

THE FAMILY PAPERS OF
AMBROSIO JOSE GONZALES

Letters, Documents and Articles

Compiled by
Antonio de la Cova

January 2000

ACH Alexander Cheves Haskell, South Caroliniana Library, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia

AGP Ambrosio José Gonzales Papers, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.

AIG RG 109, Letters Received by the Confederate Adjutant & Inspector General

AJP Andrew Johnstone Papers, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.

AMF Allan Mcfarlan Papers, South Caroliniana Library

CCN Charles Coffin Papers, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Mass.

CCP Caleb Cushing Papers, Library of Congress.

CHS Ambrosio José Gonzales Manuscript, Chicago Historical Society.

CLS Charleston Library Society, Charleston, S.C.

CMR RG 109, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Gen. & Staff Officers, & Nonregimental Enlisted Men, Reel 108, Ambrosio Jose Gonzales.

CSW RG 109, Letters Received by the Confederate Secretary of War, 1861-65

DCH Dearborn Collection, Confederate Officers, Houghton Library, Harvard University.

DDC Daniel S. Dickinson Collection, Broome County Historical Society, Binghamton, New York.

EGP Elliott and Gonzales Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

EMD Edward Manigault Diary, in possession of Peter Manigault, Charleston, S.C.

EML E. M. Law Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina

GBP P.G.T. Beauregard Papers (1861-1865), National Archives

GCP Grover Cleveland Presidential Papers, Library of Congress

GFP Gonzales Family Papers, South Caroliniana Library

HHL Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California

JCP J. C. Pemberton Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina

JDC Jefferson Davis Collection, The Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia.

JDL Jefferson Davis Letters, Duke University

JDP Jefferson Davis Papers, Tulane University

JDW John D. Warren Papers, South Caroliniana Library

JHH James Henry Hammond Papers, Library of Congress

JHR James Henry Rion Papers, South Caroliniana Library

JIR José Ignacio Rodríguez Papers, Library of Congress

JKP James K. Polk Papers, Library of Congress

JQP John A. Quitman Papers, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

KRC Keith Read Collection, The University of Georgia, Athens.

MAC Maynard Arms Company Collection, Smithsonian Institution, Museum of American History.

MBL Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar Papers, Texas State Library, Austin

NA National Archives, Washington, D.C.

OR Official Records of the War of the Rebellion

PGB The Papers of P. G. T. Beauregard, Library of Congress

PGD P.G.T. Beauregard Papers, Duke University

RJP Richard Jacques Papers, The Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin

SCA South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

SCP Spanish Consulate Papers, Duke University

SDD S. D. Doar Papers, Duke University

SHS Confederate States of America. Army Records, Headquarters, First Military District, Dept. of S.C., Ga. & Fla. 1861-1865. South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston.

TJP Thomas Jordan Papers, Duke University

TRE Thomas Rhett Smith Elliott Papers, Duke University

WLM William L. Marcy Papers, Library of Congress

WPM William P. Miles Papers, Southern Historical Collection, Univ. of North Carolina.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, RECORD GROUP 109
WAR DEPARTMENT COLLECTION OF CONFEDERATE RECORDS

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Register of Letters Received, October 1861, March 1862, Chapter 1, Vol. 47.

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Register of Letters Received, July-Nov. 1862, Chapt. 1, Vol. 50.

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Register of Letters Received, November 1862-March 1863, Chapter 1, Vol. 51.

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Register of Letters Received, Jan.-March 1863, A-M, Chapter 1, Vol. 53.

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Register of Letters Received, April-July 1863, Chapter 1, Vol. 55.

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Register of Letters Received, April-June 1864, Chapter 1, Vol. 63.

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Register of Letters Received, Oct. 1864-Mar. 1865, Chap. 1, Vol. 68.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Register of Letters Received, Sept. 1861-Oct. 1864, Chap. 2, Vol. 19.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Register of Letters Received, October 1862-May 1863, Chap. 2, Vol. 20.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters Sent & Received, Gen. Pemberton, March-Sept. 1862, Chap. 2, Vol. 21.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, Letters Sent, July 21, 1862-March 19, 1863, Chapt. 2, Vol. 22.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Endorsements, 1863-64, Chapt. 2, Vol. 23.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Endorsements, 1864, Chapt. 2, Vol. 24.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Endorsements, 1863, Chapt. 2, Vol. 25.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Endorsements, 1863, Chapt. 2, Vol. 26.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Endorsements, 1863, Chapt. 2, Vol. 27.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters Sent, Feb.-July 1862. Chapt. 2, Vol. 28.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Endorsements, May-Nov. 1862, Chapt. 2, Vol. 29.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Endorsements, Nov. 1862-Feb. 1863, Chapt. 2, Vol. 30.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters Sent, May-Sept. 1863, Chapter 2, Vol. 31.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters Sent, Sept. 10-Dec. 31, 1863, Chapter 2, Vol. 32.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Register of Letters Received, January-November 1864, Chapter 2, Vol. 33.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Register of Letters Received, July-December 1863, Chapter 2, Vol. 34.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters and Telegrams Sent, General Beauregard's Command, May 1862-April 1864, Chapt. 2, Vol. 35.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, Special Orders and Circulars, Sept. 1862-Dec. 1863, Chapter 2, Vol. 40, Index.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, Special Orders and Circulars, Chapter 2, Volume 42.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, General Orders and Circulars, July 19, 1862 to May 28, 1865, Chapter 2, Volume 43.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Telegrams Sent, July 1863-Feb. 1864, Chapt. 2, Vol. 45.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Telegrams Sent, 1862-1863, Chapt. 2, Vol. 48.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Telegrams Sent, February-July 1864, Chapter 2, Volume 50.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters Sent, Nov.

