

SENATOR THURSTON'S CUBAN SPEECH.

His Impassioned Appeal to Stop Desolation in Cuba--Calls for Force of Arms Sufficient to Sweep Away Spanish Tyranny.

There has never been a more impressive speech delivered in the United States senate than that in which Senator Thurston of Nebraska told what he had seen in Cuba. Senator Thurston said:

MR. PRESIDENT—I am here by command of silent lips to speak once and for all upon the Cuban situation. I trust that no one has expected anything sensational from me. God forbid that the bitterness of a personal loss should induce me to color in the slightest degree the statement that I feel it my duty to make.

I shall endeavor to be honest, conservative and just. I have no purpose to stir the public passion to any action not necessary and imperative to meet the duties and necessities of American responsibility, Christian humanity and national honor. I would shirk this task if I could, but I dare not. I cannot satisfy my conscience except by speaking, and speaking now.

Some three weeks since three senators and two representatives in congress accepted the invitation of a great metropolitan newspaper to make a trip to Cuba and personally investigate and report upon the situation there.

Our invitation was from a newspaper whose political teachings I have never failed to antagonize and denounce and whose journalism I have considered decidedly sensational.

But let me say, for the credit of the proprietor of the paper in question, that I believe the invitation extended to us was inspired by his patriotic desire to have the actual condition of affairs in Cuba brought to the attention of the American people in such a way that the facts would no longer remain in controversy or dispute.

We were not asked in any way to become the representatives of the paper; no conditions or restrictions were imposed upon us; we were left free to conduct the investigation in our own way; make our own plans, pursue our own methods, take our own time and decide for ourselves upon the best manner of laying the result of our labors before the American people.

For myself, I went to Cuba firmly believing that the condition of affairs there had been greatly exaggerated by the press, and my own efforts were directed in the first instance to the attempted exposure of these supposed exaggerations.

Mr. President, there has undoubtedly been much sensationalism in the journalism of the time, but as to the condition of affairs in Cuba there has been no exaggeration, because exaggeration has been impossible. I have read the careful statement of the junior senator from Vermont [Mr. Proctor], and I find that he has anticipated me in almost every detail. From my own personal knowledge of the situation, I adopt every word of his concise, conservative, specific presentation as my own—nay, more, I am convinced that he has, in a measure, understated the facts.

Cuba is Lost to Spain. After three years of warfare and the loss of 225,000 Spanish troops Spain has lost control of every foot of Cuba not surrounded by an actual intrenchment and protected by a fortified picket line.

She holds possession with her armies of the fortified seaboard towns, not because the insurgents could not capture many of them, but because they are under the virtual protection of Spanish warships, with which the revolutionists cannot cope.

In the four so-called Spanish provinces there is neither cultivation nor railway operation except under strong Spanish military protection or by consent of the revolutionists in consideration of tribute paid.

The revolutionists are in absolute and almost peaceful possession of nearly one-half of the island, including the eastern provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Puerto Principe. In those provinces they have an established form of government, levy and collect taxes, maintain armies, and generally levy a tax of tribute upon the principal plantations in the other provinces, and, as is commonly believed, upon the entire railway system of the island.

Under the humane policy of Weyler not less than 400,000 self-supporting, simple, peaceable, defenseless country people were driven from their homes in the agricultural portions of the Spanish provinces to the cities, and imprisoned upon the barren waste outside the residence portions of these cities and within the lines of intrenchment established a little way beyond.

Their humble homes were burned, their fields laid waste, their implements of husbandry destroyed, their live stock and food supplies for the most part confiscated. Most of these people were old men, women and children. They were thus placed in hopeless imprisonment, without shelter or food.

There was no work for them in the cities to which they were driven. They were left there with nothing to depend upon except the scanty charity of the inhabitants of the cities and with slow starvation their inevitable fate.

Revolutionists Unconquered. It is conceded upon the best ascertainable authority, and those who have had access to the public records do not hesitate to state, that upward of 210,000 of these people have already perished, all from starvation or from disease incident to starvation.

