

SENOR PALMA HERE.

PLANS OF THE DELEGATE OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONISTS.

INTERESTING CAREER OF THE NEW REPRESENTA-
TIVE—ONCE PRESIDENT OF THE "REPUBLIC
OF CUBA," AND LATER POSTMASTER-
GENERAL OF HONDURAS.

Señor Thomas Estrada Palma, the newly elected Delegate of the Cuban Revolutionary Party, is at the Hotel America, in Irving Place. He came down from his home at Central Valley, Orange County, N. Y., yesterday in company with Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, a son of the first President of Cuba, and General Rafael de y Quesada. He at once went to the Hotel America, and a number of



THOMAS ESTRADA PALMA.

"the faithful," who had been told of his coming, were on hand to welcome him. The greeting between Señor Palma and the men who are battling for Cuban liberty was a warm one. He is greeted as the "Father of His Country."

Señor Palma is a lawyer by profession and is a man of broad ideas and great executive ability. He is at present at the head of a large school for boys in Central Valley. He is married and has a family. He was born in 1835, in Bayamo, in the eastern part of Cuba. He was prominently identified with the Cuban insurrection of 1868. He was at one time a Representative in the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Cuba. He was afterward chosen Secretary of State, and from that office was called to the office of "President of the Republic of Cuba." He has seen active warfare, and in 1877 was taken prisoner by the Spanish authorities, and as he was looked upon as a dangerous malcontent was sent to Spain, where he was placed for safe-keeping in the famous prison in the Castle of Figueros. When peace was declared, in 1878, he was released and went to France. He only remained there a short time, and then came to the United States. After that he went to Honduras. He became closely allied with the federal power there, and was chosen Postmaster-General of that State. From Honduras he returned to the United States.

Such is the history of the new President of the affiliated Cuban Clubs and Delegate of the embryonic Republic of Cuba. He is a slender man, of medium height, about sixty years old, with a nervous, energetic air about him. He speaks English fluently and is a good linguist. When asked to say something about the future of Cuba, he hesitated, but finally said: "The office of Delegate has been given me and I have accepted it, and I shall do all in my power while occupying it to further the interests of Cuban independence."

When Señor Palma was asked about the plans of the Cubans, he said: "I can tell little or nothing. I am confident that we will win, but at present I am not ready to talk about our plans. We hope that the United States will recognize the Republic of Cuba as a belligerent power. It would be an act of humanity and assist us greatly."

Señor Palma seemed exceptionally reticent, and those who were with him said that he did not wish to talk until he had conferred with prominent Cubans. General Quesada, who was with him, returned to the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where his quarters have been reserved for over a week. He found a voluminous mail awaiting him. He opened it, and while reading, he talked with a Tribune reporter. He said: "I have been up at Central Valley with Señor Palma. The election was unanimous, and he has come to New-York to take charge. There is nothing new to tell now. The means of communication are so untrustworthy that we cannot say anything authentically."

In reply to a question General Quesada said: "The election of Señor Palma simply means that the Cuban party now has an international delegate in New-York. He is not President, but rather Foreign Minister. A constitutional convention is to meet in Cuba soon, at which a President and a Chamber of Deputies will be elected. A proclamation of independence will be declared, and the world will be called upon to recognize the republic as a belligerent power. I cannot say when this convention will meet, but it will be soon. In the mean time General Gomez will have entire charge of the army. He has 15,000 men in the field armed, and 30,000 unarmed."

Carlos Céspedes, who came down with his uncle, General Quesada, and Señor Palma, has just completed a tour around Boston, Worcester, Providence and other places in New-England in the interest of the Cuban party. He says that the treasurer, Guerra, is pretty well supplied with funds, and that plenty of money will be forthcoming to carry on the war.