

enamored of degradation and chains, as not to wish to be relieved from the pressure of such a leaden despotism? Is it, we ask, is it not in direct opposition to our own experience of our own feelings, as well as the universal feeling of all mankind, to presume, that those who suffer will not ardently wish for relief? Does not the very worm turn, when trod upon, unless crushed to death? Is not human nature everywhere the same, and is not its common object the pursuit of happiness, so large a portion of which depends on being well governed? Does the Gulf Stream separate man from his fellow-man, and cause the Spaniard of Cuba to be totally insensible to those grievances which make the blood of an American boil? No! the native of Cuba is not more insensible than the worm; and we firmly believe, that when the period arrives which offers a fair and reasonable prospect of success in the attempt to acquire freedom and independence, they will rise and vindicate themselves from the charge of a base, willing submission to the tyranny of the mother country, in spite of English newspapers, and their disciples, our whig statesmen.*

There can be no doubt, however, that the great body of the Creoles of Cuba are not only depressed in spirit by a long course of misgovernment, and, what is still more unfavorable to the anticipation of their rising, in a great degree under the influence of the priests of a Church, which everywhere, and at all times, in the old world and in the new, has been an inflexible foe to the progress of liberal principles, and the establishment of civil and religious liberty. A long habit of submission to wrong or indignity, coupled with long-continued abject subservency to the despotism of a Church which inculcates implicit obedience, is very apt to degenerate at last into a sort of imbecile dullness not easily excited to action; an insensibility hard to awaken into any powerful excitement, except under the spur of bigotry. The people of Cuba may, for aught we know, be under the influence of this species of suspended animation; but for our part, we believe that other causes contributed not only to prevent their co-operation with Lopez, but prompted them to take sides against him, as is asserted in the late letter of Mr. Van Vechten, whose view of the subject is, we cannot help suspecting, not a little influenced by a feeling of gratitude for the very singular, not to say unaccountable clemency displayed by Don Jose de la Concha in his behalf.

Other causes may be adduced to account for the total inaction of the Cubans in behalf of Lopez in the first instance, and their reported hostility in the second. First: the bloody, barbarous threat of letting loose their slaves against them. Second: the fear of exemplary punishment in case of co-operation, and the certainty that it would be inflicted with all the inflexible severity of Spanish vengeance. Third, and most weighty of all: the hopelessness of efficient aid from the United States, after the proclamation of our President, outlawing every American citizen enlisted in their cause, and placing him at the mercy of any body who chose to hunt him down as a beast of prey. We do not hesitate to say, that the President of the United States stands at this moment responsible, not only for the butchery of his countrymen, but for the failure of the attempt to give liberty to Cuba. He has, for the present, preserved his neutrality with Spain, only at the sacrifice of the first duty of every govern-

* For a Memorial, addressed by the Cubans to the throne of Madrid on the subject of grievances, see vol. xv. of this Review.