

By  
Appleton Oaksmith  
London 1874

THE COSMOPOLITAN.

CUBA—1873.

Oh! for a champion's sword and skill,  
Oh! for a Roland's heart and will,  
To rise for Cuba's cause!

Why stand we dumb and idly by?  
Can we, who fought for Liberty,  
Thus tamely see her martyrs die,  
And in our duty pause?

Great God forbid! our country's fate  
Is not on idle forms to wait  
When Freedom's martyrs call.  
Our great Republic's chief must dare  
To listen to the victims' prayer,  
And show the world "our flag is there"  
When patriot heroes fall.

We know no sovereignty of birth,  
We know no sovereignty but worth,  
And a free people's will.

Shall we our birthright now deny,  
Unpitying hear the martyrs' cry,  
And prove our flag a "flaunting lie,"  
When Freedom struggles still?

Away with policy, when right  
Is fighting its eternal fight  
With slavery and wrong.  
Freedom is not a compromise,  
Beneath diplomacy she dies;  
Let us, my countrymen, be wise—  
Be wise as we are strong.

Wisdom alone hath made us free,  
Taught us eternal truths to see,  
To suffer and to dare.  
Shall we, then, from our duty shrink?  
No! break the slaves' last torturing link;  
And snatch poor Cuba from the brink  
Of her extreme despair.

Let no vain talk of struggling Spain  
Blot out the records of the slain  
On Cuba's nameless fields.  
For fifty years her sons have fought,  
For fifty years have toiled and wrought,  
For fifty years their children taught  
That Freedom never yields!

Leave Spain to Spain—poor Cuba, free,  
Cannot affect her destiny,  
Believe who can in Spain.  
A thousand years cannot efface  
Her wrongs to Cuba's gentle race—  
Their sufferings and her disgrace,  
Their glory and her stain.

Send forth the ships; the appointed time  
Has come to punish Spanish crime—  
The bye-word of the world.  
Open the ranks, unsheath the sword,  
"Virginia" be the battle-word,  
And where her victims' blood was poured  
Let Freedom's fires be hurled!

Langham Hotel, Nov. 22nd, 1873.

Written by Appleton Oaksmith  
late of Hollywood, Carolina.  
C. W. Carolina

Appleton Oaksmith Papers, Duke University Library