

Cuba and the New Captain General.

Our recent advices from Spain state that General Dulce's urgent telegrams to be relieved of his government of Cuba have been acceded to. He has probably been compelled to take this step by the condition of his health, which is very far from being good; but no doubt the situation of Spanish affairs there has much influence in augmenting the urgency of his request. The Captain Generalcy of that Spanish colony has ceased to be the easy and profitable position which it was up to a recent date. Three years is the established term for holding the office, but a shorter period has been the usual practice for many years past; and yet of the many captain generals who have been sent out from Spain since the time of Vives, who governed forty years ago, every one, excepting only General Ezpeleta, has the public reputation of having returned a millionaire to the peninsula.

Events which have transpired during the last six months have materially changed the value of the office. Revolution has overthrown the Spanish authority in one-half of the island and made its tenure very precarious in the other. The Cuban leaders have decreed the abolition of slavery, and with this decree the African slave trade, which was the greater source of emolument to the Captain General, has disappeared. The war of reprisals, as carried on there against both person and property, is destroying industry and trade and driving the wealth of both parties to seek safety elsewhere. With these the revenues of the government are naturally disappearing, while its difficulties daily increase. Thus little profit and few laurels are to be gathered by Spanish commanders, and the hope of succor from Spain is as remote as it was to the old governors sent to the Spanish main.

With this change of circumstances it is not surprising that the once coveted office now goes a begging. Months since General Dulce sent his resignation to Madrid, and the place was tendered to General Prim. It was thought to be a good chance to get rid of this factious and mentally insignificant element in Spanish politics; but Prim was too keen to take the bait. Caballero de Rodas was then looked to as the military leader best able to cope with the difficulties of the situation, and it was announced that he would be sent. But the situation of Spain herself is too critical to spare for a colony a man who, from all the signs evident in the field of view, might soon be a necessity for the preservation of the home government. A change in the Spanish government of Cuba is a necessity, however, and the Spanish Ministry have appointed probably their best soldier to cope with the difficulties of the situation. The approaching change of command, combined with the advent of the rainy season, will have the effect to prevent much activity in military operations on the part of the Spanish forces, and the new Captain General will find plenty of work on his hands when he arrives at his new post.