CESPEDES.

The Herald's Secret Commissioner in the Cuban President's Camp.

CUBA LIBRE MILITANT.

Long and Toilsome Tramp to Gain the Goal.

BEAUTY IN NATURE---HARD FARE ON FOOT

Midnight Marches Through the Trackless Wild.

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Dried Beef, Chocolate and Sweet Potatoes-Wood Rats, Heart of the Palm Tree Tops, Oranges and Bananas.

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Al Fresco Dancing --- The Music---The Tumbandero.

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A Canoe That Was Shipwrecked on Shore.

RESOLVES TO SURRENDER.

A Night of Anxiety-Sudden Appearance of the Volunteer Guides.

Graphic and Exciting Picture of the Inner Life of "the Struggle at Our Doors,"

At the time of my leaving Santiago de Cuba for the insurgent lines it was believed by friends there that Cespedes was in the camp of Calixto Garcia, or at least a few miles from there. Hence it was a great disappointment to find, upon my arrival, that he had left some time before for the district of Bayamo, and, it being his custom to stay but a few days in each halting ground, it was impossible to to say at all times where he could be found. The officers, and even the soldiers, nearly always knew that the President was in a certain part of a certain district, but not the precise locality. This circumstance arose from the distance between Garcia's camp and that of Cespedes, and did not originate in a desire or attempt to conceal the novements of the Executive. For instance, in Gua, where I saw Cespedes, his camp was at a distance of about three leagues from the general headquarters of Modesto Diaz, and every soldier, or camp follower for that part of it, knew very

WHERE THE PRESIDENT WAS. operations practised by the Spaniards, I had been delayed in the camp of Calixto Garcia from the 17th of March till the 2d of April. There was an additional motive-that of waiting for the courier from Santiago. It was no easy task to make a march on foot from the Yaya, on the Cauto, to Gua, in Mancanillo. Leagues of dense forest, bare savanna. high mountains, deep guilles and rapid streams were to be passed. The most exacting vigitance of the enemy's movements had to be maintained all the way, and numerous posts of the watchful foe

ssed. To accomplish this a distance of OVER TWO HUNDRED MILES HAD TO BE TRAVERSED because of the curves and angles that had to be made to travel a distance of about ninety miles on the direct road. Instead of going directly across Jiguani and Bayamo it was necessary to bend our rse to the south, west of La Caridad, east of El Horno, Guisa, Datil and other fortified Spanish all the time in danger of being pounced upon by any scouting party or prowling detachment from these places, and to be captured was

THE SECRET COMMISSIONER'S ESCORT. Six men, three officers, four servants and your ioner formed our party that started from the Yaya on the afternoon of April 2. The officer in charge—Captain St. Estevan—had care of the

A PACKAGE OF HERALDS for Cespedes, all of which were done up in a bag and carried by one of the undiers. For a journey of this kind, as there were little or no provisions

on the road, one would naturally expect that se preparations would be made for taking food along with the party; but the Cubans seldom think of such material matters, and on the present occasion, sary department was not alte lost sight of and fergotten, it was at least sadly neglected. Our route lay for a short distance along the north bank of the Cauto. We passed, intact Calvar's camp, which was abandoned on the 23d of March. The little huts were undisturbed as when we left them; but the silence and ionelin that reigned around in that calm, quiet evening struck a sad and melancholy feeling to the pensive heart, as though we were traversing the descried

About an hour's travel east of the Dos Bocas, and of the junction of the Cauto and Contramæstra Rivers, we passed the former stream for the last time. My servant carried me across on his back. We were now on the borders of Jiguani and Santiago, but soon took leave of the latter district and entered definitely the territory of the former.

Night soon overtook us, but as there was a glorius moon, whose silvery light sometimes penetrated the depths of the forest, we determin continue the march by the additional light of crude wax candles, of which there were a few among us determination became all the more perative from the fact on that day

THE PRESENCE OF THE SPANIARDS, Rics, through which we must pass. This place we entered after having reconnoitred it, after ten clock at night. It had been a large, square camp, evidently constructed with care. We found it burned to the ground, a deserted and described mass of cinders and ashes. A few weeks ago it afforded quarters to 800 Cubans, but was aban-doned by them and burned during the late operations by the Spantards. We intended reaching El Salado, about twenty-five miles south of the La Yaya, but, having to make a long march on morrow, deemed it best to

CAMP IN THE WOODS. Striking, therefore, off the trail, we cut away about two number yards into the mazes of the forest, and, clearing a space, hammocks were slung and a fire lighted. General Garcia had sent to my servant before starting several strings of dried beef and some sweet potatoes, a present to himself from Colonel Sanchez. This enabled the officers and myself to have a splendid meal, after probable proximity of the Spaniards and the consequent dangers that surrounded us. The ensuing morning we were on the road at half-past five o'clock and reached El Salado near nine. At one time there had been families and homes in the Salado, but they were things of the past; they had, been swept into nothingness by the tide of war and now the name merely signified a locality. But there was a Sub-Prefecture established in the woods near here, that only our guide could find.

