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Thoughts about Cuba.

BY "MEMO."

Three years and more have elapsed since the present Cuban rebellion broke out. It is probable that in history past or to come no parallel to its conditions will be found. The rulers of the island, unable to defeat the insurgents are themselves defeated; and the insurgents, elusive and triumphant and enduring beyond usual measure in guerilla warfare are no nearer the actual accomplishment of their purpose than they were at the outbreak of hostilities. Nature and her ghastly hand-maiden, Pestilence, have fought for the insurgents; but Nature's battlings have been balanced by new arrivals of Spanish soldiers—men, some of them; boys, many of them—forced almost at bayonet point to take the places of the diseased and dead. Against the doggedness of the insurgent the pride of the ruler has been matched. The insurgent can hold out indefinitely; the Spaniard will.

While the stubborn warfare of these unyielding forces has proceeded with fluctuating results that in the long run have practically balanced each other, a third army of human beings has been slowly ground to destruction. Of their woes we must think and, having thought, we must act. Though the Spaniards have been chiefly confined within the limits set up by themselves; prisoners, in fact, within their own fortifications, yet they have retained a fear-compelled power over the feeble minds of the children and the timorous natives of both sexes who were afraid to fight and did not dare to flee. These pacifics quietly obeyed the government when orders went forth through the country regions to gather within town limits and stay there. The expected freedom to live in peace under the surveillance of the Spanish army, changed at once into death dealing bondage. Unable to cultivate land to any great extent, herded together in huts unfit for swine, suffering from lack of food, and by lack of food, rendered more helpless and weak-spirited than before, they have died like flies in autumn; and in dying have suffered woes that are unequalled even by the bloody sufferings of the Americans or the plague-ridden starvation of the Hindoos. The language of a moderate woman like Clara Barton, the famous Red-Cross heroine; and the stories pictured by the truthful camera, more than justify these comparisons. In one hospital alone—a place where care and tender oversight are expected—four hundred of the pacifics have died of starvation. The burdens of the insurgents, who, in rebelling did so in full expectation of the fortunes and misfortunes of war, have been as nought beside the woes of these unhappy non-combatants. Where Spain has slain its hundreds by fire and by sword, it has slain its HUNDRED OF THOUSANDS by hunger and by neglect. This has taken place and is still doing so within ninety miles of the land that declares in favor of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

This war-measure of Spain against harmless ones will ever stand out prominently in the annals of the brutalities of which our race is capable. This is not WAR with its glamour of excitement and of chance but relentless MURDER without the shedding of blood.

When a man sees a weak one persecuted and refuses to side with the weak he is no man. The rule for a man is the rule for a nation. Murder of women and children, helpless and enfeebled and starving, is at our doors, at last we begin to appreciate it. Their broken lives, their untimely deaths, their rights to a happier condition are making themselves slowly understood among our people. Every stratum of society is permeated. The great underlying love of fair-play is stirring this nation North and South. And it is girding itself TO PUNISH and not to avenge war.

Let us be careful that our motives are pure and our minds unconfused. The wild talk of a blundering official like DeLome is nothing to our great conservative millions. War or even the thought of war over such a matter is unworthy our contemplation: It would be an absolute reversion to the barbaric irascibility of olden times. We have grown away from such things.

The selfish motives of tobacco factors and sugar gamblers in pointing out to a great, fair-minded country a chance to filch from Spain, because she is weak, that which is hers as truly as New England is ours, has moved us only to condemn and not to approve. We refuse to add to our racial problems at the nod of self-seeking men. The heart of the nation is unresponsive to such temptation, and furthermore even the terrible Maine disaster, with its sorrow and its loss has grandly shown to the world that we are slow to anger and plenteous in conservatism. Despite all guesses to the contrary, our people have refused to believe that the Spanish government could be suicidal enough to have direct connection with the disaster. We believe that she would foresee more damage to herself than to us in this sudden and horrible event. If this were all that had happened, an indemnity would be sufficient; and a war be quite contrary to international precedents.

But while this nation, set in might to lead the Western hemisphere, can stand insults to its vast self it cannot permit inhumanity to its weak neighbors. It will enter into conflict with Spain not because certain of victory, but because Spain slaughters the innocent. This nation believes in the glories of peace, but it must be "peace with honor" and not with dishonor that assuredly comes from silence in the presence of brutal abuses. By its own past, it knows full well the horrid cost of war, yet its great, true, heroic heart beats high to declare that it is better to die in protecting the defenceless than to live in falsehood to its own grand past. Its conscience is aroused. Its arm is bared to smite and that swiftly, lest there be none of the starving left to save.

With such a pure motive, its actions will have the cordial goodwill of European nations. Short, decisive work will be made of the solemn task, and when the smoke has cleared justice will have been done to the unjust, and "Cuba Libre" may then develop in quiet its own individuality.

AMERICAN'S SUMMONS.
 (Copyrighted by Howe & Tabor.)
 Stand fast, America!
 Troubles are falling;
 Clouds cover Cuba's star,
 Sad hearts are calling.
 Strong sons of Liberty!
 Mindful of oaths,
 Not vain your natal cry—
 "All men are brothers."
 Soft have your slumbers been
 Since your hard testing,
 Shaded by laurels green,
 Lightfully resting.
 Now, when oppression's sting
 Calls you to waken,
 Rise, like the eagle king,
 Night-dews off-snaken.
 Go not in anger forth,
 Furiel by faction;
 "Noblesse Oblige" not wrath
 Calls you to action.
 Soon may war's cruel din
 Hotly unfold you;
 Yet when dark days begin
 Truth shall uphold you.
 Stand fast, America!
 In the world's story,
 All men shall praise a war
 Waged not for glory.

FRANCIS H. TABOR.

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Christian Endeavor Convention.

Harrisburg, March 23, 1898:

There is every indication that the State Christian Endeavor Convention to be held in Harrisburg next October will be the largest gathering of the kind ever held in Pennsylvania. Preparations are being made for the entertainment of at least five thousand visitors. A general committee with Rev. Dr. Geo. B. Stewart, former president of the State society, as chairman, meets regularly and in every way is furthering the arrangements for the big convention. There are a dozen sub-committees on finance, entertainment, reception, hall, music, decoration, press, printing, badges, evangelistic meetings and junior rallies, and these committees are composed of the most active members of the Christian Endeavor societies of the city. A fund is being raised to meet the expenses of the convention and nothing will be left undone to assure its

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success. Citizens generally are interested in the coming of so many active young people and the Finance Committee reports much success in raising funds for the convention.

The fact that the convention will be held in the large Chestnut Street Market Building is an important one because it will bring together under one roof the thousands of Endeavorers. A large choir of five hundred voices is being trained and the committees on entertainment and reception are doing every thing in their power to insure the comfort of the visitors. On the second floor of the market building is a large hall which will be used jointly by the entertainment and reception committees. Here all delegates will register on their arrival and be assigned to their quarters. The Commonwealth Hotel has been engaged as headquarters for the State Committee. Near the convention hall are several large churches which will be used for overflow meetings. The market building will be handsomely decorated and put in readiness for the opening of the convention. The general committee has regular headquarters at 17 South Second street, where a vast correspondence is being conducted and where the various committees meet almost nightly.



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