

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

The Cuban Exiles in Jamaica—Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence—Grand Banquet—Speech of a Cuban Patriot, and Reply of the American Consul—"Cuba Libre."

A grand banquet was given by the Cuban Club in the City of Kingston, Jamaica, on the evening of the 11th ultimo, in commemoration of the declaration of Cuban independence. Cards had been issued to a number of Jamaica residents, and a large and enthusiastic company assembled. In the course of the evening a Cuban gentleman of influence proposed "The United States of America." He said:

Europe was not large enough to contain its inhabitants till a place of refuge for the overplus had been discovered called America—a very large country, containing among other nations the United States, known also as the "land of the Stars and Stripes." So much had that great country improved that at the late Peace Congress, VICTOR HUGO had said that Europe was jealous of America. Such had been the growth of her improvement that the people of Europe would have to go there and learn of the Americans. He had the greater pleasure in proposing the toast on account of the efforts Americans had made in the cause of Cuba, for they had furnished many expeditions to aid them in their endeavors after liberty. Americans had asked their President if they were a free people, and, if so, why did he not send assistance to the people of that beautiful island—the key of the Gulf—who were struggling to be free? The President replied that they must wait; but the American people did not believe in that. It was the people who made the Government, and in a short time the Executive of the United States Government would be compelled, through the pressure from without, to recognize Cuban independence. Believing this will soon come about, Cubans can join heartily in drinking the toast proposed—the United States of America.

AARON GREGG, United States Consul, rose to respond. He thanked the previous speaker for the kind manner in which he had proposed the toast to his country. He did not intend to make a lengthy speech, but this he would say, if it would be any encouragement to his Cuban friends, that as sure as to-morrow comes Cuba would be free. The first act of Congress will be the recognition of the independence of Cuba. [Enthusiasm.] He was not now speaking from speculation or conjecture, but from certain knowledge of the American people. A few months ago he had assumed the responsibility of saying as much in the City of Kingston, knowing that he would be sustained. He knew the sentiments of the American people, and that they were one in regard to Cuban independence, and Americans were sure that Cubans would soon achieve their complete liberation. If the Cubans would become free from all other nationalities, the American people would prefer it; but if the Cubans should gain their independence without outside aid, and then thought fit to incorporate their star with the thirty-seven of the American constellation, the American people would be glad to receive them. [Loud applause.] He wished to encourage them. They had his sympathy. On a former occasion he had told them he would testify for them, and as far as his influence would go they might rely on it. Had it depended on him, they would have been acknowledged as an independent nation long ago. As an American he hoped to be President some day, [laughter;] but as far as in him lay they had, in the meantime, his strongest sympathies, and he was ready to help them in any way he could. He was not aware of their programme, but he desired the prosperity and independence of Cuba. The greater part of Cuba was held by Cubans, and to all intents and purposes they were showing they could sustain themselves. This might be looked upon as the first anniversary of their national existence, and he hoped they would be able to sustain it for centuries to come.

Later on, Mr. Consul GREGG proposed health, prosperity and success to the Cuban Club, and in replying to the toast, "England, the United States and Cuba," he said that he had not the slightest doubt that England was equally favorable with the United States to the cause of Cuban liberty. But while he had no doubt that Englishmen sympathize with Cuba, it was to Americans that Cubans naturally looked for support. The Americans are next-door neighbors to the Cubans, and therefore had it more in their power to give them material aid than any other nation, and they would be derelict were they to fail in doing so. The Cubans looked to Americans as their natural friends and allies. He hoped and would venture to say that the Cubans would not be deceived or look to them in vain. The Americans had sympathized with nation after nation in their struggles for political freedom, and if they looked to America for help and sympathy, it was but natural, because America had taken precedence in demanding and receiving sympathy from other nationalities; and as it was natural for them to look for that sympathy it was equally natural that it should be extended to others by them. He believed that neither England nor France would offer any obstacles to Americans giving material aid to Cuba, nor did he think Spain would get any assistance from these Powers against the struggling patriots of Cuba.

The assembly dispersed amid repeated cries of "Cuba Libre!"