

# THE CUBAN DEMONSTRATION.

**Enthusiastic Meeting at the Cooper Institute—Resolutions of Sympathy—Speeches by Mayor Hall, Hon. Thos. Fitch, John Mitchell, Stewart L. Woodford and Others.**

The large hall of the Cooper Institute was well filled last evening, notwithstanding the storm, with an enthusiastic audience, which had come together to express sympathy for the Cuban insurgents. The arches over the stage were gracefully festooned with the American flag and the Cuban colors. A portion of the stage and several of the front lines of seats were occupied by ladies, many of whom wore a badge expressive of their patriotic sentiments toward the struggling islanders. The Seventy-first Regiment Band was in attendance, and discoursed martial airs in the intervals of the speech-making.

Mr. DOUGLAS TAYLOR, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, called the meeting to order, and introduced Mayor HALL as the presiding officer of the evening. The Mayor was greeted with applause and cheers, which he gratefully recognized as intended for the cause which he for the time represented. He alluded to the fact that one year ago he had lost his voice for the encouragement of the same cause, and was referred to by the organ of the Spanish Government in this City, as unnecessarily troubling himself about this "tempest in a teapot," an insurrection on a few sugar plantations, which would be over in ninety days, but after the lapse of one year they had come together again to put up the cry of sympathy for struggling Cuba. The cause had risen higher and higher before the eyes of the world, and what was then poetry and sentiment had now taken a practical form and called for practical aid. The people of this country, he said, sympathized deeply with the struggle without distinction of party. It was the Government only that was superior, and the people must make their voice heard and demand the recognition of Cuban belligerency and Cuban independence. The last words of Gen. RAWLINS were a legacy to the nation which had not yet been administered upon, and was continually crying in the ears of the Administration, "Cuba must be free." The Queen of the Antilles stood with her arms shackled with the fetters of despotism, and the great Republic of America must do something to strike off those fetters.

At this point Gen. DARLING presented a list of nearly two hundred Vice-Presidents and thirty Secretaries, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. ETHAN ALLEN submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted with enthusiasm:

*Whereas*, The people of Cuba, determined to enjoy the rights of self-government, have maintained for nearly two years a most heroic struggle against the tyranny of Spain; and whereas the people of the United States cannot regard with indifference a contest so near their own borders, and which repeats so nearly a part of their own history; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That in the catalogue of wrongs which distinguish the rule of the "mother country" over Cuba, we recognize cruelties which equal the barbarian of medieval times. Without representation, the citizen of Cuba has been taxed to the verge of poverty. The civil Courts of justice have been closed, and in their stead established a military despotism. Without trial, the "native-born" has suffered the decree of banishment. The mere caprice of the ruler has been appeased by the death of the enslaved, and even a murmur of discontent has opened a grave. The resolve of the Cuban patriots to avenge these wrongs we fully justify, and their noble and heroic warfare—friendless and unarmed against their well provided adversary, enduring every hardship, shrinking from no sacrifice, giving their cities to the flames rather than to the foe—entitle them to the sympathy and admiration of Christian nations.

*Resolved*, That the military and naval forces of the Kingdom of Spain, engaged in Cuba during a period of a fifteen months, consisting of 52,000 men and eighty-two vessels of war, carrying 432 guns, having so far failed to reduce the insurgents, and the Cuban Republic having meanwhile organized and maintained a *de facto* Government, in view of these facts such Republic is entitled from this nation to an acknowledgment of belligerent rights, and to the observance of an impartial neutrality. And such recognition of belligerency from the United States would not only be in accordance with international law, and also in harmony with the rule heretofore applied to other American States, but would be practically carrying out that policy, applauded and defended by us all, which was enunciated by President MONROE, that any attempt on the part of European Powers to enforce their system over any portion of this hemisphere, against the will of the people, would be considered by the United States as dangerous to their peace and safety.

*Resolved*, We emphatically indorse the touching and dying words of the illustrious Gen. RAWLINS, that "Cuba must be free. Her tyrannical enemy must be crushed. This Republic is responsible for that." And we deprecate and condemn that conservatism which favors monarchy at the expense of republicanism, which blights the liberal impulses of our people toward those struggling to be free, which permits the oppressor to build and fit out vessels of war in our waters, and forbids this privilege to the oppressed. And if this conservatism is enforced because of our Neutrality laws, then we call upon our representatives in the councils of the nation to enact laws under which we may change our present cringing policy to an honest discharge of those national obligations which we owe to every people striving for self-government, and which obligations we must necessarily observe, if we would preserve before all the world our national honor.

*Resolved*, That the people of Cuba must win for themselves the approval of mankind, by their noble proclamation of principles, contained in their Declaration of Independence, in the following words: "To the God of our conscience and to all civilized nations we submit the sincerity of our purpose. Vengeance does not mislead us, nor is ambition our guide. We only want to be free, and to see all men with us equally free, as the Creator intended mankind to be. Our earnest belief is, that all men are brethren. Hence our love of toleration, order and justice in every respect. We desire the gradual abolition of slavery with indemnification: we admire universal suffrage, as it insures the sovereignty of the people; we demand a religious regard for the inalienable rights of man, as the basis of freedom and national greatness." The people of the United States cannot afford to oppose those contending for liberty under this Declaration of rights, unless they are ready to repudiate the illustrious fathers of our own Revolution, whose example, both in word and in deed, the Cubans have so nearly followed.

