

The New Republic.

The revolution in Cuba has changed its phase, and, emerging from the chrysalis state of a unanimous popular resistance to the tyranny of Spain, has assumed the mature proportions of a complete republic. Our readers will find in another column of our issue to-day the address of General Cespedes on resigning his provisional authority into the hands of the Cuban Congress, and his subsequent proclamation to the people of Cuba as President of the new-born republic. Accompanying these documents are certain official reports of Señor Aguilera, the new Secretary of State and War, and the proclamation of General Quesada, the newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of the patriot forces of Cuba. These documents have come to us direct from Guimaro, the provisional capital of the republic, and bear the official imprint of the newly constituted government.

It has been said that true liberty consists in a due respect for all the forms of law; and in this duty General Cespedes has not been wanting in his action as leader of the revolution. On the 10th of September last he raised the banner of resistance to the Spanish authorities at Yara, and although his example was rapidly followed in the Eastern and Central Departments of the island, and he was recognized by local leaders everywhere as the true chief of the movement, he has been slow to assume the functions of supreme authority, and modest in their exercise. When the representatives of the people met in congress he resigned into their hands the authority which the popular voice had conferred upon him, and submitted to their will. They have exhibited their confidence in his wisdom and integrity, and have conferred upon him the first position which the will of a free people can confer, and from this moment his voice will stir every Cuban heart as their chosen and accepted leader.

It is not the pomp of courts nor the trappings of a gorgeous array which constitutes the true grandeur of the birth of a nation. It is the holiness of the fires which burn upon its altars and the sublimity of the ideas which have given it being. In this respect the words of President Cespedes, though few, are pregnant with greatness and with life. Though uttered amid the palm-crowned fields of a distant isle, and perhaps beneath the thatched and humble roof of a tropical cottage, they will find an echo in the courts of palaces and in the hearts of freemen everywhere. "In the act of beginning the struggle with the oppressor," said he, "Cuba has assumed the solemn duty to consummate her independence or to perish in the attempt; and in giving herself a democratic government she obligates herself to become republican. This double obligation, contracted in the presence of free America, before the liberal world, and, what is more, before our own consciences, signifies our determination to be heroic and to be virtuous. On your heroism I rely for the consummation of our independence, and on your virtue I count to consolidate the republic."

Words like these fashion the minds of men everywhere, and exercise that control over events which shows that "beneath the rule of man entirely great the pen is mightier than the sword." They bring a new power into the struggle for freedom in Cuba, and lead to the conviction that in the contest there against the crown of Spain that monarchy is destined to encounter the same defeat which has ever attended its efforts to perpetuate its sway. Revolution against it has triumphed in Naples and Italy, in Portugal, in the Low Countries, and in the multitudinous republics that once constituted her vast dominion on this Continent, and it has failed nowhere. They will fire the Cuban heart with new enthusiasm and inspire confidence in its efforts and its aims. They will imbue every Cabinet in the civilized world with a feeling of respect for the Cuban leader, and create an antagonism at home and abroad to the claims of Spain which she will find it difficult, if not impossible to overcome; and we shall not be surprised if, in the peculiar condition in which the Spanish nation finds itself to-day, they found a powerful echo in the Spanish peninsula.

Listening to their import we must hail the fact that a new republic is born. We know that to this announcement the heart of the American people will respond with pleasure, and we shall not be surprised to see an upheaval of public opinion that will contribute greatly to the early triumph of its cause. It will become our government to give the first recognition to the new member of the family of nations, which we doubt not it will do, and from those of civilized and Christian peoples we look for such action as will mitigate the horrors of a war of revolution and the sufferings which attend a nation in the throes of independence. All hail to the republic of Cuba, the youngest and, mayhap, the fairest of nations!