

In all the reports which we have read respecting the situation in Cuba, we find but a small portion which can come under the head as reliable; and neither do we learn what is really the wish of the Cubans on the subject of annexation. Indeed, we much doubt, if a fair vote could be taken, if the majority of the Cubans would favor it. A desire to sever all connection with Spain is evident, and probably this desire will be gratified, owing chiefly to the troubles in Spain. It would be most remarkable if the people of Spain could drive out the Bourbons and establish a new government without more bloodshed. A revolution of this kind cannot be a peaceful one, and we suppose, before law and order are established, Spain must pass through a civil war. In its present condition, with an empty exchequer, it cannot raise the force necessary to crush out the rebellion in Cuba, and whatever may be the result of the feuds in Spain, Cuba, we judge, must be freed from Spanish rule.

A strong pressure is made upon the Cabinet at Washington to accord belligerent rights, and to go one step further—to recognize the Cubans as a nation. What state of things will justify one nation to grant belligerent rights to another is not clearly defined, but we, so far, have not that evidence which usually justifies a nation in granting the right which the law of nations concedes. The European Governments promptly proclaimed neutrality in the war in this country, and the Republican party always took the ground that the European Governments were wrong; that the condition of affairs were not of that character which would warrant one nation, according to the principles of international law, in conceding belligerent rights. The slave States had seceded; had formed a new government, framed and adopted a new constitution, had elections, equipped a large army, and in the very first commencement of the war had taken Fort Sumter and defeated seventy-five thousand men at Manassas, followed with other defeats to the Federal forces, and kept up this army and Government for the space of four years. In all that section known as the Confederate States, laws were passed and administered, and all the operations of a fixed and stable government recognized. We see no such facts in Cuba, and no state of facts even approaching the attitude of the Southern States; and if the European powers were wrong in issuing proclamations of neutrality, most clearly the United States now would grossly err in recognizing the Cubans as belligerents.

We only note the great inconsistencies of the North upon this question of international law, and nothing but the fear that its inconsistency would damage the Alabama claims, has prevented the present Administration from taking a course in regard to Cuba which its former attitude upon the same question would condemn.

The annexation of Cuba would cause a loss of \$30,000,000 to the revenue, which is now derived from duties upon the imports from that island; and it is said this is one of the strongest reasons for the course the Administration has assumed. The reported negotiations for the purchase of that island have not assumed an authentic state; but the probability is that Spain will be compelled to sell from inability to keep the island, while it is struggling to put down domestic troubles.

We have seen no strong sentiment expressed South in favor of the annexation of Cuba, or indeed in the success of Cubans. We, in this State, will be benefitted, for the troubles in Cuba must cause a diminution in the production of sugar, increase the prices and extend its culture here. Whatever may be the fate of that island, the sugar region of Louisiana must be increased in value. But if the Administration is going to wait until the Alabama claims are satisfactorily adjusted before it will issue a proclamation of neutrality, we fear the Cubans will have to fight their own battles and gain their own independence without the aid or sympathy of our Government.