

Progress of the Cuban Revolution.

The news from Cuba is cheering for the insurgent cause. Much defection exists among the Spanish officials, who have been in several instances charged with complicity with the rebels. Four companies of the fourth battalion of volunteers have declared for the patriot cause. Munitions of war are pouring in in abundance to arm the revolutionists.

In New York an enthusiastic meeting was held on Thursday evening to sympathize with the Cubans and to assist them with all material aid possible. This and the general temper of the American people with reference to the Cuban question must convince Spain and Europe that we mean work—no light work, either, if necessity calls for something with a heavier accent to it. The Cuban revolution is the rebound of Spanish action in the New World during the past six years. Mexico, the Pacific coast and the remembrances of Spanish domination in Venezuela have kindled in Cuba the fagots of misrule and cruelty which Spain has cast freely over the island. Spain must understand that it is all Spanish America that lights the revolutionary blaze in her last colonial stronghold, and that in New York two years ago the revolutionary leaders found aid and comfort. This was the more freely extended from the existing remembrances of the action of Spain with reference to ourselves when we were battling for national life against traitors from within and the combined monarchical interests from without. Spain gave us many a covert stroke, and Cuba in her hands became a keen lance which she did not fail to ply with that refinement of action which can alone proceed from the Spanish brain. Feeling as she did that the progress of the United States threatened to absorb Cuba, from the very inability of that island to maintain a different governing system from the mainland, she very naturally seconded England in her recognition of belligerent rights for the South almost before the echoes of the first guns at Sumter had crossed the Atlantic. The cowardly stroke of England at us was dated the 13th of May—one month from the bombardment of Sumter. Spain waited but a month longer, and on the 17th of June was signed the royal edict which, even in the preamble, virtually recognized the independence of the South. Let us translate a few sentences from it as published in the *Gaceta de la Habana* of July 28, 1861:—

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE—ROYAL DE-

CREEK.—Considering the relations which exist between Spain and the United States of America, and the propriety that there should be no change in the reciprocal good feeling on account of the grave events which have taken place in that republic, I have resolved to maintain the strictest neutrality in the struggle undertaken between the federal States of the Union and the Confederate States of the South, &c.

In the eight articles which follow this recognition of a Southern nationality the United States are immediately lowered to the level of the rebels, who had not, to the then knowledge of Spain, a single organized army in the field, had not fought a single battle or killed a single man. Even the little skirmish of Big Bethel was not then known on the other side of the Atlantic.

We cannot look at this action of Spain in any other light than one of open hostility to the United States, and if up to the present time we have been too much occupied in the solution of our reconstruction problem, we have not forgotten what we owe to Spain. The day is at hand for settlement, and, therefore, despite the vaunted "liberal" exhibition now going on in Spain, of down with one king and up with another, we are little disposed to look on and see any part of this Continent forced to pay for such a raree show. Cuba has been bled enough. The reaction is a revolutionary fever which the Spanish doctors, following the system of Dr. Sangrado, think can only be cured by more bleeding.

There are in Cuba to-day, perhaps, seventeen thousand regular Spanish troops and twenty-five thousand volunteers under arms in support of colonial domination. To these are opposed at least fifty thousand badly armed patriots, whose numbers are alone limited by their ability to obtain ammunition and muskets. The people of Cuba are evidently determined to have their liberty. They mean work. Up to this moment, however, they have shown very little good sense in the organization of their cause. The Eastern division of the island does not appear to work in unison with the Central Department. The elements are scattered. They want binding together. If they have effected so much by desultory effort what can resist them once they have a central and respected government? The moment they have this government and announce a financial plan their cause is won; for they will place themselves in a position in which we can recognize their belligerent rights and feel that their certain success in the future will be the best proof of the justice of such a recognition. Let them immediately call a meeting of deputies from the various departments under their control, declare their independence, elect a president, form a cabinet, raise money by effecting a loan or issuing legal bonds. All this may be done in sixty days, and the moment it is done we guarantee them full recognition as an independent belligerent Power, copying, if need be, the preamble we have translated above. Cuba must try to be self-reliant, notwithstanding the little opportunity it has had for such an education under Spanish rule. Success is even more certain from efforts coming from within than from without. It is for this we say to Cuba, Organize. Let no petty ambitions and jealousies among leaders retard or ruin the organization. Such has often been the history of movements in the Spanish-American countries which have struck for independence. It is better to occupy a second class position in a great country than to be a petty and poverty-stricken commander in some desolated division of the island. Let Cuba listen to what we tell her—organize, and independence is won.