europe. As for Spain, she can do nothing. Such a proceeding, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, would give rise to a general war in Europe, and end in a reconstruction of the map of Europe. Prussia would take care of France, while Russia would inevitably walk down to Constantinople and settle the Eastern question in her own way. Spain would lose Cuba in about seventy-two hours. These facts, Mr. Fish says, must be as clear to the statesmen of Europe as they are to every thinking man in this country, and makes the cable telegram an absurdity. The State Department has no advices from Minister Reverdy Johnson on the subject, which, to say the least, is suspicious.

**Novel Scene at the White House.**

WASHINGTON, May 13.—This afternoon the National Executive Committee of the colored men of the United States, appointed by the convention in Washington, in January last, called on the President to pay their respects to him, and to present to him an address, signed by George C. Downing, of Rhode Island, President; F. G. Barbadoes, of Massachusetts; Sella Martin, of New York; William J. Wilson, of New Jersey, and George L. Matson, of North Carolina, local committee. It is set forth that they gladly took advantage of a statement published by trustworthy newspapers of the Republican party to seek the interview; that the statement was to the effect that the President intended to appoint in the Northern States to important positions such colored men as could discharge the duties with profit and honor to the public service. Knowing this reported intention to be so eminently in keeping with the record of his administration, they thought that a few suggestions made by those familiar with the North might lend some support to the policy indicated. Among other things they say the colored men of the North have already furnished such proofs of manhood as to have left the question of fitness for office out of the arena of mere experiment. They are assured the appointment of competent and trustworthy colored men to prominent positions in the Northern States would give a death-blow to objections to their holding of such positions in the South, by convincing the South that it is not true the North wishes to force a policy upon them which it is not willing to accept itself. If negroes are elected to important places by the General Government in Rhode Island the problem of negro office-holding becomes easy of solution in Georgia. Then, too, they think that if in the Northern States, where negroes are numerically weak, they are permitted to enjoy some of the honors of citizenship with their white fellow-citizens, their brethren in the South, where they are numerically strong, would the more willingly share their political immunities with their white fellow-citizens, and the whole race would be strengthened in its patriotism by the knowledge that the negroes are no longer regarded as a separate class in politics. The address concluded as follows:

Our rights as men were recognized by Mr. Lincoln, and we are filled with all gratitude for the fact, but we come to you with a feeling of fellowship, added to that of a mere sense of gratitude, because you have appointed members of our race to important positions, and thus given a rebuke to vulgar prejudice against a class. In this you have gone far beyond our late lamented President, for while, under the necessities of war, he made the nation ours by calling on us to its defence, you, under the calm influence of peace, have given us to the nation by lifting our race into the enjoyment of its immunities.

**Discrimination Against American Vessels in Spanish Ports.**

\*Advices have been received from Havana stating that in consequence of the want of an understanding between our Government and that of Spain, American vessels in Cuba are at the present time obliged to pay in every port of that island one dollar, in gold, more than an English vessel of the same size and under the same circumstances, for each and every ton of her "Spanish" measurement. At the date of writing two vessels were on the berth and loading for New York, one English and one American, both class A1 American Lloyd's, and nearly the same size, and taking box sugars at the same rate of freight. The English vessel pays \$1 35 per ton, and the American \$2 35. This state of affairs surely needs no comment. The simple statement of the fact should cause our State Department to exert itself at once for a change.

**Gen. Banks on Cuban Recognition.**

WASHINGTON, May 11.—Banks is said to have come out hot and heavy yesterday at the State Department about Cuban recognition. Tired of the delay in accoring belligerent rights, he went out to the Diplomatic College to urge prompt and immediate action, and in an interview with Secretary Fish is represented as having talked quite bluntly and firmly concerning the ruinous policy of further procrastination. To use the term in which the information was conveyed to your correspondent, "the General gave them (Fish & Co.) a regular blowing up." The General looked to-day as if his mind had been considerably relieved of its pent up ardor, and it now remains to be seen whether the interview will be productive of beneficial results.