

NUMBER X.

CIVIL CONTEST IN THE ISLAND OF CUBA.

JOINT RESOLUTION Relating to the Civil Contest in the Island of Cuba.

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That the people of this State regard with deep interest and profound sympathy, the struggles of the people of Cuba to realize their independence from European domination; and they regard with abhorrence the cruelties inflicted by the Spaniards upon their patriot prisoners—treatment which is unchristian, and unworthy the civilization professed alike in Europe and America.

Be it further resolved, That it has become historically a part of the law of nations, applicable to the relations of the American continent to the older world, that whenever a State of this continent, founded by colonization, has a population fitted for self-government, with its chief interests antagonistic to a longer condition of dependence on European rule, and its people with reasonable unanimity, desire and insist on the adoption of independent American civil institutions, such a State has a right to assert its independence, and to establish a government with American principles, founded on the voluntary action of its own people.

Be it further resolved, That after the lapse of a reasonable time, showing the persistent determination of such people for independence of European control, and their ability to maintain their civil organization against the effort to re-subjugate them during such period of trial, it is the right and duty of the United States government to recognize them as belligerents within the pale of international law, and to maintain a perfect neutrality between the contending parties; and this without offense to the foreign government, which can find in such action only a recognition of the right on which our own and all other independent American governments are founded.

Be it finally resolved, That in applying these principles to Cuba, the time has fully come for a cessation of that policy which allows the European power to build and fit out vessels of war at will in our ports, and move them thence for the re-subjugation of the Cuban people, while this government at the same time, seizes and confiscates patriot Cuban vessels driven into our ports by stress of weather, or for relief; and it is the duty of our government to adopt a rule that shall equally admit both contestants to the privileges of our ports, or equally exclude both therefrom; and no further delay can be made in recognizing the belligerent rights of the revolutionary government of Cuba, without impugning a right sacred to Americans, and historically established by nearly all the original European colonies of this continent.

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested to maintain these principles in Congress, and to use their influence to secure their adoption by the executive government; and to present these resolutions to their respective branches of the government.

Approved, March 17, 1870.

NUMREB XI.

HOMESTEAD SETTLERS.

JOINT RESOLUTION, Asking for the Relief of Homestead Settlers.

WHEREAS, Numerous persons have made homestead settlements, paid entry fees, and received their certificates on lands in the State of Iowa, then held in market by the United States Land Office at Council Bluffs, Iowa, subsequent to an act of Congress approved, June 2d, 1864, entitled "an act to amend an act" entitled an "act making a grant of land to the State of Iowa in alternate sections to aid in the construction of certain railroads in the State," approved, May 15th, 1856; and have in good faith, made valuable improvements upon said lands, and occupied the same for five years, as required by the homestead laws; and

WHEREAS, By said act of Congress, said homestead lands have been granted to certain railroad companies therein named, thereby defeating the claims of said settlers; therefore

Be it Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best efforts to secure the passage of a law of Congress, granting adequate relief to such homestead settlers.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be and is hereby instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved, March 17, 1870.