

The Bible Needed in Cuba.

Statement and Appeal
of the
Cuban Bible Society.

The people of Cuba are not yet free. The bondage of the Crown of Spain has been broken for them. They have received that liberty from the providence of God and the power of the United States. But the most subtle and repressive bondage Spain could impose upon them still remains. That is the *spiritual slavery and ignorance* which they have been compelled to suffer from the State Church during the three centuries just ended.

It is difficult for tongue or pen to adequately describe the denseness of that spiritual darkness and the degrees of that spiritual subjection to superstitions and priestcraft that yet dominates, depresses and degenerates the life of the masses in the Island of Cuba.

Two years of residence there and close study of religious and social conditions, much of the time as Military Inspec-

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tor of Public Instruction, hospitals and prisons, convinces me that the greatest work our American interference in Cuban affairs has devolved upon American hearts and hands is to provide "a way of escape" for the people of Cuba from that spiritual slavery which now shackles their souls and weakens the whole sum of their personal and public powers.

During the four years of the late revolution the power of the Church was so employed in the interests of the Spanish tyranny and so many patriots were betrayed to prison, exile and death by its connivance that a great majority of the Cubans revolted also against the priests and have since been strangers to the Church and its power. In this mood they have been willing to hear Protestant missionaries and to permit their children who are able to do so to read the Bible in the King James version when presented to them in the Spanish text.

NOW, therefore, is the opportune season for introducing the Bible into the homes of hundreds of thousands of the common people. A few years hence that opportunity may be again shut out by the recovery of its powers by the Church of Rome. Already the Archbishops of Havana and Santiago de Cuba are making politic and heroic endeavors to win back the allegiance of the great body of Cubans and to blockade the progress of Protestant missions and teachings, by either preaching, schools, or literature.

If You Believe

that the aims of this Society are in line with the great missionary commission from the Master and that religious freedom as we enjoy it ought also to be encouraged among the Cuban freemen in this "accepted time" and "day of salvation," then promptly, heartily and liberally give us your aid. Already men are volunteering for the hardy and often dangerous work of distributing the Gospels and Epistles in the several Provinces of Cuba. They go on foot and on ponies to every mountain hut and every jungle habitation of the Island. The Bibles and Tracts in Spanish to meet the known demands will cost a large amount, and the mere expenses of these colporters will require, without extravagance, yet much more.

EVERY DOLLAR GIVEN WILL DO ITS DUTY
and we ask you to both give and pray that this work may go on to the salvation of men and the glory of God.

SAM W. SMALL,
General Secretary.

NEW YORK, May, 1901.

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