

annexation of St. Domingo, which some have been ready to oppose even to the extent of declaring war; and herein, too, may be found a solution of the grave difficulties now existing, which seem likely to lead to no termination through bloodshed, and which ere long will begin to bear heavily on "the systems of modern commerce."

Will the Assassin of Greenwath be Punished?

Cuba the Life-Blood of Spain.

Reasons for Spanish Opposition of American Annexation of St. Domingo.

The steamer De Soto, from New Orleans, via Havana the 22d, arrived in this port yesterday. She brings three days later news.

The Assassin of Greenwath Recognized—Efforts to Make the Cubans Responsible—Court Martial.

HAVANA, Feb. 22, 1870.

The assassin of Isaac Greenwath has been identified by Foster and Johnson. He is a Spaniard. Since this assassination the government has brought all its resources to bear to discover not only the principal in this murderous affair, but also to ascertain if it was unpremeditated or the result of a conspiracy. A strong effort has been made to create the impression that it was the result of a regularly organized plan to assassinate a large number of Americans, with a view of creating complications with the United States, and the government either has, or affects to have, evidence of this. No outrage has been committed here since the revolution began but the Spaniards have attributed it, either directly or indirectly, to the Cubans, and their accusations must be taken with much allowance. The character of the proofs to establish that they were the guilty parties in this instance is not yet known. Doubtless it will be placed before the American government and regarded as satisfactory. It may be doubted, however, if the proof is sufficient to show that the following of Greenwath, after his wounding, and when on the way to the Office of Police, by as many as 200 Spaniards, mostly volunteers, brutally beating him until, reaching his destination, he fell dead on the floor, can be properly attributable to Cubans. There are certain matters connected with the affair which the ends of justice will not yet permit to be made public, but which will in the end show up in the proper light the efforts made to shift the responsibility of this most grievous outrage. Meanwhile Foster and Johnson are doing well and beyond danger.

There is a complete dearth of war news. We have heard nothing of the campaign in Camaguey for the past few days, and whether Goyensche is in or out no longer agitates the public mind. From the Cinco Villas come the usual telegrams mentioning encounters without practical result.

As say the papers, the skipper of a coasting vessel arrived here from Gibara reports that Domingo Golcouria and his companions are surrounded and badly pressed by the troops in the sierras of that jurisdiction, and it is thought impossible for them to escape death either by the bayonet or hunger.

The journals here continue to publish correspondence captured from the enemy. From some of this it seems much feeling was caused among a few by the removal of Quesada, and the acts of the House of Representatives in this and other respects are pronounced arbitrary, tyrannical and unnecessary.

The *Union Nacional* of Cienfuegos of the 13th announces that Don Francisco Antonio Zayas was being tried by council of war for having insulted a guard of volunteers of that place, and Juan Bautista Padron and Eulio Roman for disloyalty.

Cuba and "the Modern Systems of Commerce and Civilization"—Her Necessity to Spain—A Sale not Probable—Influence of the Proposed Acquisition of St. Domingo in Cuba—Her Market Destroyed Thereby—Spanish Opposition Thereto—A Possible Solution of Existing Difficulties.

HAVANA, Feb. 22, 1870.

