

CUBA.

Promulgation of the Decree Establishing Unrestricted Liberty of Religion in Cuba and Porto Rico—Reduction of the Government Employees.

HAVANA, Oct. 25, 1899.

The decree of the Constituent Cortes establishing unrestricted liberty of religion in the colonies of Cuba and Porto Rico was to-day promulgated in this island and has gone into effect as the law of the land. The document is exceedingly liberal in its terms. It declares that Spain cannot remain removed from the general movement of Europe and the world, and adds that this consideration is the more powerful for the Antilles, because they lie near a continent where liberty of religion is recognized by law.

One clause of the decree provides that no person shall be prevented from holding office under the government by reason of his religious belief.

The decree is received with general satisfaction by the populace.

As there is now no obstacle, it is probable that a Protestant church will soon be established in this city.

Captain General De Rodas is reducing the number of officials in the government employ, and has by this means already effected a considerable saving for the public treasury.

The city is very tranquil. American and European merchants are making contracts for the coming crops.