

Cuban Naval Expeditions—Prospects Ahead.

Those who console themselves with the idea that the Cuban rebellion is on its last legs and is just now on the point of falling through, will find but a small measure of consolation in the news which was published in yesterday's **HERALD** relative to the sailing of armed expeditions for the "Ever Faithful Isle." According to the report alluded to, which was received from a reliable source, over two thousand men, ten thousand rifles, five hundred sabres, twenty pieces of artillery, and a large quantity of small arms and ammunition have by this time, if nothing unforeseen occurred, been landed on the Cuban coast. And not alone on land are the Cubans now prepared to fight for that independence which has been denied them by Spain, but on the high seas, through their privateers, the *Lillian*, the *Teaser*, and the *Cuba* (formerly the *Hornet*), we may shortly expect to hear of Spanish commerce being crippled and transports intercepted in the same manner in which Semmes, of Alabama notoriety, swept the seas and rendered his name a terror to American merchantmen during the existence of the late Southern rebellion.

That the late expeditions for Cuba have been well planned and ably carried out is evident. It is also a strange fact that the Cuban privateer *Hornet* should have put to sea from an English port; and it is not a little remarkable that the astuteness of Marshal Barlow was somewhat at fault when he seized the *Euterpe* at her dock, laden with arms, believing her to be intended to aid the Cubans, whereas she was employed to carry munitions of war to be used against them. In reality he seized a Spanish vessel, thinking she was intended for the Cubans, and that he is extremely sorry for so doing there is not the slightest reason to doubt. Let the friends of the Spanish cause, however, take comfort in the reflection that, all things considered, it was the best thing that could have happened; for had the *Euterpe* put to sea with her cargo of war materiel she would in all probability have been "gobbled up" by the privateer *Hornet*, which was off Sandy Hook awaiting her.

It should also be remembered that the men and arms that have been recently sent to the seat of war are not the only auxiliaries which the Cubans will have to aid them within the next few months. Now that the sickly season is over and there are prospects of an active campaign near, volunteering from this country will receive additional stimulus. Men of adventure will not be found lacking in America to join the standard of the patriots. If Spain can send over reinforcements she had better hurry them on if they are intended for operations in the field. No one knows this better than Captain General De Rodas, and hence his anxiety for immediate further aid. The news of the expeditions, which no doubt by this time has reached him, will cause him no little surprise. Volunteering, we are told, is very brisk all along the Gulf coast, and that already five thousand men are awaiting transportation. The number may be exaggerated, but even half the number of men enumerated, together with those already forwarded, properly armed, equipped and thrown into the Eastern Department, would give Valmaseda's command all it could attend to.

In view of coming events it is unaccountable that Spain does not see the hopelessness of her struggle in trying to retain Cuba. For almost a year has the rebellion continued, and the rebels held their own. Almost without arms, and undisciplined and untried as they were in the art of war, they have successfully in many instances combated the well drilled, admirably disciplined and thoroughly armed soldiers of Spain. Spanish soldiers, too, are brave and good fighters; still, the Cubans have manfully stood up against great odds, and to-day are hopeful and believe in the ultimate success of their cause. Let Spain, therefore, sell out—dispose of the island at the best terms. She wants money. It is not yet too late to obtain a supply by making advantageous terms with the Cubans. Every day that passes is so much off the price. To-day she might obtain millions; to-morrow, perhaps, nothing.