THE CUBAN CAUSE.

GREAT MEETING AT STEINWAY HALL.

SPEECHES BY MAYOR HALL, THE REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER, MOSES COIT TYLER, WISSER, LEMPRIERE, TOWNSEND, SHERWOOD AND SULLIVAN.

The meeting of the friends of Cuban freedom at Steinway Hall, last night, was a grand and enthusiastic demonstration. At an early hour the hall was full to the overflowing, many being unable to gain entrance. At 8 o'clock the speakers and a large number of prominent gentlemen made their appearances on the stage. This was the signal for long continued applause, many persons rising to their feet, waving their hats and shouting enthusiastically. The stage was decorated with the Cuban colors in the center, and the Stars and Stripes on each side. The following Vice-Presidents were named and unanimously elected: Gen John C. Fremont, Messrs John Bigelow, Frank Leslie, Wm. Hastings, Alexander Taylor, John K. Hackett, Henry A. Smythe, James Parker, and J. R. Morris; Secretaries, Fletcher Harper, Stuart M. Taylor, James M. Bendizy, and W. A Watson.

Mr. Dana of *Hepburn* arose, and moved that His Honor Mayor Hall be elected chairman of the meeting. The motion was adopted an id loud and prolonged applause.

SPEECH OF MAYOR HALL.

Mayor Hall came forward, and long continued applause. When silence was sufficiently restored, he said: To night the banner which floats in front of this door is drooping. But the native-born citizens of the Island to which it belongs are preaching to the spaniards practical sermons from that old saying, "Those who would be free, themselves must strike the blow." [Applause.] And to-night, too, they are evidently determined to preach to Spain, and to preach to the Cubans, from that grand old text—"Love thy neighbor as thyself." In vain might we rejoice over the destruction of African slavery in our Southern States, and the striking off of the chains from the slaves in Cuba, that they may become free men. Slavery is in Spain, and it is equally clearly proper that the Mayor of this city at its should be here to-night to lead you in sympathy for our neighbor, and protest against the injustice done to our neighbor. It is not alone a patriotic view we ought to take of Cuban affairs, but it is a Christian and a natural economy. When Las Cuba close since last October on the 10th of that month 127 men marched out, like the sons of Ishmael, to the sacrifice, and to-day 127 towns, cities, and villages of the beautiful island are sadly in Spanish possession. Yesterday, the little Spanish emissary called revolutionists. A little leaven has leavened the whole lump. Every Spanish heart throughout the world, in which there is so much progress as has been manifested in the struggle of Cuba, is at least as ready marching in the cause of Cuba, greater than all the armies Spain can send there. It is the moral force and the sympathy of the world in Cuba's cause. [Applause] The moral force of the civilized world is against such barbarity as Spain is exercised towards Cuba. And there is still another of a which will meet the troops sent from Spain. The very name of Cuba is a watchword of liberty and action, for they will be met by Yellow Jack. [Applause.] I remember the battle made in Cuba, and the special fragrance from the fragrant Havana. We believe he is ready, if needed, to take his post in Cuba, and from some of the stations. [Applause.] [Cheers.] [Applause.] I rejoice that Mr. Dana has nominated as Consul-General to Havana a man who is well and Jacksonian in his principles, and who is ready to strike for the rights of American citizens. [Applause.] The Mayor toward the close of his speech referred to the military and civil rights of citizens of Cuba "through the city during the day, by the emissaries of Spain." He believed that there is a Cuban Revolution, and here expressed the indignation by blows and groans. Thus early, he said, in his responsible character he had ever been applauded the government of Cuba, and it was meet that New-York should now express the wishes of the people of the United States in strong continued applause.]

The Chairman then read the following resolutions, reported by the committee, as expressive of the objects and aims of the meeting:

Resolved, That the present struggle of the Cubans for independence and self government, belongs to the same category with the American Revolution of 1776, and the Greek Revolution of 1821, and is in progress and deserves every kind of assistance that other nations may rightly give it.

Resolved, That the Cuban cause is just, and that the wrongs against which the people of Cuba have rebelled are of the most aggravated character, including as they do, Cuban Spanish representation, taxation without representation, and the total denial of the rights of self government and of free speech and from public service, the denial of the right to bear arms, and of the sacred privilege of habeas corpus and trial by jury.

Resolved, That the Cuban cause is dear to the hearts of the people of this land, and we are ready to evidence that their share the most substantial love and sympathy, by giving to the Cuban patriots, such aid as we can without violation of our laws, and by giving the proclamation of belligerent rights, a prompt and generous recognition.

Resolved, That while we wish all countries every blessing, we do not wish to see the Cuban Revolution, or any other, the result of aid from North America and have no desire of the kind, recognize a great should, rather see it fail perfectly than see it failing and failing for an example to the world of a government that is not a government of the people, and of the people, and for the people.

Resolved, That we believe it is the duty of our Government to recognize the belligerent rights of the Cubans at the earliest practicable moment, and to extend to them the aid and sympathy of our nation in the end of those who contend against despotism and oppression; and that we earnestly desire a time for our nation to do this, when it may be so without violation of our laws, and in dealing with this great subject.