23-Dec. 20, 1864, Chapter 2, Vol. 176.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters Sent, Feb. 9, 1863-Jan. 29, 1864, Chapter 2, Vol. 183.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters Sent, Feb. 7, 1864-April 18, 1864, Chapter 2, Vol. 184.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters Sent, 1861-1862, Chapter 2, Vol. 185.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Endorsements, Sept. 1863-May 1864, Chapt. 2, Vol. 187.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Record of Discharges 1861-1863, Chapter 2, Vol. 190.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters, Telegrams and Endorsements Sent and Orders Issued, March 1-20, 1864, Chapt. 2, Vol. 195.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters and Telegrams to Gen. Beauregard, Mar.-May 1861, RG 109, Chapt. 2, Vol. 256.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, General and Special Orders 1863-65, Chapt. 2, Vol. 258 1/2.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters and Telegrams sent, Genl. Beauregard, March 3, 1861-May 27, 1861, RG 109, Chapt. 2, No. 263.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Letters sent by Gen. Richard Anderson, Chapt. 2, Vol. 282.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Engineer Bureau, Letters and Telegrams Sent and Endorsements, Aug. 31, 1863 to July 10, 1864, Chapt. 3, Vol. 9.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Engineer Department, Letters Sent, Engineer Office, Aug. 1862-Oct. 1863, Chapt. 3, Vol. 14.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Engineer Department, Letters Sent, Nov. 1864-Feb. 1865, Chapt. 3, Vol. 17.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Engineer Department, Letters and Telegrams Sent, Dec. 1863-Dec. 1864, Chapt. 3, Vol. 19.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, District of Florida, Endorsements Sent, Sept. 1-Nov. 8, 1864, Chapt. 8, Vol. 351.

Military Departments, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, District of Florida, Endorsements Sent, Nov. 8, 1864-Feb. 5, 1865, Chapt. 8, Vol. 352.

Secretary of War, Index to Applications Book No. 1, From April 1, 1861 to June 23, 1861, From No. 1 to 2693, Chapter 9, Vol. 89.

Index to Register of Applications for Appointments in the Military Service of the Confederate States & to Civil Service Under War Department, From July 1, 1863 to December 31, 1863, Chapter 9, Vol. 90.

Secretary of War, Index to Prisoners, 1861-65, Chapter 9, Vol. 222.

Special Orders, Departments of Henrico and Richmond, and Provost Marshals Office, Richmond, Virginia, 1864, Records of Union Prisoners and Colored Prisoners, Chapter 9, Vol. 250.

PAPERS OF VARIOUS CONFEDERATE NOTABLES

General Beauregard #116

Major General Sam Jones, Telegrams and Letters Received, 1864-1865, Box 9A.

Major General L. McLaws, Correspondence, Reports, etc., Box 14.

Lt. Gen. J. C. Pemberton, Letters and Telegrams Received, Jan. 1862-August 1864, Boxes 15-19; Letters and Telegrams Sent, 1862-1864, Box 18.

Departmental Records, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Mil. Dist., Box 63, Entry 73.

Departmental Records, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Circulars 1862-64, General Orders 1861-64, Special Orders 1861-64, Box 65.

Departmental Records, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Special Orders No. 1-291, 1863-1864, Box 66.

Departmental Records, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Orders Received from Florida Sub-Commands, Box 68.

RECORD GROUP 393

RG 393, Part 1, Entry 4108, Second Military District, Register of Letters Received.

RG 393, Part 1, Entry 4110, Vols. 1-7, Head Quarters, Second Military District, Register of Letters Received.

RG 393, Part 1, Entry 4106, Vols. 1-8, Head Quarters, Second Military District, Register of Letters Received.

National Archives (NA), Microcopy No. 237, Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York 1820-1897, Roll 11, November 21, 1827 through June 30, 1828, List Number 166, April 20, 1828.

District of New-York--Port of New-York

List or Manifest of all the Passengers taken on board the *Brig Burdett* whereof *D. H. Campbell* is Master, from *Havanna* Burthen 245 14/95 Tons.

