

INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA.

Grand Rally in Aid of the Patriotic Army of Cuba.

NEW YORK TO THE RESCUE.

Enthusiastic Meeting at Steinway Hall.

Speeches by Mayor Hall, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, M. Du Chaille and Others.

In pursuance of a call numerously signed by some of the most influential citizens of the metropolis, in respect of party or political animosities, a grand meeting of the citizens was held last evening at Steinway Hall. The object set forth was "to confer upon matters connected with the present condition of affairs in Cuba." The hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, a great portion of the audience being ladies, who evinced the greatest enthusiasm during the proceedings.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. CHARLES A. DANA, who nominated Mayor A. Oakley Hall as presiding officer.

The nomination was affirmed with enthusiastic applause.

THE MAYOR'S SPEECH.

MAYOR HALL, on coming forward, was received with great applause, the ladies waving their handkerchiefs with the greatest enthusiasm. When silence was restored he said:—To-night, on that beautiful island whose name is inscribed on the banner that is in front of the door, that flag droops. But then, as the wind lifts it towards the Stars and Stripes above it, it seems to flutter in the spring wind with hope. (Applause.) In that beautiful island to-night its native born citizens are preaching to the Spaniards a practical sermon from the old song, "who would be free themselves must strike the blow." (Applause.) And to-night you, my fellow citizens, and I am proud to add, my constituents, have assembled to preach to Spain, to preach to the Cubans, and more especially to ourselves, through that grand old text, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." (Cheers.) And in vain we should teach our children the lessons of the American Revolution if we could not sympathize to-day, at this much more advanced stage of civilization and enlightenment, with those who, in that beautiful island are suffering the same ills which the colonists suffered under Great Britain. Yes, and suffering woes and barbarities behind which the barbarities practised on the colonists shape themselves into mere misty shadows. (Applause.) And in vain would we rejoice—men of all parties to-day in the United States—over the final dissolution of African slavery in our republic, except we saw the approaching striking off of the chains of slaves in Cuba, in order that they may become the soldiers of a revolution. (Applause.) And when the text to which I have alluded was announced—"Love thy neighbor as thyself"—the lawyer asked, "Who is my neighbor?" That is especially appropriate to-day. I speak now not as the individual, but as the officer—that the Mayor of this great city should be here to-night to lead you and to aid you in this great meeting of sympathy with our neighbor, protesting against his enslavement. (Great applause.) We can almost stretch out our hands and grasp the bright and beautiful blue curling smoke of that Cuban revolution as it rises from one side or from the other to kiss the beautiful mists of the Atlantic, every wave of which, and every breeze that wafts across, sympathizes with the upbreaths going on in the centre. (Applause.) But it is not alone a patriotic view that we can take to-night of our neighbor, but as is frequently the case, it assumes the shape of expediency, of political economy, of that which sometimes underlies the greatest political acts of the world—the matter of self-interest, and which is often the rightful basis of struggling nations or sympathizing nations in political revolutions. That neighbor, whose total trade in 1850 was about fifteen million, but last year that trade had risen to thirty-three millions; the commercial neighbor of the great commercial metropolis of the United States, who is our neighbor. This has one done since last October. On the 10th of that month one hundred and twenty-seven men marched like the men of Thermopylae, and to-day (this 23rd March) one hundred and forty-seven cities, towns and villages of that beautiful island are already in possession of the revolutionists. (Applause.) The Mayor of New York, and I believe, every officer of every city, and perhaps of the national government, so far as we internationally dare, gave to the fighting Cubans the name of revolutionists. There is nothing in the history of the world that shows such a progress in revolutions as this revolution in Cuba. (Applause.) It would almost seem to-day that those Cuban revolutionists need no sympathy from us—already anything beyond a protest, so far as we internationally dare to become an ally some day—all allyship begins with moral force and then towards commercial and political sympathy. Events—and become aids in physical force. And of the increasing barbarities—that the word to use from the dictionary—in which there is so much word as fall—it is the word to use—the barbarities which are chronicled to-night in the evening papers, and which you read before you got here, they are the protest of the moral force of the United States against such barbarities. And there is another ally marching, an ally whose weapon is more certain and deadly than the needle gun, who departs his troops with a double effect. Spain may send her troops there; but that ally is the friend of Cuba, and that ally and friend is Yellow Jack. (Cheers.) And with moral force protest, and with the physical force of Providence actually working against these barbarities, they must be made, before the summer is over, to cease. And we can bet on a speech, there are resolutions to be offered and eloquent speakers to address you who will press the matter of practical sympathy and protest upon you, as you in your turn, in this great city of New York, will press them upon Spain and on the national government at Washington. (Applause.) The President of the United States has been fond of taking social inspiration from Havana—(cheers and applause)—and now I believe that the President is prepared at the proper time to take his social inspiration from the towns and villages of that beautiful island, the neighbor and friend of "Good." And almost the first diplomatic appointment he has made of any consequence, or of any significance, he made to-day, and you will read of it in the evening papers. The President has sent to the Senate as Consul General to Havana the name of a man who was brought up in the old Jacksonian school, a man who knows how to protest, and who knows the nature and force of a national protest, and who will know when American citizens in Havana are struck at or injured. He will know the right time to strike, and he will know the right time to wrap it around the staff steering from beneath the shadow of Morro Castle, he will bid his name to strike, and he will be backed up in the shape of a protest. Such a consul general as that the President of the United States has to-day sent to the Senate for condemnation. This fact shows that the President's sympathies and his intelligence are at work, and that he has some plan to work out having Cuba for its object. (Applause.) There is another reason why the Mayor of New York should lead this meeting of sympathy. This city has always been the asylum of the oppressed, and I am proud every day to welcome in this city, as I do the people of Cuba, who come here to instruct us, and who come here to obtain funds, and who bring funds and who send out something for the support and assistance of the brave revolutionists at home. (Applause.)