THE GUIDE is a personage of the utmost importance in Cuba. Without him nothing can be done; the setting out on a march, the changing of a camp, the movement and route of the troops-all must depend on the guide. Without him, not knowing the miraculously intricate windings of the paths and trails of Cuba Libre, one might as well sit down in despair on the read. From point to point he is changed, and the guide of to-day delivers the party he has charge of into the hands of another to-morrow, and returns to his post. Our guide here, after some beating about in the woods, found the Sub-Prefect, who was to guide us in the afternoon.

We had a long march to make, in order to reach the "Camino Real de la Isla"—the high road of the -and leave it behind as far as possible. was one of the most dangerous crossings on the march and had to be approached with silence and caution; for it was constantly patrolled by the Spaniards, who had a series of detachments planted along it

TO GUARD THE LINE OF TELEGRAPH constantly threatened and frequently cut by the Cubans. One o'clock P. M. saw us upon the road, grass that reflected with terrible force the vertical rays of a tropical sun.

Passing along again under the cool arcade of the sheltering words and along towards the high road, at an angle in the trail, suddenly the soldier we

"HALT! WHO COMES THERE?" and brought his piece to the ready. His movement was quickly imitated by the others, who quickly put themselves in a posture of defence, thinking that the enemy were upon us. The party challenged also prepared for fight, and responded with the glad words.

"CURA LIBRE!". The parties remained in this attitude while their to satisfy themselves that all was right, and in a few minutes were mixing with each other in the most fraternal way. The new comers were a small detachment escorting a courier with correspondence from Cespedes and from Modesto Diaz to Calixto Garcia. They were under command of a negro lieutenant, and had been eleven days on the road from the seat of government, near Zarral, They confirmed the truth of the report that the volunteers of forts Calisito and Congo had passed over to the Cubans, with their arms and ammuni tion, &c., bringing with them as prisoner their commander, a Spanish major.

CROSSING THE HIGH ROAD. Approaching the high road, the guide and two men were sent forward to reconnoitre. The road just then was clear, as it happened, and we passed without any adventure. It was picturesque, do less, the manner of our crossing. The road ran broad and grass-grown, between forests far ex-tending on either side; our trail crossing it ebliquely, was faintly marked, so as hardly to be per-ceived. We crossed rapidly, following each other in single file, each man with his arms prepared for instant action. On the roadside, opposite to our entrance, separated by the trail, the Corporal and a soldier were in a kneeling position, one behind a little bush and the other in the clear space, still as statues of stone, with rifles prepared, in attitude of breathless watchfulness, scanning the road in different directions, while we filed through between them, they closing up the rear when we had passed. We plunged into the forest with a speed that threatened danger can only impart, and rapidly put leagues between us and the "Camino Rest de la Isla," or high road. After nightfall

and we wandered about in the woods until near midnight, when, perspiring with toil, weary, thirsty, hungry, we came to a halt near the crossing of a half dried up stream, in an exposed posttion, a few yards from the roadside. Candle light was used the next morning to show the way before daybreak. We had now passed a good portion of Southern Jiguani, were in a rolling and broken country, approaching the mountains. At sunrise the Cobre road was reached at a distance of about fourteen leagues west and inland from Santiago. As we journeyed a couple of miles castward along it, our steps covered

THE FRESH TRACKS OF THE SPANIARDS that had been made the night before. We might suddenly come upon them round the next curve of the road; but our route lay that way; there was no other and we had to take it. Luckily it was clear. A short distance west of the Cobre road we passed the Guanomao River, where I noticed what seemed to be a good deposit of marble. At eleven o'clock, near Limones, we had to ford the Contramaestre River, to do which it was necessary to

UNDRESS AND WADE ABOVE THE WAIST, through its clear, deliciously cool waters. We soon came to an instancia, or clearing in the wood, the new home of a Cuban family, where we passed the night.