Spain cannot put an end to the existing condition. She cannot conquer the insurgents. She cannot re-establish her sovereignty over any considerable portion of the interior of the island. The revolutionists, while able to maintain themselves, cannot drive the Spanish army from the fortified seaboard towns.

The situation, then, is not war as we understand it, but a chaos of devastation and depopulation of undefined duration whose end no man can see.

There has been no amelioration of the situation except through the charity of the people of the United States. There has been no diminution in the death rate among these reconcentrados except as the death supply is constantly diminished. There is no relief and no hope except through the continued charity of the American people until peace has been fully restored in the island and until a humane government has restored these people to their homes and has provided for them anew the means with which to begin again the cultivation of the soil.

As an instance of the discipline among Spanish I cite the fact that I bought the machete of a Spanish soldier on duty at the wharf in Matanzas, on his offer, for \$3 in Spanish silver. He also seemed desirous of selling me his only remaining arm, a revolver.

The pictures in the American newspapers of the starving reconcentrados are true. They can all be duplicated by the thousands. I never saw, and please God I may never again see, so deplorable a sight as the reconcentrados in the suburbs of Matanzas. I can never forget to my dying day the hopeless anguish in their despairing eyes. Huddled about their little bark huts, they raised no voice of appeal to us for alms as we went among them.

For the United States to Answer. The government of Spain has not and will not appropriate one dollar to save these people. They are now being attended and nursed and administered to by the charity of the United States. Think of the spectacle! We are feeding these citizens of Spain; we are nursing their sick; we are saving such as can be saved, and yet there are those who still say it is right for us to send food, but we must keep our hands off. I say that the time has come when muskets ought to go with the food.

We asked the governor if he knew of any relief for these people except through the charity of the United States. He did not. We then asked him, "Can you see any end to this condition of affairs?" He could not. We asked him, "When do you think the time will come that these people can be placed in a position of self support?" He replied to us, with deep feeling, "Only the good God or the great government of the United States can answer that question." I hope and believe that the good God by the great government of the United States will answer that question.

I will cite but a few facts that came under my personal observation, all tending to fully substantiate the absolute truth of the foregoing propositions. I could detail incidents by the hour and by the day, but the senator from Vermont has absolutely covered the case. I have no desire to deal in horrors. If I had my way, I would shield the American public even from the photographic reproductions of the awful scenes that I viewed in all their original ghastliness.

Spain's Decimated Army. Spain has sent to Cuba more than 225,000 soldiers to subdue the island, whose entire male population capable of bearing arms did not exceed at the beginning that number. These soldiers were mostly boys, conscripts from the Spanish hills. They are well armed, but otherwise seem to be absolutely unprovided for. They have been without tents and practically without any of the necessary supplies and equipment for service in the field. They have been put in barracks, in warehouses and old buildings in the cities where all sanitary surroundings have been of the worst possible character. They have seen but little discipline, and I could not ascertain that such a thing as a drill had taken place in the island.

There are less than 60,000 now available for duty. The balance are dead or sick in hospitals, or have been sent back to Spain as incapacitated for further service. It is currently stated that there are now 37,000 sick in hospitals. I do not believe that the entire Spanish army in Cuba could stand an engagement in the open field against 20,000 well disciplined American soldiers.

I shall refer to these horrible things no further. They are there. God pity me; I have seen them; they will remain in my mind forever—and this is almost the twentieth century. Christ died 1,900 years ago, and Spain is a Christian nation. She has set up more crosses in more lands, beneath more skies and under them has butchered more people than all the other nations of the earth combined.

Europe may tolerate her existence as long as the people of the old world wish. God grant that before another Christmas morning the last vestige of Spanish tyranny and oppression will have vanished from the western hemisphere!

