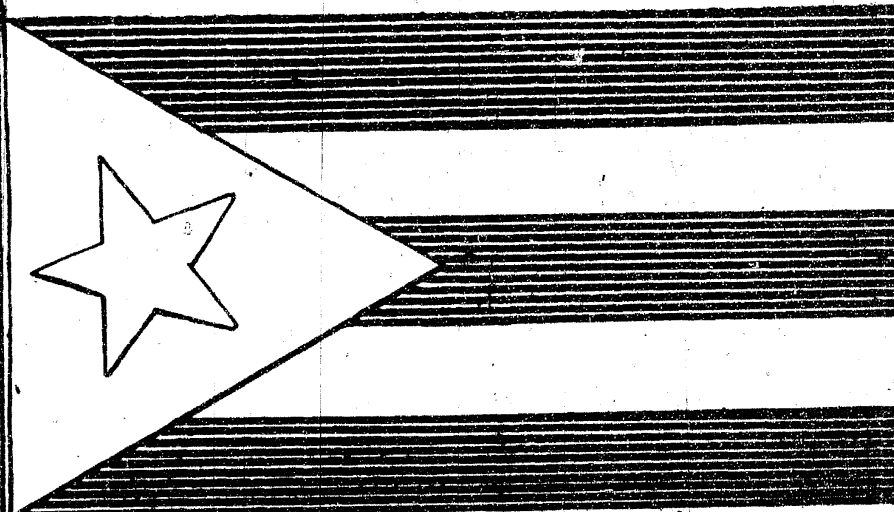


Shall we do less for Cuba than we did for Spain's South American Colonies.



The United States Can Strike the Shackles from the Island of Cuba, if It will.

BIG PATRIOTIC MEETING.

The Demonstration at Hardman Hall the other Night Boomed the Cause of Free Cuba.

MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN FLOCKED TO THE PLATFORM AND FREELY GAVE THEIR OFFERINGS.

The meeting of Cubans and Americans at Hardman Hall the other night was an enthusiastic gathering of earnest men and women, eager and resolute to help the struggle for liberty and human rights now going on almost at the threshold of this great Republic. It was the largest meeting thus far held in the Cuban campaign, and the large audience, which crowded the hall to its utmost capacity, cheered to the echo the patriotic sentiments of the speakers. Flags of the United States, the independent colors of Porto Rico, together with the beautiful emblem of the yet unborn Republic of Cuba, were extensively used in the decoration of the platform. A bit of crape fluttered from the Cuban colors. It was placed there in memory of that patriot of patriots, whose life was devoted to the noble cause of freedom. Marti loved Cuba with all his soul and died bravely for the darling of his heart.

None of the hundreds who were present will ever forget the moving scene which followed Gonzalo de Quesada's appeal for financial assistance. Men, women and children, the manly youth and the timid maiden, pressed forward to the stage to contribute his or her offering. Bills and coin were flung upon the platform in a shower. Women went among the audience and, with aprons extended, collected contributions from those who were unable

to get near the platform. Young men passed around their hats, which in turn were sent up to the platform, the contents being dumped on the heap of coin and bills.

It was this demonstration which most disquieted the Spanish spies sent to the meeting to see and hear what was being done. It is good news to learn that it was their reports, and the published accounts of the great meeting, which prompted the Spanish Minister, Dupuy de Lome, to spur the all too willing government at Washington to "better recognize the laws of neutrality." Minister de Lome protested vigorously against the action of American citizens in contributing toward the cause of the revolution, thus showing by deed as well as by word of mouth their sympathy for the freedom loving Cubans. It is well to record here, however, that those contributions were not intended to purchase arms and ammunition to fight a friendly Power, but to buy medicines and food for the unfortunate sick and wounded Cuban soldiers.

When the newly elected President of the Cuban revolutionary party, Estrada Palma, Marti's successor, was brought forward, he was received with vociferous applause. Mr. Fraga introduced Senor Palma as "a patriot who has already earned his name in the history of Cuba's fight for liberty." In reply, Estrada Palma paid a glowing tribute to Marti and said:—"I receive inspiration in following the example set by the dead patriot." He added that the work of securing legislation in behalf of Cubans was now well under way. He made known his intention of travelling from State to State, making speeches and holding councils with the representative Cuban leaders in the various cities. "Then, in the fall, our cry will be, 'On to Washington!'" added Mr. Palma, "and there we hope to establish our rights to be recognized as belligerents."

General Rafael Quesada aroused the admiration of his hearers when he dramatically announced that he was prepared to lead the fourth expedition to the shores of Cuba. "I will not say from whence this expedition will start," said the General "but it can be depended upon that, whatever we do, it will be done with all due regard for the laws of

this great country." Several of the Spanish spies were observed to hurry from the hall when the General made this declaration.

Editor Trujillo, of El Porvenir, drew a fine word picture of the present struggle, and eulogized the press of this country. "The rule in Havana is coercion," said he; "the rule in the United States is freedom," he concluded.

Castro Manuel Cespedes said that the Cuban youth of this country were prepared at any moment to go to the front and fight to the last. "Spain is now making her last abortive efforts," he said. "Let us swear we will fight to the bitter end. The cause for which we strive is almost within our grasp."

Eduardo Yero, a noted speaker, said:—"This is not to be a war of words, but a war of action. I am waiting for the happy hour when I shall be called upon to take up my sword."