Five o'clock the next morning saw us on the road west from Simones, through some pleasing and pretty scenery, reaching the Magote River for our mid-day rest. After five o'clock we got to Arrayon, where Cespedes had passed some time while on his way to the camp of Modesto Diaz. It was near Arroyou where Mr. O'Kelly had THE FIRST INTERVIEW WITH CESPEDES.

firection of Jiguani town, on the right, and on the left into a system of high mountains and deep ravines, whose sun-lit faces and shady sides were here and there scarred and jurrowed by the increasing clearings of the numerous Cuban families who had sought refuge in these fastnesses. These people were

MAKING THE WILDERNESS BLOOM with rich crops in places where the Spanish sol-diery never set foot; places whose approaches and but whose rapidly increasing refuge and resource would enable the patriots to maintain unfurled the banner of Cuban autonomy.

THE SINEWS OF THE WAR. APRIL 8.—We reached the headquarters of Colone Benjamin Ramirez, commanding the sub-district of South Jiguan. This officer is intelligent and energetic. He has been two years in the clearing (or istancia) where we found him. He has caused his men and the many familles living in his example. The result is that the mountain sides are fertile to the very tops and blooming with fourishing crops of sweet potatoes, yuca, corn and tobacco, and families formerly starving, whom the vengeance of Valmaseda drove into these at firs desert places, are now in a position to not only help themselves, but to lend some aid to their fellow patriots in the field. This system of cultivation receives the protection of the Cuban government, and is gradually extending itself into the other districts where it is practicable. When, in addition to this means of support, it is considered that the Cuban forces endeavor to live as much as possible by foraging from their enemics, it will be readily understood how they have been able to keep the field for nearly five years, and why their means of attack and chances of success are EVERY DAY BETTERING

Ramirez has established a powder factory. He showed me some of the grains. It certainly was not of the finest quality, but answered pretty well in case of emergency. For this purpose he had a lot of men engaged in extracting saltpetre from guano, found in large quantities in the caves of pertain localities. It was this officer who escorted Mr. O'Kelly from the camp of Calixto Garcia to near Arrayou, where he met Cespedes. The next day two leagues' travel over terrible mountains brought us to the house of Palenque, at the foot of the mountain known as the Giant, and said by those who live nearby to be next to Turquino, the highest mountain in Cuba.

APRIL 10 .- We left Palenque's at six o'clock A. M. and soon reached the foot of the Giant. Before starting I had a slim breakfast on CHOCOLATE AND COLD ROASTED SWEET POTATOES.

At nine o'clock we reached the River Guisa. Here we had a rest, and the guide went and found some wild honey, upon which I fared sumptuously.

Passing around the feet of the terrible Giant, over his forest-covered legs, up his rock-bound, rugged sides, mounting his pine-clad chest, wearits struggling through his tangled beard, wringing with perspiration and panting for breath, now struggling with hand and foot-fighting the monster "tooth and nail" as it were-until at last, fainting with fatigue, but triumphant with success we planted our aching feet upon THE GIANT'S PROSTRATE HEAD.

Near the summit of the Giant, through openings between the branches of the tall trees, some of which looked like shrubs in the distant depths of the abyss beneath our feet, the several towns and cities of Bayamo, Holguin, Jig-Guisa and even Tunas, were pointe out in the great valley below that spread out before us like a birds-eye view of a whole kingiom. It took us a struggle of five long hours to successfully wrestle with this colossal mountain. Even at the summit of the Giant—an elevation that cannot be less than six thousand feet-the character of the trees, plants and shrubs seemed to differ but little from that of the vegetation found in the valleys below. And even almost so high as the head peak of the Giant I have been told that crops of all kinds raised on the island could be cultivated. good way down the western side of the Giant I ob served a large clump of pine trees, which I had rather expected to see at the top of the mountain Both the ascent and descent are extremely difficult and tollsome. In the afternoon we reached the Guama River and camped at a rancho in a secluded and picturesque spot on its eastern bank.

The next day's march, from Cebolia Blanca to Hormas, on the Guama River, a distance of about eighteen miles, was not less interesting or pic turesque than the journey of the day before. Our line of march lay down

THE BED OF THE GUAMA RIVER,

over such rocky angles and boulder-blocked passes as only those who have seen California or the Rocky Mountains could imagine. We had to leap swing ourselves over deep chasms and leap swift torrents, in a fashion that would be no disgrace to an acrobat. My stout New York gaiters, although heavy and wearisome—they were the only boots in the party-had protected my feet well along the road. This had been noticed by an envious young imp of a negro soldier, who saw me slipping and struggling over the abrupt rocks, when he showed his ivories in a broad grin, maliciously exclaiming "Ah, hat Señor, aqui los zapatos no valen."

(SHOES ARE NO USE HERE, SIR.) But I noid the wretch off in the afternoon, for when he slipped from a mossy stone and plumped into the pool beyond, I exclaimed, "Ah, ha! mi aescalsos aqui no valen." (My friend, barefooted people are no use here.) He good naturedly joined his companions in the laugh that was against him.

