

"CUBA SHALL BE FREE."

The Queen of the Antilles to be Loosed from Her Shackles.

Enthusiastic Mass Meeting at Cooper Institute—The Government Called Upon to Fulfill Rawlins' Dying Prayer—Addresses by Mayor Hall, Congressman Finch and Others.

Enthusiasm and patriotism for Cuba was not cooled by the rain and snow storm of last night. The hall of the Cooper Institute was crammed by a real mass meeting composed of men chiefly, for very few ladies were there, of every clime, color, race and nationality. The feeling aroused by the patriotic eloquence of the speakers found an intense demonstration in applause and the waving of handkerchiefs, which was considerably helped by the musical strains of the band and the singing of national melodies. The dying declaration of Secretary Rawlins, "Cuba shall be free," seemed to live again last night.

Mr. Douglas Taylor called the vast audience to order, and Mayor Hall was introduced to the presidency with loud acclamation.

Mayor HALL said—Ladies and gentlemen, Americans, native born and naturalized, co-equal in the eye of the American law, if I supposed that the greeting you have given to the introduction made by the chairman of the Committee of Management was a personal greeting to myself I should indeed be proud and happy. I recognized I rather in it the greeting which the friends of the Lone Star gives—(cheers)—to that almost unbroken cry of sympathy which has always been given by the state of New York, personified to-night in its chairman before you; and here standing before you, and in this cause, should always be the Mayor of the metropolis of the United States. (Cheers.) I had the honor a little over a year ago to preside at a similar meeting. We were told on the following morning by the organ of the Spanish government, the El Cronista, which, I believe, literally translated is "Time-server"—"The Mayor of New York and its compatriots had done themselves and its city a needless service, for it was only a tempest in a teapot; there was only a few insurrections on a few sugar plantations in Cuba, and in ninety days will be all over." The facts from that time and the details that we know so well identified with the struggle of Cuba for her supremacy and independence. The very fact, one year after symbolized again in this meeting—(cheers)—to put up again the cry of American sympathy with Cuba is enough to show that Cuba still lives, and her cause is in accordance with the motto of the great State of New York, "Excelsior," "Higher and Higher." (Cheers.) We believe that we have approached the time when that which was shown as sympathy a year ago is now secured and shaped into something like practical aid towards this struggling Power. During the last year it has spent itself by the indomitable spirit of her sons against the fifty-two thousand men, the eighty-two frigates and almost innumerable guns with which Spain has tried to put down the glorious Cuban nation. (Cheers.) We are met to-night as men of both parties, for a year ago I was proud to be in the State of New York very single democratic newspaper, with one exception, and that, unfortunately, in this city, has given its aid, its sympathy, its eloquence and its enterprise to the cause of Cuba. I am proud, also, though hampered by certain official restraints, the great republican party has been almost united in favor of Cuban sympathy. We have no more to-night to impress practically upon the American government, through the sense of the American people as shown in this great metropolis, the necessity of giving that which was denied in the former year. Rawlins—"Cuba must be free." (Cheers.) What has been done this year? In Cuba the leaders of the Cuban movement have been as zealous as Spain. (Cheers.) The Cuban people have not been the Spanish have not been—intelligent and humane. In the whole history of the world, from the days of Thermopylae to the present there has not been a more heroic and noble stand made by the Cubans towards Spain. Mr. Hall then referred in characteristic similes to the playing of "Macbeth" last night in one of the city theatres, and to the death of the noble hero, saying "eyes are open but their sense is shut," and to the fact that the senselessness of the administration would some day prove them to say, in response to that supplication, "What is the name of the man who referred to the death of a member of the administration last summer, who left his family to be cared for by the country, but who left also a legacy that Cuba should be free, and that the people should be free, and that the letters of administration for that legacy. (Cheers.) Rapidly retracing the struggles of the past of America, and also that of the late civil war, he said "in the name of our ancestors, in the name of the past. In the name of the glorious present, and, still more, in the name of that glorious future, something must be done towards Cuba and sympathy by her demands upon Spain for justice and freedom. (Cheers.) The Queen of the Antilles stands with open arms, but with the shackles of despotism placed there by the tyrants and despots of the past, and even in the name of republicanism, by him. At least it is the duty of the men of the American nation to sustain her in striking off those chains from her limbs and feet. Let them unite in a grand free will, while at the same time the American nation reach their arms across and say, "We are free republicans together." (Loud and long continued cheering.)

