

Confidential New York Paper

Col W. Preston  
Louisville Ky  
My dear Sir

It is necessary to use the key  
separate letters of a confidential na-  
ture from those of common transaction  
I take pleasure now in alluding  
your question with reference to the  
independence & annexation of Cuba  
I disclaim all connection with Gen  
Lopez who I understand has gone  
through your state, has succeeded in  
raising a paltry sum at great sacrifice  
on the bonds of the future republic and  
is on his way to Chaparral, whether he  
has sent emigrants. I hear of none  
of the respectable officers enlisted  
in the past expedition as being now

~~connected with Gen Lopez.~~ Your  
friends O'Hara or Captain Eicher  
I should like to know whether  
they sanction or favor the movement  
~~also for myself~~ were those two  
gentlemen associated in it I would  
feel less anxious for the success await  
ing my country; but I firmly  
believe that to throw two hundred or  
three hundred men on the island of  
Cuba under the direction of Gen  
Lopez would be to subject the country  
to protracted civil war & the  
institution of slavery to all  
danger, if not crushed on  
landing.

I do not however think  
as you do on the state of public  
feeling in Cuba - On the opinion

I two intelligent abroad americans  
observers, who have recently written  
to me on the subject. it is my belief  
that the annexation fever is quite  
high in that country and only  
checked among the higher classes,  
by the fear of the workless leader who  
has, or whose advisers have for their own  
private purposes, assumed the control  
of the most brilliant cause. My  
impression is now that they will be  
broken up before starting or be ship-  
wrecked on the way or crushed on  
land. The preservation of  
property, & the institution of Sla-  
very notwithstanding <sup>and</sup> safe on the hands, who  
guide the present movement,  
it will not meet with the success  
& previous support from the in-  
fluential classes, both in the



Mr. and Mrs. Cuba are for myself  
in good company, having considered  
the moral responsibility of the under-  
taking - ~~and~~ with reasonable prospect  
of success & without endangering  
Slavery - all of which I think  
can be accomplished, I do not  
shrink from the effort - otherwise  
I condemn it.

The disposal of your domestic  
disagreement, which is now on hand will  
be favorable to our cause. The glory  
of the Cuban achievement - the greatest  
in contemplation for the western continent  
during this age, will always find  
officers of standing ready to support  
it whenever the combination is perfect  
and the proper person at the head - and a  
few men, if Don Lopez, has been able to  
find them how much more will come  
means of the cause I speak of be



sure to obtain them. You see there-  
fore why I do not think with you  
of the remoteness of the change.

Meanwhile I intend returning  
to Cuba if the Spanish minister  
will say to one of his friends that  
I may safely do so. Before this takes  
place however I shall do myself  
the pleasure to write again.

I wish you success in your legis-  
lative labors and only wonder that  
you should wish to improve any  
constitution at all; such is the  
contrast with my own prospects  
on my return to the King's clutch,

Unnecessary is it to add how  
much I value your interest in any  
manner shown to our island & person-  
ally to yours very resp<sup>t</sup>fully & sincerely  
Yours  
(over)

*Wm. Manning*

I should be glad to hear what  
O'Hara thinks of all these affairs