

SWORD PRESENTATION TO GEN. QUESADA.

Last evening about five hundred Cubans gathered in Irving Hall to witness the presentation of a sword to the Cuban General Quesada. The hall was appropriately decorated with the Cuban and American flags, and presented a beautiful appearance. Mrs. Hernandez and Mrs. Villaverda presided, and the latter, in a short and appropriate speech in Spanish, presented the sword to the General.

She said:—"We, the exile Cubans, do not congregate here to lay the laurel wreath of victory on the lucky leader's brow. Vainly would patriotism shorten that glorious moment, but a great many bloody battles, a good deal of noble blood, a world of sacrifices and effort separate us from it. Happy those who will survive to the final triumph. As for myself, I may say that if God would grant me such a glorious boon I would esteem it the happiest moment of my life.

But that is not now the point. We come here together to express openly how much we appreciate the service done to our country by General Quesada in one year of continuous fighting against the ferocious Spaniards. We want to encourage him to new deeds of valor and patriotism, and with this token of our admiration and appreciation for his many public virtues we want to give him beforehand an idea of how much he has to expect from a grateful people when he shall have achieved the freedom of Cuba, a work he has commenced with so much energy and enthusiasm.

The sword of honor which the Cuban ladies present through me to you is not a reward bestowed upon you for your courage and services alone, but it is the bond of union of the Cubans here to the Cubans of our beloved country, who, we know, are waiting for their honored chief that he may lead them again to victory. With this sword I do not doubt for a moment but that the General will cut asunder once and forever the chain of infamy with which the most despotic and cruel of nations has kept us down for more than three centuries.

It is because we trust and believe as much in General Quesada that we put this sword into his hands, where it will become, we doubt not, a sword of fire to the common enemy, and for the people of Cuba a sword of justice and right.

General Quesada responded in a few remarks, during which he said he thanked the Cuban ladies of New York, from the bottom of his heart, for the handsome and substantial token of their esteem; and he assured them that he should make every effort in his power to comply with their wishes and gain the independence of his beloved land.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm displayed during the entire meeting, and both speakers were frequently interrupted by the applause of the audience.