Name	age	sex	occupation	Country they belong	Country to live in
M. Bourne	25	female		U. States	United States
Mrs. Beck	30	"		France	"
Lewis Rollin	24	male	merchant	U. States	"
Jno. Olmsted	25	"	"	"	"
Wm. B. Hall	22	"	"	"	"
J. Cellar	25	"	"	Spain	"
A. J. Gonzalez	40	"	"	"	"
Son of do	10	"		"	"
P. B. Michaletti	50	"	"	"	"
B. P. Pocabie	23	"	"	"	"
Jno. Bergent	30	"	"	"	"
C. F. Davies	24	"	"	U. States	"
E. Coursen	12	"		France	"
A. G. Berk	10	"		U. States	"
C. D. "	8	female		"	"

HANC

PRO SUA

IN LITTERARIO CERTAMINE

AD JURIS CIVILIS

BACCALAUREI GRADUM OBEUNDUM

ESPEDIENDA VICE

Fibu familias tutores esse possunt.

DIE 2 MENSIS *Mass* ANNI A SALUTE MDCCCXXXIX.

In Regiae ae Pontificiae Universitatis Habanensis

Musaeo.

SUSTINEBIT

Dom Abrosius Josephus Gonzalez.

DEDUCTAM

Ex lege 22 tit. 1 lib. 26. D. D.

MANE HORA SOLITA.

In Typographic Litterario. Regens Dominicus Patiño.

New Orleans *Picayune*

11 August 1848, 2

THE CRESCENT CITY.--This fine steamship arrived yesterday morning from New York, *via* Havana. She left New York the afternoon of the 1st inst. and Havana on the 6th. The following is a list of her passengers:

...

From Havana to New Orleans.--F. Rubiera; F. Jordan; J. Aliex; P. Dominich; J. Baldor;

A. Yznaga; J. Armenteras; J. W. Dunlap; **A. Gonzalez**; W. H. Frazer; J. W. Izaacks; J. Tardas; E. H. Green.

The Steamship Crescent City

OFF THE BALIZE, Aug. 9, 1848.

The undersigned, passengers in the steamship Crescent City, take occasion to express to Capt. Stoddard the very great satisfaction which they have experienced in their extremely comfortable and agreeable voyage in this beautiful vessel from New York to New Orleans.

Wm. M. Gwin, Thomas Slidell, Wm. H. Frazier, A. Deslonde U.S.N., A Deslonde Jr., H. de Labousselier, N. C. Folger, Henry Siebricht, Charles Stoughton, E. H. Green, Thos. C. Salter, J. McPherson, Franklin Soule, Thos. Hale, L. C. Petties, E. H. Tooker, Richard Lloyd, J. S. Lyon, J. M. Isaacks, F. Jorda, Joseph Alcia, J. W. Dunlop, Pedro Domenich, **Ambrosir G. Rufin**, Fran Rovira, Jules Tardos, Saml. Weir, P. Flood, John Williams, W. W. White, Ant. Yznaga Valle, Geo. Stump, Juan Armenteros, Mrs. W. S. Henry, Mrs. Morris, Miss Hartland.

The Charleston *Courier*

21 August 1848, p. 2

Arrivals at the Charleston Hotel.

AUG. 18--Hon. S. W. Harris, (M.C.) Mrs S. W. Harris and family...Hon. D. L. Yulee, (M.C.)... A. M. Weyman, West Point... Capt. J. Vaught, Mexico; **A. J. Gonzalie**, Havana; Miss H. O. Pearson, N.H.; J. N. Herndon, S.C.

JKP

Confidential

West Chester, Pa. Dec. 6/48

My Dear Sir,

I received yesterday a letter from my friend Mr. Gonzales (Ambrosio Jose) of the Island of Cuba, referring to bygone passages between us, and asking for letters of introduction to Washington, where he doubtless is by this time.

His business being of a perilous nature to himself, I shall give him but few, and enjoin upon him, as well as upon those to whom they are addressed, the utmost caution. With this admonition, I very cordially recommend him as a gentleman of high intelligence, and one in whose honourable principles & generous sentiments I have great confidence.

You are at liberty to say so in my name (I will even request you, on behalf of Mr. G. to do this) to any one whom you may consider it conducive to Mr. G.'s object that he be made acquainted with, and with whom my name may be likely to have weight. Except, however, in cases where a special reason may exist for not doing so, mt name had best be withheld.

I am, with very cordial respect

Yr ob servt.

N. P. Trist¹

Hon: Isaac E. Holmes
of South Carolina

¹ Nicholas Philip Trist (1800-1874). Married to the granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson. Private Secretary to President Andrew Jackson in 1831. Commissioned U.S. Consul to Havana from April 1833 to July 1841. Assistant Secretary of State in 1845, sent as peace commissioner to Mexico, where on 2 February 1848 he negotiated and signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the Mexican War.

