

VIVA CUBA.

The Anniversary of Cuban Independence.

CELEBRATION AT COOPER INSTITUTE.

A Salute, Fireworks and Speeches.

Sunday was a day dear to every Cuban patriot's heart. On the 10th of October, 1868, the first blow of the present Cuban revolution was struck at Spanish dominion in the little town of Yara; and as the American heart glows with the memory of Lexington, so did Cuban bosoms thrill with patriotic pride on this, the first anniversary of their independence. When we remember the enthusiasm with which the people of the United States have annually celebrated the 4th day of July we can readily appreciate the zeal of the Cubans in this the first year of their republic, won on many a field no less bloody than those whose names shine upon our monuments of the Revolution. The Cubans in New York and other foreign lands in celebrating their country's birthday could point to a long and brilliant record of battles in the cause of liberty. The flag which they hoisted by the side of the Stars and Stripes had been baptized in the blood of a heroic people struggling for freedom; and in contemplating their ardor and devotion our minds are carried back to the days of our nation's infancy, when Americans fought in the same great cause, and won all the honor and glory we boast.

It is interesting, now that Cuba seems to be rid of her oppressors, to look back upon the repeated and fruitless efforts of her people to shake off the galling Spanish yoke. In 1819 the first patriotic movement was commenced by Felix Varela, a Professor of Philosophy in the Havana University. The secret operations of Varela and his associates were from time to time detected and frustrated until 1830, when another attempt on his part resulted in the execution of several of his party. In 1837 he renewed his efforts, but the result again proved unsuccessful, and Varela was exiled and died in the United States. Other Cuban patriots, including Juan Hernandez, the poet José Maria Heredia, Eusebio Placido and Valdez, an intimate friend of Varela's, lost their liberty and their lives in subsequent revolutionary attempts; and in 1850 the ill-fated Lopez added another to the already long list of executions for efforts to liberate the island.

Lopez landed at Cardenas, captured the city and held it twenty-four hours, but being compelled to abandon the place in August of the same year, he landed at Los Pinos and conducted a brilliant campaign of twenty-one days. Compelled to surrender, he capitulated upon terms of protection and free exit from Cuba, but the treacherous government violated its pledge and executed Lopez, his American leaders, including Crittenden and Keen, the Hungarian Generals Gutay and Prayag and a great number of men. Since the Lopez expedition numerous attempts at revolution have been made in Cuba and the adjacent islands, all having for their object the establishment of a Cuban republic; but in each case the leaders were either executed or exiled from their country. The revolution of 1868 commenced in the Eastern district of Cuba and spread with wonderful rapidity.

Céspedes, Lemus, Agramonte, Aguilero, the Claperos, the Quesadas, Hernandez, the Cavadas, Peralta, Castillo, Rubalcaba, Fesser, Piguero, Zambrana and hundreds of other wealthy, educated and prominent men in Cuba had been premeditating a revolution for years. Céspedes had already retired from Bayamo and active life to the seclusion of his sugar estate, the Demajagua plantation, near Manzanillo. On the 9th day of October, 1868, he was surrounded by Francisco Aguilera, of Bayamo; Julio Peralta, of Holguin; Rubalcaba, now Minister of Justice; Pedro Figueredo, of Bayamo, and 500 armed Cubans, some of whom were his own slaves whom he had liberated that same morning. After perfecting a hasty organization, they marched to Yara, nine miles distant, surprised the small Spanish garrison of twenty men, entered the plaza and raised the flag of revolution. From that small beginning the patriots soon made rapid and important advances, increasing their forces to about 30,000 men, and winning a number of hard fought battles, the most prominent of which are Bayamo, Baire, Caragan, Las Minas, El Rio Salado, Holguin, La Guaya, Maniabon, Gibara, El Ramon, Canaito, Guajala, Cabaña, San Miguel, Manati, Sabana Nueva, Puerto Padre, Barga, Ciego de Agulla, Santa Cruz, El Cobre, Yateras, Guisa, Puerto Principe, Moron, Jiguani, Jaguey Grande, Trinidad, Arriano, Las Tunas, Palma Soriano, Cauto and Arroyo Blanco.

The anniversary of Cuban independence occurring on Sunday, yesterday was appointed for celebrating the event in this city. The Cuban flag was displayed from many of the hotels and private residences, and at five o'clock a salute of 100 guns was fired in the City Hall Park. During the firing of the salute one of the men, named Nanbrod Munn, engaged in loading the guns, had his right hand blown off by a premature discharge. Dr. Lake attended to the wounded man and had him conveyed to his home, corner of Goerck and Third streets.