On the night before we had THE HEART OF THE PALMTREE TOP FOR SUPPER This morning a little piece more of it and a drink of water for breakfast. About the middle of the day we came across a sweet orange tree loaded with its yellow, luscious fruit, nodding to the breeze, that would have set crazy the caterer of Delmonico. In a trice the fruit and the branches bearing it were cut from the mother trunk and de voured with avidity. Arriving at Hormas there was no guide to take

as on to Corajo, and there was a prospect of being detained on that account, perhaps, ten or fifteen days. The next morning a messenger was sent back to Cebolla Blanca to try and get a guide there. On the way the important person sought for was met and brought back to camp in triumph He gave us fresh news of the whereabouts of Ces pedes, saying that the President was

IN YARAGUAY, AND NOT IN YARAYAGUAS. That did not matter much to us, both places being in the sub-district of Zarzal, whither we were ound. The day after finding our new guide we continued the march from Hormas, descending from the mountains and passing the rivers Guisa and Bayamo, the former within four leagues of the town of that name. We passed some pieces of lovely scenery in the interesting foot hill country of this district. We saw many rich spots, where the rich istancias of other days lay mouldering in charred ruins. The midday hour and siesta were passed in Corajo. We halted for the night in the woods, near a place called Cavito.

Resuming our march from Cayito we came acros a newly planted Cuban cordon, a detached post in the woods. It consisted of two men, whose duty it was to perform the services of couriers and guides. They told us it was about

TWELVE LEAGUES TO THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, and that we could get there to-morrow. rascals ited, though perhaps they did not know it. Here our guides relieved each other. The new one took us to a near-by sugar-cane field, where the men ate to their entire satisfaction. The new guide broke the cane and squeezed the juice (deuce, out of into a cocoanut cup, from which I drank heartily. At this part of our journey we were near the Spanish fort of El Datil, and hence had to continue the route with great caution.

A SPANISH COW TRAP. Going through the grounds of a ruined istancia just after fording the Bayamo River, we came across a cable trap, or snare, artfully and newly set, in a trail, so as to catch the first cow that might pass. It was the Spaniards, who could not be far off, that had adopted this means of supplying themselves with butcher's meat. On this after

palm. Groves of cocoanut trees, fruit trees of the nost exquisite kinds, as nisperos, manzana rosa, calmita, guanavano, mango, juayava, mamai, all in entiful profusion. I never before met a spot on earth that so brought before my imagination the fabled Paradise of Moses as that tract of country lying between Potrero and Jicotea.

A HARD TASK. APRIL 13.-Left Jicotea to climb a five-mile mounain on an empty stomach, getting to Manaca, in the mountains, early. Here I met General Marcus Garcia and Colonel Juan B. Spoturns-both members of the Cuban Congress and both from the Cinco Villas district. They were on their way to the residence of the Executive; but as both were suffering from ulcers (llagas) in the legs or feet, they could only walk a short distance daily, and had been a month on the way from Garcia's camp to this point. I had an interesting conversation with both gentlemen, who say that the Spaniards must evacuate the island or exterminate the peo-

THE DOCTRINE OF ANNEXING CUBA to the United States. When we were approaching the house of the corporal in charge of the post the women mistook us for Spaniards and fled in fright to the mountains, but, finally, being convinced of their error, came back. I dined on a brolled rib of beef, without salt, and chocolate; supped on the same description of meat, with honey instead of the chocolate. Leaving here we were greatly disappointed to learn that the Cuban government bad left Yaragabua and gone to the sub-district of Gud, fifteen or twenty leagues further south, in Manzanillo. I began to think the Cuban govern-

that could never be caught. The next day's march, though short, was over a terribly trying piece of untain. On the way we met the command of Captain Augustin Acosta, of Calixto Garcia's forces, on his way back from the camp of Modesto Diaz, whither he had gone to escort the Executive from Jiguani to Manzanillo. We climbed Devil SAW THE LITTLE DEVIL HIMSELF,

el Diablito; but that is nothing, gentle reader. I have passed Purgatory several times and have been near Hell-el Inferno-since coming to Cuba; so that I can no longer doubt the existence of these two celebrated places. The task that was left for the following day lay over as mountainous, precipitous and broken a road as any we had yet travelled. But it did not matter; the day after we would be at our journey's end, and that was balm to all our wounds or bruises, mental or physical We climbed early the Cerro Pelou de San Juan, or