House of Rept.
Washington

JKP

I wish Sir to request for my esteemed friend Mr. Gonzales, who will present this, something more than the usual courtesies of a note of introduction. Mr. Gonzales is a gentleman of Cuba and a republican patriot in theory as well as action. Every believer in the annexation of Cuba will find his statements and opinions of value for they are those of the true representative of true men.

I would request therefore for Mr. Gonzales your introduction to the most liberal of our northern members who desire to hear of Cuba.

Your resolutions on the much vexed of slavery in territories, will--that is the principle they embody--become in the end the law of democracy and the admitted protection of the peace of the Union. Their day is coming and it will be a bright one.

Please do send me a copy of them and of any thing that you think will give me light on the subject.

You will excuse my troubling you in these matters. I am sure as you are never weary of well-doing.

Very Respectfully
J. M. Storms²

Senator Dickinson³
N. York Jany. 4th 1849

Washington Daily National Whig
26 February 1849, 2
Arrivals at the principal hotels.
Irving Hotel
A J Gonzales, Cuba

JKP, Series 2, Reel 55.

Irving House, March 4th 1849

Mr. President:

I had the honor of being introduced to you in December last by Gen. Caleb Cushing. The nature of the mission which brought me hither precluded my return to my native island, so long as the present government endures. I have therefore adopted as my own, the country over which you have so gloriously presided for the last four years and in which I have received my education.

I, no doubt, encroach upon your kindness Sir, by asking you a recommendation for Gen. Taylor or Mr. Clayton, with the object of obtaining the Secretaryship of the commission for the adjustment of Mexican claims; for the discharge of which a thorough knowledge of the Spanish

² Jane McManus Storms (1807-1878), who under the penname Cora Montgomery was the editor of the Cuban exile annexationist newspaper *La Verdad* in New York City. She later wrote in other newspapers under her married name Jane Cazneau.

³ Daniel Stevens Dickinson (1800-1866). Democratic Senator from New York (1844-1851). Elected Attorney General of N.Y. State 1861; appointed by President Lincoln as U.S. Attorney for the southern district of N.Y. (1865-1866).

language is expressly required: but I trust that if a ray of that partiality which you have always evinced for the general interests of Cuba falls to the lot of one of his sons, you will excuse the liberty of this slip. I also feel confident that the circumstance of my being a stranger to party distinctions will enable you to recommend me without that *contrainte* you might otherwise experience.

Enclosed are two letters which I merely adjoin for the purpose of making myself better known to you. I beg of you, Sir, to return them after their perusal, under cover to me, to the keeper of the Irving House with such an answer as I may be honored with.

I must apologize, Mr. President, for this intrusion on your precious time and earnestly request your kind indulgence.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, your obt. sevt.,
Ambrosio J. Gonzales

To His Excellency James K. Polk,
President of the U.S. of America
[Envelope remittance:
Irving House, Washington]

BOOK⁴

“Meanwhile, López, with [Cristobal] Madan, [Gaspar] Betancourt Cisneros and other Cubans, especially Ambrosio José González, carried out in Washington diverse actions in search of support and became acquainted with politicians and influential elements. Narciso López met in different occasions with Southern patriarch John C. Calhoun, who told him that if the Cubans became independent the men of the South “should throw themselves on the island in open boats.”⁵ There were other interviews with Senators Douglas,⁶ Foote,⁷ Dickinson,⁸ [John] Henderson, etc. Ambrosio José González had access to all the social circles and even the White House as a consequence of powerful recommendations. Nicholas P. Trist, kin of Thomas Jefferson, who had been consul in Havana and later agent during the peace with Mexico, introduced him to Congressman Isaac E. Holmes, of South Carolina, in a letter that is in the papers of President Polk, for which it can be assumed that González got to see him.⁹ At the

⁴ . Herminio Portell Vilá, *Narciso López y su época (1848-1850)*, Vol. 2 (Havana: Compañía Editora de Libros y Folletos, 1952), 168.

⁵ . J. F. Jameson, ed., “Correspondence of John C. Calhoun,” *American Historical Association Report, 1899, II*, John L. O’Sullivan-Calhoun, Atlanta, 24 August 1849, p. 1202.

⁶ . Stephen Arnold Douglas (1813-1861). Democratic Senator from Illinois (1847-1861). Favored Cuban annexation.

⁷ . Henry Stuart Foote (1804-1880), born in Fauquier County, Va., Democratic Mississippi Senator (1847-1852), Governor of Mississippi (1852-1854).

⁸ . Daniel Stevens Dickinson (1800-1866). Democratic Senator from New York (1844-1851). Elected Attorney General of N.Y. state 1861; appointed by President Lincoln U.S. attorney for the southern district of N.Y. (1865-1866).

