

Prospects of the Cuban Revolution.

The reports from Cuba are very conflicting, but it is not to be denied that a cloud seems to be settling upon the prospects of the Revolutionists. A paragraph upon the outside from the World's Washington correspondent declares that the Spanish legation in Washington regard the struggle as substantially at an end. This is not reliable testimony, but it has been confirmed by information from officers of the American Gulf Squadron, and it is, to say the least, a great disappointment that the known facts do not put such boasts to silence. We fear there is too much truth in these reports and that the Cuban Revolutionists will again miscarry.

This is the seventh attempt of Cuba to revolt from the dominion of Spain. There was an outbreak as early as 1823—another in 1826—another in 1828—again, in 1848, in 1850 and in 1851, under Lopez, who, in this last effort, was captured, after two or three gallant fights, and garroted in Havana on the first of September.

The Cubans never have been content under the dominion of Spain, simply because they have been yearly bled almost to extremity for the benefit of the so-called mother country. An island containing, say about 34,000 square miles, and population probably amounting, about this time, to eighteen hundred thousand of all conditions, has been made to contribute a revenue averaging in the neighborhood of fifteen millions per annum, out of a grand total of products not exceeding sixty millions. This is twenty-five per cent. regular taxation according to returns; but to these must be added a mass of official extortion and plunder such as has seldom been known except in that country, and the United States in recent periods of our history.

It is a chance if the Cubans are not annually fleeced for the benefit of the Spanish, of about forty per cent. of their earnings, and their discontent is not, therefore, at all surprising. Whether they would do any better as a dependency of the United States is questionable; but *they* think so, and are certainly entitled to a change if they desire it.

It may be questioned, however, whether the day for winning liberty and independence by the firelock in the way of a contest of the weak against the strong, is not gone by. The improved weapons of modern warfare magnify the disparity of force so much, and put the weaker and porrer party at such disadvantage that the contest is hopeless. The repeating rifle had just begun to be extensively used, as the war of the States was drawing to a close; and it seems to us no intelligent man can doubt that, even if the South could have doubled her force in the field and maintained her army supplies, the introduction of the Spencer Rifle into the Federal army must have been fatal to the Confederates in no great length of time. There was no standing with an Enfield gun against a man who had eight balls at his disposal as fast as he could draw trigger.

Now it is true the Spanish troops are by no means well provided with arms; and yet, after all, are at greater advantage over the Cubans in that respect than the Federals held over the Confederates. The worst description of modern arms are so far beyond shot guns and the other weapons of the self-armed revolutionists, that the latter stand no chance in the struggle.

These great modern mechanical contrivances for rapid locomotion and wholesale slaughter have put an entirely different phase upon the "last argument" in politics, and it is going to turn hereafter not so much upon the largest party as the best guns—and the best manner of using them to advantage. The party in America which can store up securely in the national armories a heavy supply of repeating rifles and ammunition, and seize and hold possession of them will be able to maintain itself effectually even against large popular unarmed majorities.

To return from this digression, the failure of the Cuban revolt, if it fails, will, on the whole, we think, be favorable to our Southern States. It will help to avert danger of foreign war and it will prevent a diversion of immigration and capital which would, no doubt, seriously retard progress in these States.