

# THE CUBAN LADIES' FAIR.

## Rich Jewelry—Large Receipts.

Patriotism assumes its noblest type when found in woman. Poland, dismembered and divided by the dissolute but imperial hand of the historic Catherine of Russia, gave exodus to a bevy of beautiful and fascinating ladies, who filled the brilliant capitals of Europe and charmed kings and prelates by their more than womanly devotion to the land they loved. The zealous and warm-hearted brunettes of the fairest of tropical isles are not behind their heroic prototypes of a century ago, and it is in every sense probable that they will accomplish more. One has but to visit Apollo Hall, at the junction of Twenty-eighth street and Broadway, to be convinced that the Cuban revolution is no holiday sport. There will be found young ladies who, directly or indirectly, have been despoiled of their fortunes by the ruthless hand of the Spanish oligarchy, and who, because of their true republican instincts, have been forced from their elegant homes. To see these beautiful ladies, all sisters in a common cause, unite their energies and feminine expedients to procure aid for the sick and wounded of the patriot army, reminds the American of the day when the great Sanitary Fair was the mode, and when the purse strings of New York were held by its humane projectors. Though this fair is on a smaller scale its patrons show a desire, if anything, more intense than that created by the other, to sustain and make the movement a success. The hall is daily and nightly thronged by Cubans and sympathizing Americans, who liberally contribute to the ladies' treasury. The scene in the hall and adjacent rooms and lobbies is one of great brilliancy. As the room is entered at the eastern door, immediately to the left is seen the "Cuban table"—a special feature of the exhibition, and which is loaded with many articles peculiar to tropical inhabitants. The singular way in which things are raffled for in Havana is in vogue at this table, and every detail in the scheme seems to be perfectly fair. Passing around to the south front we see a large display of rich jewelry, containing many elegant pins, diamond rings and pearl necklaces, and other minor articles in the same line, all of which have been given by patriotic ladies who cared more for their country and people than for ornament and display. Further on a fine assortment of fancy articles, gentlemen's dress articles, knick-knacks, and pieces for ladies' toilet stands, meet the eye. Elegant and richly wrought bronzes, presented by some of the leading firms of the city, clocks, vases, and thousands of articles of vertu, are also to be found for sale. A roulette table yields a handsome income; flower girls, of the pretty and aristocratic class, dispose of their violets, moss rosebuds and carnations with large returns; the restaurant caters to the epicurean taste, and many other attractive points are centres of interest. Probably nothing excites more general attention and wonder than the case of jewels which stands in the centre of the room and which was presented by a family already ostracised by Spanish despotism, having lost its all, and thus completing the sacrifice by laying \$10,000 worth of personal ornaments at the shrine of Cuban independence. This case has two solid gold card cases, an emerald necklace, a pearl necklace with diamond cross, a set of superb earrings with diamond settings, bracelets, &c. The whole will be sold by a raffle of 2,000 chances, at five dollars a chance. The room being profusely adorned with the Cuban and United States colors, a band of music discoursing lively airs, the almost blinding glare of the chandeliers depending from the ceiling, the bright colors, the rich dresses, the elaborate toilets, together with the sprightly beauty of the blondes, the almost fatal fascinations of the brunettes, the sparkling conversation and the universal sympathy for Cuba seen at every turn, give to the entertainment a very animated and interesting character. Besides this, the persistent efforts of Meslames Marcias and Collins have reduced the whole to a perfect system, so that good order obtains throughout. About \$400 a day are now being realized; and this is an average of the daily receipts since the fair was opened, on the 28th of April. It is the intention of these ladies, who, it might be said, have received no assistance from gentlemen, to continue the exhibition and sale so long as they remain remunerative.