THE RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were then read:—
Whereas, the people of Cuba, determined to enjoy the rights of self-government, have maintained for nearly two years a noble and 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 are desirous 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 barbarism of medieval times. Without representation the citizens of Cuba have been taxed to support a tyrannical and despotic government. The civil courts of justice have been closed, and in their stead established a military despotism. Without trial the "mother country" has suffered the decree of banishment. The mere caprice of the ruler has been appeased by the death of the innocent and the bodies of the victims have been cast to the grave. The resolve of the Cuban patriots to avenge these wrongs we fully justify, and their noble and heroic warfare—friends and unbroken against the tyrants and despots, enduring every hardship, abridging from no sacrifice, giving their cities to the flames rather than to the hands of the enemy and admiration of Christian nations.
Resolved, That the military and naval forces of the kingdom should be withdrawn from Cuba, and that a force of twenty thousand men, consisting of 20,000 men and eight to ten vessels of war, carrying 425 guns, having so far failed to reduce the insurrection, and the Cuban republic having been proclaimed, and maintained a *de facto* government, in view of the fact that the United States has no treaty of amity and knowledge of belligerent rights and to the observance of an impartial neutrality. And such recognition of belligerence from the United States was not to be accorded with international law and also in harmony with the rule heretofore applied to other American States, but only to be granted in the event that the rebels were defeated and defended by us, which was annulled by President Monroe, that any attempt on the part of European Powers to enforce their claims over any portion of the Americas against the will of the people, would be considered by the United States as an attempt to their peace and safety.
Resolved, We emphatically endorse the heroic and dying words of the illustrious General Rawlins that "Cuba must be free, that the tyrannical rule must be ended. This republic is responsible for that," and we deplore the course which that conservatism which favors monarchy at the expense of republicanism, which looks upon the liberties of our people towards those struggling to be free, which permits the oppressor to build and to extend his empire of waters, and which refuses to give aid to the oppressed. And if this conservatism is enforced because of our neutrality law, then we call upon our representatives in the Congress of the nation to enact a law under which we may change our present existing policy to an honest discharge of the national obligations which we owe to every person who is struggling 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 independence, and that the United States should be guided in the following words:—"To the God of our conscience and to all civilized nations we submit the sincerity of our patriotic and noble protest against the tyranny of Spain, and we demand the sovereignty of the people; we demand a righteous regard for the inalienable rights of man, as a basis of freedom and of the great principles of the people of the United States cannot afford to oppose those contending for liberty under this declaration of rights, and we demand that the United States should not only recognize our own Revolution, but also recognize, 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 of the civil difficulties now being experienced 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, and 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 will not turn to their any portion of our efforts to be repudiated any selfish motive by our efforts to be half of Cuba, we at the same time cannot fail to observe that the United States 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 and the Straits of Florida, and which holds the continent of North America, and which holds upon its bosom the harvest of the Indies. She is the link between the ocean to the ocean across the isthmus, and it is in the hands of any great naval power, and which holds the key to the safety of the principal of national safety, which covers the Powers of Europe, we might be justified in its complete appropriation, and by that rule of justice, which forbid us appropriate territory against the will of its people, the same rule of justice which forbid the kingdom of Spain to enforce her dominion 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.
