

La Libertad (September 15, 1882): "A change of system is inevitable."

Nothing is more natural than for a people, after going through a long revolutionary period, to aspire to their reconstruction. But for this reconstruction to be possible, it is necessary for the elements that contributed to the dissolution to disappear completely, and for new elements, of very different conditions, to come to replace them.

On the contrary, when it comes to introducing improvements in a society and the same elements that caused its problems remain, the result can only be counterproductive. The new elements create an antagonism, a constant contradiction with the existing ones, creating a much worse and less tolerable situation.

This is what has been happening in Cuba since the Pact of Zanjón, and the efforts made by both the Spanish government and the inhabitants of the island, even if the former are sincere and the latter are confident and enthusiastic, will be in vain. It is impossible to destroy an effect while leaving the cause intact.

For the reconstruction of Cuba to take place, it would be necessary for the person of color not to be the same slave as before but a politically and socially regenerated being; it would be necessary for the Spaniard of today, far from being the same exploiter as yesterday, full of hatred and contempt for his colonists, to become their brother and come to understand that his material and family interests are rooted in a country that he should consider his second homeland; lastly, it would be necessary for the son of Cuba to be able to forget his former degradation with the enjoyment of true freedom. Only in this way could these three elements become harmonious, elements whose previous discords led to the cry of Yara, and whose present antagonism leads the country to an inevitable setback.

We wish to think dispassionately about this, and appeal to the good judgment of both islanders and peninsulars. Without a total and prompt political and social change, Cuba is lost.

Can or will Spain bring about this change? If it cannot or will not, it should not forget that its current system places it in the same position with respect to Cuba as in 1868, and that the law of reaction is fundamental, both in nature and in the evolution of societies.

Freedom of assembly in Cuba:

For the volunteer battalions,

The tribunal on the table.