⁹ . Polk Papers, Library of Congress. Trist-Holmes, West Chester, December 6, 1848.

beginning of 1849 González was also introduced to Senator Dickinson with the warmest phrases of personal recommendation and sympathy for the annexation of Cuba.¹⁰

RG 21, District Courts of the United States, Naturalization file for Ambrosio José Gonzales (Naturalized 26 March 1849).

Circuit Court Washington County.

March Term 1849

Ambrosio J. Gonzalez makes oath in true form in open Court that he is now 29 years of age; that he is a native of Cuba, and at the time of his arrival in the United States owed allegiance to the Queen of Spain, that he emigrated from Cuba and arrived in the United States in the year 1828, being three years and more before he attained the age of twenty one years and that he intends to reside in the District of Columbia; that he resided in the United States three years next preceding his arriving at the age of twenty one years, and has continued to reside therein to this time, and that it is bonafide his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate state and sovereignty whatever and particularly to the Queen of Spain. And that for three years next preceding this time it has been bonafide his intention to become a citizen of the United States.

And also at the same time personally appears George A. Gardiner, a citizen of the U. States, who also makes oath in true form, that he is well acquainted with Ambrosio J. Gonzalez who is about to apply to be admitted a citizen of the United States, that he has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the U. States for five years at least last past, and one year at least last past within the District of Columbia, that during the whole of that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the U. States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Test: Jn. A. Smittich

CCP

Washington, March 29, 1849

My dear General:

Mr. Jones, as you are probably aware, has been appointed Secretary to the Board of Commissioners. Although, I confided in the support of very respectable friends the circumstance of my being an alien, induced me to postpone any application of the kind, until that impediment could be removed.

I have always been an American *de jure*: so far as what a man carries in his heart can confer that right. But now, I am glad to say, that since Monday last, I am also *de facto*.

I have come to the determination of fixing my residence in this country now my own, until the day in which my native island shall also be *a land of the free*. I am deeply interested in becoming thoroughly acquainted with your, I should say *our*, institutions and to practice the English language in connection with diplomatic business to all possible extent.

For these reasons I shall remain in this City, as it affords me the means of accomplishing my wishes: the more so should I succeed in obtaining an appointment at the hands of Mr. Clayton.¹¹

I am equally versed in the English, French, Spanish and Italian languages, and have a

¹⁰ . Polk Papers, Library of Congress, J. M. Storms-Senator Dickinson, New York, 4 January 1849.

¹¹ Secretary of State John M. Clayton.

tinge of German which I hope soon to perfect.

My friends are confident that as a linguist I could be of some use in the State Department. Should you concur in that opinion, you would place me under great obligations to you, by promoting my ends in the manner you might think best.

I cannot be blind to the fact that independently of party, as a man and as a scholar, any recommendation emanating from you will operate most favourably in my behalf.

This will account, General for the liberty I have assumed, and may, & hope induce you to excuse it.

Please direct, A. J. Gonzales, care of Dr. George A. Gardiner.

I am, with esteem and regard,

Your obt. Servt

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales

Gen. Caleb Cushing

Washington Daily National Whig

18 May 1849, 3

Arrivals at the principal hotels.

Irving Hotel

Ambrosio J Gonzales, Havana

PERIODICAL¹²

“Friday, July 27 [1849]--We are much excited this evening by the statement in the Union of the outrage committed in New Orleans, the abduction of a refuge patriot from Cuba. If true, and our government does its duty, we may witness some striking developments, and the annexation of Cuba, sooner than the most sanguine anticipate. We have here now an accomplished native of Cuba, who is a liberalist and champion of annexation (General Ambrosio Gonzalez). He has a magnificent voice, and, in giving full effect to the splendid air from the Puritani, ‘Souna La Tromba,’ I was struck with the emphasis with which he parted forth the magic word ‘Libertà!’ At the close of every night’s ball we have a rich treat in his music, and that of some excellent singers of the other sex. Tonight he sang with unusual spirit, after the news from New Orleans.”

“On Monday night, July 30th... Nineteen volunteer toasts were offered. Then Col. Spalding of the Virginia press announced ‘there was present this evening a Cuban patriot. His presence brought to mind the recent abduction from a Southern city of a Spanish refugee under our flag; he would say to the Captain General of Cuba, may it prove to him a Molino del Rey!’¹³ and he gave the health of Gen. Ambrosio Gonzalez.

Gonzalez gave his toast: ‘To the coming sister of the South, to the future gem State of the Union, the Island of Cuba.’”

Richmond Enquirer

7 August 1849, 4

Supper to Ellwood Fisher.

Editorial Correspondence.

¹² . Frederick William Franck, “The Virginia Legislature at the Fauquier Springs in 1849,” *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, January 1950, 77, 81.

¹³ The Battle of Molino del Rey led to the fall of Mexico City during the Mexican War.

Fauquier Springs, July 31, 1849.