THE RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were then read and passed with loud and prolonged applause:—

Resolved, That the struggle of the Cubans for independence and self-government belongs in the same category with the American Revolution of 1776. It would excite the indignation of all friends of popular rights and desire every kind of assistance that other nations may be able to render.

Resolved, That the Cuban cause is just and that the wrongs against which the Cubans have revolted are such as should arouse the indignation of mankind, including the Spaniards without representation, the forced maintenance of the partition of slavery, the exclusion of all natives of the island from public service, the denial of the right to bear arms, and of all the sacred privileges of citizenship and nationality.

Resolved, That the friends of the Cuban cause, in the parades of Cuba, have given conclusive evidence that they share the most substantial ideas of modern democracy, and that their political principles are in unison with those which inspire and govern the profoundest thinkers and statesmen of the world.

Resolved, That while men of free minds in all countries must view with interest and hope the uprising of Cuba, we, as citizens of the Republic of Cuba, recognize a special obligation toward our fellow citizens who are struggling and fighting for its emancipation from European tyranny.

Resolved, That in our judgment it is the duty of our government to recognize the belligerent rights of the Cubans at the earliest practicable moment, and thus to show the world that this nation is always on the side of those who contend against despotism and oppression, and that it will not tolerate the Executive at Washington that there may be no unnecessary delay in dealing with this great subject.

The following officers of the meeting were then appointed:—

Vice Presidents—General John A. Fremont, John Brown, Frank P. Howard, William L. Garrison, Alex. Taylor, John B. Hackett, Henry A. Smith, James Parker, J. B. Norris.

Secretaries—Fletcher Harper, Stuart M. Taylor, W. A. Watson.

SPEECH BY REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher then came forward and, with enthusiastic cheering, he felt honored, he said, for having been invited to the meeting to make

