

Sympathy with Cuba—Meeting at Steinway Hall To-Night.

The movement in favor of Cuba begins to assume a practical and important character. A number of the most prominent gentlemen of New York have called a meeting of our citizens at Steinway Hall to-night to give expression to their views with regard to the state of affairs in Cuba. These gentlemen, who are among the most influential in the country, say in their call: "We are fully satisfied that the present struggle of the Cubans for independence is based upon principles of eternal justice; that the revolution which began five months ago has been growing in power ever since, and now includes the great body of the Cuban people, who are giving their money and blood freely for the attainment of independence. We would in a public and formal way express our sympathy for a people living on our very border, and almost a part of us, who are pledging their fortunes and lives to obtain rights unjustly withheld from them."

These sentiments will meet with a hearty response both in New York and every section of the republic, and no doubt there will be such a mass meeting to-night of our citizens, including those most conspicuous for influence, intellect and wealth, as will give impulse to a general movement throughout the country in support of the Cubans. It ought to spread far and wide, and from one end of the republic to the other, and that rapidly, too, as the fire on the prairie spreads; for the bloody and savage character of the war which Spain is carrying on against the revolutionary patriots calls for prompt sympathy and aid to the Cubans. These people are Americans, are our near neighbors, are identified with us in feeling, principle and trade, and ought to belong to the republican system of this Continent. It would be a disgrace, an everlasting stain upon this great republic if we were not to protest against Spanish tyranny and cruelty and give all the aid possible to the brave people who are fighting for independence. But there is reason to believe the Cubans will receive the sympathy and aid of republican America, and the meeting to-night gives assurance of that.

We will not anticipate the eloquent arguments of such orators as Henry Ward Beecher and others who will speak at the meeting on the subject of Spanish tyranny, the heroism of the Cubans and the justice of their cause, but will briefly advert to the duty of our government on the question. There is no doubt that President Grant and Congress sympathize with the Cubans and desire their independence. There may be, however, some hesitation as to taking any decided action at present in conceding belligerent rights to or recognizing the independence of Cuba. Questions of an international character and difficulties surrounding the Alabama claims may have weight in deterring the government from immediate action. Still we hope not. There is no parallel between the recognition of the Southern rebels as belligerents by the European Powers and the recognition of the Cubans as such or of their independence by our government. The cases are entirely different. Then the long standing policy of the United States, embodied in what is known as the Monroe doctrine, is a perpetual protest against European government on this Continent. And though we may not go so far as to force these European governments from America, where they have held possession all along, it would be in keeping with this well established national policy to seize every reasonable opportunity to bring about the emancipation of every part of America from European rule. That opportunity occurs now, as far as Cuba is concerned. We owe nothing to Spain or other Powers of Europe. Several of them stepped out of their way to break up republican government here and to destroy the United States. It is a duty we owe to ourselves and a question of high national policy to spread and strengthen republican institutions throughout America. Spain and the other Powers of Europe could have no just ground of complaint and would be too wise to come in conflict with the United States should we recognize the Cubans as belligerents or independent to-morrow. It is, as we said, a question of high national policy, and our government should take the bull by the horns. Do not all the great nations of Europe act in this way? Did not Prussia put her grip on the German States when she had a great policy to carry out? Do not France, England, Russia and the rest do the same? We hope our government will lift itself up to the magnitude of great national interests and policy in the case of Cuba. The Cubans have been fighting five months and gaining ground all the time. The desire for independence is universal among them. Is it not time, then, that both the people and government of the United States should aid Cuba and prevent the ruin of the island, a prolonged war and the bloody horrors which threaten the people?