It is impossible to describe the enthusiasm with which these resolutions were received.

The Chairman then introduced the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

SPEECH OF THE REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher then came forward, and was received with loud and prolonged cheers. After some preliminary observations, when the enthusiasm had subsided, he said: I feel here to be near the home of my death which the tidings that any people, however simple or remote, or down a tradition, who have felt the touch of true manhood, and have awakened for the reverence of their liberties, shall fail to arouse in my heart a responsive sympathy. Though I do not feel the same language as the Cubans, I know that the heart knows but one language. They that have generous sentiments and true manhood, and generous and noble disposition, will feel like me. While I sincerely rejoice in the ready sympathy which I see to-night, my desire is not so much to see a patriotic meeting here and nothing more, but to hear a thoroughly able discussion of this subject—to spread the intelligent conviction how the whole American people stand, without distinction of parties, on this Cuban question. I for one desire to see Cuba shaking off the shackles which she has worn too long, and to see her stand absolutely free and independent. The most beautiful sale of the half large enough to be independent, with freedom to do and dare for her rights. I desire from my heart to see the day when the iron chain of despotism will be no longer on her hands or ankles, and when she will be able to stand among the independent nations of the earth great and glorious. [Cheers.] I pray then, indulge me while I make a few remarks, addressed rather to your reason than to your feelings, which I perceive only need to be mentioned. [Laughter.] This meeting is not called to set forth any ill-will or unkind feeling toward the Spaniard and Spain. We have no desire to see Spain dismembered or broken up for them that, we not only do not meet to say to the Spaniards, and especially to that patriotic class of the citizens of Spain who have encouraged and so far achieved the revolution, "Be your enemies," but we say we are their friends, and desire to become more friendly. While we see them waking from the sleep of ages, we say we they will ere long forget the bad lessons which ages of tyranny have taught them. We are not disposed to look with a jealous eye on all parts of their conduct. I trust that the old Spanish blood has not yet lost its strength and purity, and that the Spanish people are destined for a glorious future. [Cheers.] She has heard the trumpet of liberty sounding in her ears. It is sounding now, and her people are arousing from their lethargy. Freedom of religion as the watchword of Spain to-day. Knowledge, independence, honor, hope, virtue, and patriotism—these are the feelings that predominate. O Spain! that which makes us love you to-day is that which we demand of you for Cuba to-day. [Applause.] Let not the greatest bigot, the most stubborn partisan, be able to send word to Madrid that this meeting was hostile to Spain, and that and us so set this message to Spain: "As long as you are for freedom, for intelligence, for patriotism, for truth, so long you have our hearts and our affections." I would not have the force of this meeting broken by having it surmised that it is a meeting of self-interests, mixed with patriotism and a love of liberty. Not at all. The motive which has brought me here to-night, and which I am confident drew us all together, is not that by and-by Cuba may be annexed to the United States. I hope she will be left free to do that which her own interests require her to do. Freedom and independence are almost as dangerous, and if she should be free on that point, she should be independent as well as free. If it is best that she should have a government modified one way or another, and desire to join the United States, she is at perfect liberty to make application; but it is not therefore a desire to disclaim from under the Spanish colors, and bring her under the American that I stand here before you this night. [Cheers.] It is not, I repeat, a selfish desire that Cuba may be address you. Why, may I ask? Just that we feel it our duty to call on the authority of pleading her to be independent. If a tenant occupies a house with his own, and when about moving says "I'll take my part of the house," no dollar taken away from the parlors and rooms leaving me exposed to the inclemency of the weather, this I you not I have a right to protest against the unfair dealing. [Laughter.] In regard to my personal wish, I hold myself to discuss that question when occasion arises, and not before. Cuba is a little country, and, of course, but mere smallness has nothing to do with the rights of beauty, as we all know. [Laughter.] Oftentimes it enhances their value. Secondly, because she has a population that deserve it, and every people has an inherent right to self-government. Thirdly, many people wise was to gain their liberty, but the common right of nations to self government is a right as old as creation. I have sympathy with them because they belong to the great family of mankind. Whether it be Crete or Cuba, or some far Northern country, or one at the Indian Ocean, it is the one desire be that all men who live under God's good sun should recognize the right of a people to feel that from magnificent and be free from racial inferiorities. It is true that possession may, in law, at least, confer political rights. [Cheers.] Though Spain has long sucked the vital blood from Cuba it does not give her a right to suck more. There is Cuba, as it were, standing as a cow in the pasture, sitting rich milk, and Spain ready to feed her because she sits in the pail. [Laughter.] For the future Pask a right for Cuba to be her own husbandman, and tend her own flocks. I hold that Cuba has a right to have independence, because her people are willing to suffer to maintain it. You can make laborers as well as mechanics, and land cultivators, and a nation of slaves who are willing to be slaves you