

have stated as being in vogue here be followed; then there would be no disparity, either fancied or real.

THE CUBAN SITUATION.

If one half that is charged against Captain-General Weyler of Cuba be true, he is surely a fiend incarnate whose life is forfeit many times over. That he would conduct a war of practical extermination was to be looked for, and in pursuance of this plan that some cruelties and even atrocities would occur was one of the inevitable things incident to such a conflict; but it was not expected that he would make a campaign against innocence and helplessness, that he would put non-combatants and aged men to the sword and young and virtuous girls to shameful exposure, as he is charged with having done. War seems a strange and cruel thing in these times, even when conducted in accordance with the recognized code of civilization; but when this is departed from and savagery is brought into play, it is quite time for interference by a third party.

In this connection the action of the United States Senate is significant. By a majority so great that the opposition seems trifling and even erratic, the resolution favoring recognition as belligerents to the Cubans has gone through, and that such action is a perfect reflex of the temper of the American people is beyond controversy. That it was hastened by the impetuous speech of Senator Vest, in which the alleged villainies of the captain-general were portrayed in fervid eloquence, is a matter of course. Nobody of educated and enlightened men could listen to such a recital and thereafter be indifferent regarding it. If what was said at that time was true, or even substantially correct, the action of Congress was not at all beyond the mark but rather this side of it; the impulse of a common Christianity would under such circumstances justify the full recognition of the revolutionists.

It should be remembered in this connection that Weyler has made a complete denial of the indictment against him. As a man of intelligence, who can appreciate the gravity of the situation, this was to be expected, whether he was guilty or not; to admit guilt would be to court disaster and defeat. We are quite well aware of the possibility of a certain unspeakable gentleman not being on every occasion as black as he is painted, but must nevertheless insist upon it that the Cuban dictator has so far made out a very poor case in his own behalf; the burden of proof has not been shifted by his blank denials.

The present attitude of the Spanish people lends considerable gravity to the situation. When a mob, whether encouraged or discouraged by the officials matters not, has the temerity to attack a foreign and presently friendly consulate, it goes to show that the popular feeling runs so high that the authorities could not control it even if they were disposed to do so. It is a matter requiring at least a disavowal on the part of the Spanish government; and this being un satisfactory might precipitate a severance

of diplomatic relations, oftener than otherwise a forerunner of war. Spain would show herself to be mad indeed if she allowed her populace to push her to the point of opening hostilities against the United States; she is very weak and we are very strong; besides, we have so far done nothing to actually justify such a movement.

THE MARQUETTE STATUE.

A. P. A. intolerance is made manifest to a remarkable extent in the protests that are being sent to members of Congress against the unveiling of the statue of Father Marquette in statuary hall of the Capitol. The statue in question is the gift of the state of Wisconsin and has been accepted by both houses of Congress. The objection to it, if based only on the fact that the artist has immortalized the ecclesiastical order of the illustrious missionary and traveler, is childish, for the obvious reason that this was an essential characteristic of the man. Any other representation of him would have been untrue. Inasmuch as it would have been undesirable to divest the statue of drapery entirely, some design had to be adopted. An A. P. A. sculptor might perhaps have suggested that of a soldier, or sailor, or knight-errant, or what not, but the absurdity of this would appear at once. A statue, as a painting, in order to fulfil the very object for which it exists, must represent the subject as it really was, or is. Its value consists in its fidelity to facts, not to the ever changing imagination of fanciful cranks.

If it is true that nations honor themselves by remembering and honoring the men that have distinguished themselves in the cause of mankind, the statue in question cannot be regarded otherwise than an honor to the American people. Jacques Marquette was one of the first explorers of the great Mississippi river. At a time when the Indian still reigned supreme in the new continent, he took his life in his hands and labored for the redemption of the country and the civilization of the savage. What if his coat was that of a Jesuit? His heart was that of a hero. He acquired several Indian languages, founded missionary stations and added to the geographical knowledge of the world some items of the greatest importance.

In 1669 he first conceived the idea of exploring the Mississippi, and to 1673 he had an opportunity to carry out his plan when the governor of Canada appointed him to accompany Joliet on the expedition. In two canoes the little party started from Mackinaw and floated down the river. They stopped at Indian villages along the route and were sometimes very kindly received. They proceeded as far as within two days' journey of the sea, and satisfied themselves, that the river emptied into the Gulf of Mexico and not into the Pacific or Atlantic, as had been presumed, and then they resolved to return, owing to the danger of meeting with hostile treatment, not at the hands of savage Indians, but Spaniards and cretins. Their voyage had consumed about two months. Later Marquette returned to the Indians he had visited, erected altars and taught

them to worship there. He gave his life in this labor. As his name already has a prominent place on the pages of American history, bigotry should not succeed in expelling his statue from the place where the memory of great men is perpetuated. Or, to be consistent, it should also be allowed to efface the name from the annals of the American nation.

SPAIN AND UNCLE SAM.

The disturbance in Spain over the action of the United States Congress with respect to Cuba cannot be regarded as affording the slightest indication that there will be any war between the two countries. The threats as to what will or may be done to American commerce by hostile Spaniards may be set down as so much bluster. The United States does not want any trouble with our Spanish friends, and will not be drawn into it if it can be avoided; and surely Spain is not eager for anything but peaceful relations, for, as the London Chronicle pertinently suggests, "if it comes to a struggle, America could wipe Spain off the earth, either by sea or land."

The furor is all because Congress wants to have this country recognize the Cuban revolutionists as belligerents; and in this voices the sentiment of the vast majority of the people, who are tired of the warfare that is going on in the island and its destructiveness to life and property, not only among the people of Cuba, but in its direct effect upon the property and commerce of Americans. With this recognition given, no doubt it will militate against Spanish interests, so far as these lie in the control of the island. It will have one effect at least: Spain will have to crush the Cuban uprising at once or prepare to recognize Cuban independence.

As to the talk about insults to Spain or contravening international law in recognizing the belligerents, that is the veriest nonsense. There is a great deal too much of radical speechmaking among Congressmen on subjects of this kind, and it has been so in this case; but there has been no intention of offering an insult to Spain. On the other hand, the resolution which requests President Cleveland to use his good offices for Cuban independence is the holding forth of an offer of friendship to Spain that easily might have been omitted. If there were a mere recognition of Cuban belligerents, without any other action of this government, the chances are that Cuba would be independent in a short time; but under this offer, the Spanish might easily find a chance to negotiate a sale of the island and thus obtain a round sum as compensation for that which otherwise she will have to let go soon at a great monetary sacrifice. As to the pretended breach of international courtesy, it is sufficient to recall that when the civil war broke out in this country, Spain hastened to recognize the Confederacy, and quickly did what the United States has refrained from doing, with the positions of the two nations reversed, for a number of years. When there is an uprising of such magnitude in any nation as to