

Statement of a Gentleman, M. J. [unclear] from the  
 Revolutionary District—Certificate of the  
 Opposing Forces—Wants of the Revolution—  
 Late—Inducements to Blockade Runners.

A very intelligent American gentleman, who has resided for some time in the revolutionary district of Cuba, and whose acquaintance with commanding officers of both parties on the island enabled him to judge accurately of the state of affairs among the Spanish and patriot armies, has just arrived from Cuba, and gives an interesting statement of the condition, necessities and operations of the belligerents. The revolution which commenced in October last in the town of Yara now extends throughout one third of the island, in which district the Spaniards only hold a few isolated towns. The capital of the new revolutionary government, consisting of regular executive, legislative and judicial branches, is established at Sibanicu, a town in the interior about thirty miles from Nuevitas, and the revolutionary army, numbering about 40,000 men, is divided into several commands, operating at various points in the eastern portion of the island. The patriot army is being organized into infantry regiments and brigades preparatory to military operations on a large scale, and is already sufficiently formidable to give the Spaniards all they can do to hold the towns now in their possession. The principal line of operations is along the railroad from Nuevitas to Puerto Principe, although the patriots are in large force and occupy several cities between the Spanish troops on this line and Havana. The Spaniards confine their operations to the vicinity of the towns held by them, and never venture outside except in large force, their movements being generally on the defensive against advances constantly being made by the revolutionists. The sentiment of the Cuban people is all with the patriot cause, and is universally manifested wherever the presence of Spanish troops does not render it dangerous to non-combatants to express sympathy with the revolutionists. The cities held by the Spaniards are governed by Spanish officers and garrisoned by troops from Spain, augmented by volunteers composed of Spanish residents on the island. Such towns are almost entirely deserted by the patriot families, who have retired to the plantations of their friends, where ranches are erected for the accommodation of all for whom it is dangerous to remain within reach of the Spanish soldiery. In fact, the whole eastern portion of the island, including nearly one half of Cuba, is in about the same condition as the extreme Southern States were during the first three years of the rebellion, being entirely in the possession of the revolutionists and wholly devoted to the cause, with the exception of a few towns held by military forces, as our troops held scattered points in Texas, Arkansas and Georgia. The coast is almost entirely unguarded by the Spaniards. A few small gunboats, capable of making about seven knots per hour, cruise along the coast, and occasionally a frigate appears at one point and another; but nothing like a blockade is maintained.

The revolutionary forces display much more activity than the Spaniards, and are constantly making raids and otherwise harassing the enemy. There is, however, very little disorder outside of that usually connected with military operations, and private individuals travel from place to place without molestation. Supplies are obtained from the plantations, and, as the country is very productive, both parties have an abundance of provisions. The principal wants of the revolutionists are arms, medicines, salt, clothing and shoes. There is no lack of men, and the patriots have ammunition enough of all kinds to last several months. They also have arsenals established for the manufacture of cartridges and repairing arms that may become disabled in action. The patriot leaders state that they do not need any arms from abroad, and care particularly for arms which to equip the large number of patriot volunteers constantly presenting themselves, and whom they cannot organize into regiments until more are procured. Great inducements are held out to blockade running. A fast steamer, such as were employed by the Confederates, would have no difficulty in landing a cargo, and, in addition to her receipts from her regular cargo of arms, she would make an immense profit on medicines, salt, cotton cloth, rubber goods and shoes, and would be given, free of charge, a cargo of sugar or tobacco with which to return.

The revolutionists are sanguine of success, depending as they do upon the well known sympathy of the whole native element, and the belief that yellow fever and cholera, from which the Cubans suffer comparatively little, will so decimate the Spanish ranks as to render them powerless against the rapidly increasing revolutionary forces. They do not so much expect to progress by means of brilliant successes on a grand scale as by the influences of climate and delay upon the Spaniards, who, walled up in their disease-smitten towns, must, they predict, sooner or later succumb.