

Somebody has sent us the first number of *Le Patria Libre*, (The Free Country) a "democratic cosmopolitan weekly" which began to be published at Havana on the 28d of last January. We cannot say whether it has been continued or not,—but we hope so; it was a fair sheet of eight pages about the size of the Round Table, but with broad margins unknown to our weeklies. It is in Spanish, of course, and mainly devoted to Cuban affairs; but two whole pages are given up to poetry. A dramatic poem in eight scenes—"Abdala" makes the principal part of all this verse; the locality of the poem is "Nubia," but, as it was written expressly for *La Patria*, it is fair to presume that by Nubia, Cuba is really meant. The journal goes heartily for free schools and declares that in Cuba no less than 1,128,293 persons do not know how to read, and that nearly half these are white—or what is called white in Cuba. The whole population of the island is not probably more than 1,500,000, so that ignorance is almost universal. In Havana alone there are more than 130,000 who can neither read or write.