

OBITUARY.

FRANCISCO VICENTE AGUILERA, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN REPUBLIC.

Cuba has lost another of her noblest and most devoted sons. Death has struck a blow among the foremost ranks of the patriots, and the victim this time is General Francisco Vicente Aguilera, Vice President of the Cuban Republic. His taking off was almost as tragic as that of his old comrade—President Cespedes. For some time before his death General Aguilera suffered from a cancer in his throat, which gradually grew worse until yesterday, when it killed him. The cancer rendered respiration while seated almost impossible, and General Aguilera, though suffering dreadful torture, was obliged to remain on his feet. Up to a few moments before his death he was walking up and down his room. He suddenly stopped and fell into the arms of his two eldest daughters a corpse. The news of his sudden and tragic death spread sorrow among the Cuban exiles, by whom the deceased General was well beloved.

Aguilera was born at Bayamo, Cuba, on the 23d of June, 1821, and was consequently fifty-six years of age. His father was Colonel Don Antonio Maria Aguilera, a native of Cuba. The family was descended from the Spanish *Conquistadores* who landed in Cuba in the fifteenth century. The family was the wealthiest in the Eastern Department of Cuba, and highly respected. Aguilera's early education was received at Santiago de Cuba, and upon leaving school he went to the Havana University, where he graduated as a member of the bar.

Aguilera, with his warm, impulsive nature, was angered at Spain's persistent tyranny, and with his friends Francisco Maceo and Figueredo held a council of war on the 10th day of August, 1867, and it was agreed that the three should inaugurate a revolution. A convention was subsequently held on the 14th of September, at which the three conspirators conversed with the leading and most patriotic men of the district as to what was the best plan of action to be taken to vindicate their rights. So energetically were revolutionary matters pushed forward by all concerned that on the 10th of October, 1868, came the "cry for independence" at Yara ("*El Srelo de Yara*"). Meanwhile Aguilera, with his own hand, had set fire to his dwelling houses containing family heirlooms, which came to him from many a generation back, his plantations, mills, &c., and told all his slaves that they were free. In hot succession came the capture of Bayamo on the 18th of October, and on the following day Lieutenant Commander Aguilera, for such was his new title while commanding the Cabaniguan brigade (named after one of his estates), about 600 strong, utterly put to rout about 800 Spanish troops. In May, 1869, the Cuban Republican Congress, then in session at Guimaro, appointed Cespedes President and Aguilera Vice President and Minister of War. This, however, did not prevent Aguilera remaining in active service in the field, and his dash and valor were proverbial. In 1871 he was appointed to take charge of the New York Junta, at No. 52 Exchange place, and this position he held for some time. He was then sent on a mission to France, where he succeeded in obtaining a large sum of money, which was subsequently used for the Uruguay expedition.

HIS REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO REACH CUBA.

The hardships he underwent in endeavoring to return to his post at Cuba are believed to have led to his death. The following is a list of the efforts he made in this direction:—On the 1st of August last Colonel Lopez de Queraltá, with some of the twenty-eight men who had left this city with Aguilera, landed in Cuba, while the balance subsequently captured the Spanish mail steamer *Moctezuma*. Broken down in health, but still with all his old energy, Aguilera returned to this city. At sea he suffered constantly from sea sickness and was unable to take sufficient nourishment. Cancer developed itself in his throat after a few days' sojourn here, and in spite of the attention and skill of Dr. Terry he succumbed to the fearful disease. He leaves five daughters and five sons; one son died in the war. As a Cuban remarked last night:—"If Cuba had furnished no Aguilera we could not have had our revolution." The affairs concerning the funeral are being attended to by Colonel Juan Manuel de Macias, an intimate friend of the dead patriot. He stated last night that the day for the funeral had not been appointed.