

THE PRESIDENT OF CUBA.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND SERVICES OF PRESIDENT PALMA, OF CUBA LIBRE.

An old friend of President Estrada Palma, of the Republic of Cuba, has furnished to the **HERALD** the following sketch of his life and services:—

PRESIDENT PALMA

is a native of the city of Bayamo. His father, a very wealthy planter, whose estates were principally situated on the banks of the River Cauto, died while he was an infant. At twelve years of age his mother sent him, after he quit school at Bayamo, to the College of Havana. Here he graduated with great distinction. In 1864 he returned to Bayamo and attended to the care of his mother's property. His love for her is said to have been intense, and the parent and son were almost inseparable. He studied law and pleaded cases in the courts for the poor of Bayamo, free of cost, and was greatly beloved for his charitable deeds. In 1868,

WHEN THE REVOLUTION BROKE OUT,

Palma, who had long been an abolitionist at heart, freed all his slaves. Many of them joined the ranks of the patriots, accompanying their former master. Shortly after—namely, in 1868—the war commenced Palma's mother died of a broken heart. The Cuban patriots formed a provisional government and desired that Palma should hold office, but he steadily refused to accept such trust until a constitution had been adopted. The constitution was adopted at Guimara in 1869. Palma was elected subsequently

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

from the Eastern, or Oriental, Department. Twenty Congressmen were appointed, five for each of the Departments—Oriental, Camaguey, Las Villas and Occidental. The military government of the Republic is subservient to that of the civil authorities, and the object has been to prevent the formation of military cabala. During "recess" these Congressmen, whose places of meeting are generally in the mountain fastnesses, frequently return to their districts and study the special requirements of their constituents. The discipline of the army, its provisioning, the providing of war material, &c., come under their supervision, as also the formation of laws. Palma in

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

is small of stature and delicate looking, but of a lithe and active frame. Owing to a lack of great physical strength he has not been sent out with the patriots to attack the Spaniards, but has given time and time again proof of his courage by succoring, while under the enemy's fire, his wounded countrymen.

HIS MANNERS.

are gentle and unassuming, and he is generally beloved by his brethren who are now struggling for liberty from Spanish tyranny.