

South American Coalition Against Spain.

The republic of Colombia has long since shown its unmistakable sympathy with the struggling people of Cuba. At an early stage of the revolution the Colombian government, as if responding to the desires of its people, recognized the Cuban movement, and thus gave it its moral support. Peru was also early in recognizing the aspirations of the Cubans in their struggle for independence. Others of the South and Central American republics heartily prayed for the freedom of Cuba from Spanish rule. Beyond sympathy, however, in the cause of the patriots no active steps were taken to render them active aid. At length Colombia, as if desirous of being foremost in the van, again took up the Cuban question, and on the 17th of last month in the House of Representatives there was passed a bill which, if concurred in by the Senate, will prove equivalent almost to a declaration of war against Spain. The enthusiasm of the Colombian members of Congress on the passage of the bill was most unanimous, and showed plainly that Spanish rule on the isthmus has not been forgotten. The act of Colombia is evidently an independent one. It may be, however, that the government has assurances that other of the Central and South American republics have signified their willingness to enter into a compact against Spanish power in the Antilles. Be this as it may, all that was wanted was some government to lead and others would be no way slow to follow. Judging from the recent act of Colombia that republic is willing to set the example. The following is a *resumé* of the bill passed in the House of Representatives, and will serve to show the determination of the Colombians:

1. The cause for which Cuban patriots fight is the same for which Colombia fought incessantly from 1810 to 1824.

2. The interests of self-preservation, and our duty as a civilized and Christian nation, justify in the most complete manner Colombian intervention.

3. The aggressions of monarchical Europe against the liberty and independence of America always have had and will have for a base Spanish dominion in Cuba.

4. The policy of the United States cannot serve as a guide to Colombia in this occasion.

5. The resources we may need for this war are not beyond our means.

6. The time has arrived that Colombia should assume in the politics of South America the position to which she is called by her topographical situation, her historical traditions, her population and her political conquests.

This is bold and unmistakable language, and was evidently not put forward without thought and preparation. The fifth article of the bill says that, "The resources we may need for this war are not beyond our means." Whatever may be said of the wisdom of the measure, there can be but one view regarding its sincerity or its independence. Free Cuba has at length found an ally, a sincere, frank, independent ally—one who knows what it is to suffer for long years the cruel oppression of the Power that draws its sustenance from Cuba, but who now enjoys the privileges of a free government and liberal institutions. It is the desire that Cuba should enjoy similar advantages that no doubt impels Colombia to take the step just taken. The action of the other Spanish American republics will be looked forward to with anxiety. We know Spain has not many admirers on the isthmus or in South America. Colombia has shown a promptitude, determination and an independence worthy of a free people, and challenges our admiration by the bold and chivalrous manner in which her countrymen express their sympathy for a kindred and a suffering people.