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FOR CUBA LIBRE

President's Message in the Cause of Humanity.

ARMED INTERVENTION ASKED

Spain's Armistice Decree Reported Without Recommendation—Recognition of Cuban Independence Declared to be Unwarranted and Inexpedient.

President McKinley Monday sent the following message to the congress of the United States:

Obedient to that precept of the constitution which commands the president to give from time to time the congress information of the state of the Union and to recommend to its consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, it becomes my duty now to address your body with regard to the relations of the United States and Spain, by reason of the warfare that for more than three years has raged in the neighboring island of Cuba.

The Cuban Revolution.

The present revolution is but the successor of other insurrections which have occurred in Cuba against the domination of Spain, extending over a period of nearly half a century, each of which, during its progress, has subjected the United States to great effort and expense in enforcing its neutrality laws, caused enormous loss to American trade and commerce, caused irritation, annoyance and disturbance among our citizens, and by the exercise of cruel, barbarous and uncivilized practices of warfare, shocked the sensibilities and offended the humane sympathies of our people.

The Relief Movement.

While these negotiations were in progress the increasing destitution of the unfortunate reconcentrados and the alarming mortality among them claimed earnest attention. The success which had attended the limited measure of relief extended to the suffering American citizens among them, had been such as to excite the sympathy of the American people, and through the consular agencies, of the money appropriated expressly for their succor by the joint resolution approved May 24, 1897, prompted the humane extension of a similar relief to the Cuban sufferers.

Spain's Cause Hopeless.

The war in Cuba is of such a nature that, short of subjugation or extermination, a final military victory for the other side seems impracticable. The alternative of a self-supporting pursuit of peace, public works have been started to give them employment, and a sum of \$600,000 has been appropriated for their relief.

An Offer of Mediation.

Realizing this, it appeared to be my duty, in a spirit of true friendliness, no less to Spain than to the Cubans, who have so much to lose by the prolongation of the struggle, to seek to bring about an immediate termination of the war. To this end I submitted, on the 25th ultimo, a policy which has secured to us respect and influence abroad and inspired confidence at home.

Weyler's Inhuman Policy.

The war continued unabated. The resistance of insurgents was in no wise diminished. The efforts of Spain were increased, both by the dispatch of fresh troops to Cuba and by additions to the horrors of the strife. The new and inhuman phase, happily unprecedented in the modern history of civilized Christian people, the policy of devastation and concentration, inaugurated by the captain-general's ban of October 21, 1896, in the province of Pinar del Rio, was thence extended to embrace all of the island to which the power of the Spaniards was able to reach by occupation or by military operations. The peasants, including all dwelling in the open agricultural interior, were driven into the garrisoned towns or isolated places held by the Spanish troops. The raising of provisions of all kinds was interdicted. Fields were laid waste, dwellings unroofed and fired, mills destroyed, and, in short, everything that could desolate the land and render it unfit for human habitation or support was commanded by one or the other contending parties and executed by all the powers at their disposal.

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