

Belligerent Rights for Cuba—Monster Petition from Philadelphia—Statistics of Population and Commerce.

The friends of Cuban independence propose bringing the subject of the recognition of the belligerent rights of the insurgents before Congress at an early day of the session. Several petitions, numerously signed by persons in different parts of the Union, have already arrived and others are expected in a few days. The design is to present them all at once in the Senate and House and have them referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations of each House. The longest petition thus far received is from Philadelphia and is signed by 29,743 citizens. It is estimated to be from a mile to a mile and a half long, and is wound around a wheel mounted on a frame. The petition when it comes into Congress will make an odd and formidable appearance on the desk of the Speaker; for I understand it is to be presented in the House of Representatives. It will require at least two members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs to carry it up to their committee room. It is signed by nearly all the members of the Union League of Philadelphia and by citizens of all shades of politics. Among the names are the most prominent merchants, bankers, manufacturers and politicians of Philadelphia. Each member of Congress is to be furnished with a card containing a map of the island of Cuba on the left hand side and a Cuban flag on the right, over which are the words "Free Cuba." Under the map and flag are the following statistics intended for the information of Congressmen:—Length, 690 miles; average breadth, 65 miles; square miles, 47,500, 632,000,000 acres. Population, Spaniards, including army, 100,000; Americans and foreigners, 95,000; Cubans, 865,000; total whites, 1,050,000; free colored, 260,000; slaves and emancipados fighting with the patriots, 390,000. Grand total, 1,700,000. Exports, \$30,000,000; imports, \$10,040,000; annual production, \$190,000,000. Taxes annually paid to Spain, \$37,500,000. Ratio of Spaniards to population, six per cent; ratio of their robbery to value of production, thirty-five per cent. Shall such diabolical rule last?

The Spanish Gunboats to be Released.

From information received to-night from a very reliable source I am led to believe that the Spanish gunboats will finally be released by the United States authorities.