

There is a general belief in this country, that in dealing with the people of Cuba, we are dealing with ignorance, sloth and improvidence, such as is found in Mexico. This is an error. The production of a people may be regarded as a good means by which to ascertain their intelligence, their industry and their desire for stability in government. The people of Cuba produce more than any other, perhaps, in the world; and with easy means of knowing, I aver that industry is there as well organized, as economically conducted and as intelligently directed, as in our own country. This fact should ever be borne in mind by those who look to the war of race which prevails in the Island. Long and productive interests oppose each other with doubling & trebling; they recoil from revolutions with absolute horror. The inference that I would draw from these facts is this: that so long as Cuba is governed as it is at present, mostly by military men wholly unskilled in civil affairs: so long will our relations with the Island remain unsettled and our interests there require an efficient, sagacious and intelligent Agent.

I beg to remain, Dear Sir,

With great regard,

Most truly yours

S. M. Smith

Am Caleb Cushing,  
to &c &c

New York April 25. 1853

Dear Sir,

I beg permission to enclose to you a letter from Gen. Cass, having reference to the papers presented to the President in my behalf in connection with the consulate at Havana.

I was called to New York more than a week ago intending to return immediately to ask of you the privilege of explaining personally to you my views of Cuban affairs.

In the meantime I have received news of the extreme illness of my son and shall leave this evening for Detroit. Previous to leaving that City Gen. Cass asked me if I had made your acquaintance and speaking in terms of great respect of you suggested that I had better take a letter from him. The same evening Mr. C. died & I had without receiving his letter. The conversation occurring to him he enclosed to me the letter I now have the honor to send you.

In reference to the consulate at Havana I hope you will indulge me in saying a word

I apply through my friends for that position, precisely because I thought my residence there during Mr Polk's administration, my extensive acquaintance with the people of the Island, with their laws, the peculiar views of their Governors; with their industrial and political interests; with their relations to the Parent Government, and I may add without exaggeration with the Purposes and Designs of the Native & Foreign populations justified me in making such application.

The interest, the character and the purpose of the two Classes are wholly variant and antagonistic - they are divided into governors & governed. Between these classes there exists neither social industrial relations - nor political save those which are forced and unnatural. Whether justly or not, the people of the United States are regarded by the existing Government of Cuba as sympathizing most heartily with the Creoles of the Island and thus as holding a position in direct opposition to the views of that Government. I allude to these facts - which must be known to you for, the classes so widely separated in Cuba are wholly disinterested from all the

interests of the Home Government, and of the whole population of Spain or the other side of the water, - the one in the exercise of boundless authority which is being turned to individual account, and the other festering in the recollection of past and present injuries - to show how unperishable legacy the Consulate at Havana. An Agency there, though divested of all diplomatic powers, and embracing only the current commercial and individual interests of our countrymen, becomes, in this state of things, a matter of great delicacy, requiring in the execution, boldness, deception, judgment and above all an accurate knowledge of the rights and the duties of the two governments. I am a lawyer by profession & long practice in this country, and have studied with some care the Spanish jurisprudence and the system of legal practice there. I will not say that I possess the qualifications for the Havana Agency which I have written; but this much I can say, I have endeavored to master a knowledge of the relations existing between Spain & her Colonies and to understand <sup>the</sup> intercourse and the rights of intercourse subsisting between this Government & Cuba