

St. Domingo and Cuba—Popular Movements in New York.

Two assemblages in this city on Friday evening indicate strongly the current of public sentiment with regard to the West Indies and American policy there. We refer to the public meeting at the Cooper Institute calling for the ratification of the treaty for the annexation of St. Domingo, and the banquet at De Montico's in honor of General Jordan, late commander-in-chief of the patriot army of Cuba.

The meeting at the Cooper Institute was called by a number of our prominent citizens, and many of them were present. Among these were Moses H. Grinnell, Prosper M. Wetmore, Moses Taylor, A. K. Garrison and others. General Banks and Congressman Fitch were there and addressed the meeting. The resolutions adopted show the object. They state that in the judgment of the meeting the treaty pending before the Senate for the acquisition of territory in the island of St. Domingo is a measure of vast consequence to the commerce and for naval purposes of the United States. They declare that the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, which wash the shores of American territory and connect the landlocked seas with the Southern Atlantic Ocean, are essentially a portion of the great geographical system by which the hand of nature has offered protection to the national interests and honor of this Continent. They assert the necessity and duty of the American government to exercise a control over these waters. They show that the natural resources of St. Domingo are most abundant and valuable, and that they would add to our staples more products of prime necessity and largely increase our commerce. They conclude by saying that the meeting earnestly recommends the ratification of the treaty recently made for the acquisition of territory in the island of St. Domingo. The whole tenor of the speeches delivered by General Banks, Mr. Fitch, Mr. Grinnell and others was in support of the views expressed in the resolutions.

One of the most striking facts relative to this public meeting is that General Banks, the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, should have come from Washington to participate in the proceedings. Are we to understand that there is or has been such determined opposition to the St. Domingo treaty in the Senate that the administration, in connection with the chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, is led to the alternative of appealing to public sentiment? It has that appearance. We know General Grant earnestly desires the ratification of the treaty, and General Banks is in full sympathy with him. Yet the Senate—a republican Senate—a Senate with a large majority belonging to the administration party—objects to the treaty. This is a remarkable state of things. It is not less remarkable that the administration appeals to public opinion, though gratifying to know that there is so much faith in and respect for the voice of the people. But the question naturally arises, what is the secret of the determined opposition of the Senate? It has been said there is some job at the bottom of the St. Domingo treaty. Probably there is. Some of the parties who have been and are most active in the matter are old filibustering schemers. But is there ever a question of territorial purchase or acquisition without a job—without there being certain parties who will make money from it? The wheels of government in this country would be stopped if we waited till there could be no jobs. It is a great evil, no doubt, but shall we refuse to do a great and good thing in the interest of the country because of some incidental benefit to private parties?

The President, in his far-seeing patriotism, looks only to great results. His object in the St. Domingo treaty is to extend the power and commerce of the United States throughout the West Indies. For this he ignores all trifling or smaller questions. He desires the acquisition of St. Domingo because it will give us a fine naval station in the Antilles and make this country the dominant Power over the whole region of the Gulf and Caribbean Sea; because it will increase our staple products, enlarge our commerce and revive our depressed shipping interests, and because it will bring to us within a short time Cuba, that most productive and most valuable of all the islands in the West Indies. This is really a statesmanlike policy, and it is surprising that the Senate does not comprehend it. As to any objection that may be raised to the enlargement or increase of our negro or mixed population by such acquisitions, that is very shortsighted. The overwhelming white population of this country will always control and make useful the other races that may be annexed. The destiny of the United States to incorporate and rule the West Indies is inevitable. Any attempt to arrest this is inimical to our interests and must fail in the end.

The acquisition of Cuba, after all, is the important object, and that seems to be the leading thought with General Grant, although the administration has acted strangely toward the Cubans and has put St. Domingo first. At the meeting referred to at the Cooper Institute the mention of Cuba by the speakers aroused the greatest applause. The hearts of the American people are with the Cubans in their heroic struggle to throw off the yoke of Spain. The great value of Cuba to the United States is well understood also. It was evident that Cuba was first in the mind of that audience, though all desired the acquisition of St. Domingo. Cuba is within cannon sound, almost, of the United States, has a large commerce, populous cities, railroads and telegraphs, an immense production of articles that enter into the trade of this country and the world, has splendid and numerous harbors in which the navies of all nations could ride and be sheltered, and a large and industrious population. Cuba commands both the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, and in the hands of the United States would dominate the whole of the West Indies, Central America and the northern portion of South America. Though the President goes in a roundabout sort of way to get this splendid island he is right in this object and should be sustained by the Senate. Let us have St. Domingo first, then, and Cuba will follow in a short time.

The banquet in honor of General Jordan brought out some facts about the Cuban strug-

gle not generally known. General Jordan had a year's experience in that war. He is a brave, skilful and thoughtful officer. He has no doubt of the Cubans succeeding in obtaining their independence, though the struggle may be long. No country has greater means of defence and the patriots can exhaust the military resources of Spain. The desire for independence among the native population is universal, and they show it by brave deeds wherever they can. General Jordan asserts, contrary to his former opinions, that both the negroes and Chinese laborers fight bravely for the freedom of the island and against the Spaniards. All the Cubans want are arms and ammunition, and with these he feels sure the Spaniards will be driven from Cuba. The administration has said that these can be shipped as articles of trade if no organized expeditions are sent out in violation of the neutrality laws. Here, then, is the opportunity for the American people to aid the cause of republican liberty in Cuba. Send these? Yes; let every man who has a gun to spare or a dollar for ammunition contribute to this noble cause and Cuba will be independent and a part of the United States within a short time. With St. Domingo and Cuba in our possession a great stimulus will be given to our commerce, and the rest of the Antilles will soon follow the destiny of these two magnificent islands.