

Let. 24. April. in Council House 2 mi. -
No 198

Consulate of the United States.
Havana April 14th 1855.

Hon.^{ble} William L. Marcy
Secretary of State
of the United States
Washington.

Sir.

I find that I have omitted to report in any previous communication to you, the arrival here recently of a large English ship with four hundred Chinese immigrants. This is the first lot of a number expected under a contract for 7 to 8000. I am told that other contracts are made, and as the price has risen from 120 to 170¢ and the immigrants are taken as fast as they arrive, it is more than likely that a very large number will be imported. Amongst those already here, are a number of pirates that were taken prisoners and sold to the contractors; of this fact I have positive intelligence.

Information has been brought to me this morning of the landing of a cargo of negroes from Africa at Bahia Honda, of which

the Authorities there had perfect knowledge, but the negroes were distributed without molestation. The Authorities here know the fact and the owner of the expedition who is a wealthy resident of this city; the British Consul, I am assured, has made no complaint. These things look strange.]

John St. Felix from some cause or other is detained here; on Monday next a number of persons will be sent off to Spain, amongst them Cadalso & Pinelo, but it appears that Felix will not be their companion for the voyage.

Mr Charles A Peck has concluded to go to New Orleans tomorrow in the Black Warrior. I have asked a passport for him of the Captain General.

The officer that was Lieutenant Governor at Laguna la Grande and who so outrageously acted towards Mr Thompson, has it appears, been removed from his office. Mr Thompson is still here awaiting the action of the U. S. Government in his case.

I have been informed that it is
the intention of the Captain General
to take off ^{in a day or two} the state of siege in
which the Island has been for
some time; but I am not disposed
to give credence to this information;
nor do I see that it makes any
great difference whether the island
is under siege or not, because as
you are aware the Military Com-
-mission, so dear to the Chief of the
Island, is a permanent institution.

I have the honor to be
Sir: with great respect
Your Obedt. Servant

W^m H. Whiston
acting Consul