

# NASSAU.

## The Seizures of the Tweed and Violin— How They Were Brought About—Ac- tivity of the English Officials.

NASSAU, Jan. 10, 1870.

The Governor of the Bahamas, Sir James Walker, appears to be very much alarmed since the arrival here of the filibusters of the Lillian expedition, fearing that the movements of the Cubans or Spaniards will compromise him with his government. So great is his fright that he offered to defray the expenses of the Cubans still remaining here to any part of the United States, and, in fact, made arrangements with a person duly authorized, by which the Governor promised to pay for the necessary provisioning and the charter of a vessel to carry said Cubans to Key West or any other American port, provided the captain of said vessel on his return produced a certificate from the authorities of having landed all his passengers. In consequence of this arrangement the British schooner Tweed was chartered for \$300, gold, and \$300, gold, worth of provisions put on board. The vessel was duly cleared and sailed for Jacksonville, Fla., with sixty-two Cubans, on the 18th of December last.

The British schooner Violin, loaded with arms and other war material, had cleared and sailed for St. Domingo on the previous day. On the 19th the schooner Tweed came across the latter and the Cubans then forced their captain to approach the Violin near enough to board her, of which vessel they took possession against the will and in spite of her captain and crew. It is impossible at present to decide whether the Cubans, on committing these acts, intended to go to St. Domingo, instead of Jacksonville; whether they intended to go to Cuba in the Violin, or, as reported, to go to some place on the south of that island to join a steamer with which to effect a landing on that coast. The only thing certain is that her British Majesty's steamer Lapwing left this port on the 19th and returned the night of the same day, taking both schooners, which had been captured in the vicinity of Southwest Reef. Notwithstanding the forcible possession of the Violin, after having compelled the captain of the Tweed, also by force, to co-operate, the passengers were released a few hours after the arrival at this port, but not before they had been twice severely searched and everything that could be called equipment taken from them. Nearly a month has elapsed, and not one of the Cubans that took part in these violent acts has been examined nor are they even under the surveillance of the police. However, this does not mean that the British authorities have treated the affair with indifference. On the contrary, they have taken the severest measures, but instead of punishing the only ones that are guilty; they have concluded to keep the Violin, with her cargo of arms, belonging to a British firm, and legally cleared for St. Domingo, and the Tweed, also the property of a native of this city. Such conduct on the part of said authorities is easily understood.

This colony, since the end of the confederated war, does not offer any gains to certain officers of Great Britain, such as the Receiver General of the Bahamas—gains to which they had naturally become accustomed. The Cuban revolution may satisfy their desires, and the seizure of the steamer Salvador, and, above all, of the Lillian, by which they promised themselves a good harvest, has opened their appetites. In March of last year the schooner Violin, on the plea that she brought some goods from the steamer Yara, alias Comanduario, to which vessel she had carried a load of coal, with a permit from the authorities, schooner and goods were sold at public auction; the said steamers Salvador and Lillian, the schooners Exceed and Tryphena, which schooners were loaded with coal for the last named steamers, and, finally, the unfortunate Tweed and Violin. The Receiver General has so little disguised his intense desire of making seizures that he in person went in the Lapwing, and ordered the seizure of the Lillian. He was also in the same man-of-war on the 19th last, when the two schooners were captured. What has the Receiver General or other officers to do with the guilt of the Cubans in landing with arms at Nurse Cay or the act of taking possession by force of the Violin? The only thing they cared about those persons was to take from them their private arms and other valuable articles, of which they were despoiled. What they want is the vessels and cargo.

There are two circumstances which favor the above officer in carrying out his plans. The first is the weakness of the Governor, Sir James Walker, who has been completely upset by the events which have taken place in this Barataria under his governorship since the breaking out of the Cuban revolution. The second is the complicity of the Attorney General, who possibly may have had a share in the spoils, and who, in the absence from this colony of the Chief Justice, depends in a great measure on the incompetence of the one acting. This group of small officials take advantage of the name and power of Great Britain to commit these acts of vandalism. Thus can all be explained, particularly the scandalous release of the steamer Lillian and the peremptory order to proceed to sea, without coal, with the refusal to allow her to purchase the necessary fuel to go away with—a disgraceful combination, said to be arranged between the Receiver General and the Attorney General, so as to be able to possess themselves of the vessel and cargo, and in which they have so far succeeded.

The Attorney General has declared the schooners Tweed and Violin as legal prizes under the Foreign Enlistment act. Both vessels and cargo have been claimed by the owners, and, no doubt, will be released, in spite of the efforts of Commander Scharp, of the Lapwing, who made the capture, and under whose responsibility the prosecution had been established.

The Spanish war steamer Conde de Venadito arrived in this port the last day of December, from Nuevitas. We have received no news by her of the war, which leads us to believe that it does not fare well with the Spaniards.

This market is dull. Everything seems depressed. Cattle and sugar are very scarce. Very few American families have come to pass the winter months in this city, where there is a splendid hotel, but unfortunately empty.