

# SPAIN DISLIKES TRUTH

For a Plain, Respectful Narrative  
 Like This She Expels  
 Correspondents.

## LATE LETTER FROM HAVANA

No Fair Complaint of the United States Administration—Reforms Failed Because of Local Opposition and Insincere Execution—Cuba's Debt and Readiness for War.

From The London Times's Havana Correspondence.

All the Havana newspapers publish officially inspired leading articles on the subject of the war preparations being pushed forward in the United States. Attention was drawn to the \$50,000,000 vote for coast defense, and also to the presence of a large number of men-of-war at Tortugas and Key West, the concentration of these vessels at points so close to Cuba being specially insisted upon as intending a direct menace to Spain. The present opinions are the more important, inasmuch as no reference to possible war between the United States and Spain has hitherto been permitted to appear in the public prints of this city during the past few weeks. The leading articles in question also assert that if the new home rule régime in Cuba fails to secure peace in the island, the failure would be due to the encouragement given to the rebels by the threatening attitude of the United States toward Spain. That is the opinion of the administration in Cuba to-day, and it has been so expressed to me on several occasions by different members of the Government.

No doubt the Spaniards have some ground on their side in the complaints they now make with regard to the encouragement indirectly given to the insurgents by the attitude of the United States, but whether this is any reasonable cause for a formal protest is very doubtful. Moreover, to say that the establishment of a system of self-government has failed to secure peace in Cuba because of the attitude now taken up by the United States is hardly correct in fact. The insurgents rejected the compromise of home rule from the time the project was first mooted, and the Minister for the Colonies in Madrid has repeatedly stated that this home rule was not given to the rebels, but to peaceful and loyal Cubans. It is not the present attitude of the Washington Administration that serves so much to encourage the insurgents as the fact that the sympathies of the people of the United States have been with them since the revolt first began. The existence of that sympathy has enabled the insurrection to obtain supplies and carry on the struggle against overwhelming odds in the past and will continue to have the same effect in the future, no matter what attitude the United States Government may see fit to adopt while the revolt lasts.

### Why the Reforms Failed.

The true explanation of why the reforms have never had much chance of securing peace is the opposition made to them by the military element. The history of Spain in the past has always been the history of a military oligarchy, and it has in no way changed to-day. It is necessary to accept and appreciate that fact as a broad general principle in all questions where Spaniards are concerned, and more than ever so in this matter of Cuba. The Colonial Government might have succeeded in effecting a compromise with the insurgents had they been allowed a free hand to act. Unfortunately the conciliatory measures proposed by the most prominent men in the Autonomist Party have not been attempted in consequence of the opposition of the army. The proposal to disband the local Spanish volunteer regiments, numbering some 50,000 men, and substitute a force of Cuban militia drawn from the ranks of the insurgents, would have borne excellent fruit, but it was impossible to carry it out. While the idea was still in embryo, the volunteers forced the hand of Gen. Blanco and obtained a promise from him, afterward duly confirmed from Madrid, that in no case would the volunteer regiments be interfered with. The proposal to treat with the Cuban Republican Government and endeavor to arrange terms upon which they would accept the new Constitution and lay down their arms fell through because of the determined resistance of high military officials both in Spain and Cuba. In everything the same spirit is shown. This Government by a military oligarchy is part and parcel of Spanish life, and cannot be eradicated; moreover, the military element has no intention of being set aside for a moment in this question of Cuba.

### Cuba's Resources Against the United States.

In case of war the Spaniards can rely on about 150,000 men of the regular army now in Cuba and probably 50,000 trained men of the volunteers. In addition to this a large number of irregular troops would be raised. Havana and the other principal cities of the island are quite unprepared for war, although this city and one or two of the rest are fortified. The supply of food in Havana is extremely limited, and with a blockade of the port the population would be in a starving condition at the end of a fortnight. Practically no supplies can be obtained from the interior, little or nothing being now produced. Then, again, the insurgents would take advantage of the situation to move up closer to the towns and prevent any little food that might be in the country from entering. Everywhere throughout Cuba to-day the inhabitants are living from hand to mouth with nothing saved up to fall back upon if the supplies from abroad fail them. Of coal for the navy the Government has a large stock in Havana Harbor, the amount probably being not far short of 25,000 tons, including the orders sent out during the last few days. If war does take place the question of food for the army is going to be a very difficult problem for the Spanish Government to solve.

The Spaniards quite understand that the climate of Cuba, which has been such a terrible scourge to them in their campaigns against the insurgents, will be in their favor in a contest with the United States, the latter being more liable to heavy losses from yellow fever among the men of the army and navy altogether unaccustomed than the Spaniards who have lived some time in the country. As a rule, yellow fever becomes really dangerous in Havana toward the end of May and continues so until the end of November.

