

A PROSPECTIVE REPUBLIC.

Satisfactory reports from Cuba are difficult to obtain, but the friends of the rebels in this country seem to entertain no doubts of the final triumph of the insurgent cause. The New York Tribune describes the arrangements for a meeting in this country of the Cubans and Cuban sympathizers with a view to the organization of a provisional government and to the election of a President of the republic of Cuba. In view of the recent proclamation of Secretary of State Olney, demanding that filibustering expeditions against an island controlled by a friendly Power must stop, this announcement of such a meeting in New York is a surprisingly bold and confident movement. The leaders hope to organize a government which the United States and other nations will recognize, and, although such an act might be taken by Spain as a *casus belli*, it certainly would meet the approval of the millions in this country who are in hearty sympathy with the Cuban fight for independence, which they deem similar in many respects to our own struggle against England and to the recent uprising against the Queen in Hawaii.

About the middle of May there was a convention held in Cuba, at which each one hundred insurgents engaged in actual warfare against Spain was represented by a delegate. Besides these there were representatives present from about 150 Cuban organizations in North and South America, clubs which are affiliated under the name of the Revolutionary party. This convention was a fair representation of the influence which has enabled the rebels to prolong the fight against Gen. de Campos, and it chose officers to conduct the rebellion until more permanent steps could be taken. Gonzala de Quesada, the prominent Cuban now in New York, says the time for more permanent union has come, and that on July 15 there will be a convention which will mark the most important stage of the fight for freedom. Although a Constitution will not then be drafted nor a Senate and Chamber of Deputies chosen as in the last revolt, a declaration of independence will be issued, and a President of the new republic elected. Senor Quesada says that Thomas Estrada Palma of Pleasant Valley, New York, will doubtless be chosen to this office, and that he will remain in this country and direct the insurgent cause. The Cuban clubs scattered all over this country and the struggling men on the island are said to be heartily in sympathy with this movement, and if it is carried out, the result will certainly be watched with great interest by all friends of Cuban independence. In case the plans of the leaders succeed there will be delicate questions of diplomacy for the State Department to settle as there were in the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani and the establishment of President Dole's government at Honolulu. This country is at present bound to preserve strict neutrality in the Cuban fight, and to do nothing which can be interpreted as an act of ill-feeling or hostility toward Spain, but, on the other hand, the love of freedom is so inborn in the American mind that the great majority of our people although they may question whether the people of Cuba are really capable of self-government, naturally sympathize with them in their effort to throw off the oppressive shackles of Spanish rule.