BALD MOUNTAIN OF ST. JOHN. top of it the great savannas of Manza nillo lay to the west and north, and to the east and south the imposing range of the Sierra Maestra with its pine glades far beneath our feet. The unclouded sun shot his searching rays of cheering light into many a chasm and erevice in the mountain's side, gilding their tops with a glory peculiar to themselves. In our front the wide savanna, level as a book leaf, in terspersed here and there with clumps of palu trees, threads of woodland and patches of forest In front, too, over there-but a jump-winds the low historic Yara, its limpid course between wel worn banks; while just beyond, the village of the same name, whose smoke I see, is the spot

WHERE THE FIRST VICTIM WAS OFFERED by the genius of Cuba to the Goddess of Liberty. There, away to the horizon, close to the southern shore of Manzanillo, lies the Ingenio Demajagua the home of Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, where, on the night of the 10th of October, 1868, a few select patriots gathered to fling to the breeze the banne of a new nation and throw the gauntlet in the ace of the power and pride of grand old Spain. The sight was inexpressibly beautiful; even as that which Satan showed to the Nazarene when he placed the kingdoms of the earth at His feet, saying, "All these things will I give thee, i thou wilt fall down and worship me." We reached Cataurito early enough to have resumed the march after three o'clock, but as there was no guide to go on it became imperative to remain over.

APRIL 16 .- From Cataurito to the camp of Modesto Diaz, in Gua, where the President is, there are about thirty miles which must be walked to day. The road lies through a level country, all heavily wooded on both sides. It was travelled between the hours of half-past eight A. M. and

half-past five P. M. CUBAN DISCIPLINE.

The outposts of Camp Bermeja were place about half a mile from the advanced guard, and this, again, about three-quarters of a mile from the main body. Approaching the outpost, which consisted of a couple of half nude yellow fellows. marmed, of splendid physical condition and apparent robust health, they challenged us almost party responded promptly. After seeing that our party was all right, the road was opened to us. Soon we came on a picket of the advanced guard. Here we were received with exact military form and ceremony, and a file of soldiers sent back with us to the body of the advanced guard, where, in the same style and manner, we were sent under escort to the field officer of the day. This was very exact; it was right, and I was glad to perthat the men were so well acquainted with the important forms of guard duty. The field officer of the day took us to the hut of the general

MODESTO DIAZ must be a man of fifty-eight or sixty years. He is tall of person and massive in frame; has a well shaped head, rather long than otherwise, iron gray hair, and full flowing beard of the same color, but of darker hue. His eyes are deep set, of an agreeable brown, with plenty of light in them. He was dressed in a suit of unbleached drill, and had on an enornously large Panama hat. He looked like one of those big-hearted old sea dogs that one has occa sionally the luck of coming across as captain of some gallant bark. He is a native of the Island of St. Domingo, took part in the second war of independence there, and held the rank of brigadier Spanish service when the war broke out in

Upon learning who I was the General received me very kindly, asking for my papers, which he had read to him by a gentleman present who understood English.

STILL THREE LEAGUES OFF. I was told that the President was permanently camped at a place called the Macho, three leagues off, and that I could go there to-morrow after breakfast. This news was infinite balm to my uneasy spirit; yet I was so anxious and impatient nmate the one great object of my mission that sleep nearly forsook my weary eyes that night, even after having walked thirty miles under a burning sun. I dined with Diaz that evening on the usual camp fare-peef and potatoes. Jutia is

seldom eaten here, there being plenty of cattle in

MR. O'RELLY'S RETURN TRAIL. During dinner the General told me that Mr. O'Kelly had left camp for Manzanillo about two weeks ago, since when he had been a prisoner in Fort Gerona. This greatly surprised me; for, before leaving Santiago, I had received assurances, to be conveyed to Mr. O'Kelly, that the Captain General had consented to punish him with expulsion only from the island, provided he presented himself. I was also informed that two days ago the Cubans had attacked the Ingenias of San Francisco and Rosario. Many arms and hundreds of heads of cattle were captured. This news, from evidences around me, must have been true.

THE GOAL AT LAST. APRIL 17 .- My mission is crowned with success. I nave seen and interviewed Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, President of the Republic of Cuba.

I breakfasted with General Diaz, who lent me a fine mule of his own, and, in company with a couple of officers and three or four men, started for the residence of the Executive. The route was south from Bermeja, through the forest and across the River De Los Machos, where I saw in many fresh bullet holes in the trees signs of a fight that had taken place about a week ago between the opposing forces. Cespedes' camp was now about a league south from the scene of this late action. On the foot hills above the little river were several Spanish commander of Calisite, had been shot.

and intervening hills, we took a newly cleared path in the direction of the mountains. Proceed ing along this trail for a mile or two we came upon the advanced guard of

THE PRESIDENT'S ESCORT.

