

relations down to the close of the nineteenth century. It is with the consciousness of this painful fact strong upon us that we extend our warmest congratulations to our American cousins for the very handsome way in which they have carried out their ante-bellum protestations of disinterested friendship for the Cuban people. Very few imagined when the United States decided to intervene in behalf of the insurgents in 1898 that, in the event of American arms triumphing over the Spanish defences, the Cubans would be granted a prompt, free and untrammelled opportunity to prove that they possess the qualities whereof nations are made. Example the world over made for the contrary view. It is, furthermore, to be admitted that in view of the strategic importance of the island in time of war, a very cogent argument might have been made by the Americans for a claim of suzerainty at least; and so when we find them renouncing even that privilege we feel that they have distinctly raised the level of international ethics.

On the 20th of last month the natal day of the Republic of Cuba was celebrated with all pomp and circumstance at Havana. The transfer of the control of the island from the United States Government to the Cuban Government was effected at high noon when the American flag was lowered by General Wood, assisted by General Gomez, from its position on the official buildings and that of the new republic hoisted in its stead. Thereupon the American warships and transports sailed away from "Cuba Libre."

The constitution of the latest addition to the family of nations is closely modeled upon that of its "guide, philosopher and friend." The President is elected for a term of four years, but may not be elected for more than two successive terms—a wise provision against the possibilities of dictatorship. There are provisions for a Vice-President, a Cabinet, and a Supreme Court of Judicature upon lines similar to those in such matters found in the American constitution. Perhaps it is hardly necessary to add here that while the public law of the country will thus conform to the American system, the supreme court and the inferior tribunals will administer the Spanish Civil law hitherto in force there as the basis of common rights and remedies. The Senate is composed of twenty-four members, four from each of the six provinces, chosen through electors for a term of eight years; but half of the Senate is to retire every four years. A similar principle is applied to the House of Representatives, whose members are elected for a term of four