

Progress of the Revolution in Cuba and Change in the Spanish Policy.

General Caballero de Roda is to succeed General Dulce as Governor General in the Island of Cuba. This is the tenor of a short despatch yesterday from Madrid,—short but full of meaning. Dulce was the man for conciliation, the man of the amnesty, free press, free speech and representation in the Cortes. Roda is the man who put down insurrection in Cadiz with the cannon and deluged the streets of dissatisfied Malaga with grape shot. The two men represent great principles and give a fair picture of the change which has come over the dream of Spain in relation to Cuba. The progress of the revolution there has been so rapid and so great that a new policy has succeeded the old one in the Spanish government as well as in the Spanish population in Cuba. The latter at first scouted the idea that the Cubans could or would do anything towards overthrowing the colonial government. Now they have done so much that the Spanish population in Cuba think that every Cuban should be at once tried by a military commission and executed to save the honor of Spain.

Caballero de Roda comes to Cuba to fail more signally than Dulce has done, and Dulce has failed from the want of common sense on the part of the home government and the Spaniards residing in the island. Had he been authorized to act in the spirit of the nineteenth century instead of the sixteenth, and to establish a Colonial Assembly he would have preserved the island to the Spanish monarchy. There were not wanting Cubans in Madrid who urged these views upon General Dulce before his departure for Cuba, but he either could not or would not listen to them. He now goes back with the simple satisfaction that he can say to Azcarate and Bernal, "You were right." The Caballero de Roda comes to a different banquet—a banquet of blood. From Cape Maisi to the river Damuji, two-thirds of the territorial extent of the Island of Cuba, the Spanish government holds only the ground its troops stand upon or the guns of its ships cover. Instead of being able to reconquer the Central and Eastern Departments the struggle will now be to hold the Western, for there the fires of revolution have caught at several points. This will require more troops than Spain can under any contingency send to Cuba; and more money and material resources than Roda can possibly gather. He may shed much blood, he may rival Murillo, of Venezuela, in infamy, but the result will be the same—the Spanish element must leave Cuba or perish by the sword they have drawn.

In the early future a sore difficulty will press upon our government. When your neighbor's house is on fire the principle of intervention is an admitted right. Not only may we intervene to save ourselves from danger, but the voice of humanity calls us as well to save life and property. If the tenant, possessed with the fury of a madman, insists upon consigning everything to the flames, he may be controlled or even dispossessed. This madman's policy would seem to be that which inspires the Spanish element in Cuba, and our government, as the next and strongest neighbor, will be called upon to intervene. We must intervene there. The day has gone by when the madman of Europe can be permitted to repeat the atrocities which the early part of the present century witnessed in every Spanish American country on this Continent. The establishment of a free government in Cuba and its admission to the Union would be the best solution for all parties there, and one which would save us infinite trouble in the future. The Jacksonian policy in Florida is the only one, which will save General Grant from a host of Spanish flies, and he should be prepared to adopt it in his own behalf and that of the country.