

AGUILERA AND CESPEDES.

Francis Vicente Aguilera, Vice-President of the Cuban Republic, whose portrait is published elsewhere to-day, is about fifty-two years of age. He is very tall and commanding in person, and has an iron-like expression of countenance. Signor Aguilera is the wealthiest man in the east of Cuba, and owns two of the largest sugar plantations on the island. At the commencement of the revolution he liberated his slaves and has freely spent money and devoted his time in the interest of the cause. Vice-President Aguilera has never before been in public life, though from the first attempt to establish Cuban independence, he has been an earnest worker for a republican form of government. Signor Aguilera has been in this country for several weeks, hav-

ing come hither in the interest of the republic, to purchase munitions of war. He is in manner courtly, and has made many friends in the United States. He recently returned from Europe, whither he went on a mission for his government.

Signor Ramon Cespedes, whose portrait is also given, is a cousin of President Cespedes, and, upon the declaration of independence in Cuba, was elected Secretary of State. Three years ago he was sent hither as Minister of the Republic of Cuba, but the President declined him recognition. He is a lawyer by profession, and enjoys a high reputation at home. Signor Cespedes, though sixty years of age, was one of the first to join in the revolution, and his son, Emil, lost his life at the hands of the Spaniards. His mission to this country having failed, Signor Cespedes will soon return home.
