

The Separatist (September 29, 1883): "The Obstacles"

In the political issue we have been debating in favor of our cause, there are certain effects stemming from minor causes that must be countered. For that purpose, it's necessary to clarify the issue by tracing it back to its historical moment of origin.

The idea of Cuban *independence* is as old as the *colony*.

The label of "loyal" that Spanish governments have always applied to the island is contradicted by the clear evidence, for the desire for rebellion among the dominated towards the dominators is latent and has manifested itself every time the opportunity arose.

Consider all the rebellions that took place prior to the revolutionary movement of 1868.

But since this was the most visible one, and it took on the character of a formal war from its inception (a war that lasted over *ten* years), the men who played a role in it, from its outbreak in Yara until the Pact of Zanjón, are revered as heroes, the only ones that rightfully represent the aspirations of Cuban opinion.

There is a group whose aim is to achieve *independence* through *evolution*; that is, without overtly *revolutionizing*, but through intrigue and a certain covert politics that employs the arts of concealment. For this reason, they have adopted the perverse practice of *conciliation*, through which they have not only accepted the meager *reforms* of the dominant government in their search for an *impossible accommodation*, but also have raised the banner of *colonial autonomy*, even after suffering such great disillusionments in the ephemeral existence they place at the feet of conquering Spain.

Slaves to the habit of servitude, which Bolívar stated is more difficult to displace than to instill a sense of freedom in people, they continue to weep and moan and resist the idea of *separatism*; they achieve nothing more than to beg for a delay, and to continually postpone the resolution of the matter, which is a war for independence, a war that is an inevitability.

Here then are the *obstacles* to the effort; the reason for the delay in the resolution of the problem.

That's why things are taking shape and the matter is growing more serious.

The solution will not be delayed. All delay is in vain.

The supposed National Representation, disillusioned in their courtly efforts, will return to the fold with disappointment in their pockets and their hands tied and forever yoked to the *colony's* carriage.

No more hindrances.

It's necessary for everyone to take their place.

The dilemma allows only two possibilities:

A free Cuba.

Or a colonial Cuba.

The *evolutionists*, those seeking impossible compromises, those who fearfully try to postpone the final resolution –everyone must, in the end, understand that there's no middle ground, that the deadline is arriving, and that the politics of obstruction only serves to stockpile fuel for the bonfire that will soon ignite with the sublime force of an inferno. The blame lies with them; there's no need to dwell on the past.

The Revolution is latent and evident.

What happened at Yara has passed.

But what is happening in Colón persists.

Reversing time is impossible.

1883 is not 1868.

No more the methods of the past and its certain miseries, born of inexperience, which led to the Pact of Zanjón.

There are no more, nor will there be more, *obstacles*.

Onward.