The 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, and to secure to her the recognition of her independence, and to secure to her the recognition of her independence. A good friend—to whom last December I communicated my intention of addressing the House upon this subject—asked me the question, "What interest has Nevada in Cuba? She has neither commerce to be protected by normal factors nor agricultural interests to be promoted by Cuban independence—why should you interfere?" I answered, "Sir, I believe that it is at once the duty and the interest of this government to regard as all honorable means the cause of Cuban independence. I believe that neither the diplomatic traditions of Europe nor the diplomatic mistakes of the last administration should be permitted to fetter our action, and that which I believe I shall say. As for Nevada, the gallant people who have honored me with a seat in Congress will not count down my action in this respect, nor will they marvel at my choice of a topic." I will not deny that my wish for Cuban independence, perhaps, stimulated by my dislike of a power which has repeatedly outraged American citizens and insulted the flag of my country, and I hope that those who conduct our foreign policy may soon rise to an appreciation of the fact, that without sympathy with men, those only can escape disaster who are prompt to resent outrage. (Applause.) I am filled with shame and humiliation when I recall the fact that the United States government has been seized upon the high seas by a Spanish cruiser and taken into the harbor of Havana, where she yet remains, and I have no words which will adequately express my emotions. (Loud cheering.) Let the United States Congress was driven out of the town of Santiago de Cuba by a Spanish mob (applause) for the offence of performing his duty in communicating to his own government the details of Spanish outrage, and not only driven out, but compelled to hide in the streets of the town under the shelter of the British flag, held over him by the British consul. (Hisses.) I do not desire to unjustly or improperly condemn the action, or rather non-action, of our State Department; but remember that England sent her bravest soldiers and most distinguished generals across an ocean, and over an Air can desert, and into the hands of the Spanish and Serbian mountains, and devastated a land with fire and sword, and smote down a dusky king in the midst of his bewildered legion, all to vindicate her honor, protect her subjects and punish an outrage perpetrated upon her consul. (Cheers.) I hope and trust that the early course of our growth to universal respect may be hastened, that our policy may sooner or later quicken into vigorous life, and that our flag may some day be potent to protect our representatives in Spanish towns; but I confess that the period of gestation of a vigorous foreign policy is too tedious for my appreciation of our degradation. I estimate our duty. If I had the power I would send a fleet of iron-clads to Havana, with orders to obtain the release of the *Lionel Lincoln* in six hours, or cut her way from under the guns of Morro Castle (wild enthusiasm), and then that fleet should be anchored off Santiago de Cuba, with orders to open fire, and continue firing until the houses and walls, are, the non-action of our payments which witnessed the outrage upon the flag and the representative of my country, should be mingled in one undistinguishable mass of blackened ruins. (Cheers.) I would not thus treat an open negotiator with Madrid afterward. (Laughter.) I suppose that such a course would be highly un diplomatic, and that the correct policy would be to renew the assurance of our distinguished consideration, mildly reprimand with the government of whatever Don shall be in power in Madrid and meekly request an apology for the very ungentlemanly conduct of the people of Santiago de Cuba. And inasmuch as our foreign policy is now shaped in a most cautious manner and directed in a most unaggressive channel, I advise the expelled Consul that the Spanish Minister should be very powerful at Washington, and that it would be well for him to exercise more care in visiting Secretary Fish (hisses) than he displayed in telegraphing him. Perhaps he might better remain in six hours, or cut her way from under the guns of Morro Castle, to meet him at the railroad depot (hisses) in Washington and give him the protection of the British flag from there down to the State Department. (Laughter.) But whatever our government shall protect its citizens and vindicate its honor or not, whether the will of the American people shall be heeded by Congress and the administration or not, the prediction of my friend will find fulfillment, and Cuba will be free. (Cheers.) Through whatever of sacrifice, through whatever of sorrow, through whatever of suffering, Cuba will be free, though Spanish blood be shed on her coasts, though Spanish advocates malign and deride her defenders, though Spanish gods corrupt her friends, though falsehood environ her and disaster encompass her, Cuba will be free. (Cheers.) The fates that spin and cut the threads of national life have severed the unnatural tie which bound her to the ruined and tyrannical monarch, and forth from the fiery furnace of battle there floats a golden thread which points northward toward the magnetism of freedom, and waits but the abutment of time and the orders of the Master who will be worthy to work into our breast vestments of liberty, the voice of prophecy vibrates in swelling numbers the irrefragable song; it finds an echo in history, and philosophy itself takes up the refrain—Cuba and Cuba. Though her soil may be sodden with the blood of her sons, though her air may be heavy with the sob of her daughters, though her walls may be babble through the smoke of battle, Cuba shall yet be free. (Cheers.) The soul of the dead Lopez animates her generals, the spirits of his followers ride upon the sword of her warriors, and her people of Spain grow rich upon her resources and arrogant upon her abasement. Perhaps there occurs to you that many times repeated