...The Supper, which commenced soon after 9 and closed at half past 12, took place in the large drawing room at two parallel tables, handsomely lit up and dotted with champagne and other wine bottles. Over 100 Senators, members, and their guest, were seated. Gen. Scott, speaker of the Senate, a cavalier of the old school, was to have presided, but he was, unfortunately, kept away by sickness. The duties of President were admirably performed by Mr. Speaker [Colonel H. L.] Hopkins, of the House, ably assisted by Messrs. [Charles James] Faulkner, Strother and G. W. Munford, as Vice Presidents; the latter, on the last reading of the toasts, giving a peculiar emphasis and twang in his inimitably happy manner. Each of the regular toasts was set off by some appropriate air from Webber's delightful band, which the ladies in the ball-room above vouch-safed at a late hour; not, however, without a sweetly arch expression of offended dignity at being treated as "outsiders" on this occasion. Some of them, however, yielded to their curiosity, and glanced their bright flashes at the speakers through the doors and windows.

...Col. Spalding said he begged leave to propose a sentiment. There was present this evening a Cuban patriot, as a guest, who was interested in a cause which met with a response from every man present--the advancement of human liberty. His presence at the board, brought to his mind the recent abduction from a Southern city of a Spanish refugee who was under our flag; and in this connection, he would say to the Captain General of Cuba, that it may prove to him a Molino del Rey!

He gave the health of Mr. Ambrosio Gonzalez.

Mr. Gonzalez said, that in response to the complimentary sentiment which had just been given by one of the Representatives of the Virginia press on this occasion, he returned the thanks of himself and his countrymen, and trusted that he would be permitted to intrude the name of a country, which, though actually out of the pale of the American Union, he felt happy to say, was familiar to the ear, and akin to the heart of the American people.

He gave: To the coming sister of the South--to the future gem State of the Union--the Island of Cuba. She will prove a bulwark against external foes, an inexhaustible source of internal prosperity. May her disenthralment form the complement of American liberty....

KRC [translated]

Sunday 12 August 1849

My hoary Gonzales--

I hasten to let you know that various reports have been received here from different parts, by letters and by the rail lightning; they are *official* news-- and that the *uncle* cannot delay any further to take means. I am making my efforts to retard it. By the latest news from the mouth of the Great n'o, his friend White was in the vicinity with seven hundred-- that he was ready to direct to the peninsula,¹⁴ and not the island.¹⁵ This was last Thursday-- by lightning.

I have received your two letters, by [...] I have not dared to take neither one, as I am not strong in financial matters, and I fear learning more than [...]. The lady is absent-- and I am unmarried.

¹⁴ Yucatan.

¹⁵ Cuba.

May God give you intelligence to comprehend this letter.

Your Friend

There is still a report from the great *tragic poet* who is very annoying.

[Envelope postmarked:] Washington, D.C. Aug. 13

[Addressed to:] Mr. A. Gonzales

~~Warrenton Springs, Virginia~~

[Returned:] Warrenton Springs, Aug 14th

[Forwarded:] Washington, D.C.

Washington Daily National Intelligencer

28 August 1849, 3

At a supper lately given to Mr. Ellwood Fisher at the Sulphur Springs, in Virginia, there were a variety of toasts drunk, some of which were tolerable, and others were as flat as champagne that has been uncorked a week. One of the invited guests at the entertainment was a Mr. Gonzalez, who, in answer to a complimentary toast, made a very brief speech and gave a toast. This gentleman, as we infer from his toast, is a resident of the Island of Cuba. He toasted that much-talked of island as "*the coming sister of the South--the future gem State of the Union.*"

When logic runs a muck with prophecy it is sure to be baffled. A prophecy cannot be answered. It is a subject for faith to act on, and is altogether too transcendental for reason to control or direct. Whatever may be said of the modesty of a Cuban in toasting his island as the future "gem State" of the Union, long before the public of this country has expressed a wish to have such a "gem" in our national casket, or national nose, or in our national ear, there can be no question that when Mr. Gonzalez ranked Cuba as more valuable than any of the States of our Confederacy, he offered very little flattery to our present sisterhood of Commonwealths, the poorest of which would feel shocked at the impudence of Cuba if Cuba were to assume to be her equal.

We propose that Mr. "Ambrosio Gonzalez," the gentleman who is all the way from Cuba, have leave to withdraw his toast.--*Louisville Journal.*

New York Herald

3 October 1849, 2

The Hotels.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

E. Wheelright, C. H. Wheelright, O. C. Everett and lady, Mr. Maitland, Mr. Mills, Boston; G. W. Gifford, Porto Rico; M. Etruver, Germany; **A. Gonzales**, Havana, were among the arrivals at the Union Place Hotel yesterday.

