

All our latest news from Cuba is of a piece. To-day is as encouraging as yesterday to the Cubans and quite as discouraging to the Spaniards. The surprise at Bacá, in which Puella fell, is but one of many events which are convincing the world that it is not possible for Spain to maintain much longer her hold of the Queen of the Antilles. Caballero de Rodas may be a good soldier and even a skilful ruler of men, but we have yet to learn that his management of Cuba is to be more successful than that of General Dulce. His proclamations have been good enough. His conceptions of the place and power of the newspaper have proved him to be a man of advanced ideas. Evidently he knows that there are potent rulers of men who do not resort to the sword. But he is not subduing the Cuban insurgents. He is not reconciling the patriots to Spanish rule. In spite of Spain, in spite of American neutrality, the insurrection in Cuba continues, the patriots fight and win and the world becomes impatient of a struggle which, so far as Spain herself is concerned, is an inconsistency and a grievous wrong. After months of revolutionary war Spain has failed to put down the insurgents.

Looking back upon these months of revolution in the island, and taking all the facts into consideration, we have no choice, but say that every impartial man feels that to encourage Spain in any further attempts to maintain her hold of the island would be an injustice. The Cubans have as good a right as the Spaniards to enjoy liberty. If it is not their wish to remain under the Spanish government they have the same right to rebel against that government that Spain had to rebel against Isabella. The rights of peoples are as sacred in colonial possessions as in so-called mother countries. We know how hard it is for Spain, or indeed for any country, to part with her colonies. But the stern logic of events must be accepted by the Spanish regency as well as by any other form of government. If Spain is satisfied with the regency, good; but because Spain is satisfied that is no reason why Cuba and the other Spanish colonies should be satisfied. Cuba has given to the world ample proof that she is not satisfied. Madeira, by erecting the republican standard, has given proof that she is as little satisfied. If Porto Rico follows it will be evidence sufficient that Spain had better at once make some sensible sacrifices in order to preserve her own existence.

It is now a fact beyond all question that Cuba can no longer be of any value to Spain. If the United States government persists in refusing to grant the Cubans belligerent rights the patriots may be compelled to yield; but Spanish supremacy in that island must at any rate be henceforth a costly luxury. Spain needs money, as all the world knows. To continue to govern Cuba will no longer be a blessing, but a curse. Henceforth, to take the kindest view of the situation, Cuba, once so rich a source of supply to the Spanish exchequer, will become a drain. It has come to this, that either Cuba must be let go, thus giving at once to the colony and to the mother country a chance to revive and prosper, or Spain and Cuba both must go down.

We have no desire to make unnecessarily harsh complaints against our present administration. It is our conviction that the administration means to do right. The situation as regards Cuba is not free from difficulty. It is a fair question, however, whether the administration in its desire not to interfere in favor of the Cubans has not interfered too much in favor of Spain. Fair play points to Cuba as well as to Spain. Hitherto the administration has looked too much to Spain and too little to Cuba. The time has come when we should look to both parties. If Cuba does not wish longer to be under the control of the government at Madrid why should we, as a free and liberty-loving people, lend our powerful assistance to oblige Spain and to disoblige Cuba, or rather to perpetuate among a neighboring people who naturally look to us for help, a system of government which they feel and which we know to be a tyranny and a crying injustice. Let us be just to both parties, but let us also be true to ourselves.

We are not ignorant of the fact that General Sickles has been authorized to treat with the Spanish government for the purchase of Cuba on reasonable terms. We are willing to admit that General Sickles will do his best to make this portion of his mission a success. But to complete such an arrangement will at least require time, and it may, after all, leave many things unsettled. We have yet to learn whether the Cubans wish to be sold like so many cattle or niggers of the olden time. Difficulties not yet fully seen may lie in the way of purchase. Meanwhile the revolution goes on; trade is suspended; estates are being wasted; the best blood of Cuba is being spilt. Weeks are now doing what it will require years to undo. Cuba must soon become as wretched as our own Southern

States after the war. Will it then be worth buying? In this matter delay is fraught with serious peril. What should our government do? Their duty is no longer a question. Let the administration at once grant belligerent rights to the Cubans and the struggle is at an end. Cuba will at once be free. This, however, is not all. The Cubans object to being sold, but they have no objection—on the contrary, they have a strong desire—to become citizens of the United States. Cuba free tomorrow will be offered to us next day. If Spain be able to make out a good cause of complaint against us it can take no worse form than that of damages. With the island in our hands it will be easy for us to make our terms and pay the bill. This is now the true course for the administration. This Cuban waste and bloodshed and ruin is a disgrace to us. Let it be ended at once.

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