

The proclamations which have thus far been issued by Captain-General Dulce make, on the whole, a favorable impression. If the Cubans were not bent on achieving their independence, his administration might have been the most popular, as it has undoubtedly been the most liberal, which the island has ever had. The firmness with which the Cubans, notwithstanding all liberal proclamations and promises, adhere to the cause of independence, is the best proof that the Spanish authorities have not to deal with a few rebels, but with a national revolution, which seems to strike deeper root every day. There have been serious revolutionary demonstrations in and near Havana, and the loss of Bayamo seems only to have deepened the sympathy of the Cubans with the national cause. A spirit like that now displayed by the Cubans is sure to win in the end. They may not be successful in the present revolution, though even this is still far from being subdued; but there can hardly be any doubt as to the future. The area of Cuba and Porto Rico is nearly equal to that of England proper (without Wales), and the population of the two islands, which already amounts to 2,000,000, is increasing with amazing rapidity. Even greater and stronger European nations would be unable to keep such a country in subjection against its will. As soon as the Cubans shall be unanimous in their desire for independence—and this point of time appears to approach rapidly—the Spaniards will have to withdraw very soon.

---