

The Revolution in Havana—Spanish Mob

Law Triumphant.

Nothing could exhibit in a plainer light the progress which the patriot arms are making in Cuba than the revolutionary movement which the mob of Spanish volunteers in Havana has just made in deposing General Dulce from command and installing his now powerless successor in the government of the portion of the island still held by the Spanish troops. This mob is composed of from eight to ten thousand ignorant Spaniards, who have migrated to Cuba in pursuit of fortune. They come generally from the lowest class of the population in Spain, and fill the corner groceries of the city and country to the exclusion of every other class from the occupations of the retail trade. Living entirely in their shops and exercising the closest thrift, they seldom have married in the country and are never admitted to any of the circles of Cuban society. Their sole ambition has been to gather a few thousand dollars with which to return to Spain, where it requires but a small fortune to constitute a great man.

The advent of the revolution menaced the very existence of their hopes and gave rise to the bitterest hatred against the Cubans. This feeling has been fostered by the unwisely bombast course of the government and press, and the result is that every expected victory which proves to be an empty success, or perhaps a defeat, goads them to frenzy against the officers who have failed to accomplish incredible promises or fulfil impossible hopes. To-day they find their traffic destroyed, their notes given for their stocks in trade falling due, and themselves on the verge of bankruptcy and ruin. Victory is their only safety, and it must come soon or it will be worthless to them. The march of events has gradually shown to them that this is fleeing from their grasp, and the repeated landing of arms and assistance for the patriots during the last ten days produced a feeling of depression among them which culminated in the outbreak of Tuesday and drove General Dulce from power.

The immediate occasion of the outbreak was the return of General Pelaez to Havana. This officer has been recently in command of the Villa Clara district, comprising that city and those of Sagua, Remedios, Trinidad and Cienfuegos. It may be called the quadrilateral of Cuba, and it was on the announced suppression of the insurrection within its borders that the Spanish government a few weeks since based its statement that the revolution was almost extinguished. So far from this being the case it has become evident that the Spanish force holding the position is melting away, and should the patriots now operating there be able to take Villa Clara and organize their forces a revolutionary movement in the Western Department of the island will become inevitable. General Pelaez's injudicious announcement of victory has subjected him to the serious accusation of selling his cause, now that defeat begins to be apparent. On his return to Havana he would no doubt have been murdered by the Spanish mob had he been taken, and his escape resulted in the deposition of the Captain General.

This is a grave event, and we trust it will open the eyes of the administration at Washington to the task that is before it. The accusation against their leaders shows the exact mental calibre of the mob now controlling the government in Havana, and the deposition of General Dulce removes the only barrier to the reign of the wildest passion. Thousands of American lives and millions of American property are at stake in Cuba, and our government cannot too soon make a demonstration which shall afford them some protection. A powerful fleet should collect in Havana at once, and a public exhibition of our determination to have our citizens respected should be made. Such a course will fill our immediate duty and probably prevent the shedding of much innocent blood.

But is the government prepared to meet the great questions which the inexorable march of events is forcing upon it? This march is being accomplished with all the speed natural to an age in possession of the steam engine and electric telegraph. While the Cabinet is agitated with minor questions between the Spanish and Peruvian Ministers at Washington Cuba is growing apace and preparing to place her flag upon the sea as well as on the land. Let no man doubt that the sister republics will open their ports to her cruisers and their prizes, and that a vast combination will soon be seen to banish the Spanish flag from its last hold in the New World. Mexico, Central America, New Granada and Venezuela have nothing to fear from Spain; and it was the possession of Cuba that enabled the Spaniard to bombard Valparaiso and attack Callao at a very recent date. Peace with Peru is not yet made, and will not be made, as every one who runs may read.

If we had an American statesman at the helm to-day in Washington we should at once prepare to take possession of Havana and St. John's, Porto Rico. It is coming to this, and the sooner we define our policy and exert our power in the interests of civilization and humanity the better will it be for us, for Spain, for Cuba and for the world at large. We doubt the wisdom and the energy of Mr. Fish. He is an elegant gentleman of the old school, admirably adapted to manage the nothingness of diplomatic intercourse in the piping times of peace; but when the blasts of revolution and war blow in our ears we look for men of other mettle. We need to-day the clear-sightedness of a Canning, the astuteness of a Cavour or the audacity of a Bismarck to command the pregnant field of American policy. The revolution of Tuesday in Havana is but a step in the march of events. The end is not yet, and General Grant will do well to waken to the emergency.