

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

The leader of the Cuban revolutionists, Don Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, is a member of the Cuban aristocracy, a lawyer of long standing, of the highest attainments, and great influence, besides being a rich landed proprietor. His first step, at the opening of the revolution, was to emancipate two hundred slaves and encourage, by appropriate appeals, emancipated men and women, the former of whom he urged to join in the vindication of the "rights of Cuba" and the latter to "cultivate the soil."

The result of this movement was that the government dispatched the war-steamer Neptune to bombard the property of Cespedes next to the coast. This brought to his alliance Don Francisco P. Aguilera, a physician by profession, educated in the best schools of Europe, of an old Spanish military family, who, like Cespedes, was a large land owner, and had emancipated his slaves at the outbreak of the revolution. Nothing would seem to prove the despotism under which the native Cubans have lived more conclusively than the fact that those born on the island, although the sons of prominent Spaniards, are to-day the most bitter enemies of Spain. A warm friendship exists between Cespedes and Aguilera. They entertain unlimited faith in the patriotism and ability of one another. From their speeches, resolutions and actions, it can reasonably be anticipated that neither will retire from the contest so long as there is a native Cuban ready to vindicate with him the independence of the island. The island may be said to be in a state of revolution which it requires the utmost vigilance to suppress. On the evening of the 22d of January, at the Villa Nueva theatre, Havana, during the performance, some persons in the audience shouted "*Viva Cespedes*" and many of the audience commenced singing the revolutionary hymn. The Spanish armed volunteer, "militia," and the police fired upon the people who returned the fire. Four persons were killed and many persons were wounded. The same evening there was a revolutionary riot at Rigia, opposite Havana, and shots were fired from small arms against Fort Cabanas, and Fort Number Four. On the second day following, several of the militia were assassinated.

Captain-General Dulce issued a proclamation in which he says severe punishment will be inflicted upon all disturbers of order. The Spaniards speak confidently of an early termination of the revolution.