

The Twin Spanish Revolutions.

Spain is engaged in carrying forward a successful revolution at home. The Queen has been dethroned, and the government is in the hands of the Cortes, pending the election of a new sovereign. The revolution was inaugurated because the old Bourbon rule had become intolerable. It was in the way of any healthy progress. It clung to slavery as the corner stone of prosperity. It had not vitally enough to resist the development of more liberal ideas on the part of the people. No doubt the republican element had much to do with shaping the revolution. But it is not numerically strong enough to declare for a Republic. Dead traditions have been made to give place to living issues. Ecclesiastical exclusiveness has been so far modified that all religions are tolerated; education and the marriage contract, are under the control of the Civil Government. There can be no question that there has been a great revolution of public ideas in Spain within the last quarter of a century. And, although there may be some reaction, the country will not slide back into its old condition.

Now, while Spain is successfully conducting a revolution at home, she is endeavoring to put down a revolution in Cuba, which, for aught we can see, is just as legitimate and just as necessary for the future welfare of that Island as is the home revolution for the prosperity of Spain. The fact is, Cuba has been ruled, not at all by its own people, but by the very traditions and the corrupt absolutism which has been overthrown at home. The Cubans have always been put under the ban. They have had no share in the government of the Island. Absolutism, backed up by Spanish bayonets, has been the rule. Spain has plucked the Cuban goose, and has demonstrated to the people that the highest purpose was to draw the largest income from the Island. The Cubans are tired of the Spanish Viceroy, and of the many heavy burdens of taxation and the stifling of all attempts at progress. They demand independence, the abolition of slavery and the inauguration of a new era of progress. There is no sympathy between the Creoles and Spaniards, and for a quarter of a century the Home Government has lost no good opportunity to let the Creoles know that they were not to be trusted.

The fact is, aside from the small Spanish element, the Cubans are Republicans. They want the fruits of a government responsible to the people. In short, they are demanding emancipation from the old order of things in the island, much in the same way that the progressives at home have made and enforced the demand. The Bourbon reign was overthrown by revolution. The Cubans owe it no allegiance. And they refuse to accept a new government imposed upon them by the force of arms. The absolutists evidently control the telegraph and color the reports adversely to the Creoles. But it happens that no sooner is the revolution reported as put down in one place than it breaks out in another. The revolutionists, if recent accounts may be credited, are able to secure the assistance of armed ships. It is certain also that the Cuban revolution enlists the sympathies of the Republicans of Mexico, who know something of the curse of Spanish rule. And there is a large element in the United States, which will not withhold any lawful encouragement. It is reported that military men of experience have secretly left this country to enlist in the cause of the Cubans. If the latter should achieve their independence, the choice of a separate Republic or an alliance with the United States would be left open to them. The natural drift would be into the Union sooner or later. The old dream of acquiring Cuba by purchase or conquest was broken by the overthrow of slavery at home. The new aspiration is in the interests of progress and humanity. Another twelve months will settle the destiny of Cuba, probably for the next century.