an address upon the liberties of Cuba. He should not have the honor of his death by the hands of any people, however remote, on the globe, having felt the touch of manhood and having had aroused in them the joyous feelings of liberty and the desire to speak of the subject with a conservative enthusiasm. The reverend gentleman then went on to state that he desired not so much to have a patriotic and enthusiastic meeting as to have an influential discussion of the subject at issue, in order that it might spread the intelligent convictions founded upon knowledge throughout every State of the Union, and that every man, woman and child, without distinction of party, stand together upon this Cuban question. (Cheers.) He would not much care if the subject were to be a shake of her shackles. He desired that she should stand absolutely free—(loud cheers)—the most beautiful island in the Gulf, large enough to be separate and independent, and small enough to be a blessing to the world. (Cheers.) He desired to see the day when the iron should not long be upon her hands and upon her feet, and when she should stand among the independent nations of the earth as a free and sovereign State. He would therefore say, and he supposed he would say it without prejudice, or without deterioration of the enthusiasm of the meeting, that the assemblage did not entertain any unkind feeling towards the Spanish or Spain in their own proper sphere and dominion. (Applause.) So that, for the entertainment of any unkind feeling towards Spain the meeting was indebted to the patriotic hearts of the citizens of Spain, who had encouraged and had so far been the successful agents of the revolution of the island. (Cheers.) It was their friend. The Spaniards did not forget the pangs which tyranny had taught them. He believed every Spaniard had a blood common with the strongest blood in Europe was now the weakest; and although it had degenerated in practice the Spanish people were destined to a glorious future. (Cheers.) He believed that the people of Spain might be a blessing to the world; freedom from tyranny was the watchword of Spaniards. Among others, independence and patriotism were the feelings that added fuel to the national fire. As long as the people of Spain were free, so long as Cubans had our hearts and our confidence, their cause was sure to succeed. He would not have it supposed that this was a meeting of self-interest, mixed with patriotism or a love for liberty. He would say freely that the movement was not actuated by the idea that perhaps Cuba might be annexed to the United States. His sincere aspiration was that in the future Cuba would be left free to do that which her own interest required. He considered that she should stand independent as well as free. Let her so stand, but if it were best that she should have a government more in accordance with her choice. And if she chose to make application for admission into the States, he could only say, so far as he was concerned, that she was welcome. (Cheers.) Why should Cuba be independent? Because, first, she was a settled territory; because, too, there was a right in the minority as well as in the majority. Cuba was not a province, and she had nothing to do with merit or with beauty. (Applause.) Now Cuba had a perfect right to be free as much right as any nation in the earth. She was independent in this continent, and certainly independent to any other. She had a population that desired freedom. That very subject recalled one of the great fundamental principles of the American government, the right of self-government, and that was known throughout all ages of the earth. A government may not be the wisest, or may not adopt the most judicious course for the maintenance of its laws, but the right of the common people to self-government was a right as old as the hour of the primary creation. He advanced his argument on behalf of the Cubans, not because they were Cubans, but because they belonged to the great family of mankind, of whatever creed or denomination. (Cheers.) He contended that every people had a right to determine their own laws, and to be absolutely free from foreign interference. It was true that possession may in law give property certain rights, but it never could give political rights. The rights of man were not altogether lost, because, perhaps, they had been deferred, and because Spain was so long sucked the vital blood from Cuba it did not give her the right to one such word. (Cheers.) The reverend gentleman continued his arguments in favor of the independence of Cuba, and enlarged the Cuban patriots who had sold their estates and largely contributed to the support of the movement for the liberation of their beloved Isle. He said, and he intended to consider how long the Cubans had groined beneath the yoke of oppression, and he trusted the time had at length arrived when the Cubans would no longer submit to tyrannical rule and would no longer be able to stand thus far, by the wealth of the people, to hold their own, and there was every reason to believe they would be able still longer to sustain their power when their belligerent rights were recognized. (Applause.) If it had been able by the wealth and patriotism of its citizens to manifest its strength so far, how would it be when the generous sympathy pours across Cuba and they know that thirty millions of freemen pray for them, that they might do or die, that Cuba were to be governed by any foreign nation, Spain were the last nation in the world that ought to do it. Spain was the last, because she knew the last as yet how to govern. She had stumbled so long that she forgot everything but the days of Charles V. She had not awakened from her sleep like a Rip Van Winkle in the world and sought to identify herself. Spain had not learned yet what France had not learned yet, what Italy had not yet learned, what England, Germany, Turkey or America had not learned. What God did not wish what nation to learn—how to govern a foreign Power that was reluctant to be governed. Cuba was not awake. She did not know herself. She did not know her own future, either in an agricultural or commercial point of view. He then alluded to the extravagance of the taxation imposed by Spain, the tyranny of the Spanish Government, and the exports were also taxed. Cuba sent about nine per cent to Spain, while about thirty-three per cent went to America, showing naturally where her customers were; cabined, cribbed and confined, with nothing to suck at but the breast of the old crone across the water. (Laughter.) Let Cuba have commercial liberty without foreign taxation, and she will ride triumphant in a brilliant future. He pointed out the difference between Americans recognizing the belligerent rights of the Cubans, conceding that a malignant feeling characterized the action of England, as it pretended all the while to have a great friendship for the North, yet in a moment turning round and endeavoring to divide the great Union. This nation cannot afford to be mean and cannot afford to be wronged. We have striven to establish that doctrine throughout the world, although we have suffered much by the effort. America was still able to sustain it. (Cheers.) If England declared belligerent rights on behalf of despotism, how much more was it desirable that a republican government should declare belligerent rights on behalf of liberty. (Loud cheers.) He commenced the wording of the resolutions and he hoped earnestly for the day when the Cubans would have belligerent rights. (Cheers.) In conclusion Mr. Beecher said, I exhort all to remember and pray for the struggling Cubans; for although their religion is the Roman Catholic and ours is the Protestant men and churches agree when men are brought into a common distress. When men are all of one religion. When men are for the rescue of the imperilled, for the freedom and enlightenment of the oppressed and degraded, no matter whether the prayer goes up from the priest or the modernized layman, it all counts toward the ears of Him who knows the sighing of the captive and who will give him deliverance. I pray the merchants not to turn liberally from the petition made to them on behalf of the military army of Cuba. Shall I touch in a solemn hour like this, amid the tender sympathies that unite us, so low a strain as interest? It is base, and yet there is a strong sentiment that sounds deeply down, and I say there is no investment that merchants can make that in twenty years hence will more abundantly repay than that by which the Cubans shall be emancipated. Let us then on retiring from this meeting carry with us in spreading we go, and I trust the papers will aid us in spreading the same feeling—let us carry everywhere this impression—the struggle of Cuba is a part of the common struggle of mankind. (Applause.) Let it be our duty to enable the Cubans to raise the flag of liberty and to aid them in defending it. (Applause.)

