

What Is the Cause of the Failure of the Cuban Expeditions?

The Cuban privateers *Lillian* and *Cuba* have certainly been unfortunate in their career. Without accomplishing anything the vessels have been seized and members of the crews of each vessel have been arrested and held by American and English authorities respectively. From the manner of the seizure of both vessels and the circumstances under which the arrest of the crews were made it would seem that there is a screw loose somewhere in the management of these expeditions. Possibly treachery may form a large share of the cause of the disappointments which have thus far attended the efforts of the Cubans at sea. That there is some room for these repeated failures there is no reason to doubt. So far as regards Captain Harris, of the *Lillian*, we believe he has his heart in the work and is true to the cause in which he has embarked, but whether others can present as clean a record it is impossible to say.

In relation to matters on the island it is impossible, however, not to recognize the fact that while we have glowing reports of the landing of Spanish troops and the increased activity of De Rodas, Valmaseda and the remainder of the high Spanish officials, the insurgents are able to hold their own, notwithstanding their embarrassments on the sea. This state of affairs cannot possibly be lost sight of by President Grant, whose sympathies are with the Cubans, and whose policy—the result of serious reflection—will in the end, no doubt, shape itself so as to represent the wishes of the American people. The present troubles in Spain also hasten a solution of the Cuban problem. There is really too much to think of at home to watch Cuba very closely. Affairs have arrived at that stage which requires something more than the shipment of troops from Cadiz to crush a revolution over four thousand miles distant. With a fierce domestic struggle agitating Spain, destroying the confidence of the people in her leading men and spreading universal discontent throughout the country, it is not difficult to foresee the future of Cuba. Between the blunders of Spanish politicians at home and military leaders abroad the island will yet secure its independence even though disappointment on the sea may at the present time temporarily embarrass her leaders.