

CUBA.

The Cuban Question—The Case of the Hornet—Her Release Doubtful—Necessity of Decisive Action in Cuba—Prospects of Recognition.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 21, 1862.

The government having fulfilled its obligations towards Spain as a friendly nation, the case of the Hornet has been almost dropped, except to see that she does not find her way once more to sea. If the friends of Cuba desire to have a test of the legality of the act of the government in seizing the vessel they will have perfect freedom to take any measures in that direction that they may deem desirable. The general impression of the government, however, seems to be that the vessel has undertaken to violate the neutrality on the part of the United States in the pending struggle between Spain and Cuba; that under no pretence of privileges or immunities under certain circumstances or stretch of the spirit or letter of the law can she be presented in any other light than that of an object of final seizure and subject to condemnation. The decisive action of the President in the matter was the result of his own conviction of the inimical character of the Hornet. If there be any possibility of Spain appreciating this additional evidence of the desire of the Executive to act impartially in the struggle it must have a beneficial effect in calming the excitement stirred up in the recent overtures on the part of the United States to bring the Cuban question to a speedier and less sanguinary conclusion.

The administration is determined to adhere to its policy of non-intervention until some satisfactory evidence be presented showing more tangible indications of an early national character assumed by the insurgent cause. The reports from Cuba in possession of the government are as yet by no means satisfactory to the Cuban side of the question. Although they are manfully holding their own against a diversity of obstacles they are making no visible approach to a victorious overthrow of Spanish tyranny. The defection reported, and which seems to have some foundation, in the patriot ranks is having a very damaging effect to their interests, and has unfortunately paralyzed their best efforts and caused them to lose probably the best season of the year for their mode of warfare. The moral effect of the reinforcements from Spain, though their numbers are considered largely over-estimated, may dampen the ardor of the friends of Cuba. It is thought here, however, that for all the opposition of these reinforcements the ultimate independence of Cuba will not be disturbed.

The resumption of active operations is looked for with considerable interest by this government, and it is generally admitted that this will determine whether Cuba will be a free State or a dependency of despotic Spain. The crisis cannot be very remote. One powerful and determined effort of the Cuban forces and the opening of communication with the outer world, so that something official can be learned, seems to be all that delays some decisive action by the United States. Certainly the time for recognition, and history supports the proposition as a general principle, would be after some marked event, something showing the elements of nationality above the feeble effort of a weak and unsteady faction. Such questions as that of Cuba often take very sudden turns, and in event of a well delivered and effective blow the probabilities would be in favor of a most satisfactory step on the part of this government.

The Merciful Projects of De Rodas—Secret Orders to Shoot All Suspicious Persons—Hobbery and Butchery—The Reinforcements from Spain—National Anniversary.

HAVANA, Oct. 18, 1862.

A paper entitled *Suplemento al Laborante*, in the interest of the insurrection, has been quite extensively circulated through the city during the past two weeks. Its leading article is a cursory yet very energetic résumé of the situation from a Cuban point of view. The following extracts are translated for the benefit of the readers of the *Harald*.

Speaking of the public circulars and reserved orders of Captain General de Rodas, *El Laborante* does not believe in the merciful intentions of the Spanish head centre, as may be seen from the following:—

Circulars of General Rodas have been published prohibiting the putting to death of any one without being first tried; but the reserved orders of the same General Rodas which have been received by the governors and chiefs of columns "to shoot without trial any whom they may deem suspicious" are not published. No one doubts that the circulars published are complied with and the reserved orders complied with faithfully. Thousands of countrymen are already counted as assassinated. Those most exposed are those who possess property, which is distributed among the assassins. The persuasion of theirs that the more Cubans they kill the fewer soldiers the insurrection will have is the cause of this infamous butchery. By robbing and killing they translate the celebrated programme of justice and morality.

In reference to the soldiers which Spain sends out here, certainly shabby enough in appearance and without arms and accoutrements, *El Laborante* thus expresses itself:—

If we have to form an idea of the power of Spain by the soldiers she sends us, poor, indeed, must she be. It is true they are all young men, but it is also true they all come unarmed, naked, without shoes and hats. What does Spain wish us to think of her when we behold her poverty and her misery? Will she exact of us our admiration, or, better, expect our contempt? In direct contradiction do we find what her papers tell us and what we ourselves see. They speak to us of their inextinguishable riches, and we alone can contemplate the spectacle of her misery. For God's sake, for God's sake! no more Quixotism. Let the truth be told and let it be confessed at once and forever that Cuba is to Spain as the heart is to man—her main artery, without which life is impossible. Let them not have scruples in saying that without Cuba Spain cannot live; she cannot fill the exigencies of her extravagances and of her government; that Cuba is indispensable to her in order that she may annually extract millions of dollars, and which are sent to Spain; that Cuba is what clothes, shoes and arms those ridiculous hordes which she sends here to fight against our aspirations of being free and independent; that from the resources of Cuba, and alone of Cuba, she draws the wherewith to fight against Cuba. And now, is this to be rich, strong and potent? Come, come, that will do.

Upon the national anniversary of Cuba it discourses as follows:—

All countries have a day in the history of their existence which brings to them a remembrance of a great victory or of a terrible calamity. Cuba has also hers, and at the dawn of the aurora of October 10 calls to memory that on the borders of Yara. There, where the unfortunate Hatney fell a victim to the Spanish conquerors, was raised the standard of our liberty and was sounded the first cry our people gave, anxious for independence against the oppressive race that kept them in ignorance in order to profit by the same. Ah! not in vain has the contempt of the whole world fallen upon Old Spain, while considering that, possessing 100,000 bayonets, the moral force of a constitutional government, being master of all the communications and using at her pleasure the prosperity of her subjects, she has not been able in twelve months of an unequal contest to obtain any advantage over a handful of patriots who, without other arms than their valor, nor other food than that which they take from the enemy, have ranged themselves into the battle field, impelled by patriotism and ardent in desires of seeing free and happy the country which gave them birth. Great has the victory of our brothers been, and even supposing that which is impossible, that our independence is not consummated, the people of Cuba will always merit the remembrance of the heroic sacrifices and incessant constancy and the cry of admiration of all free countries. For that reason the 10th of October will be, more so for us, a day of imperishable memory, and so much precious blood spilled in behalf of our liberty will be strongly appreciated in remembrance by all sons of Cuba. The tribes of Hatney, which for the space of more than three centuries cried for vengeance, in contemplating the aurora of October 10 return quietly to their eternal resting places, and the curse of thousands of martyrs sacrificed by despotism fall inexorably upon broken down Spain, and at the same time the holy cry of liberty resounds, potent and vigorous, throughout the whole of Cuba. Hurrah for the 10th of October! Hurrah for independence!