REMARKS BY MR. PAUL A. DU CHAILLE.

MR. DU CHAILLE said:—We have heard the cry from Cuba of widows and orphans. War and revolution is raging in Cuba, and poor people are suffering from the barbarities inflicted upon them by these tyrants. He was in the country to which the Spanish authorities are exiling the revolutionists, and his flesh shuddered when he read that these men were sent to Fernando Po. He could stand a great deal of African climate, but that of Fernando Po, the west coast of Africa, is the most insufferable. It rains there all the time, and it is extremely hot, and from the decayed vegetation that sends forth poisonous exhalations it is the most unhealthy spot in the world. The English ship had it, but the Spaniards could not get it, and it was the English who conceded it to them on the ground of unhealthiness. It is to be hoped that the revolution will succeed, so that the poor Cubans will be promptly rescued from their exile. He protested against the outrage of sending political prisoners to Fernando Po. It is an outrage against which every man ought to protest, especially every citizen of this great republic, or, after all, Cuba is part of our country. She is at our own doors. Cubans are Americans born on this continent. He sincerely hoped, therefore, that all were united and actuated by the same feeling of sympathy for Cuba, and all actuated with the same desire to give her material and physical aid. (Cheers.) He would therefore call on three cheers for the freedom and independence of Cuba. (Tremendous cheering and waving of handkerchiefs.)

MR. JOHN SHERRARD was the next speaker, who advocated, in forcible language, the cause of the revolutionists of Cuba on the sympathies and material aid of America. (Applause.)

MR. DWIGHT TOWNSEND:—The affection he bore for the Nation of the Revolution as an American citizen demanded from him the expression of his sympathy for the struggling people of all nationalities. He stood there to aid them in strengthening the arguments that were presented in Washington, and he would quote the closing words of the last of the resolutions that had been presented and adopted:—"And that we earnestly entreat the Executive at Washington that there may be no unnecessary delay in dealing with this great subject." (Applause.) He would take a practical view of the question, and he would tell them that Cuba was ours by right already. They might say that this was an assumption; but it was, nevertheless, true. Spain made the PORTO OF CUBA the safe rendezvous for the blockade runners, and this had prolonged our unhappy war two years longer than

it could have possibly lasted. It was said by recognizing the Cuban Revolution, we would draw on us a war with Europe—a war with Europe for recognizing the belligerent rights of a brave and struggling people. Such a war would be welcome to us. (Applause.) With Grant and Sherman and Sheridan and Farragut, it would be a summer campaign. (Applause.) One word and he would conclude. The question was not whether this great Cuban question must be settled speedily and decisively, and that Cuba must have her independence. (Applause.) Mr. Lempriere, ex-British Colonial Secretary for the Bahamas, next followed in a brief and appropriate speech. He said that in this matter of Cuba Spain has been invariably wrong and Cuba has been invariably right. They had all heard of the disgraceful manner in which Spain had broken her solemn engagements to the country of which he was a subject. Great Britain had over and over again pressed upon her political question affecting the interests of Cuba with Spain could be settled the liberty of the slave must be first secured. But whenever that question came up the freedom and liberty of the slave has been disgracefully dismissed by Spain. And now even when Spain herself is free she refuses the same boon to the Cubans. That boon must be wrested from her, and now is the time to do it. (Applause.)

In the interval of the speeches Mr. George Hall sang with great effect, the "Marseillaise" and the "Star Spangled Banner."

Before breaking up General Frank Spinola moved that a report of the proceedings be forwarded to the Executive, to the two houses of Congress and to the General of the revolutionary forces. The motion was passed with acclamation and the audience separated.