We were received with much military precision and conducted to the nut of Lieutenant Colonel Ismael Cespedes, nephew of the President, and commander of his escort. This officer received me very cordially. His hut and those of the escort were near the part of the camp where we entered. I was now conducted for about two hundred yards along the pathway, on either side of which were, at intervals, a lew huts, there being six or eight of them in a cluster at the very head of the pathway. beyond which there was no road or trail-nothing but the unbroken depths of the forest. There was one hut at the top of all, nearest the unhewn forest; not much bigger or better constructed than the others. It was the Executive palace and mansion

CARLOS MANUEL DE CESPEDES, President of the Cuban Republic. An officer who speaks English, mentions my name, motions me to step forward, saving in English :-

"THE PRESIDENT, MR. MILLEN," and I am face to face with the famous Cuban, who bows very graciously, gives me a cordial and warm shake of the hand, saying he was glad to see me an expression of good will for which the HERALD correspondent thanked him, saying that the feeling was mutual in the extrem Cespedes is fifty-four years old, about five feet six

inches in height, slight of build and spare of per-

His complexion is light for a Cuban; his hair dark, mixed with gray. There is a small baid spot on the upper back part of the head. He wears his edium length, very smoothly and neatly kept. He has a high and well developed forehead, catures regular, with nose rather sharp, and has a splendid set of teeth. The firmness of the mouth s partly concealed by thick, long, flowing iron-gray card and mustache. The cheeks are shaven to the point of the jaws; eyes small, bright, and keen, of a decidedly gravish-blue color. He is a lawyer-having been educated for the Bar in Spain-gentlemanly, polite and impressive of address, and a native of Bayamo. He is careful of speech and converses with deliberation and sententiousness. When I saw him in his rancho he was attired in a suit of straw-colored linen-pantaloons, vest and sack. He had on a light-colored pepper-and-salt cap; wore a black watch guard. no appearance of other jeweiry. He wore patent leather leggings, fitting down closely over a well shaped foot. His hands are small and rather He impressed me as

A SHREWD MAN, WELL BRED AND WELL READ. I have been, perhaps, needlessly minute in describing the person and appearance of Mr. Ces pedes. My reason for doing so is that his identity has been questioned, and I have tried to draw his portrait so that his friends cannot fail of recognizing the likeness. We entered the Presidential hut. Cespedes sat in his hammock while I was seated on a litule seat made of small sticks placed horizontally together overla frame formed by driving four forked stakes of the required length into the ground, laying transversal pieces across these and horizontal ones over them, binding the whole with majagua bark. A little table for all uses, so to say, at my elbow, was made in the same way and had a similar seat on the opposite side. The hammock is slung on the west side of the rancho; the table and seats are on the opposite side. At the foot and head of the hammock are several small valises, mostly containing papers and documents. A re volver, in a plain cover, attached to a gold-emproidered belt, hung within reach over the ham-

THE INTERVIEW. CESPEDES-Mr. O'Kelly has been here and gone. The Spaniards have him a prisoner in Manzanillo We did not expect to see another HERALD Commissioner so soon.

CORRESPONDENT-I am very sorry for my friend O'Kelly, and hope he will soon be released. Should he not, it will be my duty also to present myself. As to my presence here, I presume that the HERALD was determined to throw

LIGHT AT ALL HAZARDS on the Cuban question, and thought it would be more difficult for two correspondents to be silenced than one, and that if one failed reaching your camp the other would succeed.

The President here asked me some questions as to how I managed to escape the vigilance of the pamards, or if they knew of my coming to the Cuban camps. He then referred to the case of Mr. Henderson; said that gentieman had given a report flattering to the Cubans, but regretted that he had injured its usefulness by stating

WHAT WAS NOT TRUE. Mr. Henderson undoubtedly saw Agramonte and some of the Camaguay cavalry, but he had not was in the direction of Barajagua with Calixto Garcia, a distance of fifteen days' march to that part of Camaguay where Agramonte then was, not including the time requisite for a courier to advise the President of Henderson's presence.

