

"We are all insurrectionists. The Provisional Government is insurrectionary; Gen. Dulce is an insurgent; Cespedes is an insurgent." So argues one of the brood of newspapers with which the removal of restrictions on the press has suddenly bewildered the easy-going Havanaese; and in these few phrases it sums up the Cuban declaration of Independence. There is no escape from the logical result of the successful insurrection against the deposed Bourbon. Spain expelled Queen Isabella because the sovereign people of Spain so willed it. Very well; Cuba proposes to expel the Captain-General and the whole brood of Spanish officials that fatten on Cuban revenues, for the same reason. The sovereign people of Cuba so will it. Prim and Serrano are but insurgents, appealing to the sovereignty of the people for their support, and Dulce is but the agent of the insurgents, sent to Cuba to represent their cause in that part of the Spanish dominion. Cespedes is only another insurgent, who chooses to decline making common cause with Prim and Serrano. Captain-General Dulce is far too astute a ruler not to perceive the embarrassment in which he is thus placed. As a representative of the old Spanish monarchy, he could at least appeal to one sentiment to sanction the most strenuous efforts for suppressing the Cuban revolt. Cuba might be governed by hard task-masters; her sons might be excluded from every post in the government of their own island; their wealth might be assessed to support a horde of foreign tax-gatherers and law-givers; but at least it was the anointed head of the realm in whose name these things were done. Loyalty and legitimacy still plead for obedience. But now all that is ended. The Captain-General can appeal no longer to the sentiment of respect for, or at least of unquestioning submission to, the Queen. He comes, instead, as the representative of a successful insurrection. He may assume to give commands, but all know that, beneath the assumptions, he is really entreating Cubans to join in his insurrection rather than to make one for themselves.

When it comes to that, every one knows what is the Cuban answer. For years the island has been awaiting some such opportunity. For years its inhabitants have been goaded by unwise rulers, set over them by Spain, to the verge of Rebellion. They have honey-combed their country with secret societies plotting independence. They have made it a test of patriotism to hate the Spaniards. They have looked longingly forward to the day when they might raise the cry of Cuba for the Cubans. At last it has come. Gen. Dulce wastes his time, therefore, in his soft words and unused concessions. The Creoles are not to be so bought. It is not a Spanish permission for a free press in Havana that they ask—not the tardily-conceded privilege of sending deputies across the Atlantic to represent them in a legislative body in Madrid. What they mean is to take neither Spanish orders nor Spanish concessions, but to make an end of Spanish interference, and to govern themselves in their own way. And we make bold to say that it is not merely Cespedes and the handful of insurgents about Bayamo who mean this;—it is the Cuban people. Our correspondent calls attention to the fact that Don Miguel Aldama, the richest and one of the most influential planters in Cuba, was so commonly believed to sympathize with the insurrection that his city residence was sacked by the marauding Spanish volunteers, soon after their bloody exploits in the theater. The Captain-General might well learn an open secret, before he suffers his irresponsible militia to go much further in that direction. If the houses of all sympathizers with the insurrection are to be sacked, he must sack the house of well-nigh every Creole in Havana.

Of the immediate military operations in Cuba little is to be said. Our correspondent intimates that the Creoles believe the Captain-General to be almost at the mercy of his Havana militia. He has been crowding his regular troops out against Cespedes, till, as they think, he has but a trifling force to support him in the capital. No great reliance is to be placed upon the reports of actual fighting. "They all lie," writes our correspondent, in a private note, "but the Spaniards have the best organization and facilities for lying." The details which we print of the troubles in Havana go far toward showing that the Captain-General is soon to find plenty to do at home. Meantime, the insurgents may not be making a very active campaign; but the insurrection smolders in all parts of the

island; and at the points where it has broken out, it is at least not suppressed; when not to be suppressed is in itself a victory. The Cuban hope now is to be able to prolong the contest till the hot weather drives out the Spanish soldiers. In this they seem to have fair prospects of success. In any event we believe the days of Spanish domination are well nigh ended. A country as rich, as populous, and as eager for independence as Cuba, is not much longer to be governed by an insurrectionary authority three thousand miles away.