Starvation's Awful Work. There was almost no begging by the reconcentrados themselves. The streets of the cities are full of beggars of all ages and all conditions, but they are almost wholly of the residents of the cit-

ies and largely of the professional beggar class. The reconcentrados—men, women and children—stand silent, famishing with hunger. Their only appeal comes from their sad eyes, through which one looks as through an open window into their agonizing souls.

The present Autonomist governor of Matanzas, who speaks excellent English, was inaugurated in November last. His records disclose that at the city of Matanzas there were 1,200 deaths in November, 1,200 in December, 700 in January and 500 in February, 3,000 in four months, and those four months under the administration of a governor whom I believe to be a truly humane man. He stated to me that on the day of his inauguration, which I think was the 12th of last November, to his personal knowledge 15 persons died in the public square in front of the executive mansion. Think of it, O my countrymen! Fifteen human beings dying from starvation in the public square, in the shade of the palm trees and amid the beautiful flowers, in sight of the open windows of the executive mansion!

The governor of Matanzas told us that for the most part the people of the city of Matanzas had done all they could for the reconcentrados, and after studying the situation over I believe his statement is true. He said the condition of affairs in the island had destroyed the trade, the commerce and the business of the city; that most of the people who had the means assisted the reconcentrados with food just as long as they could, but he said to us that there were thousands of the people living in fine houses, with marble floors, who were in deep need themselves and who did not know from one day to the other where their food supply was coming from.

Time for Action Has Come. I counseled silence and moderation from this floor when the passion of the nation seemed at white heat over the destruction of the Maine, but it seems to me the time for action has now come.

United States have regarded with sympathy the struggles of other American peoples to free themselves from European domination. We watch with deep and abiding interest the heroic battle of the Cuban patriots against cruelty and oppression, and our best hopes go out for the full success of their determined contest for liberty.

Cuba Must Be Freed. Mr. President, when that declaration was read before the St. Louis convention, over which I had the distinguished honor to preside, it was greeted with a mighty shout which seemed to lift the very roof of that great convention hall, and it was adopted as part of the platform of the Republican party by unanimous vote. On the 29th of June, 1898, William McKinley, standing upon his vine clad porch at Canton, O., in accepting the nomination then officially tendered him, said:

"The platform adopted by the Republican national convention has received my careful consideration and has my unqualified approval. It is a matter of gratification to me, as I am sure it must be to you and Republicans everywhere and to all our people, that the expressions of its declaration of principles are so direct, clear and emphatic. They are too plain and positive to leave any room for doubt or question as to their purport and meaning."

The platform of the Republican party, that endorsement by its nominee for president, was ratified by more than 7,000,000 American voters. That platform has marked my path of duty from the hour of its adoption up to the present time.

It is an honored boast of the Republican party that it always keeps its promises and that its platform declarations are always carried out by its administrations. I have no reason to doubt, I have every reason to believe, that the present chief magistrate of the United States still stands upon the platform of the Republican party. I have

intervention for the independence of the island; intervention that means the landing of an American army on Cuban soil, the deploying of an American fleet off the harbor of Havana; intervention which says to Spain, Leave the island, withdraw your soldiers, leave the Cubans, these brothers of ours in the new world, to form and carry on government for themselves!

Patience No Longer a Virtue. Such intervention on our part would not of itself be war. It would undoubtedly lead to war. But if war came it would come by act of Spain in resistance of the liberty and independence of the Cuban people.

Mr. President, there was a time when "jingoism" was abroad in the land, when sensationalism prevailed and when there was a distinct effort to inflame the passions and prejudices of the American people and precipitate a war with Spain. That time has passed away. "Jingoism" is long since dead.

The American people have waited and waited and waited in patience—yes, in patience and confidence, confidence in the belief that decisive action would be taken in due season and in a proper way! Today all over this land the appeal comes up to us. It reaches us from every section and from every class. That appeal is now for action.

In an interview of yesterday the senior senator from Maine [Mr. Hale] is reported as saying: "Events have crowded on too rapidly, and the president has been carried off his feet."