*Resolved*, That we indignantly repudiate the idea that our heartless treatment of the Cuban patriots should be continued, because, if otherwise, difficulties are to be apprehended with Spain. We have no desire for a contest with that Kingdom or with any other nation. We simply ask that our duty should be done, as we are given to see that duty according to Divine and human laws. And having determined upon what is our duty, or our right to do, we propose to do it, though it calls the world in arms. And while we repudiate any selfish motive by our efforts in behalf of Cuba, we, at the same time, cannot fail to observe, that this island is geographically so situated, that its liberation from European domination would be greatly to our national advantage. Cuba holds the keys to the Gulf of Mexico, which is the outlet of that river which drains half the continent of North America, and which floats upon its bosom the harvests of eighteen States of this Republic; Cuba also lies in the track of commerce from ocean to ocean across the Isthmus, and if in the hands of any great power our interests would be endangered. Therefore, upon the broad principle of national safety, which governs the Powers of Europe, we might be justified in its absolute appropriation. But by that rule of justice, which forbids us to appropriate territory against the will of its people, the same rule of justice which forbid the Kingdom of Spain to enforce her domination over an American colony against the will of its people, we only ask that Cuba as a free and independent State, shall, by herself and for herself, determine her own future.

*Resolved*, That the "Cuban League of the United States," organized to diffuse these sentiments, and to secure to Cuba, by all legal means, the inalienable right of self-government, will labor on till its mission is accomplished. And in furtherance of its object, we ask that a copy of these resolutions, as expressive of the sense of this meeting, be forwarded to the representatives of the people in Congress and in the other branches of the Government.

Hon. THOS. FITCH, member of Congress from Nevada, was then introduced, and made an eloquent plea in behalf of the struggling Cubans, in which he took ground not only in favor of the recognition of the belligerency and independence of the island, but of giving her material aid with fleets and armies if need be to establish that independence. He came here, he said, not to criticise the action of Congress or the course of an Administration whose general policy it was his duty and pleasure to sustain, or the views of a noble President who seeks always with earnestness and generally with wisdom the peace and prosperity of his country, but to express to the people of his native City his earnest and continued sympathy for the cause they were seeking to advance and his profound conviction that that cause would ultimately triumph. He then spoke of the insults put upon our flag by the Spanish authorities, the seizure of an American vessel on the high seas, and the driving of an American Consul from the town of Santiago de Cuba by a Spanish mob. "If I had the power," he said, "I would send a fleet of iron-clads to Havana with orders to obtain the release of the *Lloyd Aspinwall* in six hours, or cut her out from under the guns of Morro Castle, and then that fleet should be anchored off Santiago de Cuba, with orders to open fire, and continue firing until the houses, walls, aye, the very stones and pavements, which witnessed the outrage upon the flag and the representative of my country should be mingled in one undistinguishable mass of blackened ruins. I would do this first, and open negotiations with Madrid afterward." He then spoke of the heroism which had been displayed in Cuba, and declared that she had nobly earned the right to a recognition of independence. It was moreover, a decree of the God who had rolled an ocean between Europe and America that the nations of this hemisphere should live their own lives and fashion their own destinies untrammelled by Old-World influences. It was the interest of this country that the Monroe doctrine should be carried to its logical conclusions, and no European Power be allowed to establish a Monarchy or subvert a Republic on the American shores. Why not develop this grand idea and show to European Governments that they shall in no wise rule any American people who choose to resist such rule? The Powers of Europe conspire to assist each other in fastening flogging crowns upon their palsied heads. Why should not we combine in assisting Liberty to achieve the just limits of her kingdom? It is in our power, he said, to advance the liberty of Cuba by means which will produce no war and involve no taxation or debt; and he called the attention of that vast, earnest and freedom loving audience to the fact that, aside from direct intervention, there could be no measure so beneficial to the cause of Cuban independence as the annexation of San Domingo. Vast numbers of our adventurous countrymen would be attracted thither, and all the gunboats of Spain could not prevent them crossing the inter-

not exchanged words with President GRANT on the subject of Cuba or San Domingo, but he believed the treaty of annexation not only a direct benefit to the nation, but a flank movement on Cuba of the most irresistible character. He closed with an exhortation to the Cubans to be hopeful, for the midnight was well nigh passed and the dawn of freedom at hand.

At the close of Mr. FITCH's speech Mr. W. J. HILL sang the "Marseillaise," which was greeted with hearty applause and enthusiastically encored.

Mr. SALOMON, formerly Governor of Wisconsin, was then introduced and made an earnest speech in favor of the recognition of Cuban belligerency. He regarded this, he said, as the duty of the hour with this nation, and a duty which could not be neglected without bringing its own punishment.

He was followed by JOHN MITCHEL, who represented, as he said, a kindred cause in Ireland. He envied Cuba the degree of belligerency she had already attained, and many other advantages, among which were the fact that she was separated 4,000 miles from England.

After a brief but spirited address by Hon. STEWART L. WOODFORD, the proceedings closed with the singing of the "Star-spangled Banner" by Mr. HILL, the audience joining in the chorus.