

A New Independent Government Definitely Organized—Carlos Manuel Cespedes Elected President.

Information of the highest importance is just received from Cuba by the steamship Columbia. It is to the effect that the Republic of Cuba has been formally established by a Congress held at Guaimaro, a small town in the Central Department of the island, about twenty leagues east of Puerto Principe. The intelligence is dated Nuevitaa, May 11, and runs as follows:

Establishment of the Patriot Government.

The Cubans have established a Government at Guaimaro, with Carlos Manuel Cespedes as President; Francisco V. Aguilera, Vice President, Secretary of State and War; Pedro Figuereda, Assistant Secretary of War, and General Manuel Quesada, Commander-in-Chief of all the forces. They have put aside all party dissensions and seem determined hereafter to act in an orderly manner and with essential organization. The Cuban Legislature conducted their proceedings with great unanimity, and, as you have been advised, passed an act for annexation to the United States.

Address of Cespedes on Resigning His Provisional Authority.

To the Inhabitants and the Liberating Army of the Eastern and Western Departments—Fellow-citizens and Soldiers of the Fatherland: The course of events, which I have never distrusted, without giving a view as to our revolution—a revolution which is to-day what it was yesterday and will be to-morrow, the constant aspiration of the people of Cuba for independence, brought to the field of actual existence—leads me to-day willingly by the hand before the legal representatives of the Cuban people, to restore to their hands the double authority with which my good fortune, circumstances, and your bountiful confidence had clothed me, those of General-in-Chief of the Eastern and Western Departments, and Chief of your Provisional Government.

Now that the House of Representatives, gathered from all parts of the island, has been happily inaugurated in Guaimaro, it becomes from the moment of its organization the supreme and only authority for all Cubans, because it constitutes the depository of the people's will, sovereign of the present and controller of the future. All temporary power and authority ceases to have a rightful voice in Cuba from the very moment in which the wise democratic system, laying its solid foundations beneath the gigantic shadow of the tree of liberty, has come to endow us, after suffering the most iniquitous rule, with the most beautiful and magnificent of human institutions—a republican government.

Unfeigned gratitude I owe to the destiny which afforded me the glory of being the first in Yara to raise the standard of independence, and the still greater, though less merited satisfaction, to see crowded around me my fellow-citizens in demand of liberty, thus sustaining my weak arm and stimulating my poor efforts by their confidence. But another glory was reserved to me, far more grateful to my sentiments and democratic convictions—that of also being the first to render homage to the popular sovereignty.

This duty fulfilled, having given an account to the fatherland, in its most genuine representation, of the work which, with the assistance of its own heroic sons, I had the good fortune to have commenced, it still behooves me, fellow-citizens, to fulfil another, not less imperious to my heart, of addressing my gratitude to you; to you, without whom my humble, isolated efforts would not have produced other fruit than that of adding one patriot more to the number of preceding martyrs for independence—to you who recognizing in me the principle rather than the man, came to stimulate me by your recognition of myself as chief of the provisional Government and liberating army.

Fellow-citizens of the Eastern Department: Your efforts as initiators of the struggle against tyranny, your constancy, your sufferings, your heroic sacrifices of all descriptions, your privations, the combat without quarter which you have sustained and continue to sustain against an enemy far superior in armament and discipline, and who displays, for want of the valor which a good cause inspires, all the ferocity which is the attribute of tyranny, have been witnessed by myself, and so will remain eternally present to my heart. Ye are the vanguard of the soldiers of our liberties. I commend you to the admiration and to the gratitude of the Cubans. Continue your abnegation of self, your discipline, your valor, and your enthusiasm, which will entitle you to that gratitude and that admiration.

Fellow-citizens of the Western Department: If it has not been your good fortune to be the first in grasping arms, neither were you among the last in listening to the voice of the fatherland that cried for revolution. Your moral aid and assistance responded from the very onset to the call of your brethren of the Eastern and Central Departments. Many of you hastened to the scene of revolution to share our labors. At this moment, despite the activity displayed by the Spanish Government in your districts, where its resources and the number of their hosts render more difficult the current of the revolution, that same Government trembles before your determined attitude, from the **Cinco Villas** to Havana, and from Havana to the western boundary, and your first deeds of arms were the presage to you, and the brave and worthy sons of the Eastern and Central Departments, of new and decisive triumphs.

Fellow-Citizens of all the Island: The blood of the patriots who have fallen during the first onset of the struggle has consecrated our aspirations with a glorious baptism. At this moment, when destiny has been pleased to close the mission of him who was your first leader, swear with him, by that generous blood, that, in order to render fruitful that great sacrifice, you will shed your own, till the very last drop, in furtherance of the consummation of our independence, proclaimed in Yara. Swear with me to give up our lives a thousand times over in sustaining the republic proclaimed in Guaimaro.

Fellow-citizens: Long live our independence! Long live the popular sovereignty! Long live the Cuban Republic! *Patria* and liberty!

CARLOS MANUEL DE CESPEDES.

Guaimaro, April 10, 1869

Proclamation of President Cespedes.

To the People of Cuba:

COMPATRIOTS: The establishment of a free government in Cuba, on the basis of democratic principles, was the most fervent wish of my heart. The effective realization of this wish has, therefore, enough to satisfy my aspirations and amply repay the services which, jointly with you, I may have been able to devote to the cause of Cuban independence. But the will of my compatriots has gone far beyond this, by investing me with the most honored of all duties—the supreme magistracy of the Republic.

I am not blind to the great labors required in the exercise of the high functions which you have placed in my charge in these critical moments, notwithstanding the aid that may be derived from other powers of the State. I am not ignorant of the grave responsibility which I assume in accepting the Presidency of our new-born republic. I know that my weak powers would be far from being equal to the demand if left to themselves alone.

But this will not occur, and that conviction fills me with faith in the future.

In the act of beginning the struggle with the oppressor Cuba has assumed the solemn duty to consummate her independence or perish in the attempt; and in giving herself a democratic government she obligates herself to become republican.

This double obligation, contracted in the presence of free America, before the liberal world, and, what is more, before our own conscience, signifies our determination to be heroic and to be virtuous.

Cubans! on your heroism I rely for the consummation of our independence, and on your virtue I count to consolidate the republic.

You may count on my abnegation of self.

CARLOS MANUEL DE CESPEDES.

Guaimaro, April 11, 1869.