

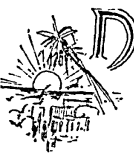
CUBA DETERMINED TO BE FREE FROM SPAIN.

The Cuban Colony in This City Raising Funds and Preparing for Another Revolution—The Los Independientes Society 2,000 Strong.

ORGANIZED SINCE 1855

When the Word Comes from Cuba Warfare Will Begin—History of the Junta and the Jordan Expedition.

NOTED CUBAN-AMERICAN PATRIOTS



DURING the last half century the history of Cuba, which supplies us with our best sugar, tobacco and delicious tropical fruits, has been replete with insurrections, revolutions and attempts on the part of the native population to wrest it from the rule of Spain.

The most formidable of the Cuban revolutions, and the one which came nearest to a successful issue to the revolutionists, was the last one which swept over the island. Ten long years of fighting passed before Spain succeeded in crushing the spirit of the revolutionists who survived the battles of the war, and forcing the leaders to acknowledge that the revolution was defeated. Even then, although forced to lay down their arms and surrender to the conquering armies of Spain, the revolutionary leaders would not admit that Spain had beaten them.

"The followers of the revolution have not been beaten, they said, "they have been exterminated."

The rebellion is known as the revolution of Yara. It began on October 10, 1868, and ended on February 28, 1878. One of its most important results was that many of the leading Cuban citizens, who affiliated with the revolutionists, were forced into exile.

The Cuban colony in this city is not large. It is not rich collectively nor is it as influential as the colonies of several other foreign nations, but it is more united than any other foreign colony, the Chinese, perhaps, excepted, and none is more fervently patriotic. It contains hundreds of men who took part in the revolution of Yara, all or nearly all of whom still believe they will live to see the day when Cuban independence shall be accomplished. Another struggle for the freedom of the island, they declare, is as certain as the regular appearance of the noonday sun.

With this end in view the Cubans here have organized themselves into a patriotic society devoted to preparation for the coming revolution. This society is known as "Los Independientes." Nearly two thousand members are enrolled upon its records of membership, and every one of them is pledged to shoulder arms and march to the assistance of the revolutionists whenever the leaders of the revolutionary party in Cuba shall decide the time is ripe for them to again declare war against their Spanish rulers. The society contains alike the wealthy and the poor members of the Cuban colony.

HOW IT WAS ORGANIZED.

"Los Independientes" was organized in 1855. Its officers consist of a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. It has no regular place or time of meeting. The president is Juan Fraga, a young, wealthy, popular and influential member of the Cuban colony. Benjamin J. Guerra, the vice president, is another of the best known members of the Cuban colony. He is a member of the wholesale tobacco firm of M. Barranco & Co. Ernesto M. Aquino, the organization's treasurer, is also connected with the firm of M. Barranco & Co. Gonzalo de Lucada, the secretary, is another prosperous Cuban merchant.

Others who are active in forwarding the affairs of this organization and working for the independence of Cuba are José Martí, of No. 40 Broadway; General Luecra, who is associated in business with Ponce de Leon, and who represented Uruguay in the late Pan-American Congress; Enrique Irujillo, the editor of the newspaper *El Porvenir*; General Francisco Carrillo, of Brooklyn; Dr. Emilio Nuñez, of Philadelphia, and Dr. J. M. Parraga, of City Hall place, one of the leading Cuban physicians of this city.

Nearly all of these men saw active service during the revolution of Yara. Despite the sufferings and hardships they endured during that period they are all ready to again go to the front and battle for independence.

THE FUND ON HAND.

Ever since the inception of the society it has devoted itself to the collection of a fund to be devoted to the battle for freedom, and its leading members now assert that there is sufficient money on hand to arm, equip and transport a considerable force to the scene where the battles must be fought. The officers of the society are in constant communication with the leaders of the revolutionary party in the island, and will be thoroughly informed when the Cubans there are ready to take up arms and again declare themselves free and independent of the government of Spain.

"It is bound to come," said a prominent Cuban to me; "just when none of us can tell; so that we must be prepared and hold ourselves in readiness to hasten to the assistance of the revolutionists resident in Cuba whenever it does come."