New York Herald

26 October 1849, 2

The Hotels.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Signor L. de la Rosa, Mexican Minister to the United States, lady and daughter; O. Perez, Washington; Dr. Davis and daughter, S.C.; **Mr. Gonzales**, Havana; Mr. and Mrs. Reese, Mr. McDonald, N.Y.; B. Small and lady, Pa. were among the arrivals, yesterday, at the Union Place Hotel.

New York Herald
28 October 1849, 2

Passengers Sailed.

Charleston, &c--Steamship Isabel--...Mr Gongalez...

Washington Republic
6 November 1849, 3.

ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS

Irving Hotel

Corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 12th Street

A. J. Gonzales, Cuba

New York Herald

6 December 1849, 1

Revolution in Cuba--New and Important Movement.

Yesterday, we received from the persons whose names are attached to the document, the following announcement, or *pronunciamiento*, as it may be called, stating to the public and the world, that a movement for effecting a revolution in the Island of Cuba has been re commenced, as will be seen by the following paper:--

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD--

The undersigned beg leave to avail themselves of your widely distributed columns to announce, to all who may be interested in such an announcement, that, by appointment from General Don Narciso Lopez, well known in the United States, as well as Cuba, as the head of the late projected revolution for the liberation at that Island from the oppressions and degradation of its present condition, they have accepted and undertaken, in concert with General Lopez, the duties and responsibilities of a "Patriotic junta for the promotion of the political interests of Cuba." Without infringing on the laws of this country, by the present announcement, or contemplating hereafter any action which they will not stand prepared to justify before all tribunals, human and Divine, they feel that it is alike due to their cause and their country, to stand forth openly to meet all the responsibilities which attach to their undisguised hopes, aspirations, and course; at the same time that they are enabled to serve as a centre for correspondence, with a view to concert, to the thousands of noble spirits who, in all sections of this Union, sigh to behold the slavery and suffering of Cuba, and long to contribute any aid, honorably and legitimately in their power, to her relief.

This honorable trust, associating the undersigned, for the purposes indicated, with the illustrious patriot and chief who will preside over the junta, they have accepted, as a duty not to be declined; profoundly distrustful, indeed, of their own ability or worthiness, but supported by the conscious rectitude of their motives, and by an unhesitating confidence in the favor of Heaven, and in the generous sympathies of the noble and free American people.

Copies of the present announcement are, at the same time, sent to the editors of *La Verdad*, *El Correo de los dos Mundos*, *Sun*, *Evening Post*, and *Tribune*, of New York; the *Union* and *Republic*, of Washington; the *Whig* and *Enquirer* of Richmond; the *Courier* and *Mercury* of Charleston; the *Chronicle* and *Journal* of Louisville; and the *Delta* and *Picayune*, of New Orleans; and the editors of all other papers are respectfully requested to copy it. One of the names attached is left in blank, because the gentleman indicated is at a distance from this city,

and it is not deemed proper to make it public before the reception of notice of his acceptance.

The *Junta Promovedora de los intereses Políticos de Cuba* will shortly establish itself at the city of Washington, to which city may be addressed directly to General Lopez, (post paid,) all correspondence of its friends, box 51, post office.

With great respect, your obedient servants,

AMBROSIO JOSE GONZALES, of Matanzas.

JOSE SANCHEZ YZNAGA, of Trinidad de Cuba.

CIRILO VILLAVARDE, of Havana.

J. M. MACIAS, of Matanzas.

New York, December 5, 1849.

This is, certainly, very clear and distinct. These patriots do not give up the project of effecting a revolution in Cuba, in spite of the disastrous failure which overtook the expedition recently. Experience, however, has given them a lesson; and the new movers in the projected revolution intend, so far as their operations are confined to this country, to move within the limits of the law. We learn, however, from other sources, that an effort will be made during the present session of Congress, to repeal the famous neutrality laws, under which the proclamation was issued by the administration, and which put a stop to the sailing of the expedition for Cuba.

Upon the whole, this movement appears to be a matter a little beyond a joke. In fact, it becomes *opera seria*.

New York Herald

8 December 1849, 7

13, 14 December 1849, 4

LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING IN THE NEW YORK Post Office, December 8, 1849.

GENTLEMEN'S LIST.

G

Gonzales A J

Washington Daily Union

Sunday, 9 December 1849, 3.

Cuba

The following important announcement will best speak for itself. Whatever may be the plans of our Cuban friends, it is evident that they are determined to steer safely clear of liability to further "proclamations," whether Presidential or Randolphian:

To the Editors of the Washington Union:

The undersigned beg leave to avail themselves of your widely distributed columns to announce, to all who may be interested in such an announcement, that, by appointment from General Don Narciso Lopez, well known in the United States, as well as Cuba, as the head of the late projected revolution for the liberation at that Island from the oppressions and degradation of its present condition, they have accepted and undertaken, in concert with General Lopez, the duties and responsibilities of a "patriotic junta for the promotion of the political interests of Cuba." Without infringing on the laws of this country, by the present announcement, or contemplating hereafter any action which they will not stand prepared to justify before all tribunals, human and divine, they feel that it is alike due to their cause and their country to stand forth openly to meet all the responsibilities which attach to their undisguised hopes, aspirations, and course; at the same time that they are enabled to serve as a centre for correspondence, with a

view to concert, to the thousands of noble spirits who, in all sections of this Union, sigh to behold the slavery and suffering of Cuba, and long to contribute any aid, honorably and legitimately in their power, to her relief.