While on this subject I may as well state that the Secretary of War, by order of Cespedes, allowed me to copy

THE REPORT GIVEN BY GENERAL AGRAMONTE to the President of Mr. Henderson's visit to Puerto Principe. Cespedes then said that he could not see what was to be gained by my putting my head in the trap as well as Mr. O'Kelly; that it would be better for me to go to Jamaica, to which he thought I could be sent in a few days, as there was a boat already on the coast. Besides, Mr. O'Kelly would doubtless be released in a few days, as the Spaniards could do nothing to him. He had acted openly, and they knew what he was going With me it was different, for, as I had not revealed to the Spaniards the nature of my mission if caught, they might construe with severity against me the rigorous spirit of military law. said that there was another question at stake, to test which I would willingly risk a good deal: that was, the amount of protection that

THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN RESPECaccord to their citizens and subjects. It was there-

fore agreed that in case of Mr. O'Kelly's speedy release I should go to Jamaica, but if he continued a prisoner, with the probability of being tried. then I should go and PRESENT MYSELF TO THE SPANIARDS

CORRESPONDENT-Do you think, Mr. President,

in Manzanillo.

that it is possible that any pacific arrangements could be entered into between the Spaniards and the Cubans, so as to put an end to this war?

CESPEDES-No arrangements can be entered into with the Spaniards so long as they pretend to rule

INDEPENDENCE OR DEATH IS THE ULTIMATUM of the Cubans. CORRESPONDENT-But at least some understanding might be arrived at for the purpose of softening the rigors of the war and conducting it on a footing

more in conformity with the usages of modern warfare. CESPEDES-I regret that the Spaniards, by committing outrages on women and children and noncombatants, have raised the black flag, and created

the present atrocious condition of a

WAR WITHOUT QUARTER. The Cubans have frequently made overtures for the purpose of conducting the war on a more humane footing, but the Spaniards, saying that we are only so many banditti, have refused to entertain any propositions from us.

CORRESPONDENT-Have you any idea, Mr. President that the war will soon come to a close? Do you still believe that the Cubans will triumph? CESPEDES-We are now going on to five years engaged in this struggle, and it can terminate only with Cuban independence or Cuban annihilation. When the end will be it is impossible to say. The

Spaniards believe that IF I WERE DEAD THE WAR WOULD CRASE. and they have sent no less than six different parties from Havana to assassingte me. So these parties have never been heard of since sent out, others have died and one was discovered by Quesada, in Camaguay, and put to death after con fessing the whole plan. The Spaniards are mistaken; the continuance of the war does not depend

Passing this point, and two or three little favines | another, "Shall we win ?" They never doubt that But the question was frequently asked by officers and men, "How long will the war last-what time must clapse before we triumph ?"

BUYING INDEPENDENCE. CORRESPONDENT-Could not some diplomatic arrangement be entered into by which the Cubans would agree to pay an indemnity to the Spaniard provided the latter would evacuate the island?

CESPEDES-Overtures of that nature were made. General Sickles intimated in Madrid that \$100,000,000, payable in twenty years, would probably be given by the Cubans if the Spaniards, out further blood, consented to recognize the inde-pendence of the island and leave the public buildings, fortresses, arsenals, &c., in the condition in which they might be found at the time of the treaty. It was also intimated that, if necessary, the United States would guarantee the payment of the INDEMNITY.

But nothing had come of this proposition. Since then a good while has elapsed, the phase of the war has entirely changed, and while I have no doubt but the Cubans would still allow A HANDSOME INDEMNITY TO SPAIN

in the end must prove disastrous to her; yet not so large a sum could now be given as that formerly offered. The island is now in a far worse condition than then; property continues to be destroyed and the material wealth of the country is passing away. This lessens the resources of the Cubans, makes it more difficult to pay a large sum and lessens the value of the consideration for which they would pay it. I think sixty-five or seventy millions of dollars would be the probable sum we could now offer as indemnity for the close of the war.

DESERTIONS TO CUBA LIBRE.

While at this part of the interview the President received news that several families and seven armed volunteers had presented themselves in the camp of General Diaz. CORRESPONDENT-A good deal has been said on

the subject of annexation. I would like, Mr. President, to report your views on this important matter to the HERALD for the information of the American people.

CESPEDES-At the outbreak of the war there was undoubtedly a grand majority of the people in favor of the annexation of the island to the United States. I was never a great supporter of the measure and never opposed it; but I am only one among so many hundreds of thousands. The peeple and the army at one time had a grand demonstration in Camaguay for the purpose of ventilat

THE ANNEXATION DOCTRINE. Resolutions were passed endorsing it and sent to the Chamber of Deputies, then and there in session. The Chamber, ununimously adopted the resolution in favor of annexation. The paper, which immediately received a thousand or me signatures of the people, was sent to New York to be forwarded to Washington, but its receipt by the State Department there has never been acknowledged. This slight, together with the fact of the American government, so far from granting belligerent rights to Cuba, had put themselves on the side of the Spaniards, had to a great extent

