

## The Columns of Hercules, 9/15/1884: "We Do Not Forget"

A filibustering newspaper warns that it's not the same to talk or write until exhaustion as it is to organize expeditions to Cuba; which is nothing new, but it's true and should not be forgotten.

In the United States, there is freedom to wage verbal or written war against the rest of the world, but international laws prohibit the organization of hostile expeditions and the sending of weapons to people who are actively engaged in or intending to launch a rebellion against the government of a friendly nation.

In addition to confiscating their war materiel, the authorities are obligated to prosecute and punish the criminals; if they fail to do so, they must accept liability before the friendly nation.

All of this assumes of course that the culprits are, for example, Cuban emigrants or those who have fled Spanish domains due to political reasons.

But if these same Cubans are naturalized in the United States or another country, then they immediately lose their status as political emigrants or fugitives.

Naturalization turns them into citizens of this republic, with equal rights and duties as natural-born citizens of the Union.

If they then engage in acts of open hostility against Spain, their offense is more serious; and the burden they place on their adoptive country is greater, obligating it to answer for the behavior of its own citizens.

There are always German, Russian, Italian, Spanish, etc., conspirators in Switzerland, France, and England, and their respective governments rarely, and only in exceptional cases, ask the host nation to repress the activities of their *emigrant subjects*. But if the conspirators were to be naturalized *Swiss, French, or English*, having lost their original nationality, then Spain, Italy, Germany, and Russia would quickly demand a thorough account of the hostile acts or preparations carried out by these *foreign-born subjects*. Isn't this what Mr. Cánovas and Elduayen would do if some French people started openly conspiring and organizing armed expeditions against Spain?

So we are in the same situation here, because nearly all the filibustering conspirators born in Cuba have solemnly renounced the right they had to call themselves Cubans and, consequently, to intervene for better or for worse in anything occurring within Spanish domains.