

**Who They Are and What They Are Doing—
How They Do It—New York as a Base of
Operations—Artillery, Nitro-Glycerine Bombs,
Torpedoes and Recruits for the Patriot Ar-
mies.**

The patriot Cubans in this city are at present displaying the most intense interest and activity in behalf of the cause of independence, by direct personal exertion, pecuniary contributions, influence and encouragement, and never perhaps in its history has the metropolis been even the temporary residence of so many of the sons and daughters of the "Queen of the Antilles" as during the past two months. In former years they were usually seen in New York at the fashionable hotels, in the parks and at places of amusement as pleasure seekers or travellers during the summer season, with that air of ease and abandon so characteristic of their nationality. Now they are an active, bustling, energetic and anxiously earnest community of themselves, surrounded by hosts of friends and sympathizers with their essentially popular scheme. They throng the hotels and streets as formerly, but without the *dolce far niente* of former occasions, and in many of their resorts parlors are secured for use as committee rooms, where the business of aiding the struggling volunteers in their noble contest with the Spanish hidalgos is carried on and developed. But one of the most promising auguries as to the result hoped for is to be found in the fact that the great majority of the Cubans in the city are of the wealthy, refined and educated classes, and, being such, they fully understand and appreciate the necessity for prompt and vigorous action in its moral and political aspects, and at the same time, being wealthy and prominent as a class among their countrymen, they have the deepest personal interest in the issue. Were they of a poor or mentally inferior grade it could be fairly presumed that they were mere refugees, having nothing of pride or property at stake, and therefore regardless of success or defeat. Their position and their mission, however, alike entitle them to attention and encouragement, and they have both, and are daily extending their influence and awakening interest to their movements among the people of the United States. The part, too, which the Cuban ladies of this city have assumed and are so satisfactorily accomplishing is by no means inconsiderable, and the languishing brunettes of the gem of the Spanish main have thrown all the natural and proverbial fervor of their hearts and minds into the work.

What has been done on behalf of the revolutionary party by its co-operators in New York has been for obvious reasons done quietly and without ostentation for while anxious for and expectant of support of the new administration they have scrupulously endeavored to avoid precipitating any embarrassment upon this government by measures or movements which might place the nation in a delicate or equivocal position with regard to Spain. They have, however, raised men, money and munitions of war, and despatched them to Cuba for the patriot army in such a manner as to insure their arrival at their destination with all available despatch and without such cognizance by the United States authorities as would compromise their good faith. The system of forwarding recruits has been to send them from this city in small parties of five to twenty by railroad to Key West, Pensacola, Mobile and other Gulf ports, and embark them in like numbers thence on board of small vessels, such as were most advisable on account of their speed, light draught of water, lesser chances of being suspected or having their movements detected. From these they are landed at the most available points on the coast. The Spanish blockade being by no means absolute or complete, renders the landing of these small vessels tolerably easy of accomplishment. One of the most important of their contributions to the armament of the patriots was a completely equipped and manned full battery of field artillery, despatched from this city about three weeks since, and information of the successful arrival and delivery of which in Cuba has just been received. The battery was under command of an American officer who had seen much service during the late war, and the company of artillerymen was composed of Englishmen, Irishmen and Americans, the majority of whom were veterans of the late Union army. Effective work is anticipated from that detachment, and in all probability cheering news of their achievements will soon arrive, though of course not from Spanish reports or through any medium over which they can exercise control. The battery of guns referred to went by sea from New York, as it was deemed imprudent that they should be transported over a long line of country to the Gulf seaboard, and thus be exposed to espionage and perhaps detention. They are expected to serenade Count Valmaseda shortly.

Very recently also it is known that extensive negotiations were in progress with an American establishment for a large supply of nitro-glycerine bombs and torpedoes for the use of the revolutionists; but the positive results of the scheme have, for prudential reasons, not yet been announced, although it is certain that, if no supplies of this material have yet been contracted for or despatched, the agreement is still open and under consideration.

No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining volunteers, the majority of those who present themselves being young men whose service during the rebellion has inspired them with that infatuation for active military life which is still shared by so many thousands of their old comrades. Money, "the sinews of war," has been the desideratum to enable the forwarding of muscle, arms and munitions to be regularly carried out, and though the responses have been gratifying there has been abundant opportunity for the advantageous expenditure of still greater amounts had they been available. Meantime exertions are being redoubled and private donations and assessments and the proceeds of concerts and fairs flowing steadily into the treasury.

The probable action of President Grant is looked forward to by the patriotic party with the most yearning solicitude and impatience, and the desire to culminate the crisis which shall justify and render a recognition of the political status of the revolutionists expedient and deserved has much to do in stimulating the present zeal. Under such circumstances as these the hope is ardent and high that within a few months at least, and perhaps weeks only, Cuba and Cubans will have demonstrated that where it is the destiny of a people to be free the people themselves can accelerate the climax, and proceed to perpetuate and enjoy the liberties which are theirs by right, and which they thus achieve by valor.