

THE CUBAN INSURRECTION. We have had the opportunity of conversing with a gentleman of this city, just returned from the island of Cuba, who, without any commercial or other interests to blind his judgment, may be depended upon as giving the candid results of his observation. He does not regard Havana at the present time as a very desirable place of residence for timid men. Though business is not interrupted, the streets are patrolled at night, and the native Cuban residents of the city, though under subjection, are not by any means dismayed. He met with but one Cuban during his stay who did not heartily endorse the course pursued by the insurgents, and who did not believe in the ultimate success of the struggle for independence. The belief, even among Spaniards, is not encouraging for their own side, as they are well aware that the insurgents are daily growing stronger.

It is estimated that there are 80,000 insurgents to 20,000 Spanish troops, the latter having the advantage of being well armed, while the insurgents are very deficient in this respect. This drawback is being remedied almost daily, as arms are smuggled into the disaffected districts, and in some cases the volunteers have joined the so called rebels, carrying with them their arms and ammunition. The Cubans do not anticipate a speedy termination of the conflict. They are preparing for a long contest, and express no hope of seeing the end before the close of the present year.

They count with great confidence upon the effect of the climate on the Spanish troops who are now in the island and those expected to arrive. In time of peace, according to the statistics, over forty-five per cent. of the foreign troops are prostrated by disease during the first year in Cuba, and they estimate that during an active campaign a much larger percentage would be *hors du combat*. The troubles in Spain, and the crippled financial resources of that country are greatly in their favor. The wealthy Cubans are willing to make great sacrifices to sustain the insurgents, and as they have large means, there is no want of money or men.

In conversation with the Cubans, our informant states they look forward with great confidence to the day when they will be able to secure their independence and become one of the States of the American Union. They believe that such is their destiny, and they are resolved to fight it out to the bitter end. They are perfectly aware that the result of the contest will be the emancipation of their slaves stated that this was a secondary consideration, and that before making the first step this alternative

was regarded as inevitable. The slaves, at the proper time, will be guaranteed their liberty and will be organized for the fight.

The insurgents now hold one-half of the island, and they are confident of success in the end. The Cuban news which is telegraphed to this country and abroad emanates from the Spanish authorities and is totally unreliable. Facts are perverted, and disasters to the insurgents are recorded without the slightest regard to truth. Our informant is in no way interested in the result, beyond his sympathy for the Cubans, and he gives to us his candid opinion regarding the situation of affairs and the chances of success of the insurgents.

—Boston Journal.