Though the proper position to be assigned the distinguished gentleman who recently visited Havana, Mr. Seward, in the roll of statesmen, may not be settled until his demise and the prejudices and asperities of party have followed him to the grave, it is certain he has a way of uttering splendid sentences which, if not pregnant with statesmanlike thought, seem to be so. Of this character is the remark which so tickled the vanity of the Havaneros and of Spaniards everywhere, namely, "The island of Cuba is an essential part of the great modern systems of commerce and civilization." Doubtless by civilization here is meant that which grows out of the interchange of ideas between different nations through commerce. In studying the expression it becomes evident that, however much other systems might be affected by what affects Cuba, the one which has relation to Spain only is especially interested. As interesting to the student in the United States of affairs in this island it is proposed to show this, and that, despite rumors to the contrary, Spain will never willingly part with this "brightest jewel in her crown." Spain with Cuba is what she is; without it she is nothing until another and entirely different base of national life and prosperity is constructed. By the progress of events Cuba has become the chief prop of Spanish nationality, and this once removed, the whole edifice tumbles to the ground. Cuba sustains her commerce. The merchandise of every description which comes from Europe or the United States, paid for by her sugar and tobacco, is brought here in Spanish bottoms at thirty-three and one-third per cent less of duties than when brought by foreign vessels. The jerked beef from South America, which forms a staple article of commerce for the island, is also imported at much less cost in Spanish bottoms than in others. These odious distinctions form a prop to Spanish commerce, without which it would be overpowered by the superior facilities and enterprises of other nations.

This commerce, thus sustained by abnormal means, adds to her prosperity, gives vigor and life-blood to her failing body, furnishes a school for her navy, and, in short, enables her to sustain such position as she has among the nations. Without mentioning the revenue, which for years has poured millions into her coffers, and which is generally understood, Cuba has for more than two centuries furnished power and place for that numerous class which for all that time has ruled Spain for her ruin. Amendments are promised, and under the pressure of revolution they are being inaugurated. That some will be carried into permanent effect is beyond question; but that the island under Spanish nationality, will always be regarded and used as a necessary support for the party in power, irrespective of the interests of its people, is equally so.

Lack of all this, which is of course directly dependent on them, are the products of the country. These have afforded avenues of wealth to the people and the nation; they have supplied the world with articles of prime necessity, fostered and encouraged by the propinquity of the great republic, which has been their chief market and still is. Again, in the acts of administration, and the ever-recurring revolutions throughout the other West Indies, has Cuba found her opportunity and her success. Thus has she become an "essential part of the great modern systems of civilization and commerce," and so much a necessity to Spain that to part with it would be more than suicidal.

While thus valuable to Spain in the present state of affairs, during the continuance of which she will on no consideration be like to part with it, there is a probability that in the course of events Cuba will become so much less so that no difficulty in the operation will be experienced. Spaniards, Mr. Sumner and others talk very glibly of the disastrous effects on the United States of a war between that power and Spain. These gentlemen seem to forget that two-thirds of the products of Cuba, which constitute the life blood of Spain, find market in the United States and that the closing of this market would far surpass in injury anything which could be done to the republic through her commerce or anything else. This by the way. The event which is like to render this island comparatively valueless is the proposed acquisition of St. Domingo by the United States, to be followed at no distant day, as is to be hoped, by the entire island of Hayti. The resources of this island are but little understood; that is, in so far as they are capable of competing with those of Cuba; nor is it in the scope of this correspondence to portray them. Suffice it to say in general terms that the soil is unequalled for sugar raising purposes. Fifty years ago sugar was brought from St. Domingo to this island, and in the year 1789, when the former reached its acme of prosperity, its sugar crop was valued at \$11,000,000. This under the limited development of its resources, without the aid of steam or any of the numberless modern improvements.

Last year the demand for sugar from this island in the United States was sixty-five per cent of the entire crop, valued at about \$5,000,000, upon which large duties were paid. It will not be doubted that with this development of resource, which would follow on the annexation of St. Domingo, sufficient sugar would be soon made in that island to supply this demand, of course admitted without the payment of duties. This would compel Cuba to look to Europe for a market, when prices would be forced below a remunerative mark, and that importance which attaches itself to the island, as both directly and indirectly a source of prosperity to Spain, at once come to an end. A consideration of the labor question, which must largely enter into the future productions of this island and others, I have purposely omitted, for in a short time one will have no advantage over the other. Whatever the fate of Cuba, slavery within its borders at no distant day must end, and thenceforward the islands will be on an equality in the matter of labor, whether using the freed blacks or depending on the importation of coolies.

In a realization of the facts herein suggested may be found the reasons for Spanish opposition to the