

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE.

Anniversary of the Cuban Fourth of July.

The Flag Saluted in the City Hall Park.

Enthusiasm of the Cubans and Their Friends—Serious Accident to a Gunner—Meetings in the Evening.

In accordance with the order of the Central Republica Junta of Cuba and Porto Rico, yesterday the formal celebration of the anniversary of the Cuban declaration of independence took place in this City. The 16th of October, 1868, marks the commencement of the Cuban Republic, and is looked upon by the Cuban patriots as a day to be forever honored by them. The anniversary proper occurring on Sunday this year necessitated the postponement of the festivities until yesterday. At early morn the Cuban national emblem was hoisted on many buildings on Broadway and other of our principal streets. In the afternoon the Cuban flag was hoisted in the City Hall Park, and fifty guns fired, and a public meeting was held at the Cooper Institute in the evening. The ceremonies in the City Hall Park were postponed until after the hour at which the funeral services of Ex-President PIERCE were to take place. Long before the hour appointed for hoisting the Cuban flag and firing a salute, crowds of Cubans and their American friends gathered in the Park, and at 4 o'clock the balcony of the City Hall was thronged by the members of the Junta and a large number of the dark-eyed daughters of the Queen of the Antilles. On the steps beneath was stationed a band of music, and on the grass plat directly behind the burlesque statue of WASHINGTON, stood a brass cannon, with which a salute of one hundred rounds was to be fired. When all was ready, at 4:30 o'clock, two silk Cuban flags were raised from the corner of the balcony, the first gun was fired, and the band struck up "Hail Columbia." Then, amid the loud *bras* of the Cubans and the lusty hurrahs of their American friends, the flags fluttered in the breeze and the ladies waved their handkerchiefs.

ACCIDENT TO A GUNNER.

In the midst of the general rejoicing, and while every eye was fixed upon the occupants of the balcony, a horrible accident occurred to one of the gunners, NANDRUS MUNN, a member of the Fifth New-York Artillery. Fifty rounds had been fired from the piece, which was very hot, but from this there was no danger to be apprehended if competent gunners served the gun. However, MUNN was in the act of ramming home a charge of powder when a premature discharge took place, and blew off his right hand and a portion of the forearm. The man whose duty it was to cover the touchhole with a thumb-pad, to prevent any possibility of the passage of a current of air through the chamber of the gun, which would fan into fire the smouldering particles of the former cartridge left therein, neglected to do so properly, thus causing the very thing he was there to guard against. The unfortunate sufferer was immediately taken to the City Hall Police Station, where a physician who happened to be on the ground dressed his wound. He was then removed to the City Hospital, the attendant surgeon of which, Dr. LAKE, said that immediate amputation was necessary. The poor man bore up bravely under his misfortune. It is said that a piece of ramrod some two or three feet long flew over the Post Office fence and buried itself in the bank where some laborers were digging.

Mass Meeting at Cooper Institute—Speeches by Signora Lemus, Agramonte, Palma, Valiente, and Messrs. Duggan, Kent, Sullivan and Liddy.

A mass meeting was held last evening in the Cooper Institute to celebrate the anniversary of Cuban independence. A very large audience was present, composed, in good part, of Cuban refugees now stopping in this City. There was also a fair representation of Cuban ladies, many of whom occupied seats upon the stage. The hall was decorated with the American and Cuban colors and banners inscribed with the names of Céspedes, S. Cisneros, General Quesada, Aguilera, Figueredo, J. Agramonte, F. Cavada, Jordan, Marmol, Peralta, Garcia, H. Castillo, A. Castillo, A. Cavada, S. Fernandez, and a host of other Cuban patriots.

Signor MORALES LEMUS, Minister of the Cuban revolutionists to the United States presided, and made a brief introductory speech in Spanish, stating the objects of the meeting.

He was followed by Mr. DUGGAN, who read from manuscript an oration of some length, extolling the efforts of the Cuban patriots and criticising the conduct of the Administration in hesitating to grant them belligerent rights. He said that a year had passed and gone since the first sound of war and the first cry for freedom emanated from Cuba, and she had conquered in the face of hostile Europe and indifferent America. They had borne with unflinching fortitude the vacillating policy of the Administration. As one loving liberty and justice, and as one hating tyranny, he would ask the Executive whether his policy was in strict accordance with the principles of liberty and justice always enunciated by the Constitution and upheld and promulgated by the inhabitants. Spain stood as one of the nations first and foremost in upholding tyranny, and Cuba, desiring to be free and untrammelled, was exalting her ancient foundations, and was now heaving in the throes of revolution. Spain has declared her doom, "Death to the Creole, slavery to the black." Cuba, in her conflict and trial, appealed to the God of battles and to the civilization of the age, and she will fight on with unwavering fortitude. In the face of all these demonstrations and in the face of the accounts received from the Island of Cuba, no Senator or Representative of high or low degree could doubt or could deny that Cuba was as entitled to recognition as any nation fighting for liberty, and that man who would in the face of all these things turn back or attempt to betray the cause was a traitor steeped in crime blacker than AK-NOLD'S. Cuba was once down-trodden, but was now struggling for the right, and they were gathered to-night to discuss the governmental policy. In the name of liberty, in which their fathers periled their lives and their property, he denounced the withholding of the recognition of the Cubans as shameful and unstatesmanlike. It was not the opinion or the voice of the American people that sanctioned this policy. When the voice of the people is once fairly heard within the portals of the capital the Executive must move. There were many questions in this matter to be considered. The soldier whom they had placed at the head of governmental power, and whom they honored for the part he took in the cause of liberty, is now treating the sufferings of Cuba as if they were a delusion. She asks for belligerent rights and for justice, and none can deny her, and she stands invincible in her cause. In the progress of the race they had made the first move on the plane, and they would yet attain to the lofty height. The wheels of revolution will not come backward, but will steadily progress. The battle-blade was unsheathed, and the warrior was moving forward to preserve the rights and liberties of fair Cuba. It was their bounden duty to guard the rights of those struggling in the cause of liberty. He would tell Spain that murder and rapine, bars and bolts, will not debar Cuba from attaining her rights or arrest the chariot of freedom. Do you know what Spanish cruelty means? It is to plunge the knife in the victim's breast which is mercy, and sending the crashing bullet through the brain is charity, and unless the United States step in and close the affray or urge her voice in the interests of humanity, the world will yet be startled by a second Bartholomew. He knew he should not appeal in vain to them for justice and for consideration. For the first time in the history of the world was the black and white man banded together fighting for the cause, and there was perfect unanimity between all classes of the patriots.

