

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

It will be remembered that some time since, on the motion of General Banks, of Massachusetts, the United States Congress passed its resolution in favor of the belligerent rights and the recognition of Cuba. This Government, it is true, was then, and still is, at peace with Spain. But Spain herself had dissolved the bands of her then Government. Her people had deposed their Queen. And that Queen had acquiesced in that deposition, by abandoning her realms and becoming a fugitive on the soil of France.

Upon this event, it is therefore plain that the old Government had ceased, and that all rights had been legally remitted back into the hands of each people, thus released from their allegiance to arrange and determine their new conditions for the future. The people of Spain proper, under the arms and dictation of their Provisional Government, resolved for another Monarchy. This was their right. It admits of serious doubt whether this decision was free or forced. But one thing is clear, that it was perfectly competent, in this condition of affairs, for the people of Cuba to determine and establish their own relations for the future. With the deposition of ISABELLA all political ties were disrupted.

Each people, who had formerly acknowledged her allegiance, were without any ties of Government, for these had been dissolved, and they alone were competent and authorized to establish their political condition for the future. The moment the allegiance to the Queen was destroyed, that moment every one of her provinces and people were without government, and each had the equal and unqualified right to establish their political relations. And this doctrine is so plain as certainly to need no comment. And this is precisely what Cuba did. ISABELLA had been their sovereign, but she had been forced to abdicate her throne and rule. This gone, and the government went back to the people. And no government in the future could be formed without their assent and approval. And in regard to this statement of the question there can be no dissent.

Whether it be advisable for the people of Cuba to form a separate and independent republic, or whether it was not for their interests to form a portion of the new monarchy, is another entirely for them. With this we can have no concern. The past and the present have been dissolved. It is for them, and them alone, to settle and determine their own destinies. The revolution in Spain dissolved all bonds. It was the creation of a new state of affairs. There was no longer a Queen, and no longer a monarchy. The people were supreme. The cessation of the monarchy put an end to the allegiance of the past.

Government came back to the people as in an original state of society. These were changed with their own destiny. No man, or body of men, whether in Spain or elsewhere, had any control over it, except each particular people of themselves. Any other control, it is plain, is merely that of the usurper. We must confess, therefore, we cannot understand upon what principle, either of international law, right or justice, Spain in her present condition, can claim any sovereignty or supremacy over the affairs of the people of Cuba.

If the revolution left the people of Spain free from all allegiance to ISABELLA, it dissolved not only their, but the political bands of all alike. And, therefore, the people of Cuba had as clear a right to determine for themselves their own future as the inhabitants of Spain.

If Cuba desires a Monarchy so it so. If she prefers a Republic, this is equally her right and her title. And to this unbiased and free choice, she is entitled, if the principle is any more than a myth, that all governments rest upon the "consent of the governed." We are disagreeing now, not what form of government Cuba should choose, but the inherent and inalienable right of her people to resolve this question alone for themselves. It was only in January last, that President Grant stated to General Banks, that "he had no hesitation in expressing his sympathy in the cause of the patriots in Cuba, and that they would always find in him a personal well wisher, who would be glad to hear of their success."

The resolution in the Congressional House of Representatives in affirmation of this view, was passed by a recorded vote of 108 in its favor to only 23 in the negative. It was not a party vote, because the Democrats themselves were nearly equally divided. It is sufficient that there is, to say the least, a division among the people of Cuba, to show their dissent to the rule of Spain. Ever since the revolution in Spain, and the deposition of Queen ISABELLA, the people of Cuba have insisted on the right of Cubans to create and form new relations for the future. And this right they have maintained by force in the field, heretofore unsustained, while their opponents have been in the main troops, and munitions of war, brought into their midst by the authorities of Spain, who have no other title to their own existence but that of revolution.

General Grant here has clearly gone back upon his own record. The gunboats built in New York, beyond all doubt, for the suppression of Cuban independence, have been released. So far as General Grant in his actions are concerned, the Government has delivered over Cuba, to the extent of its ability, to the dominion of Spain. And this may lead to its final conquest and subjugation.

But the fact still remains that Spain can claim no more title over Cuba than ISABELLA can over Spain. The late revolution swept away both claims. And their future Government and destiny is a matter alone legally for each people interested to resolve for themselves.