

**Important from Cuba—The Policy of the United States.**

We have information of the arrival in this city of Señor Morales Lemus as an ambassador from the provisional government in Cuba to the government of the United States. His object is to obtain the recognition by this government of the revolutionary proceedings in Cuba. Whatever may be done in Washington regarding the reception of this Minister from Cespedes, it will not be uninteresting to our people to recall occurrences that have bearing upon a positive event like this.

The Spaniards and Spanish organs have all again proclaimed that the insurrection in Cuba was a trifling affair and would soon be suppressed, and, according to the accounts we have been receiving through Spanish sources at Havana, the Cubans have been defeated with terrible slaughter over and over again. Strange to say, during all this time the insurrection has been gaining strength and spreading further and wider. By the telegram from Havana which we publish to-day in another column it will be seen that the capture of Mayari, recently reported on official authority in Havana, turns out to be a defeat of the Spanish troops, and that they were falling back on Santiago with their wounded commander. From Villa Clara, too, where we have been so repeatedly informed of the defeat of the insurgents, we now learn from a returned Spanish volunteer that Colonel La Torre was defeated on the 3d inst., and that the insurrection there was so strong that ten thousand men would be required to open the railroad to the coast. In connection with this fact we have the singular general order from Colonel Lasca, who had recently got into Puerto Principe, that all the women and children who had gone out to afford aid and comfort to their friends in the field must return to that besieged and hungry city or be subject to military law if captured.

The truth is, nearly all the first reports of events received from Cuba are manufactured or garbled by the Spaniards to bolster up their cause and declining power. We cannot rely upon them. We can only judge of the state of things on the island by general facts. Well, what are these? We see that a little cloud, no bigger than a man's hand a few months ago, has developed into a general storm. From a few insurrectionists under the lead of Cespedes in a remote and sparsely settled corner of Cuba organized revolt has spread over the greater part of the island. The whole native population is profoundly moved. The rich and young men have staked their lives and fortunes in this struggle for independence. The horrors of execution, of Spanish cruelty or of penal exile to Fernando Po do not check the movement, but rather inflame and give impulse to it. The more the Spanish forces have been increased the wider has the insurrection spread and the stronger it has become. For every Cuban slain a dozen spring up in his place. The war resources of the insurgents are increasing daily. Arms, ammunition and artillery of the most effective kind are pouring into the island. The chances of success improve daily, and, from present appearances, the despotic rule of Spain over Cuba is doomed, the end thereof being only a question of time and circumstances.

The most important news received is that the insurgent authorities in the Central Department have decreed the abolition of slavery. The freed negroes may either enter the patriot army or remain to cultivate the soil. Doubtless many will take up arms; but in any case this act of the insurgents will strengthen their cause. It is a wise measure; for, whatever might happen, slavery was doomed, and it will have the effect of rallying public opinion in the United States in favor of Cuban independence. But the best effect will be seen, undoubtedly, upon the negroes themselves. Their worst masters have been the Spaniards, and the negroes will remember that. They will join those who have given them freedom. Besides, however ignorant they may be, they have sense enough to know that their interests and future welfare are identified with those of the native Cubans, and not with those of the Spaniards. They must be aware that the Spaniards are foreigners, who, like leeches, fatten upon their industry and the wealth of the island—who have, in fact, no abiding interest in them or their country. It is probable we may soon hear of the negroes becoming an important element in this war for independence.

Under these circumstances what should be the policy of our government with regard to Cuba? No people in the world struggling for independence from despotism have ever failed to meet with sympathy from this country. The Hungarians, the Poles, the Italians and all others have met with it. This country represents the liberal and republican ideas of the age and world, and all nations regard it as the hope of the oppressed everywhere. But Cuba has special claims upon us. The Cubans are our neighbors, are Americans, and belong to the American system. The colonial governments of Europe are exotics on this Continent, and ought to be uprooted. The policy which favored and recognized the independence of the former colonies of Spain in America, and which laid down the Monroe doctrine of no more European conquests or colonization, now requires a fresh and extended application. The remaining European possessions on this Continent have always been a source of trouble to all, and have cramped our trade and made us second only where we ought to have been first in commercial intercourse. We owe nothing to Spain nor to any of the European Powers. In the Mexican affair and during our civil war Spain and some of the other Powers were hostile to this republic and hoped to see it destroyed. They claimed to have monarchical interests in America, and, acting upon that claim, they acted to our great detriment and without any regard to our position as a friendly Power.

Our interest lies in the severance of all European and monarchical connections with America. No opportunity should be lost of bringing that about. All the sympathy and aid we can fairly give the Cubans should be given, and the government should lose no time in authorizing the President to recognize their belligerent rights whenever in his judgment it may be proper to do so, and, as soon as a regular government is established, their independence. Such a course is demanded by sound policy and the highest statesmanship. With Cuba independent or annexed

to the United States the productive wealth and our trade with that island would be immense. Then we ought to save that beautiful and rich country from the horrors and devastation, which now threaten it. To permit the scenes and fate of another St. Domingo on our border would be an eternal disgrace to the United States. In every point of view, then—on high political grounds, for the interest of our commerce, and for the sake of humanity, the government and people of this republic should favor by every means the independence of Cuba, and we are glad to learn that by the arrival of an ambassador preliminary from the Cuban provisional government the objects above expressed are likely to be realized.