

THE CUBAN CAUSE.

Mass-Meeting in Brooklyn—Addresses by Gen. Jordan and Others—Distribution of Prizes.

In accordance with previous announcements, a mass-meeting was held at the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, last evening to express sympathy for the struggling Cubans and raise means for the relief of their destitute women and children. The auditorium of the Academy was tastefully decorated with national emblems and banners, and the band of the Sixty-ninth Regiment was present to give spirit to the occasion, but the audience was of very moderate dimensions, and not overflowing with enthusiasm. Mr. GEORGE W. BROWN, who has been the principal manager of the affair, presided, and stated the objects of the meeting and the difficulties which had been encountered in getting it up. He explained that gifts of jewelry and other valuables had been given to the Cuban Junta in New-York to aid in the cause of the patriots, to the value of about \$10,000, and after mature deliberation it had been determined to dispose of them by raffle at a great public meeting, at which Gen. THOS. JORDAN should tell the story of his experiences in the island of Cuba, and set the cause of the patriots before them in the vivid light which his experiences enabled him to throw upon the subject. Accordingly, 10,000 tickets had been prepared and in part sold. The first seventy numbers drawn from the wheel were to secure the prizes, which varied in value from \$5 to \$1,200.

Mr. BROWN then read letters from several prominent men, who had been invited to be present and address the meeting, among them Senator FENTON, Congressmen JOHN A. LOGAN, FERNANDO WOOD and THOS. FITCH. and Ex-Lieut.-Gov. STEWART L. WOODFORD. They all expressed their sympathy with the object of the meeting and their regret at not being able to be present.

After a few remarks by DAN. R. LIDDY, in which he spoke of the sympathy which the American people felt for the struggling patriots in Cuba, and the duty of the Government to concede them belligerent rights, Gen. THOS. JORDAN was introduced as one who had taken part in the struggle and knew whereof he spoke.

He said that he knew the cause of the Cubans to be just and noble. The oppression and tyranny under which they had suffered was of the most atrocious character, and they were now attempting to throw off the yoke of the tyrant. An American people in that position could not but command the sympathy of their fellow-Americans. The speaker then proceeded to relate his own experience as leader of the revolutionary forces of the island. He landed there in May, 1869, but was not a filibuster. He did not command the expedition, but only took charge of the forces after his arrival, and attempted to reduce them to organization. He knew that alone was what they needed, for the power of Spain was crumbling to pieces. The islanders were prepared to rise against it in all quarters, and even in Havana they were kept down only by the ferocious soldiery of Spain. He adopted the cause as an American soldier to overthrow despotism upon American soil. The expedition which he accompanied numbered only 170 men, of whom more than one-half were native Cubans. The entire aid derived from external sources had not exceeded 250 men and 6,000 stands of arms, although strenuous efforts were made to furnish them assistance from this country. Their failure was not due to the vigilance or energy of Spanish authority, but 20,000 muskets, much artillery and military stores had been seized by the keensighted officials of the United States, and England. This too, while Spain has been allowed to purchase arms and supplies and even fit out vessels of war to be used in the contest. This was called impartial neutrality. But the course of the United States had been far less injurious to the Cubans than the shabby conduct of England in seizing vessels in distress and condemning them as lawful prize. The Spanish Government had employed 100,000 men and fifty ships of war in the attempt to put down the insurrection, and yet it had hardly more than kept it out of the stronghold of Havana. The insurrection involved the whole island, except the small portion to the west of the capital, and that was kept down only by the merciless soldiery. The Spaniards, he said, were savage foes, never surpassed in brutality and inhumanity. They never spared their prisoners, but habitually butchered the sick and wounded. Accusations of a similar kind had been brought against the Cubans, but in the early part of the war they had shown great leniency toward their prisoners. This was abused by the Spaniards, who violated their parole and entered the army again, and perpetrated the grossest outrages. The Cubans were forced with great reluctance to retaliate for the murder of their men who fell in the hands of the Spaniards, but they never did it when any other course appeared open to them. Gen. QUESADA attempted to make an arrangement for an exchange of prisoners, but the Spaniards had scornfully refused to treat with him. But the stories of Cuban cruelty had been greatly exaggerated. They had shown their humanity and lofty principle in numerous instances. They inaugurated their movement for national independence by a manumission of all their slaves, which they confirmed in their Constitution. Negroes have not only been set free, but have been allowed equal political rights and privileges with whites wherever the patriot cause has prevailed. No class entered into the revolution with more earnestness or a higher appreciation of the interests involved than they, and they have fought manfully side by side with white men.

The speaker closed with expressing his belief that whatever apparent apathy there might be, the sympathies of the people of this country must be with the Cubans in their struggle for deliverance from tyranny and cruel oppression and for national independence. They could not permit this brave people to be cowed into submission after their long and courageous struggle. There was one practical point which he wished to press. There were many old muskets stored away to rust. These would be of great service if they were brought forth and placed at his disposal to be sent to Cuba, there to become vocal again for liberty and justice, and for the overthrow of a monstrous tyranny. The hearts of all Cubans beat with a desire to free their beautiful and marvellously gifted isle from the baleful presence of the Spanish oppressor. If any desired to aid them in the way which he had suggested, and had not an old gun, they could buy new ones.

Gen. JORDAN's speech was received with hearty applause, and Col. E. B. LANSING followed in a short but spirited address. He said that all governments were founded on some idea, and that of America was human liberty. The mission of this country was to aid the oppressed and down-trodden wherever they might be. It surely ought to stand by those who were struggling for liberty in Cuba and in Ireland. He urged that the concession of belligerent rights ought to have been made a year ago. If the Government did not grant this the people ought to rise and demand it, and in the first place they should take down the old muskets and dedicate them to the great cause of Cuban independence.

After the speaking was concluded a committee of two was appointed by the audience to superintend the drawing of prizes. The 10,000 numbers were put in a wheel, and Col. LANSING was blindfolded and proceeded to draw them. This proceeding occupied about an hour, and five only of the seventy prizes were drawn by persons in the audience. How many of the other numbers were among them not sold at all did not appear. The first prize drawn by a ticket-holder in the audience was the seventh on the list, a bronze clock valued at \$500, which was received by CHARLES COLLINS, of Brooklyn.