

PERU

Recognition of Cuba as a Belligerent Power— The Peruvian and Chilean Ministers at Washington Instructed to Assist the Cuban Minister—The War with Spain Question— Return of General Hovey.

LIMA, May 22, 1899.

I extract the following from the leading and most influential newspaper of the republic:—

We subjoin the very important decree relative to the Island of Cuba. We are convinced that it embodies the genuine feeling of the country and that the government in thus proceeding has manifested the general desire of Peru. The only portion of territory still possessed by Spain in America should be covered by a republican flag.

We accept and applaud the declaration of the government, but we would desire the part to be taken by Peru not to be limited alone to the cold acknowledgment of the heroic patriots as belligerents, but that the banners of the 2d of May, that waved so proudly while the discomfited Spanish squadron retreated, should be displayed side by side with the star of Cuba, and thus, while aiding our brothers, avenge still further the outrage of the Chincha. This would be a fair reprisal!—

JOSE BALTA, Constitutional President of Peru:—

Whereas the insurrection in Cuba has for its object the independence of the island; and that the bonds being broken that bound Cuba to the government of Spain, there are two parties that carry on the war with a political object and should be regarded by other nations in a spirit consonant with international right;

That the government and the people of Peru sympathize with the noble cause proclaimed by the Cubans; that the commander of the revolutionary forces of Cuba has asked the recognition of his party as belligerents;

That Peru should recognize the political status of the insurgents, not considering them as subjects of a government actually at war with Peru, and without prejudice to the manifestations that Peru may hereafter make in their behalf, I decree—

First—That the government of Peru recognizes as belligerents the political party that is now struggling for Cuban independence.

Second—The citizens, ships, and other appurtenances of Cuba serving the cause of independence shall be considered as friends by Peru.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs is charged with the execution and circulation of this decree.

LIMA, May 13, 1899.

JOSE BALTA.

J. A. BARRNECHEA.

This determination of the government was hailed by the people of Lima with the liveliest enthusiasm, and the Cuban representative here was made the object of numerous ovations, while in all classes of society subscriptions were opened for the assistance of the gallant patriots. The Ministers of Peru and Chile in Washington have been specially instructed to lose no time or means in endeavoring to induce the government of the United States to join with their countries in recognizing the struggling party as belligerents, and to consent to the withdrawal of the promises made by the Peruvian Minister in Washington regarding the voyage of the Peruvian monitors. The latter, however, cannot well be acceded to by the United States. Further than this Peru, from her geographical position, can afford hardly any assistance to the patriots, although the money and material now being collected by private parties will certainly help towards the progress of the struggle. This will naturally put an end to Mr. Seward's favorite project of solving all the pending difficulties of Spain with the allied republics of the Pacific by means of a congress of plenipo-

Ministers, to assemble at Washington, and in case of disagreement to be counselled and directed by the President of the United States. Now, acting so decidedly against Spain, of course no further steps can be taken in the matter.

By this steamer Major General Alven P. Hovey, for nearly four years Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Peru, proceeds to New York, having received the necessary leave of absence from the Department of State. The object of General Hovey's journey is to carry his family to the United States, where that health can be obtained that is unknown to foreigners sojourning in Peru, and to procure for himself the necessary rest after such a long term of active service. The American colony settled here experienced a strong feeling of regret in parting from their Minister, but are consoled by the knowledge that a few months will see him again in their midst. General Hovey enjoys a rare degree of popularity among Peruvians from the natural affection they bear towards representative Americans and from his kind and courteous bearing to all. The sympathy that, as a republican, he could not conceal for the success of the Peruvian arms on the memorable occasion of the 2d of May also endeared him to the public, and his departure is very generally regretted. Mr. Henry M. Brent, the Secretary of Legation, remains as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of the Minister.

The country remains in the same tranquil state reported in my last communication. In fact, since the date of that letter nothing of importance has occurred here save the recognition of Cuban belligerent rights.

The port of Callao is to be improved by the construction of commodious docks and basins for shipping, and several of the largest commercial houses here are negotiating with the government for the work.

Yellow fever still continues its ravages in the South, but the cold weather, now setting in, has effectually checked its progress in this vicinity.

The United States ship Powhatan arrived in the port of Callao on the 20th instant, with Rear Admiral Turner and staff on board. The Admiral proceeds to San Francisco to take command of the consolidated squadron.

General Kilpatrick, United States Minister to Chile, left for his post on the 20th instant.