

**Arrival of an American at St. Marks from the Insurgents' Camp—Address of the Revolutionary Junta to the President of the United States—Reasons Why the Cuban Patriots Should be Recognized as Belligerents.**

ST. MARK'S FLA., March 11, 1869.

Colonel Stockton, of Pennsylvania, arrived from the Cuban rebel camps bearing the enclosed message from the chief of the rebels to President Grant. After some delay and difficulty I procured the enclosed copy, which rapid copying may have made slightly incorrect. The Colonel gives the most encouraging accounts of the prospect and future of the rebels, but his report will probably reach you before this by telegraph:—

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:—

SIR—The people of Cuba, by their Grand Supreme Civil Junta and through their General-in-Chief, Señor Cespedes, desire to submit to your Excellency the following, among other reasons, why your Excellency, as President of the United States, should accord to them belligerent rights and a recognition of their independence:—

Because from the hearts of nineteen-twentieths of the inhabitants of the island of Cuba go up prayers for the success of the armies of the republic; and from the sole and only want of arms and ammunition these patient people are kept under the tyrannical yoke of Spain. The unanimity of the masses of the people for the republic is ominous.

Because the republic have armies numbering over 70,000 men actually in the field and doing duty. These men are organized and governed on the principles of civilized warfare. The prisoners whom they take—and so far they have taken three times as many as their enemies have from them—are treated in every respect as the prisoners of war are used and treated by the most civilized nations of the earth. In the hope of recognition by the United States, they have never yet in a single instance retaliated death for death, even in cases of the most provoking nature.

Because the Spanish authorities have almost invariably brutally murdered the soldiers of the armies of the republic who have surrendered to them, and have recently issued an official order requiring their military forces hereafter instantly to kill and murder every prisoner of the republic who surrenders. This is done, the order cheerfully tells us, "to save trouble and vexation to the Spanish civil authorities." This is an outrage the civilized nations of the earth ought not to allow.

Because the United States is the nearest civilized nation to Cuba, whose political institutions strike a responsive chord in the hearts of all Cubans. The commercial and financial interests of the two peoples being largely identical and reciprocal in their natures Cuba earnestly appeals for the unquestionable right of recognition.

Because the arms and authority of the republic of Cuba now extend over two-thirds of the entire geographical area of the island, embracing a very great majority of the population in every part of the island.

Because she has a navy in course of construction which will excel in point of numbers and efficiency that heretofore maintained by the Spanish authorities in these waters.

Because these facts plainly show to the world that this is not a movement of a few discontents, but the grand and sublime uprising of a people thirsting for liberty, and determined with this last effort to secure to themselves and their posterity those unquestioned rights—liberty of conscience and freedom of the individual.

Finally, because she is following but in the footsteps of Spain herself in endeavoring to banish tyrannical rulers, and in their stead place rulers of her own choice. The people of Cuba, having a ten-fold more absolute and potent right than Spain had, because Cuba's rulers are sent without her voice or consent by a foreign country, accompanied by and with swarms of officials to fill the various offices created only for their individual comfort, drawing their sustenance and support from the hard earnings of the natives of the soil.

Allow us to add, with the greatest diffidence and sensitiveness, that the difference between the rebellion in the United States and the present revolution in Cuba is simply that in the former a small minority rebelled against laws which they had a voice in making and the privilege of repealing, while in the case of Cuba we are resisting a foreign power in crushing us to the earth, as they have done for centuries, with no appeal but that of arms open to us, and appointing, without our knowledge, voice, advice or consent, tyrannical citizens of their own country to rule us and eat out our substance.

"Patria y libertad!"

Approved by the Supreme Junta and ordered promulgated by SENOR GENERAL CESPEDES,  
Commander-in-Chief Republican Forces of Cuba.  
HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD, March 1. 1869.