may shape as you please, but they are slaves still. When I see men rise up in the midst of a people and say it is better to be free than to be the richest slaveries in Cuba and a State, I am willing to support their views. [Cheers.] It is because I have seen this spirit exhibited by Cubans that I assert their right to separate—I won't say from their mother—but from their stepmother country. Consider how long these people have kept the arnales of Spain at bay. If it is true that the Spanish army talks and roots in their cities, it is also true that the Cubans in those seem of God's own building, the mountains of the interior. If without arms, and almost without sympathy and encouragement, they have been able to hold out so long, how will it be when they have the aid of generous sympathies carried the intelligence to Cuba that 30,000,000 are ready to do for her what we have done? [Cheers with the cry "Do or die." If I could speak so that those in the mountains of Cuba could hear my voice, I would say, "Better die as heroes than live as slaves—better a thousand fold that their island should sink in the sea than that it should go back again under Spanish rule." [Prolonged cheering] "Will you excuse me," continued the speaker, "if I ask you to restrain your enthusiasm, because I have a good deal to say yet. Time is not so valuable, but I am afraid that you will get a hoarse laugh from me if I try to cheer me when I meet it most. [Laughter.] If Cuba should be governed by any foreign nation, I think the last nation in the world to do it is Spain is the last because she knows the least as yet how to govern. [Hear, hear] Spain is a country which has lost her ancient vigor of thing but the days of Charles the Fifth, she has just woke up and, like Rip Van Winkle, is looking about musingly on the world to find out best customs and languages. Spain has not yet learned, France has not yet learned, Italy has not yet learned, and America have not yet learned what tool did not mean that anybody should learn. [Laughter.] How to govern a people is a thing too hard to be good at. We are so used to the broad and unobstructed highways of liberty that we cannot understand the tangled paths of despotism. Here are the laws of Cuba! They are not made in Cuba. No children have a voice there. They are as foundery there as Spain. Cuba is as Governor-General, and he will in a few years retire, the value of his fees possession and return home to live again his former life of dissipation. The Government, from the Captain-General down to the lowest officer, is control by no natives. The Island is used as I use a wheel stone, to make my axe bright. It is no advantage to the Spanish Government. Cuba is as despotic as Naro of old. Since 1825 Cuba has been under military government, and martial law has existed in the island. The strange thing is that Spain, after the as Southern shore their should rule such despotism unchecked—a Spanish rule, which is governed by foreign laws. This is secretly conceived by Americans. I hold that Cuba has a right to self government. I hold that a right to cast off despotism, she has a right to throw off Spanish despotism. She has a right to her independence because she is not a German, a Prince, or a Czar. [Laughter.] Cuba has 1,123 self-right, colonies, and free." Not one-tenth part of the population of Cuba. Her vast sources of mines are not yet developed. Take an instance of Spanish commercial liberty. Cuba has to pay a tax of $2.90 a barrel on the flour she import from Spain. [Laughter.] Don't laugh yet. If she brings flour from any other country the tax is $6 a barrel. Is that liberty of trade? It is not! Yet look on the other side. Her exports are taxed, though the tax is only 2 per cent. Her produce is taxed 7 per cent to Germany, 8 to France, 27 per cent to Great Britain, and 32 per cent goes to America—showing where the friends are and where the foes are. Let her trade where it is her interest, without foreign taxes, and what a glorious future she will have. Yes, give her liberty, and every space of ground in the Island will be a garden. What a future opens for the long-oppressed Antilles. Now I am frightened if we take the ground that we do, it will be cast against us by Great Britain. After entering into a discussion of the Alabama question and the stand England took during the recent civil war in America, Mr. Beecher concluded by an attempt to throw off her shackles, and found a new national life, and shall we not declare she is right. When blockade runners come to England, as the Sunflower said, may the night be dark or the vessels dirk or be captured, but now, when ships convey munitions of war to struggling Cuba, I pray them good speed. I hope to live to see the day when her flag, which we have assisted in bearing shall visit our harbors, and bear the multitudes of American cry out, "I helped the Cubans to make this flag free."

The next speaker was the famous African explorer, M. Du Chaillu. In the course of his remarks this gentleman gave a description of the Spanish Governor-General, Fernando Po. After M. Du Chaillu concluded his speech, the Chairman announced the name of two gentlemen they would have the Marseilles Hymn—music on the organ, and words by Mr. W. J. Hill. The music excited as much enthusiasm as any of the speeches had done, and Mr Hill, who sang with great power and effect the soul-stirring words of the matchless production, was called out for another stanza.

Mr. John Sherwood then made a few remarks. He was followed by Mr. Alexander Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan thought the time would soon come when Cuba would be admitted to the Union. He was in favor of sympathizing with people struggling for freedom, with the help that we could give them would seem sacred. Should they have our help? It rest of Yes, Yes, [Cheers.] The Hon. D. Townsend was next introduced. He delivered a most eloquent and stirring speech of 15 minutes, and was frequently and loudly applauded. The next speaker was M. Lempriere, formerly British Colonial Secretary for the Bahamas.

After singing the "Star Spangled Banner," the meeting then adjourned.