The meeting at Cooper Institute was a brilliant affair. The lecture hall was handsomely decorated with flags of the United States and Cuba, and wreaths of evergreens were twined about the pillars. The stage was occupied by the members of the Junta and other distinguished Cubans, and every portion of the apartment was densely crowded, the assemblage extending out into the passages. After the display of fireworks in front of the institute, Señor Lemus called the meeting to order, and in a very few words of allusion to the purpose of the meeting, introduced the first speaker, Mr. THOMAS DUGAN, who on coming forward was warmly received. He said:—The cause of Cuba is the cause of republican liberty wherever on the habitable globe men advocate the undying principles. Wherever peoples struggle to be free, no man claiming fraternity with his fellow men can stand aloof or remain indifferent in the contest waged in behalf of human rights. (Applause.) A year has come and gone and the Cuban patriot stands unconquered on his battle fields; nay, triumphant in the face of hostile Europe, and, shall I add, indifferent America. I know the spirit of my countrymen; their hearts are in the cause of Cuban independence; they have cheered the triumphant march of the gallant Céspedes and his patriot bands and the hesitating policy of the administration, exercised in defiance of the voice of Congress and the will of the American people. (Applause.) Before heaven Spain stands the guilty compeer of our national foes abroad. Her queen in exile, her ancient foundations heaving in the throgs of revolution. On the island of Cuba she has proclaimed her principles. She has declared her purpose—death to the creole, slavery to the black. Shall the flag of Spanish cruelty, shall the flag of extermination wave beneath the shadow of our starry banner—shall Cuban liberty be ground to powder under the invaders' feet? In the grandeur of an inspired purpose, in the last extremity of nations, Cuba appeals to the God of battles and the civilization of the age. Do you believe she will falter in the path of her appointed duty, or short of annihilation her patriot sons will compromise their birthright and their blood? If you do the apostasy of your natures will rise hereafter in judgment against you, and crushed beneath every honest foot will be your ignoble fate. The American, of native or foreign birth—be he President, Cabinet Minister, Senator or Representative, or private citizen, of high or low degree—who, in the battle of freedom against tyranny, of right against wrong, of humanity against savage barbarity, of Cuba against Spain, stands neutral or indifferent, is a traitor, so steeped in base ingratitude and damning selfishness that the crime of an American Arnold grows radiant in his detested presence. (Applause.) To every dungeon door of Cuban incarceration on the soil of this republic will I nail the protest of the free, and across every Cabinet order of arrest will I write the words of Virginia's patriot statesman, the inspired author of our immortal Declaration, who, deying the King and Parliament of England, and acknowledging alone the King of kings, declared that resistance to tyrants was obedience to God. (Applause.) In the name of liberty, for which our fathers perilled life, property and fame; in the name of Union, baptized in their children's blood; in behalf of the brotherhood of nations and the rights of man I protest against the inaction of official authority in withholding to this late hour the accordance of belligerent rights to the struggling nationality of Cuba. (Applause.) Congress has spoken; let the President execute. When the voice of the American people is heard at the portals of the capital action must characterize the Executive and his Cabinet. The Spanish Minister points to a neutrality his government long since violated, and asks our defence to its broken mandates, and the administration halt in the execution of Congressional purpose. The silence of the government in this momentous matter will end in shame and degradation. What raised the soldier to the seat of government power and honored him as the nation's choice but the same undying cause for which the Cubans fight to-day? (Applause.) The ground of Cuban liberty is as holy as the ground our fathers trod; and, believe me, the flowers that bloom on its bloody surface no Spanish gold can sell, no Castilian treachery can blight. (Applause.) Shall those who emulate the deeds of a Montgomery, a Lafayette, a Pulaski, a DeKalb and a Blueben steal from these free shores at midnight and, disguised, aid a people in throwing off the oppressive yoke? No atrocities, no treachery, no deceit can wear the creole from his holy cause. For the first time in the history of the world the black man and the white man are united in a common cause. Does any man doubt the success of such a combination? Fighting for their homes, for liberty, for their lives, what may they not achieve? Rather than that Cuba now shall fall in the holy cause of liberty we will trample the hollow treaty of Spain's deceitful neutrality beneath our feet. (Applause.) The speaker concluded by saying that the cause of Cuba had heaven's approving

smile; for in that island would be built the fabric of republican government, whose foundations would be laid in the eternal principles of universal freedom, cemented by the blood of her noble sons and consecrated by the sacrifices offered up on the altars of Cuban liberty in the name of the Great Jehovah and the rights of man. (Applause.)

