

## THE FUTURE OF CUBA.

There are this day in the United States several thousands of Cubans, and the number is daily increasing. Some of these were driven hither by stress of revolution, as more will be. Nearly all are of the more fortunate class—that is, they have been educated, are generally above want, and have more than average intelligence. We see no reason to doubt that they fairly represent the great body of the White and nearly White natives of the “Ever Faithful” isle.

Now, when we say that ninety-nine in every hundred of these Cubans are intensely hostile to the subjection of their isle to the mother country, and anxiously desire its speedy and utter overthrow, we know that we are entirely within the truth. And we see no reason to doubt their assurances that the entire mass of the native White Cubans feel and hope as they do—that they not merely desire independence of Spain, but passionately insist on it.

This is not a freak. The feeling has been strong and steadily growing for years. The Cubans feel that Spain has been a step-mother to their bounteous isle—that she has regularly milked it, and fleeced it, and squeezed it, first through her selfish, one-sided laws and edicts; next, through her locust horde of needy and greedy officials. It is quite moderate to estimate at Twenty Millions per annum the money drawn from Cuba by Spaniards for services that the Cubans would have much preferred to do without.

The consequences of this rapacious policy were: 1. Remonstrance; 2. Distrust; 3. Alienation; 4. Repugnance; 5. Intense, implacable hate. If the people of Cuba were to-day required to determine by vote whether to remain Spanish or become Turkish, hard as the alternative would be, they would decide at all events not to remain Spanish. And Civil War is daily aggravating their hostility to Spanish rule.

Time was, and that not long ago, when Spain might have held Cuba by earning and winning the confidence and gratitude of her Colored inhabitants. Had the Provisional Government at the outset abolished Slavery and affirmed the Equal Rights of All Men, Spain would have retained a powerful party in Cuba. But she let slip the golden moment, allowing the insurgents to precede her in declaring Slavery no more; and even now we only fear that the Provisional Government will recommend to the Constituent Cortes that Slavery be abolished and precluded. “Thank you for nothing,” is the inevitable response of the long-trampled race, already freed by decree of the insurgent chiefs, and enrolled in the ranks of their armies.

We cannot say what may be the result of this Spring’s campaign or of next Summer’s yellow fever. Dulce may possibly overrun the island and report the insurrection utterly crushed. Cuba may soon have a mockery of representation in the Cortes itself. No one can safely say what a day, a year, may bring forth. We hold this, however, to be morally certain: The Cubans are forever estranged from their mother country; it will cost more to keep their island under Spanish rule than the Spaniards can squeeze out of it; so the establishment and recognition of its independence are questions of time only.