

## THE BLACKS OF CUBA.

According to a census table bearing date of 1887, Cuba has for population 1,370,211, of which number 764,750 are whites, 225,933 free colored people, and 379,523 slaves. The blacks or colored people altogether are 605,461, and hence not greatly inferior to the whites numerically—a fact worth remembering in making up a judgment as to the complexion of the war. The Western Department of the island, comprising all districts from the limits of Pinar del Rio to those of Sancti-Spiritus, has 1,044,824 of the whole population, with 313,288 slaves and 129,880 freed people. In seven districts of this Department the rebellion is militant. These districts, with their populations in classes are as follows:

	Whites.	Colored.
Bagua la Grande.....	20,420	21,664
Cienfuegos.....	29,701	24,333
Villalera.....	24,579	18,065
Trinidad.....	17,934	19,573
Remedios.....	28,593	14,147
Sancti-Spiritus.....	27,188	16,493
Colon.....	28,863	25,356
Total.....	197,379	148,532

Of the latter numbers the freed people have but 44,073. The Eastern Department, which is in a general state of rebellion or disaffection, counts 96,038 slaves and 66,235 freed people in a total population of 325,387. This is the country in which Cespedes began the revolt, and it has fewer slaves than any other section of the island of equal population. Here are its numbers:

	White.	Freed.	Slave.
Puerto Principe.....	38,516	10,788	12,185
Nuevitas.....	4,189	565	2,187
Tunas.....	4,069	2,254	480
Manzanillo.....	13,678	11,103	1,712
Holguin.....	40,852	7,045	4,726
Bayamo.....	18,834	12,851	2,641
Jiguaní.....	12,312	4,658	602
Cuba.....	23,789	36,430	11,082
Guantanamo.....	5,268	5,515	8,638
Baracoa.....	4,530	4,799	1,471
Total.....	163,094	96,038	66,235

A study of these figures will enlighten us considerably as to Cuba and its war. The blacks in the Eastern Department, as has just been shown, are about equal to the whites. This quarter, and especially the district of Puerto Principe, has always had a more free-minded population than the rest of Cuba. The fact also suggests itself that in the mentioned districts where blacks, but more particularly free blacks, are numerous, there has the insurrection been most lively.

Thus, statistics go to show that if the Cubans and the blacks join fortunes and fight heartily the Spaniards must leave the island. There is no means of knowing the exact number of its Spaniards, but it has been estimated as high as 150,000, and one of the papers claims that with troops and all, there are 80,000 in the arms-bearing class. Allowing the Spaniards all they claim, there are still more than 600,000 white men and Cubans, nearly all of whom are their enemies by force or feeling. Unite this number to that of the blacks, and the insurrection has the resources of more than a million of men to throw against the guns sent from Spain. Much depends upon the blacks.

Both sides have become tardily convinced of this truth. The Rebels have acted on it in

proclamations dated December 27 and February 24, and issued by Cespedes and Salvador Cisneros, the Marquis of Santa Lucia. Spaniards, on the other hand, were lately urging the Government of Spain to adopt the desperate measure of arming the slaves against the Cubans, so many of whom have been their masters, and promise compensation, as the insurgents have done. Between the two forces, the idea of indemnification will be crushed out practically, for the island is likely to be ruined in the desperation of both. The Spaniards argue that Cuba would as soon have annexed itself to the South as to the North—hence Isabella's policy of non-recognition; and that the blacks would as soon fight for them as for the native planters, which we do not believe. But the Rebels have the start, and nearly all the ideas; and in the American mind the present aspiration to become annexed, to be republican, and to be altogether free, decides in great part the morality of the question.