### State of the Insurrection.

In all the excitement occasioned by the rumors of possible wars during the past week or two the insurgents have been almost lost sight of. Skirmishing has, however, gone on as usual all over the country. In Pinar del Rio the troops have attacked the rebel positions, but without inflicting any serious loss on the enemy or sustaining any heavy casualties on their own part. In the Province of Havana the passenger train from this city to Matanzas was fired upon three days ago, and one man was severely wounded, a Canadian named Barnum being also slightly hurt by a shot in the shoulder. I mention these facts to show that the assertion so constantly made by the authorities to the effect that these two provinces are quite pacified is not altogether justified by events. In the Province of Santa Clara a few days ago a rebel Colonel, a commandante, and another officer were found dead. The official explanation is that these men were on their way to surrender to the Spanish authorities when they were waylaid by another insurgent group and killed. There is neither confirmation nor denial of this story. From the Province of Puerto Principe I have letters dated March 6 from the principal insurgent camps. I gather from these sources of information that the rebels in that section of the country are well provided with all the necessities of life, and are very seldom molested by any attack by the troops. There is nothing to indicate that autonomy will be accepted as a solution of the present difficulties, and, indeed, the tone of the letters tends to show that the present intention is to carry on the revolution to the bitter end in the hope of exhausting the resources of Spain and forcing her to leave the island.

From Santiago de Cuba there is no very special news, the country being practically under the control of the rebels. The insurgent Government refuse to allow the sugar mills to work, and any idea of making a crop during the present season has been abandoned. That section of the island is now generally known as "Cuba libre," and the rebels live there in comparative se-

curity, raising their crops and tending their cattle with scarcely any interference from the Spaniards. The sugar planters of Manzanillo, Guantanamo, and the other cane districts in this part of Cuba offered to pay 50 cents per sack of sugar to be allowed to carry on the work on the estates; this offer was refused on the grounds that the rebel Government were in no need of funds and had decided to permit no work to be done for the present.

The following details of the public debt of Cuba up to the end of 1897 were recently published here:

Cuban bonds of 1886.....	\$118,010,200
Cuban bonds of 1890.....	171,710,000
Custom House bonds issued in Spain for expenses of the war.....	143,800,000
Bank notes of the Spanish Bank issued without specie guarantee, for expenses of the war.....	14,000,000
Amounts owing for arrears of pay to the army, navy, and civil service.....	60,000,000
Other outstanding debts.....	15,000,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$522,020,000</b>

Equal to £104,000,000 in round figures, as against a sum of £34,000,000 when the revolt broke out in February, 1895.

## MRS. MCKINLEY APPLAUDED.

The President's Wife and Her Party See "Way Down East" at the Manhattan.

Until evening yesterday Mrs. William McKinley, the President's wife, spent a quiet day in the State apartments at the Windsor Hotel. While breakfasting with Mrs. Abner McKinley and Mrs. Marshall Barber, she said she had greatly enjoyed the theatre going of the preceding night, and she had obtained an excellent night's rest afterward.

It had been planned to take a drive through the Park in the morning, but the plan was given up on account of the weather. Mrs. McKinley remained in her apartments chatting with her sister and sister-in-law, and conversing with Mr. McKinley over the long distance telephone connected with the White House.

Floral tributes of great beauty and value were sent in in such numbers that the apartments could not conveniently contain them, and the walls of the halls leading to the rooms were lined with them.

Mrs. William L. Strong joined Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. Abner McKinley, and Mrs. Barber at luncheon, which was hardly finished before an army of callers began to send in their cards. Necessarily, most of these could not be received. The visitors who were received were Mr. and Mrs. Donald McLean, Whitelaw Reid, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Cross, Gerald Lyon, Mrs. John Sloane, Mrs. Cornelius N. Bliss, Mrs. Daniel Butterfield, Mrs. Miles A. Stafford, Mrs. Frank D. Allen of Boston, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Arthur Moore of Brooklyn.

After an early dinner Mrs. McKinley joined in a theatre party given by Mr. and Mrs. Abner McKinley. "Way Down East," at the Manhattan Theatre was selected. In the party, besides Mrs. McKinley and Mr. and Mrs. Abner McKinley, were Mrs. Marshall Barber, Col. Wilbur C. Brown, Miss Mabel McKinley, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Locke, Miss Enid Locke, Miss Mary Barber, P. Bradley Strong, Miss Lyde Endsley, Campbell Locke, Mr. and Mrs. Miles A. Stafford, and Walton C. Peckham.

