

## The Cuban Exiles—They Escape from Fernando Po.

A New York paper says :

The Java yesterday brought from England three Cuban patriots, who escaped from their exile at Fernando Po, to which island they were sent in March last. Sixteen others also escaped, and they are to come in subsequent steamers. The prisoners are wealthy and honored Cubans, and on their arrival here were at once surrounded by their fellow-patriots. The story of their suffering is interesting. They left Cuba on the 21st of March, and reached the prison island on the Coast of Africa on the 22d of May. They were badly treated on shipboard, were obliged to pay the most extortionate prices for food, and were packed into just half the room allowed to Coolies in Spanish slave ships. Arrived at Fernando Po, some of them quartered at an English hotel and others in huts built by the natives. On the 7th of June three of the Cubans evaded the vigilance of their Spanish guards, and went to sea in a small canoe. Eleven miles from shore they found, as expected, a small sloop waiting for them. This had been hired of an Englishman. In the sloop the three escaped exiles reached the coast of Guinées, near the river Calabar. Fourteen days afterward sixteen of the prisoners, the wealthiest and most influential of them all, ventured to sea in a canoe formed from a hollow tree. One of their number, Don Mirando Mendive, was a guest at the time of the Governor of the island, General Joaquin Souza—a favor bestowed on account of former business relations. They left the island and their comrades at three o'clock A. M. of the morning of June 21 in the open boat, with no provisions, water, or change of clothes. At noon of the same day they were picked up at sea by the same sloop that carried the first three safely from the island.

At Calabar they found hearty English sympathy, and the negro King of that region prepared his fortifications to resist any attack the Spaniards might make. A Spanish vessel, the Concordia, came after the Cubans, and demanded their release, which was refused. She then returned to Fernando Po for instructions. When she had gone, the Cubans embarked on an English vessel for Buni, which place they safely reached, and secured passage on the English mail steamer Biafra, for Liverpool. After having secured their passage, and gone aboard the Biafra, the Concordia made her appearance, and her captain demanded the bodies of the nineteen Cuban passengers. Captain Cross, of the Biafra, refused to give them up. The natives prepared to defend them should the captain of the Concordia endeavor to employ force in the case. This he did not do. The Biafra sailed with her passengers all on board, and arrived at Liverpool on the 30th ult.

These Cubans represent a large amount of wealth, some of which they had sent abroad when the troubles first began in Cuba. They have made a most fortunate escape by a bold movement which was signally favored.