

CUBA.

Letter from General Marmol—Recognition of Cespedes as the True Leader—Hopes in the United States.

The following private letter from General Marmol, one of the leaders of the Cuban revolution, to Dr. José Vallente, affords a reliable insight of the progress of the revolution and of public opinion in Cuba:—

CAMP OF EL "RAMON," April 2, 1869.

Yours of the 14th February has been read with pleasure. The generous and patriotic deed to which you so lightly refer, of having resigned your powers and authority in favor of Mr. José Morales Lemus, considering him your superior in intelligence and instruction, is not only worthy of praise, but an evident proof that there already exist true republicans among the sons of Cuba. That generous deed will teach us never to endanger our young republic for private ambitions. I take great pleasure in being able to make it public in this manner, that it may serve as a good lesson for us, and also on account of the honor that we receive, who have the pleasure to be numbered among your friends.

It is utterly false that I have had the least disagreement with General Carlos Manuel de Cespedes. He, on the contrary, is, in my opinion, the presiding genius of the revolution, its representative and the chief of the provisional government in and outside of the island. The success of our cause depends a great deal to-day in his name, and all of us that have any influence whatever should use it to ensure his prestige, for it is the prestige of our cause. This is my opinion of General Cespedes, although my ideas, essentially democratic, make me desire our government should receive a true republican form; for I think that after six months of revolution the people ought to begin to exercise, even though on a small scale, its sovereign rights, and I do not see why an assembly of representatives could not be established in some central part of the island, having Carlos Manuel de Cespedes for its president. Nevertheless this wish, engendered by my democratic principles, far from lessening the respect due to the able military chief who constitutes the provisional government, makes it still greater, bearing in mind the good of our country, for the sake of which I will spare no sacrifice. The enemy is confined to the cities it occupies, and seldom attacks our encampments; but they sally in strong columns when necessity obliges them to do so to protect some convoy. They also overrun the surroundings, which they guard with strong forces, to supply themselves with cattle and vegetables, in which excursions, guided by Spanish volunteers, they commit horrible murders, without taking age or sex into consideration. Women, old men, children and peaceful tillers of the soil that fall into their hands, are barbarously mutilated, killed and left at the mercy of beasts of prey. They boast of these grand actions as if they were really noble deeds of war; and their papers find sufficient matter in them to praise the valor of the Spanish soldier, and to publish, with an unparalleled audacity, that thirty heroes, for example, cause us hundreds of deaths.

The Spanish government, well convinced that Cuba no longer belongs to it, and unable to Africanize it—for the emancipation of the slave published by our government thwarted its perverse intention—has applied all its energies to keep alive the natural hatred of the Spaniards against the Cubans, and, giving the first full powers to satisfy it, closes its eyes on their cruelties. These, on their side, lose no time; they cause all prisoners of war to be shot and all those whom the volunteers bring before them, although they may be peaceful citizens and their innocence clearly proven. They also send hundreds to that African tomb, Fernando Po, who are guilty of the unpardonable crimes of possessing some means and of having a good social position. In this manner the Spanish government is determined to blot out the Cuban race and they will be successful if we allow things to continue as they have been until now. But I cannot believe that the American government will for a long time remain a passive spectator of our revolution; on the contrary, we all hope soon to receive the joyful tidings of our recognition by the Great Republic and that she will intervene with Spain so that the war she wages against us may lose its savage character and that the laws of civilized nations will be observed.

I remain your sincere friend,

DONATO DEL MARMOL.