The three boxes taken were profusely adorned with evergreen and white roses. The stage and other parts of the house were also elaborately decorated, the American colors being draped in effective designs. As the party was a little late, the performance was held until 8:30 o'clock, when Mrs. McKinley, leaning on the arm of Abner McKinley, entered, leading the party. At sight of her the audience arose and applauded enthusiastically, while the orchestra played "the Star-Spangled Banner." Mrs. McKinley bowed graciously, and continued nodding, in recognition of her greeting, as the orchestra changed to "Yankee Doodle."

In the drawing room scene in the second act a picture of President McKinley was shown, and the applause was vigorously renewed, and continued for several minutes. Mrs. McKinley acknowledged it courteously. The party drove back to the hotel without further incident.

## THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Weber & Fields have made a contract with Messrs. Harry B. Smith and Edgar Smith to write their burlesques for them next season. This is regarded as a successful move for the music hall managers.

When Richard Mansfield has finished his season at the Garden Theatre in the new production, "The First Violin," he will not appear again in any play until he reopens Oct. 3 at the same theatre in "Cyrano de Bergerac."

Mlle. Fautette, dancer, together with her three dancing assistants from the Casino de Paris, sailed yesterday for this country on the French liner La Normandie. They are under engagement to open at Sam T. Jack's Theatre on Monday, May 2. They will introduce French quadrille dancing. On the same steamer, and under contract to Mr. Jack, will be Mlle. Sainti, the French chanteuse.

On Tuesday evening, Managers Smyth & Rice will present at the Bijou Theatre the one thousandth performance in this country of H. A. Du Souchet's farce, "My Friend from India." Handmade souvenirs will be given away as mementos of the occasion. Arrangements have been made by Smyth & Rice with Henry Guy Carlton to write a comedy for their company now appearing at the Bijou Theatre, to be completed by Aug. 1.

Oscar Hammerstein is preparing an elaborate vaudeville programme for his Olympia Theatre after the close of Primrose & West's engagement, which will end Saturday night. Thus far Mr. Hammerstein has secured Miss Marguerite Sylvia, now appearing in "Monte Carlo." This will be her debut in the vaudeville ranks. It is understood she will impersonate Mme. Calvé as Carmen, sing several other French selections, and appear in characters attired in tights.

Last night was the last appearance in this city of Miss Viola Allen as a member of Charles Frohman's stock company, and at the conclusion of the performance the company gathered on the stage and, with a brief speech, Mr. Faversham presented to Miss Allen, as coming from the members of the company, a handsome gold purse and chain, studded with pearls and emeralds. Accompanying the purse was a parchment inscribed with the names of every member of the company. The players will leave to-day for a tour of three weeks, playing a week in each of the following cities: Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis, presenting "Under the Red Robe."

Miss Alberta Gallatin, who is now appearing in the part of Helen in Mrs. Fiske's play, "Love Finds the Way," was engaged by Wilton Lackaye for his production of "Charles Omalby," with the intention to have her originate the rôle, which was that opposite Mr. Lackaye, but owing to her success in the part with Mrs. Fiske, she will play the season out with that actress.

Managers Evans & Mann have concluded arrangements for the production of the Japanese comic opera, "The Koreans," at the Herald Square Theatre, on Monday, May 2. The cast will be the same as that intended for the production at the Fifth Avenue Theatre.

Miss Hilda Clark has severed her connection with "The Highwayman" company, with which she had been engaged since the opening of the season, singing the prima donna rôle until Mme. Camille Darville succeeded her. She has contracted with Klav & Erlanger and Ben D. Stevens for the Sousa opera, "The Bride-Elect." She will appear to-morrow night for the first time, assuming the part of La Pastorella, formerly sung by Miss Nella Bergen. It is probable that Miss Bergen will join De Wolf Hopper's company sooner than the time previously announced, which was during his Summer engagement at Manhattan Beach. "The Bride-Elect" management at the Knickerbocker Theatre has been extended four weeks, bringing the season up to early in June.

### Buffalo Bill Moves to Brooklyn.

The engagement of Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Madison Square Rough Riders of the West, at Madison Square Garden, ended last night. In addition to the old features of life in the Far West, Col. Cody has presented to the public, this year, a group of representative horsemen from every riding nation on earth, each one of the 420 men connected with the exhibition being a master of horsemanship, and many of them expert marksmen. Before the last person had passed out of the Garden last night preparations were being made to move the show to Ridgewood Park, Brooklyn, where Buffalo Bill's horsemen will amuse the citizens of the borough for one week, giving two performances daily.

### Gen. Booth in Brooklyn.

Gen. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was the chief speaker at a meeting last evening under the auspices of the Brooklyn Branch, in the Baptist Temple, Schermerhorn Street and Third Avenue, Brooklyn. More than 500 people assembled to hear the speaker.