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LATTER-DAY CUBA

“We must prove that we are worthy of our country by showing others that we know how to defend it. If we show that we are unworthy of such a trust, then we shall go under.”—Letter of BLÜCHER to the King of Prussia, October 8, 1809.

Indifference to Emancipation at the Beginning of the Century—
Prosperity Under Slavery—Influence of the United States

IT has caused some surprise that when, in the early part of the nineteenth century, all the rest of Spain's important colonies declared themselves independent, Cuba and Manila and Porto Rico remained loyal, or at least indifferent. The Philippines were geographically so much isolated that the movements of Europe were scarcely felt; the domination of the Church was all but complete, and the man for the hour was not there. Cuba, on the other hand, was nearest to Spain on the direct line of communication between the mother country and her rebellious provinces; the shores of the United States were barely a hundred miles from Havana, and American public sentiment was no less friendly to Cuban independence than was that of Mexico or the Argentine. If ever a people could have been described as ripe for revolution, that people inhabited the island of Cuba at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

But the very proximity of the United States proved