

A Cuban Congress—Annexation to the United States the Declared Object of the Revolution.

While the Spanish authorities in Havana are loudly assuring the world that the Cuban insurrection is very nearly extinguished, and that sixty days more will see the end of the revolution, we are startled with a telegram—suppressed in Havana, but sent to us via Key West—announcing that the Cuban Congress has assembled at Sibanicú under the Presidency of General Cespedes, and calmly declared the objects of the revolution and its confidence in the success of the cause. Freedom and annexation to the United States are the unanimous vote of the assembled patriots. General Quesada is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the forces, and the most determined spirit animated the members of the assembly.

This is an announcement that will ring through America and Europe. It will be remembered that months ago these Cuban patriots decreed the liberation of the slaves in the island as being a logical sequence and part of their effort for their own freedom; and now comes the unhesitating proclamation of their confidence in the great republic and their aim to be admitted to its union and defence. It is a novel and bold principle of civil war, and will complicate the position of our people and our government very much. Whatever view the administration may take of the contest now going on in Cuba, it cannot reject such a frank avowal of confidence in its wisdom and integrity; for to do so would be a demerit to its own character and self-respect. That this bold step will awaken a still greater sympathy among our people in behalf of the patriot cause in Cuba no man can doubt. What attitude Spain will or can take in this strange juncture can be merely a matter of conjecture. She has not yet proclaimed war as existing in her American colonial possessions, though her officers made the mistake of assuming to exercise rights on the sea peculiar to a state of war, from which they have naturally been compelled to recede.

Spain may demand of our government a disavowal of sympathy with the revolution in Cuba, but to do so she will subject herself to the dilemma of either receiving the rebuff of a refusal or of admitting a disavowal which neither she nor the world can believe. Yet if she does not do so she will permit the tacit acceptance by our government and people of the aim of the revolution to exercise its full force in the contest and its natural influence in the diplomacy of cabinets. The intervention of other European cabinets in the diplomatic discussion, which the Spanish journals have frequently intimated as likely to be brought about, would only complicate the question still more. The step taken by the Cubans elevates their domestic affairs to the full dignity of an American question, and European meddling can only intensify its character and consolidate its influence. As a step in diplomacy, therefore, and in the arts of government, the action of the Cuban Congress is a very shrewd one, and shows a skill and proficiency which does them high honor as beginners.