

The Cuban Programme—What Recognition Would Save.

The proclamation of Cespedes with regard to destroying the growing cane, which mostly belongs to Cubans, but if gathered would be used by the Spaniards against them, is fraught with more importance to the interests of the United States than is understood in this country. The Cuban agents will shortly give to the public a statement based on United States official reports, which will be very startling. Up to this time the Cuban insurgents have never attempted to destroy sugar plantations, except in the east end of the island, where there are very few. In the right season, when there was a company of Spanish soldiers intrenched in each of the sugar works, a band of twenty-five men was sufficient to fire the cane in half a dozen garrisoned estates almost within sight of each other. When dry enough, and before ready for the mill, the canefields burn like coal oil. Accidental fires have been known to spread through nine miles of sugar cane in three hours. The burning ordered, long planned and systematized, will take place up to within an hour's ride of Havana. One hundred thousand troops could not stop it. When about one hundred estates are burned, which will occur the first week of operations, the incredulous sugar interest will begin to believe, and sugar will jump up ten per cent at a time. A glance at the memorial of the Cubans shows:—First, That half the sugar used in the United States comes from Cuba; second, that sugar and tobacco give the United States over \$25,000,000 revenue; third, that the United States export \$11,000,000 of provisions; fourth, from \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000 of machinery; fifth, the profits made in the United States by sugar refineries. This sugar, if destroyed in Cuba, as undoubtedly nineteen-twentieths of it will be, and Cuba having no other resources, what will become of the United States duties? What will become of the \$15,000,000 or \$20,000,000 of provisions and machinery heretofore exported to Cuba, &c.? This loss to the United States is reckoned at a high figure, but is certainly \$50,000,000 or \$60,000,000, and that not for one year, but for the next and the next, and all might have been avoided by recognition.