During the delivery of the above address, the speaker was frequently interrupted with loud and continuous applause.

Major KENT congratulated the Cuban patriots upon the success which had attended their efforts. On the 22d of February, when Spain threw off the yoke of ISABELLA, then it was the time and proper opportunity for Cuba to throw the yoke off also. It was for Cuba to say whether she would go hand-in-hand with Spain, as she had heretofore done, or pursue an independent path. According to national law Cuba does not owe allegiance to the power or rule of Spain. [Hear, hear.] It was not possible, as circumstances testified, for Spain to govern herself. The Government at Washington claimed to be the voice of the people, and yet why was it silent?

The next speaker was Signor FRANCISCO AGRAMONTE, who addressed the audience briefly in Spanish.

Major KENT, of the County Clerk's office, in this City, then read a letter of congratulation and

sympathy from the Cuban Junta in Philadelphia to their brethren in New-York.

Signor JOAQUIN PALMA next spoke in Spanish, and was followed by Mr. ALGERNON SULLIVAN, who said that the American colonists did not make as much progress during the first twelve months of their struggle for independence as the Cubans had during the last twelve months; nor did they during that time enlist the sympathies of the world to the extent that the Cubans have done. The large audience before him presented the best evidence that the Cuban cause was a growing cause. The people of America did not sympathize with Cuba because they hated Spain; it was because they loved Spain, and desired that she and all other nations of the earth should become free and independent and establish a republican Government in her own borders. He contrasted the present condition of the Cubans with that of the early followers of the "lone star" of Texas, and closed by expressing the hope that as the Texas star had become one of the bright constellations inscribed on the American banner, so would the lone star of Cuba ere long join this same bright galaxy, and become one of the brightest and happiest of the American States.

Mr. SULLIVAN'S speech was greeted with enthusiastic applause, the closing part receiving not the least hearty indorsement of the audience.

Signor AMBROSIO VALIENTE then made a brief speech in Spanish, and was followed by D. R. LYDEY in English.

A resolution of thanks to the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of this City, for the sympathy they have extended to the Cuban cause, was then adopted, and after one or two more brief speeches in Spanish the meeting adjourned.

Cuban Ladies' Reunion.

The anniversary of Cuban independence was pleasantly commemorated at No. 139 Second-avenue last evening, where a reunion of Cuban ladies took place. The visitors were received by Señora SOLEDAD ZAVAS CASTELLANO and Señora MERCEDES DE SHERMAN.

The Spanish Gunboats—Trial Trip of No. 1.

The Spanish gunboat No. 1, a description of which has been published in the Times, left the Delamater Basin, at the foot of West Thirteenth-street, yesterday morning at 10:50, to go on her second trial trip up the Hudson River. On board were Captain D'ARRAGON, Chief of the Spanish Commission; Señor ABASCADA, a chief engineer in the Spanish navy; Mr. J. D. VANDEUSEN, Superintendent of the carpentering department; several other Spanish gentlemen, with Mr. C. E. REYNOLDS and Captain P. E. ROWLANDS, of Mystic, Conn. The vessel was laden with pig iron to make her draft of water equal to four feet eleven inches, which it will be when she has crew, provisions and armament on board. No opposition to her going was offered by the Government steamer *Maria*, which has been watching the movements of the gunboats for some time back. She steamed slowly up the river to Spuyten Duyvil Creek, from which point to Piermont, a distance of ten nautical miles by the United States survey, she made in one hour and two minutes. The average number of revolutions of her engine was 108, the highest 130. The speed required by the contract is ten miles an hour, which the No. 1 will easily accomplish when her machinery works less stiffly. She returned to her moorings at 4 P. M. The No. 1 is the only vessel completed at present. Nine others will be finished in a few weeks.

The Observance in Other Cities.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 11.—The Cuban Junta's headquarters in Arch-street are decorated with flags in honor of the anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

BAITIMORE, Oct. 11.—The first anniversary of the Cuban revolution was celebrated to-day by a procession and oration at Masonic Temple.