

MADAME EMILIA C. DE VILLAVERDE.

MME. EMILIA C. DE VILLAVERDE, the lady most active in movements for the relief of the Cuban patriots, and who presented every expedition of soldiers leaving New York city for Cuba with an elegant silk flag of the infant republic, wrought by her own hand, is a daughter of Innocencio Casanova, and was born in Cardenas. Many of her relatives, including her brother, were connected with the unsuccessful enterprise of Lopez, and several were either imprisoned or expatriated for their complicity in the attempted revolution. The attention of the Spanish police being attracted to the members of the family, on account of their unqualified denunciation of the authorities, Mr. Casanova removed from Cardenas to the United States, settling in Philadelphia. While residing there, Mr. Casanova took out his naturalization papers, and became a citizen of the United States. There, too, Emilia was married to Mr. C. de Villaverde, then living in exile for his connection with the Lopez expedition, and under sentence of death by the garrote. Shortly after her marriage she removed to New York city, and in a brief time her husband's home became the rendezvous of the principal exiles from the Island.

When, in 1868, Cespedes took the field against the Spaniards with a small army of

patriots, Mme. Villaverde called together her acquaintances in the city, and inaugurated the famous *Liga de las Hijas de Cuba* (League of the Daughters of Cuba), being chosen its secretary. About this time her father and a younger brother were imprisoned in Havana. Knowing the ferocious character of those in power at the time in Cuba, and that imprisonment was but the precursor of death, Mme. Villaverde and two lady friends hastened to Washington and saw the President, Secretary Fish, General Sherman, the lamented Rawlins, General Banks and others, to each of whom she explained the situation of her father and brother, and insisted that, as they were citizens of the United States, our Government

was bound to take steps toward their liberation. President Grant promptly took the matter in hand, and ordered a correspondence which resulted in the freedom of Mr. Casanova and his son.

Mme. Villaverde also labored faithfully to relieve the distress of the hundreds of Cubans who have been obliged to seek refuge in New York from the barbarity of the Spaniards—an effort in which she has been ably seconded by her associates in the League.

She is intelligent, scholarly, a pleasing writer, and a lady of strong friendships.

MADAME CESPEDES.

ANA QUESADA was born in Puerto Principe, the largest city of Camaguey, on the Island of Cuba, about the year 1845. She is descended

from one of the most distinguished families in the country, and was educated in the school of the Ursuline nuns. Ten years of her life

were passed among the nuns, and after receiving a thorough education, she returned home but a short time previous to her father's decease. Her brothers, Manuel and Rafael, went to Mexico after their father's death, to learn the profession of arms. Manuel landed on December 28th, 1868, in La Guanaja, from Nassau, with some eighty-seven companions and a small supply of guns and ammunition. His first step was to establish his headquarters at Banao; and the second, send for his mother and three sisters. From this time Ana Quesada remained with the patriot forces

until her capture by the Spanish troops, and exile. On the 11th of April, 1869, the Republic was formed, with Don Carlos Cespedes as President, and Manuel Quesada, General-in-Chief of the Army. At the inauguration, the President first met the lady destined to be his wife, and on the 3d of November they were married. Madame Cespedes followed her husband in all the marches of the army, and fared with the troops the privations of the campaign.

On the 19th of September, 1870, Mme. Quesada and two daughters were captured at Guasumal, and taken to Puerto Principe, while Mme. Cespedes and infant were left behind—she assuming the guise of a beggar-woman. Shortly after, the Spaniards returned, when Madame Cespedes, with her child, fled to a piece of woods and concealed herself until the following day, when her brother found her,

and accompanied her to the President. During the journey to her husband's headquarters, occupying eight days, the child died from exposure.

On the 13th of December, President Cespedes, fearing an important movement of the enemy, parted with his wife, leaving her in the care of a man who was subsequently proven to be a Spanish spy, and by whom she was betrayed to the Spaniards. She was sent from Nuevitas to Havana in a war-vessel, and then banished the island.

Madame Cespedes is a lady of great refinement, and since her arrival in New York city has made hosts of warm friends.



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