

# CUBANS WILL FIGHT ON

## Calixto Garcia Issues a Proclamation to the Generals of His Command.

### NOTHING BUT INDEPENDENCE

#### Any Spanish Commissioner Coming to the Army to be Tried as a Spy — Cuban Convention's Address.

Coming close on the statement of the Cuban Assembly that Cuba would treat with Spain only on the basis of absolute independence is an order issued by Gen. Calixto Garcia to the officers under his command, a copy of which was received yesterday by Gen. Tomas Estrada Palma. The letter is as follows:

"Military Department of the East,  
"General Headquarters,  
"BAIRE, Nov. 6, 1897.

"Third Year of Independence.

"To the Generals of the First, Second, and Third Army Corps of the East:

"Informed by the publications in the press that the Spanish Government contemplates offering autonomy, by this subterfuge to crush the revolution or to at least establish differences among us, and thereby weaken our cause, this general headquarters reminds you that the spirit and letter of your Constitution does not admit of any treaty with Spain which is not based on the absolute independence of Cuba.

"Therefore, I will be inexorable with any one, civil or military, whatever his rank, subjecting him to summary court-martial, who will submit any message, commission, or other communication from the enemy. The only channel through which propositions can be made is the supreme government of the republic, which will only entertain those which have as a basis the acknowledgment by the Spanish Government of the absolute independence of Cuba. Any commissioner sent by the enemy to make proposition looking to submission to Spain will be tried and punished as a spy.

"That in no case ignorance may be alleged, you will circulate this communication among your subordinates, including it for a week in the Order of the Day of your headquarters, and reading it to your troops.

"PATRIA Y LIBERTAD,  
"Chief of the Department of the East."  
CALIXTO GARCIA.

Gen. Palma has also received a copy of the pronouncement of the convention which is to elect a President and revise the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba. It begins: "The representatives of the Cuban people to all those who interest themselves for the liberty and future of Cuba." After reference to the constitutional provision under which the body exists as an assembly, it proceeds:

"When the enemy seems to abandon its system of answering war by war, which means the use of all mediums which iniquity suggests, to terminate the war by political means, which signifies as much as to substitute cruelty for perfidy, we must in fearless manner ratify once more our firm and decided determination to sustain the struggle which the Cubans are maintaining so desperately against Spain. \* \* \*

"No special laws, nor reforms, nor autonomy, nothing that supposes under whatever name, form, or manner the subsistence of the Spanish dominion in Cuba, can terminate the actual struggle. Independence or death has been and will be our sacred and indisputable watchword.

"Spain itself does not ignore the incompatibility which has existed and exists between Spaniards and Cubans. It sustains us in the struggle, and it will not disappear until the flag that has covered so many injustices, has presided over so many butcheries, and has covered and protected so many iniquities, shall be hauled down from Cuba. \* \* \*

"Concession of autonomy! A bait to sustain a situation which is crumbling. With autonomy or without autonomy, they ordering, we always obeying; they the owners, we the slaves of 400 years. \* \* \*

"The offer made to-day is an explicit declaration of impotency. The Spaniards send us laws when they cannot send any more soldiers. \* \* \*

"Only a complete separation will permit Cuba to unload itself of its debt, to organize a simple administration, dictate the economical laws required by its necessities, and guarantee the indispensable peace necessary to develop its moral and material interest. Without it Cuba will always be a hotbed of discontent, a field of incessant troubles, and a theatre of interminable convulsions. \* \* \*

"What we do now in open warfare is a sure guarantee of what we will do in times of peace. What we are is a guarantee of what we will be. We will not retreat when the realization of the ideals of three generations is so close at hand. \* \* \* Only with victory or with death will we leave the fields of Cuba Libre."

The document is signed at La Yaya, Camaguey, Oct. 30, 1897, by Domingo Mendez Capote, President of the Assembly; J. Lacrete Morlot, Vice President; C. M. de Cespedes and Aurelio Phevia, Secretary, and the eighteen members of the Assembly.