COOLED THE ANNEXATION ARDOR of the Cubans, who now entertain no thought but that of beating the Spaniards. These once expelled from the island, then, if the people choose to become a part of the United States, their will is supreme and I would not only not oppose it, but give the measure my support as one of convenience for the future of the Island. The Cubane

A PACIFIC DISPOSITION AND EASILY GOVERNED. Their past history and every day of the present struggle proves this. It is possible, therefo we could be able to sustain a government of our

own, which of course would be preferable to annexation even with the United States. The Cubans justly feel aggreeved at the policy which Mr. Fish is observing towards us. At the commencement of the revolution the Spaniards were allowed to build thirty gunboats in New York, and also to supply themselves with arms and ammunition while the Cubans were excluded from either of these privileges. Even Remington was forced to break his contract with the Cubans because it was an inferential infringement of neutrality. Also President Grant, in one of his annual messages to Congress, animadverted rather bluntly on

OUR INABILITY TO MEET -THE SPANIARDS IN THE and chaarcterized us as a fugitive mob flying from place to place, or something of the kind. The policy adopted in Washington is not neutrality; it is absolutely taking part with the Spaniards. The case of the Pioneer was conspicuously one wherein the authorities of the United States did the greatest

injustice to us. A STRONG STATEMENT.

some power or they were pirates. If the former, and their national banner was not yet recognized by the United States, all that that power could do would be to warn the ship off the coasts and compel her to keep clear of American waters, as the English in Nassau did with the Lillian; but if pirates, then all the hands found on board should have been executed as common criminals. In neither case were the United States entitled to that the ship and sell her as a prize. It was clearly the reason of superior force that enabled them to do it. Still, notwithstanding these grave reasons for complaint, we

LOOK WITH ANXIOUS EYES TO AMERICA, to the great representative nation of our Continent, for recognition and support. We know that the warm sympathies of the American people are with us; but this strange policy of General Grant's government is inexcusable, inexplicable, unjustifiable and a wrong to the Cuban people, who entertain so much sympathy and good will toward the great country of Washington and of Lincoln. It would be extremely injudicious at this moment to revive the question of annexation at a time when nobody thought of aught else but conquering the independence of the island. It would at

this particular juncture PROVE A FIREBRAND to distract and weaken the Cuban efforts against the common enemy. BELLIGERENT RIGHTS.

CORRESPONDENT-The Cubans, I believe, expected a recognition of beiligerency by the United States. CESPEDES-We fully expected to be recognized

as belligerents by the Americans. We are an American people, fighting for freedom and emancipation-those great principles for which the people of the United States have sacrificed so much-A number of lukewarm patriots joined us because they were sure the United States would promptly step in to our aid. Seeing their hopes not realize NOT POSSESSING THE STAMINA

to go through the hardships of a war of independence, they either presented themselves to the

now living. But the cooperation of this class of people does not amount to anything; they can be readily whistied back on the first slight turn of for-A CONFEDERATION SCHEME CORRESPONDENT-I heard something in General

Spaniards or fied to foreign parts, where they are

Garcia's camp in connection with a scheme for forming a confederation of the Antilles. CESPEDES-Yes, such a scheme was at one time

mooted, but the plan terminated in smoke. The idea was to form a Power under the style of the Confederation of the Antilles, composed of Cuba, St. Domingo and Hayti, Porto Rico and Jamaica. The English, who at first favored our cause, it seems, would have sacrificed Jamaica in order to COUNTERACT THE INFLUENCE OF AMERICAN IDEAS in the West Indies by the formation of this new

nation at the very door of the United States. THE ARMED SITUATION. CORRESPONDENT-I would like, Mr. President, to e able to report something about the military

situation of the Cubans. CESPEDES-The Spaniards say that we have no military organization. You, who have seen a por-tion of our army, are witness to the facts that all the grades among the officers are well recognized and respected among themselves and by the men throughout the forces; that there exists among us both sobordination and order, and that each class

CONTINUED ON TENTH PAGE.

We had marched about twenty-eight miles that noon we passed some of the most enchanting abandoned camps of the Cubans. In a clearing on my existence. Were I dead to-morrow the day. We had climbed the rugged sides of Mount Blas, from whose summit, through the opening of scenery of the kind I have ever seen. Gentle, unstruggle would go on all the same. Some one near one of these a tree stump was pointed out as the branches of the umbrageous trees, I looked eing the spot where Commandant Davan, the late dulating bills, with Paradisiacal valleys between, would be elected to fill my place. The idea we conwith delight into the broad yalley beneath, in the all covered with the majestic and graceful raval tend for can never die. One Cuban never asked