I know of no warrant for such an assertion, but I do know this—that unless congress acts promptly, meeting this grave crisis as it should be met, we will be swept away, and we ought to be swept away, by the tidal wave of American indignation.

The president has not been carried off his feet.

The administration has been doing its whole duty. With rare foresight and statesmanship it has hastened to make every possible preparation for any emergency.

The Right of Might.

Mr. President, there are those who say that the affairs of Cuba are not the affairs of the United States, who insist that we can stand idly by and see that island devastated and depopulated, its business interests destroyed, its commercial intercourse with us cut off, its people starved, degraded and enslaved. It may be the naked legal right of the United States to stand thus idly by.

I have the right to pass along the street and see a helpless dog stamped into the earth under the heels of a ruffian. I can pass by and say that is not my dog. I can sit in my comfortable parlor with my loved ones gathered about me and through my plate glass window see a fiend outraging a helpless woman near by, and I can legally say this is no affair of mine—it is not happening on my premises—and I can turn away and take my little ones in my arms and, with the memory of their sainted mother in my heart, look up to the motto on the wall and read, "God bless our home!"

But if I do I am a coward and a cur, unfit to live, and, God knows, unfit to die. And yet I cannot protect the dog nor save the woman without the exercise of force.

We cannot intervene and save Cuba without the exercise of force, and force means war; war means blood. The lowly Nazarene on the shores of Galilee preached the divine doctrine of love, "Peace on earth, good will toward men." Not peace on earth at the expense of liberty and humanity. Not good will toward men who despoil, enslave, degrade and starve to death their fellow men. I believe in the doctrine of Christ. I believe in the doctrine of peace, but, Mr. President, men must have liberty before there can come abiding peace.

A Lesson in Patriotism.

Mr. President, against the intervention of the United States in this holy cause there is but one voice of dissent; that voice is the voice of the money changers. They fear war! Not because of any Christian or ennobling sentiment against war and in favor of peace, but because they fear that a declaration of war, or the intervention which might result in war, would have a depressing effect upon the stock market.

Mr. President, I do not read my duty from the ticker; I do not accept my lessons in patriotism from Wall street. I deprecate war. I hope and pray for the speedy coming of the time when the sword of the soldier will no longer leap from its scabbard to settle disputes between civilized nations. But, Mr. President, it is evident, looking at the cold facts, that a war with Spain would not permanently depreciate the value of a single American stock or bond.

Let them go; what one man loses at the gambling table his fellow gambler wins. It is no concern of yours, it is no concern of mine, whether the "bulls" or the "bears" have the best of these stock deals. They do not represent American sentiment; they do not represent American patriotism. Let them take their chances as they can. Their weal or woe is of but little importance to the liberty loving people of the United States. Let the men whose loyalty is to the dollar stand aside while the men whose loyalty is to the flag come to the front.

There are some who lift their voices in the land and in the open light of day insist that the Republican party will not act, for they say it sold out to the capitalists and the money changers at the last national election.

It is not so. God forbid! The 7,000,000 freemen who voted for the Republican party and for William McKinley did not mortgage the honor of this nation for a campaign fund, and if the time ever comes when the Republican party hesitates in its course of duty because of any undue anxiety for the welfare of the accumulated wealth of the nation then let the Republican party be swept from the face of the earth and be succeeded by some other party, by whatever name it may be called, which

will represent the patriotism, the honesty, the loyalty and the devotion that the Republican party exhibited under Abraham Lincoln in 1861.

Intervention means force. Force means war. War means blood. But it will be God's force. When has a battle for humanity and liberty ever been won except by force? What barricade of wrong, injustice and oppression has ever been carried except by force?

Force Compels Freedom.

