

CUBAN BELLIGERENCY.

Mass Meeting at the Cooper Institute— Speeches of Horace Greeley, Cassius M. Clay and Others.

Cooper Institute was filled last evening by a mixed audience drawn thither to listen to speeches from Hon. JOHN A. LOGAN, of Illinois; Hon. THOMAS FITCH, of Nevada; Rev. HENRY WARD BEECHER, Rev. Dr. SMITH, and Hon. CASSIUS M. CLAY, of Kentucky, who were advertised to speak in behalf of struggling Cuba. Of these only Mr. CLAY was present.

Hon. HORACE GREELEY presided, and opened the meeting in a speech, defending the Monroe Doctrine and declaring that it should be the policy of the Government to carry it out to the fullest extent. In relation to the conflict in Cuba, he said that no reliance could be placed in the reports we receive of Spanish victories, as they were a tissue of lies. That if the patriots of Cuba could be vanquished by square yards of lying they would have been long since annihilated. He predicted their final success in achieving their independence of Spanish power.

The first speaker introduced was Hon. CASSIUS M. CLAY. He began by defending himself from the allegations brought against him of having deserted the country in its hour of peril, and having betaken himself to a foreign Court as the Minister of the American Government instead of taking the field against the Southern armies, he being at the time commissioned as a Major-General. He alluded also to the fact that the Encyclopædia spoke of him as a politician; it would not give him the title of statesman, and his enemies had charged that he was no diplomatist even when acting as Minister to Russia. After he had proceeded in this strain for fifteen minutes, the audience, evidently under the impression that the speaker was occupying too much time in narrating his personal relations with the Government, and was not discoursing on the subject which brought the meeting together, interrupted him with cries of "Cuba! Cuba!" and with allusions the reverse of complimentary. Heeding these intimations, Mr. CLAY proceeded to speak of the Cuban cause. He contended that the according of belligerent rights to Cuba would not impair the justice of the *Alabama* claims. He held that before our difficulties growing out of the *Alabama* claims could be settled with Great Britain the American Government would have to hack squarely down as to the matter of holding England responsible for a declaration of belligerency in regard to the Confederate States. He held also that General GRANT, in his Message to Congress, was in conflict with the opinions avowed by Senator SUMNER, in declaring that this nation, like every other, has the right to decide for itself when it is proper for it to declare a state of war as existing between nations, or between a Government and any portion of its people. After several interruptions on the part of the audience, Mr. CLAY closed his remarks by offering the following resolutions:

Whereas, The Monroe doctrine, that European monarchies ought not to be allowed to extend their acquisitions of territory and political power in the American hemisphere, has become the fixed policy of the Republic; and

Whereas, The proximity in such possessions of those monarchies has proved dangerous to our peace and safety; and

Whereas, We hold, with our fathers of 1776, that Governments are instituted for the benefit of the governed, the rule of the people by the people, for the people; therefore,

Resolved, By the people of New-York, without distinction of party, in mass meeting assembled, that the people of the United States sympathize with the people of Cuba, who have been for more than a year carrying on war against Spain in vindication of the inalienable right of self-government.

Resolved, That the time has come, in the language of President GRANT'S Message, to accord the right of belligerency to a people struggling to free themselves from a Government they believe to be oppressive.

Resolved, That our representatives, the President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the United States, be requested to proclaim, in legal form, the existence of a state of belligerency between the Cuban patriots and the Spanish nation.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, signed by the officers of this meeting, be sent to the President and the Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, and that their publication in all the journals of the Republic be respectfully asked.

Addresses in support of these resolutions were then made by Messrs. Z. K. PANGBORN, Mr. LIDDY, of the *Irish Republic*, and Hon. THEODORE E. TOMLINSON, after which the resolutions were adopted and the meeting adjourned, Mr. GREELEY having previously declared that at the next meeting the leaders of the people would be present, as they will have seen that the people have been here before them.