Señor AGRAMONTE was then introduced and spoke in Spanish, of which following is a translation:—Fellow Citizens—When so many conspicuous American orators have advocated our holy cause in patriotic assemblies, when this illustrious people demonstrate to us their sympathies and offer us supplies it would be ingratitude not to express by appropriate acts the just tribute of our recognition. No day can be more solemn than this to manifest the grateful sentiment of the heart; for to-day the Cuban does not think, nor discuss, nor can he deceive—he only feels. Look to him for words, and you will only discover an anxious gaze and accumulated emotion which strives to break its restraint, but in his intelligent eye you may read in graphic conceptions, "Thanks, American people, noble and generous champions of liberty; thou givest me the affectionate hand of a brother to animate the spirit of my impulses and to assist me in breaking the chains of corruption, of despotism and slavery, with which the most ferocious of tyrants would oppress me." (Applause.) To you also, magnanimous Peru, heroic Mexico, illustrious Chile and valiant Bolivia, who have received us into national communion, and to all the other independent States of the American Continent who send us your sympathies in significant accents, we consecrate our thanks which in this solemn day rise with emotion from the soul. If we have lived for centuries under the ignominy of inquisition, under the halter of ignorance, and under the dominion of the most shameless of emperors, our instincts as republican sons of America have awakened and our soldierly pride has been aroused to cast off the rags of servitude and put on the majestic dress of sovereigns. What day is this which thus thrills the feelings, absorbs the mind and silences the voice of the Cubans? It is the anniversary of his glorious independence, the commemoration of an event without example in the history of oppressed people, and of an epic written in indelible characters by the sword of brave men to give to their brothers a country which they had not, and liberty, imprisoned until then in the chains of despotism. (Applause.) Country! liberty! Who can define the magic of those celestial, those harmonious and sublime accents? Who can measure the extent of their moral power over civilized man? Who has not contemplated your material influence even in the savage? Only to the Cuban was it denied to touch, or even think of reaching, those delicious fruits which by intuition he understood and desired in silence, and for which he suffered the horrible punishment of death if he presented himself at the splendid feast of American nationalities. Three centuries—almost four—has his martyrdom been endured; a dozen times has he sought relief from his torments, and as often has his generous blood flowed on the scaffold erected by his iron-hearted oppressors.

The speaker eloquently portrayed the sufferings and heroism of the Cuban army in the present struggle, and concluded with a brilliant peroration upon the sacrifices of the Cuban people in contributing aid to their cause. (Applause.)

Major KENT read a telegram received from Philadelphia and a cable despatch from Ireland, greeting the Cubans assembled. He also read a telegram from Judge Bloomaker, of Philadelphia, stating that engagements prevented him from participating in the anniversary which to every lover of liberty should have the reverence and respect of our national anniversary of independence.

The following was read from the Cuban Junta:—

Resolved, That we, the people of Cuba, together with such of us as are citizens of the United States, do hereby tender our heartfelt thanks to his Honor the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen and Assistant Aldermen, together with the people of New York, for the sympathy and assistance they have rendered in our struggle. May the just God return them, ere many days, the bread that they have cast upon the waters. America and Cuba—God and Liberty—one and eternal, forever. (Applause.)

Mr. ALGERNON O'SULLIVAN next addressed the meeting, and expressed his hope that the anniversary of Cuban independence would long continue to be celebrated.

Señors Meares, Bestanes, Valente, Palma, the pastor of the Spanish church, and others, delivered orations, which were loudly applauded.

Mr. DANIEL J. LEEDY then came forward and was introduced by Señor Lemus. His speech, which was very pointed and exceedingly eloquent, was greeted with loud and enthusiastic cheering. He was followed by the Rev. Father Kerrigan, Señor Enrique Pinedo, private secretary to Señor M. Lemus; Mr. J. H. Fellows, Señor Carlo Villaverde and Señor Raphael Pantoja, all of whom were most warmly received and whose spirit-stirring addresses were greeted with delight and earnest approbation. At intervals the band played martial and inspiring airs, which contributed not a little to the great and unflagging enthusiasm which throughout characterized the proceedings, which terminated shortly after ten o'clock.

A Cuban Martyr.

Theodore Munn, residing at the corner of Goerck and Third streets, had his right arm blown off by the premature discharge of a cannon in the City Hall Park yesterday afternoon during the celebration of the first anniversary of the Cuban revolution. He was taken to the City Hospital.

Celebration in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 11, 1869.

The friends of Cuba to-day held a large and very enthusiastic meeting to celebrate the first anniversary of Cuban independence. Mr. Lansterlebar, president of the Junta in this city, delivered a speech in Spanish.

Celebrating the Cuban Anniversary in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 11, 1869.

The first anniversary of the Cuban revolution was celebrated to-day by a procession and an oration at Masonic Temple.