Force compelled the signature of unwilling royalty to the great Magna Charta; force put life into the Declaration of Independence and made effective the emancipation proclamation; force beat with naked hands upon the iron gateway of the Bastille and made reprisal in one awful hour for centuries of kingly crime; force waved the flag of revolution over Bunker Hill and marked the snows of Valley Forge with blood stained feet; force held the broken line at Shiloh, climbed the flame swept hill at Chattanooga and stormed the clouds on Lookout heights; force marched with Sherman to the sea, rode with Sheridan in the valley of the Shenandoah and gave Grant victory at Appomattox; force saved the Union, kept the stars in the flag, made "niggers" men. The time for God's force has come again. Let the impassioned lips of American patriots once more take up the song:

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, With a glory in his bosom That transfigured you and me. As he died to make men holy Let us die to make men free. For God is marching on.

Others may hesitate, others may procrastinate, others may plead for further diplomatic negotiations, which means delay, but for me—I am ready to act now, and for my action I am ready to answer to my conscience, my country and my God.

Mr. President, in the cable that reached me to life and hope the strongest strands are broken. I have but little left to offer at the altar of freedom's sacrifice, but all I have I am glad to give. I am ready to serve my country as best I can in the senate or in the field. My dearest hope, my most earnest prayer to God is this, that when death comes to end all I may meet it calmly and fearlessly as did my beloved, in the cause of humanity, under the American flag.

Hudson Bay.

At a meeting of the McGill science graduates at Montreal some interesting facts about Hudson's bay were brought out. This inland ocean, which is now called the Mediterranean of North America, drains a territory 8,000,000 square miles in area, with vast rivers flowing into it from the south, east and west; fine natural harbors line its shores, adjacent to good farming lands and rich mineral deposits. White whales, walrus as big as elephants and fur bearing seals disport themselves undisturbed. For the finest fish no nets are spread. Both afloat and ashore there is wealth, with no one to take it away. In the district south of James bay, a region as large as all England, the total population is one Scotchman and 30 or 40 families of Indians.

Dr. Bell, the director of the geological survey, said: "Hudson bay is in a latitude farther south than London, and the northern portion of Hudson's bay is about the same latitude as that of the north of Scotland. The bay does not freeze across in winter, and navigation is possible during four or five months of the year. The all water route will bring the great northwest as near to Europe as the city of Quebec, and, while offering perhaps the best passage to the Yukon region, it is certainly the natural route to the great oilfields." Alluvial gold is found in the valleys, and fine specimens of gold bearing quartz have been brought in by the survey party. It is stated that the soil observed is rich and productive and that scores of millions of acres offer profitable stock raising and farming.

Eggs as Food.

Would it not be wise to substitute more eggs for meat in our daily diet? About one-third of an egg is solid nutriment. This is more than can be said of meat. There are no bones, no tough pieces that have to be laid aside. A good egg is made up of 10 parts shell, 60 parts white and 30 parts yolk. The white of an egg contains 66 per cent water and the yolk 52 per cent. Practically an egg is animal food, and yet there is none of the disagreeable work of the butcher necessary to obtain it. The vegetarians of England use eggs freely, and many of these men are 80 and 90 years old and have been remarkably free from sickness. Eggs are best when cooked four minutes. This takes away the animal taste, which is offensive to some, but does not harden the white or yolk so as to make them difficult to digest. An egg if cooked very hard is difficult of digestion, except by those persons possessed of stout stomachs. Such eggs should be eaten with bread and masticated very finely. An egg spread on toast is fit for a king—if kings deserve better food than anybody else. Fried eggs are much less wholesome than boiled ones. An egg dropped into hot water is not only a clean and handsome but a delicious morsel. Most people spoil the taste of their eggs by adding pepper and salt. A little sweet butter is the best dressing. Eggs contain much phosphorus, which is supposed to be beneficial to those who use their brains much.—New York Ledger.

The Garrett Memorial Window.

The stained glass window which has been placed in Maquard chapel, Princeton, in memory of the late Horatio Whitridge Garrett, has for its subject "The Glorification and Triumph of the Incarnation." The window is divided into three panels, each of which contains a figure of heroic size. In the center is St. John, arrayed in the garments of the priesthood and holding in his hand a chalice.



SENATOR THURSTON DELIVERING HIS CUBAN SPEECH.