question, Where are her deeds? Her prizes? Her acceptances? Her cities? I answer where were ours when the cross of St. George flouted from every flagstaff on the Manhattan island, and the armies of our fathers crimsoned the snow of Valley Forge? Where were those of the Dutch republic when the troops of Philip of Spain tested infants upon their spearpoints and liberty was besieged between the invaders and the sea? Where were those of us who when the captives of that republic vibrated between the house of the American Minister and the camp of Juarez in the mountains, where Maximilian reigned in the halls of the Alcazar, and the adventures of Paris and Vienna held high carnival over their baby empire? Those unmarked graves by the shores of the southern gulf, a Spanish discovered Empire, those memories of struggle and success by the Zuyder Zee and annual celebrations of independence day—these are all that is left to remind the world of tyrannies and arrogant and powerful. And century after century shall pass away the present generation of Cubans will point their boys to a building planned with the dancing stripes and stars and say "This, in the days of Spanish rule, was the palace of the Captain General." (Applause.) As it was with Spain and France in Mexico, with Portugal in Brazil, with England in the United States, and with Spain in Central and South America, it shall be with Spain and Cuba. The God who rolled the ocean between Europe and America decreed that the nations of this hemisphere should live their own lives and fashion their own destinies untrammeled by Old World influences. Spain did not consult Cuba in overthrowing the thrones of Isabella. Why should Cuba consult Spain about overthrowing Isabella's former satraps? (Cheers and laughter.) Except in the name of themselves, no people are more interested in Cuban independence than the people of the United States. Discriminating duties against the productions of the United States industry are a condition of any part of the world when carried under the flag of the United States, are a part of the Spanish policy. On our shore, of which the Cubans pronounce over and over again, we have a duty of nearly four dollars in currency per barrel, and I am informed that American flour is sent from New York to a Spanish port on the Mediterranean, there it is broken up and referred into barrels of Spanish manufacture, rebranded, reshipped on Spanish vessels, and delivered at Havana for less than it can be landed there from American vessels. Our manufactures of cotton, linen, iron and leather are practically excluded from Cuba by the jealous and avaricious policy of her Spanish rulers. It is safe to say that were Cuba free from Spanish domination we could sell to her people every year over fifty million dollars' worth of our products of soil and skill, while the cost to us of sugar and other tropical products would be greatly reduced. But above material considerations, beyond the natural desire for contiguous territory which animates the breast of every American, there is a principle involved in the contest now proceeding. Liberty which evokes our warm sympathies and which ought to induce our most liberal support. Standing face to face with the clear, clean-cut Monroe doctrine carried over into logical conclusion, what a majestic what an inspiring proposition it presents! Here is a mighty continent, unknown to civilized man for nearly five thousand centuries after earth came upon the earth. With its rich dower of forest and field and mine it waited through all the long ages in virgin simplicity the moving touch of the ruling races of earth. They came from the other shore and the sea, and we added to a world whose nuptial veil was the face of falling waters, whose jewels were stars which gleamed from a crimson and purpurating sky away from a world of opulent farmers and plenty of eternal summer. Four centuries have passed away and the fruits of that mighty nation are about us. A continent that has been peopled, that has grown, that is in the process of discovery, science have developed; Liberty has erected her throne. From the great lakes to the isthmus of Darien republics stretch in unbroken array. In the north, with faith and fate, remains their vestige of despicuous recede their lot or strengthen their waning rule, but against such efforts we have ever lifted the bra-

zen shield. No European Power shall subvert a republic or establish a monarchy on these American shores. (Applause.) Such was our policy, such a doctrine was our defence against European tyrannies, such a policy shaped our foreign intercourse. And now why should we not, as Americans, rise equal to our possibilities? Why not develop this grand idea and show to European governments that they shall in no wise rule any American people? (Cheers.) In words of equal eloquence Mr. Fitch urged the duty of the American government to concede belligerency to and recognize the independence of the republic of Cuba.
The Mayor—I have no doubt that that speech will be repeated on the floor of the House of Congress, and have as good an effect as it has here to-night. (Applause.)
Mr. W. J. HILL then sang the "Marseillaise" in fine style, after which
Mr. SALMON, ex-Governor of the State of Wisconsin, made a brief speech in support of the spirit of the meeting.
JOHN MITCHELL and STEWART L. WOODFORD next spoke, and the meeting closed at a late hour.