

## FEEDING THE "LION."

### Dinner Tendered to the Ex-Consul at Santiago de Cuba by Prominent Citizens.

The annexed correspondence between Mr. A. E. Phillips, late Consul at Santiago de Cuba, and certain well known city officials will explain itself:—

NEW YORK, May 24, 1870.

A. E. PHILLIPS, Ex-Consul of the United States at Santiago de Cuba:—

SIR—Learning of your arrival in this city, and appreciating, as American citizens, the efforts made by you to protect the rights of your countrymen and the honor of our flag in the Island of Cuba, we, the undersigned, respectfully invite you to meet us at a dinner in this city at such time as may suit your convenience. We tender this invitation for the purpose of assuring you that the efforts of a public officer who in time of difficulty and danger does not forget his responsibility for the trusts committed to him, especially when those trusts involve the national honor and the lives and safety of American citizens, cannot be regarded with indifference by his countrymen at home. It is true that in your case your efforts were ineffectual, and that American blood was shed despite your protest, and that the faithful performance of your duties brought upon you injury, ill treatment and the humiliating necessity of seeking the protection of a foreign flag; but, for all this, the responsibility rests not with you. We hope you will be pleased to accept this invitation at such time as will suit your convenience.

We are, respectfully, your obedient servants,

A. Oakley Hall, M. T. McMahon, William Fullerton, John A. Kennedy, Samuel J. Tilden, Homer A. Nelson, John Fitch, Gilson J. Tucker, Charles K. Graham, John K. Hackett, William M. Tweed, George G. Barnard, Salmon Skinner, and others.

The following was received in reply to the above, dated at the Brevoort House:—

A. OAKLEY HALL AND GENTLEMEN:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your complimentary letter inviting me to a public dinner, in testimony of my services as Consul at Santiago de Cuba. I return to you my most sincere thanks for your kind attention, and regret that, owing to the necessity of my proceeding, without delay, to Washington, I am obliged to decline your kind invitation for the present. Respecting my services in behalf of my countrymen, I can only add that I could not, as an American citizen, look with indifference upon the manner in which our flag was lately insulted; I could not remain passive when our countrymen were being assassinated, by order of the Spanish authorities, who denied them a trial in spite of my protests being offered to them of having made any breach of international law. If I have been compelled to fly for safety from my post of duty and seek protection under a foreign flag it was because no attention was paid to my frequent requests to our own government that, for the lives of our countrymen and the protection of our consulate, a vessel of war should be sent to the port of Santiago de Cuba. I hope that now, as our government has repeatedly thanked me for the faithful discharge of my duties, it will support me in my embarrassing situation.

Therefore, gentlemen, I have the honor to remain your obedient servant,

A. E. PHILLIPS,

ex-Acting Consul at Santiago de Cuba.