

ment; but the hasty imputation of crime is equally a wrong. Spain, in the presence of an accusation, which would condemn her to everlasting dishonour, was entitled to a fair trial. Her plea for an international determination ought not to have been slighted. It ought even yet to be conceded, notwithstanding the war, and whatever may be its event. Upon the facts proved, expert opinion has arrived at its conclusions, by deductions, which are nothing more than conjecture. Expert opinion is not even unanimous in its conjectures. Experiment, under scientific direction, is the only final test; and experiment may not only relieve Spain of her supposed guilt, but may yet clear up the mystery in a manner beneficial to future constructors of warships and to the handling of the formidable modern explosives.

"If the Spanish Government," wrote the Madrid correspondent of the London Times, "as early as October last, had detected the firm resolve of the President to intervene, and was anxious to avoid war, why did it not accept the tender of good offices, made in such friendly terms? The question occurred to me at the time, and I ventured to enquire whether a satisfactory solution might not be found, by accepting, with certain restrictions and reserves, the good offices tendered—whether at least it might not be worth while to ascertain what kind of a solution the President hinted at, when he described it as 'honourable alike to Spain and the Cuban people.' His Excellency kindly explained to me that, however reasonable my suggestion might appear to a foreigner imperfectly acquainted with the chivalrous character of the Spanish people, it was practically impossible to act upon it. He was a Spaniard and could not admit foreign intervention in internal affairs. Cuba was simply a Spanish province beyond the seas, and the Cubans were Spanish subjects, like the inhabitants of Aragon or Castile. If any Spanish Minister could be found weak enough to admit such intervention, he would raise throughout the country a storm of popular indignation, which would not confine itself to the overthrow of the cabinet which had permitted such national humiliation."

We are reminded of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes' famous classification of the six parties who are present in a dialogue apparently between two individuals. Behind John's images of himself, and of Peter, and Peter's images of himself and of John, there are the real John and the real Peter. Perhaps in this case the real Peter and John, standing behind the faces and voices of