Last December one of the leaders of the revolutionary party in this city paid an extended visit to the island. His object was twofold. He went to consult with the leaders of the Cuban party at home as to the conditions which prevailed there; to find out what the sentiment of the people was as to the propriety of another early struggle for their freedom from Spain; to discover what strength such a movement would have and what financial resources the revolutionists in Cuba could bring to its aid. He also went to see what effect the exactions of the Spanish government in taxation for the support of the home government were having upon the Spanish landowners in Cuba. He spent several months in Cuba and came back with his mind thoroughly made up that Cuba must look to the United States for the success of any revolution which might be attempted there. Like all the others with whom I have talked he agrees that Cuban independence can only be gained by bloodshed.

A CLUB TO THE ENEMY.

"Shall I tell you why?" he asked. "The reason is apparent enough to any one familiar with Cuban politics. Suppose Spain should allow the Cubans to establish a Congress or Parliament of their own. Why, the first thing that such a Congress would do would be to devote itself to preparation for driving the Spanish government entirely from Cuba. Spain knows this, and realizes that in according to Cuba an independent or partially independent government she would simply be putting in the hands of the Cubans a bludgeon with which they would rattle her most unmercifully over the head. Spain is poor; Cuba is naturally very rich. If Spain loses the Cuban revenues she will be in a sorry plight. The condition of the Cubans is such to-day that they are almost as abject as slaves."

"They could not begin to necessary to make a revolution on the island which would be necessary to make a revolution a success."

"No," continued my informant, "we cannot carry on a revolution successfully except we get assistance from the United States."

Before the revolution of Yara the Cubans were the planters and land owners in the island and many of them were rich and influential. The failure of the revolution resulted in the confiscation of these lands and now the Spaniards own them."

NEED OF MONEY.

Money must be raised. Yes, several millions of

American dollars, and that can be done right here in this city.

Such a plan is the present hope of the Cuban-Americans of this city, who are organized for the purpose of furthering the interests of the revolutionary party in Cuba. And the great majority of them believe that the federal government can be prevailed upon to allow that plan to be put into execution. Influences are already at work making an effort to pave the way. With the reciprocity treaty between the United States and Spain in full force and effect the Cubans are satisfied the difficulties in their way will be materially lessened. More than two-thirds of the members of the Cuban residents of this city believe that the ultimate outcome of Cuban independence will be the annexation of the island to the United States.



ANICETO Z. MENOICAL.

HI-STORY OF THE JUNTA.

Junta was formed in the spring of 1869. Four years had not then elapsed since the close of the civil war. No such volume of capital awaiting investment lay idle in the banks of this city as is to be found there now, and yet the Junta of 1869 raised more than \$2,000,000 for the revolution of Yara at that time. What inducements were held out to the many from whom money was obtained will perhaps never be known, but with it the Junta, with its headquarters constantly in the city of New York, organized expeditions for the transportation of troops, arms, artillery and ammunition to the revolutionary armies in Cuba and sent them out from the harbor of New York without molestation from the United States authorities.

Morales Lemas, one of the most influential and wealthy of these, was the presiding officer of the Junta. He died in this city while the revolution was still in progress. Other members were Frederick Fessee, of Havana, who had charge of its financial affairs; Signora Alfara and Mora, who were charged with making purchases and arranging for the transportation of troops, arms and ammunition to Cuba; Dr. Armigo, Signor Bassora and Ponce de Leon. Dr. Armigo was a wealthy resident of Havana, who had fled to this country to avoid the confiscation of his property. He contributed \$307,000 of the wealth

he had thus co-operated with the support of the revolution. Others who co-operated with or worked under the direction of the Junta in this city or at the seat of war were José Martí, Emilio Nuñez, Francisco M. Corriolo, Thomas Estrada Palma, Aniceto G. Menocal, Dr. J. M. Parraga, Mmo. Emilia Cassanova de Villaverde and the Americans, General Thomas Jordan, General W. A. C. Ryan and Captain Peters, all of whom had seen service during the War of the Rebellion. The majority of these are now resident of this city and are ready to again take up the battle for the cause of Cuban independence. Mr. Martí has an office at No. 40 Broadway. He is not yet forty years of age and was less than twenty when he joined the forces of the revolution. He is to-day perhaps the most widely known orator and writer among the Spanish speaking residents of North and Central America. He is a native of Havana.

CON-SPICUOUS MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA.

Emilio Nuñez is also a young man, having been born in Sagua la Grande in 1853. He now resides in Philadelphia, where he has a large practice as a dentist. He was one of the first to espouse the cause of the revolution and is ready now at any time to do it again. In fact, it was only with the greatest difficulty that the fellow countrymen of Dr. Nuñez were enabled to persuade him that the revolution of Yara was defeated. For after the treaty of peace had been celebrated in 1878 he, with Francisco M. Carrillo, returned the following autumn to the eastern part of Cuba and issued a new proclamation of independence. It was only at the declared wish of his countrymen that a truce was necessary to the existence of the survivors of the revolution that he was persuaded to yield.

