

CUBA.

Action Asked by Congress—Letters from Senators Conkling and Cameron, Ex-Senator Wade, S. S. Cox and General Butler.

The Philadelphia *Post* publishes the subjoined copies of letters received by the Committee having in charge the arrangements for a mass meeting in that city in favor of free Cuba:

FROM SENATOR ROSCOE CONKLING.

UTICA, N. Y., Nov. 27, 1869.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 17th inst., inviting me to address a meeting, to be held in Philadelphia next month, in aid of Cuban independence. Constant occupation in committee since the receipt of your note has till now postponed my answer. My sympathies are very strongly with Cuba, and with the ideas embodied in her effort to be free. In so far as those ideas can be espoused in her case, with honest regard for the requirements of public law, I trust they will be espoused in this country by Government and people. It would give me pleasure to attend any meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia held in behalf of liberty, but it will not be in my power to be present on Saturday next. Upon the question of the recognition of Cuba as a Republic by our Government at this time, I abstain from expressing an opinion.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

ROSCOE CONKLING.

FROM HON. BENJAMIN F. WADE.

JEFFERSON, Ohio, Nov. 29, 1869.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter of the 24th inst., inviting me to attend your meeting on the 4th prox., "to concert measures for securing the immediate recognition of the independence of the Republic of Cuba," has just come to my notice. I need not inform you that I deeply sympathize in the object of your meeting, and that I would attend it could I do so without great inconvenience. Our Government has hitherto, in my judgment, manifested too little interest in peoples struggling with their oppressors, and endeavoring to secure to themselves those rights of self-government, without which a people are only slaves and beasts of burden. In the weakness of our early history such an impassive policy may have been wise, and, on account of our weakness, justifiable; but now, in the plenitude of our power, such a policy is utterly selfish, if not cowardly. The rule of national morality is not different from that of individual morality. Should a strong man stand by, wrapped in his dignity or indifference, and suffer another to rob and outrage the rights of a weak individual, with full power to protect and defend him, would not the whole world cry out shame, and hold such strong man dishonored, if not a party to the crime? What right has Spain to lord it over the people of Cuba? Can robbery and injustice ripen into right by prescription? No, never. Because Spain has, for two centuries, robbed and oppressed them, does that furnish a good reason why such injustice should continue for ever? The people of Cuba, to-day, have the same right to govern themselves, asking no favors of Spain, as the people of this Republic have. They stand in the same relation to Spain that our forefathers did to England in the time of the Revolution, and cannot this great Republic afford to be as generous to them as the monarchy of France was to us? Kings and tyrants have often banded themselves together in holy as well as unholy leagues to uphold their power and trample on the rights of man.

Shall not the American people be as zealous in maintaining and propagating their glorious principles of right and justice as tyrants have ever been in the destruction of those rights? But some over-prudent and timorous people will say the immediate recognition of the independence of Cuba will involve us in a war with Spain. I do not believe it; but should such a consequence follow, we shall still be in the right. If ever the time shall come that this great Republic shall fear to speak a righteous, brave and generous word for the encouragement of people struggling for their liberty, I shall cease to feel proud of being an American citizen. Such selfish indifference to the fate of others would be but a melancholy sign of the decay of that proud spirit of independence which has so eminently characterized our nation, and might so react as at length to endanger our own liberties. The truth is the American people, without distinction of party, sympathize deeply with the cause of the Cuban Republic; and should the Government of the United States suffer them to be overwhelmed by their bloody-minded oppressors, the Administration will be held fearfully responsible for the consequences, as no one can deny that they hold the destiny of the people of Cuba in their hands.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, yours,

&c., B. F. WADE.

THOS. WEBSTER, Esq., and others.

FROM HON. S. S. COX.

NEW-YORK CITY, Nov. 29, 1869.

GENTLEMEN: It will be out of my power to assist in the meeting you have called in aid of the Cubans. It strikes me as a burning shame which ought to be branded upon some one, that the fair island, so near and dear to us by associations of many kinds, should be wasted by the hands of violence, and almost rendered unfit for human occupation, when, under good government, honorable conditions and republican liberty, it might shine as the select gem of the hemisphere. With respect,

S. S. COX.

THOMAS WEBSTER and others, Committee.

FROM HON. SIMON CAMERON.

HARRISBURG, Nov. 29, 1869.

GENTLEMEN: It will be impossible for me to meet you on the 4th of December. The preparations for my departure for Washington will absorb all my time.

I have long been anxious for the emancipation of Cuba from the Spanish yoke, as one of the last, and by far the most important, part of our continent held by that Power. I will avail myself of every proper occasion to secure the end which I have so long hoped for and now hopefully expect to see speedily realized.

Yours truly,

SIMON CAMERON.

THOMAS WEBSTER, and others, Committee.

FROM GENERAL BUTLER.

LOWELL, Nov. 23, 1869.

GENTLEMEN: Public duties will prevent my being present at the mass meeting relative to the affairs of Cuba of which you write.

It would be hardly proper in me to write a letter upon matters to which I am to be called to act officially within so short a time. I am yours,

truly, BENJAMIN F. BUTLER.

Messrs. THOMAS WEBSTER and others, Committee.