He followed Ramon de Armas, who made an eloquent, ornate and patriotic speech. Gonzalo de Quesada, in a characteristically eloquent address, predicted that within two years Cuba will be a republic.

Dr. Ybarra's fine oration, wherewith he clearly and eloquently defined the relationship between Cuba and Spain, is herewith reproduced in full. The speaker said:—

"The glorious Fourth of July has been duly celebrated all over the country, but very few persons, perhaps, thought that we Cubans are also at the very moment trying hard to have our own Fourth of July. In the capitals of republican France, Great England, powerful Germany and elsewhere, public demonstrations in honor of the anniversary were likewise appropriately solemnized. Meanwhile, patriotic sons of Cuba are being hurled into dirty dungeons, massacred in cold blood, hounded by the worst kind of criminals, and sent for that special purpose from Spanish penitentiaries.

"What is to-day universally considered the triumph of the thirteen American colonies in the Declaration of Independence was the

for the liberation from the tenfold more galling despotism and Machiavelism of Spain toward her sixteen American colonies. Fourteen of them at last succeeded in gaining their freedom, but there still remain two unfortunate ones malevolently chained to the heavy yoke—Cuba and Porto Rico. Is it criminal for these two remaining American slaves to do what the preceding twenty-seven have done? Is not England to-day proud of the Republic of the United States? Does not Spain at present admit that her fourteen former colonies acted with justice and wisdom in liberating themselves from her? Does she not now call them her dear daughters, and seek commercial union, national intercourse and social reciprocity from them? What the Yankees taught, the other sons of America have readily learned, and the "mambises" are now trying to show that they, too, profited by the lesson.

"According to accurate estimates, the population of the original thirteen American colonies in the year 1760 was a million, six hundred and ninety-five thousand souls, which is pretty nearly the same population that Cuba has to-day. Of that number of inhabitants there were then in those American colonies about three hundred and ten thousand negroes; in Cuba to-day there are five hundred and twenty-five thousand blacks. But we must not forget this extremely important difference—that the American negro was at that time a slave, while the Cuba negro is to-day a free man. Lincoln, the noble Yankee teacher and martyr, set the former free one hundred years afterward, and Cespedes, the mambi pupil and also a martyr, only seven years later broke the chains of Cuba's slaves.

"The failure of Great Britain in 1775 to exercise the supposed right of arbitrary government in her American colonies, as shown by the useless enactment of the famous Stamp act, and afterward by a special tax on tea, caused the Boston Tea Party to give the sign for revolt. The failure of Spain to give to Cuba the long promised reforms in her antiquated system of colonial government and an unjust overtaxation on sugar, gave the Cuban revolutionary party in the United States an excellent opportunity to put in practice what it had been preaching for several years. The time, therefore, arrived when Cubans became convinced that it is far better to fight and die than to continue to be governed by the upholders of tradition, ancient, monarchical tyranny and an enforced ignorance, which have almost completely wiped out everything good upon the beautiful island of Cuba.

"The iron heel of oppression has been set upon us long enough, and it is time that the artificial reverence which a prostrate man and society show to the tyrant be replaced by manly courage, dignity and defiance, which should never be abandoned until our island is free from bondage. A new man and a new society, the one more free and the other more virtuous, should by all means be encouraged to grow and bear fruit on the American land, where the fruitful evils of the institution of monarchy and its various pillars of support have for four hundred years reigned supreme.

"Feudal chieftainship, ecclesiastical domination, a graduated order of nobility, the doctrine of entails, the legal principle that the King is part owner of all kinds of properties, material, intellectual and spiritual, the practice of preferment for the native born Spaniard, the suppression of all the ways and means of enlightenment, and the propagation of all the ways and means of corruption, these are the evils against which the Cuban patriots are enthusiastically fighting. Why should not Americans do for Cuba what France, under similar circumstances, did for them? And please bear in mind that at that time there were no submarine cables to flash the news across the Atlantic, nor fast steamships to bring over soldiers in a few days. All of which now militates against the Cuban patriots.

"In his letter to the Tammany Society, on its cele-

bration of Independence Day, President Cleveland said:—"The patriotism and devotion of those who fought for our liberties and established our free government ought always to be held in grateful remembrance, and neither lapse of years nor changed conditions should ever detract from the zest and enthusiasm of their commemoration." No, nor shall those glorious Cuban patriots who have fallen, or may hereafter fall, in the same attempt, be forgotten.

"Mr. Cleveland, furthermore, wrote:—"We cannot, without wicked recreancy, disregard the lessons taught by their sufferings, nor can we, without disgrace, neglect the duty of preserving and maintaining in their integrity and strength the free institutions born of their heroism." And shall we Cubans be punished for attending and aptly learning what is taught in those institutions, or disregard the lesson implied by the sufferings of our brothers, who are heroically fighting for our liberties and the establishment of a free government?

"The President, furthermore, said:—"It was their lot to endure the rigors and hardships of a discouraging war in order that a government by the people might be established." This is exactly what the fighting patriots in the Cuban fields are to-day enduring, and with precisely the same object in view.

"The Spaniards and Spanish sympathizers say that Mr. Cleveland is an enemy of Cuban independence. No, no, the man who expresses himself in that way cannot be a friend of any tyrant or despot!"