Tomas Estrada Palma is now in charge of a large school at Central Valley, in Orange county. He was born at Bayamo, July 9, 1833, and studied law at Sevilla, in Spain. He was an officer in the army of the revolution and served the Junta with great distinction.

Amceto G. Menocal was the leading military engineer of the forces of the revolution. He is a native of Matanzas, where he was born in 1844. He was educated at the Troy Polytechnic, and is now a resident of this city. His work in Havana during the revolution gave him a wide and valuable reputation in other lands, and when he returned to this country he became a consulting engineer of the Department of Marine at Washington, and afterward chief of the Navy Yard.

Mr. Menocal is an earnest supporter of "Los Independientes," and an earnest advocate of Cuban independence.

Dr. Parraga is a leading physician of the Cuban colony. His office and residence is in City Hall place, this city. He is forty-five years of age and has many old scores to settle with the Spanish soldiers. Dr. Parraga went to Cuba with the Jordan expedition, which sailed from this port on the steamer Perrett May 4, 1869, under the direction of the Junta.

Dr. Parraga served as a colonel under General Jordan. At one place the Spanish soldiers throw six corpses into a well and General Jordan's soldiers drank the polluted water for weeks before they found what was at the bottom of the well. Many of them were made very sick. Dr. Parraga was among the number. While he was ill he was taken prisoner and exiled to Spain. He recovered his health while in exile, and at once set about planning means to escape to the scene of hostilities in Cuba. But before he could effect his escape the treaty of peace was celebrated, and he came back to his home in New York.

Of the Americans who went with the Jordan expedition General Ryan is dead. He was in business in Wall street when he placed his services at the command of the Junta, and assisted in recruiting men for the expedition. He returned to New York after the Jordan expedition was successfully landed, and assisted in organizing the expedition which went out on the ill-fated *Virginian*. He was again landed safely in Cuba, however, but was killed during the fusillade at Santiago de Cuba in 1873.

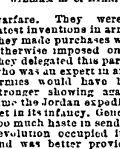
General Jordan, who is now over seventy years old, is engaged in editing the *Munny and Financial Record*. He is a Virginian by birth and was educated at West Point, where he was graduated in the same class with General Sherman. He served on the Confederate side during the War of the Rebellion and when the war closed was attached to the staff of General Beauregard, who is still one of his most intimate friends.

THE JORDAN EXPEDITION.

The Jordan expedition sailed from the harbor of New York on the afternoon of May 4, 1869, without the slightest interference from the United States authorities.

The president of the Junta was charged with ambassadorial functions by the revolutionary Congress, and was given full power to represent and bind the revolutionary government. This Junta was almost as influential and powerful as the revolutionary Congress itself, and because of its location was able to do more for the advancement of the rebellion than the Congress could do. Those who watched its progress and its movements think that one of the main causes of its failure was that it tried to do too much. Most of the members of the Junta had little or no practical experience in warfare. They were unfamiliar with the latest inventions in arms and artillery and when they made purchases were more frequently than otherwise imposed on by artful salesmen. Had they delegated this part of their work to some one who was an expert in articles of warfare the Cuban armies would have been able to make a much stronger showing against their enemy. At the time the Jordan expedition went out the war was yet in its infancy. General Jordan think there was too much haste in sending out his expedition. The revolution occupied its strongest position then and was better provided with financial support than at any other time. He believes that had a thorough and careful study of the situation been made it would have resulted in the landing of the expedition at the Bay of Barnes instead of the Bay of Nipe. Had they landed there, he says, he could have transported four thousand additional troops to join them soon after the landing and with this force of trained soldiers all ready for action he could have swept the island. All this is afterthought, but it will be given full weight and consideration by the leaders of another revolutionary movement. Before the revolution was over Jordan commanded probably the most curious army that ever went into battle. It contained adventurers, Cuban patriots, Americans, boys not yet over fifteen years old and two companies of Chinese—the laundrymen of Cuba, who had been pressed into the service.

WILLIAM A. C. RYAN.



FRANCISCO M. CARRILLO.



JOSÉ MORALES LEMAS.



EMILIO NUÑEZ.



JOSÉ MARTÍ.



TOMAS JORDAN.



TOMAS ESTRADA PALMA.