This honorable trust, associating the undersigned, for the purposes indicated, with the illustrious patriot and chief who will preside over the junta, they have accepted, as a duty not to be declined; profoundly distrustful, indeed, of their own ability or worthiness, but supported by the conscious rectitude of their motives, and by an unhesitating confidence in the favor of Heaven, and in the generous sympathies of the noble and free American people.

Copies of the present announcement are, at the same time, sent to the editors of *La Verdad*, *El Correo de los dos Mundos*, Sun, Evening Post, Herald, and Tribune, of New York; the Republic, of Washington; the Whig and Enquirer of Richmond; the Courier and Mercury of Charleston; the Chronicle and Journal of Louisville; and the Delta and Picayune, of New Orleans; and the editors of all other papers are respectfully requested to copy it. One of the names attached is left in blank, because the gentleman indicated is at a distance from this city, and it is not deemed proper to make it public before the reception of notice of his acceptance.

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With great respect, your obedient servants,
AMBROSIO JOSE GONZALES, of Matanzas.
JOSE SANCHEZ YZNAGA, of Trinidad de Cuba.
CIRILO VILLAVERDE, of Havana.
J. M. MACIAS, of Matanzas.

New York, December 5, 1849.

Washington Republic
10 December 1849, 2.

Sunday Evening, Dec. 9.

Will the editors please publish the following in to-morrow's paper:

To the Editors of the Washington Republic:

The undersigned beg leave to avail themselves of your widely distributed columns to announce, to all who may be interested in such an announcement, that, by appointment from General Don Narciso Lopez, well known in the United States, as well as Cuba, as the head of the late projected revolution for the liberation at that Island from the oppressions and degradation of its present condition, they have accepted and undertaken, in concert with General Lopez, the duties and responsibilities of a "patriotic junta for the promotion of the political interests of Cuba." Without infringing on the laws of this country, by the present announcement, or contemplating hereafter any action which they will not stand prepared to justify before all tribunals, human and divine, they feel that it is alike due to their cause and their country to stand forth openly to meet all the responsibilities which attach to their undisguised hopes, aspirations, and course; at the same time that they are enabled to serve as a centre for correspondence, with a view to concert, to the thousands of noble spirits who, in all sections of this Union, sigh to behold the slavery and suffering of Cuba, and long to contribute any aid, honorably and legitimately in their power, to her relief.

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illustrious patriot and chief who will preside over the junta, they have accepted, as a duty not to be declined; profoundly distrustful, indeed, of their own ability or worthiness, but supported by the conscious rectitude of their motives, and by an unhesitating confidence in the favor of Heaven, and in the generous sympathies of the noble and free American people.

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With great respect, your obedient servants,
AMBROSIO JOSE GONZALES, of Matanzas.
JOSE SANCHEZ YZNAGA, of Trinidad de Cuba.
CIRILO VILLAVARDE, of Havana.
J. M. MACIAS, of Matanzas.

New York, December 5, 1849.

La Verdad (New York)
13 December 1849, 3

To the Editor of "La Verdad."

The undersigned beg leave to avail themselves of your widely distributed columns to announce, to all who may be interested in such an announcement, that, by appointment from General Don Narciso Lopez, well known in the United States, as well as Cuba, as the head of the late projected revolution for the liberation at that Island from the oppressions and degradation of its present condition, they have accepted and undertaken, in concert with General Lopez, the duties and responsibilities of a "PATRIOTIC JUNTA FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE POLITICAL INTERESTS OF CUBA." Without infringing on the laws of this country, by the present announcement, or contemplating hereafter any action which they will not stand prepared to justify before all tribunals, human and divine, they feel that it is alike due to their cause and their country to stand forth openly to meet all the responsibilities which attach to their undisguised hopes, aspirations, and course; at the same time that they are enabled to serve as a centre for correspondence, with a view to concert, to the thousands of noble spirits who, in all sections of this Union, sigh to behold the slavery and suffering of Cuba, and long to contribute any aid, honorably and legitimately in their power, to her relief. This honorable trust, associating the undersigned, for the purposes indicated, with the illustrious patriot and chief who will preside over the junta, they have accepted, as a duty not to be declined; profoundly distrustful, indeed, of their own ability or worthiness, but supported by the conscious rectitude of their motives, and by an unhesitating confidence in the favor of Heaven, and in the generous sympathies of the noble and free American people.

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AMBROSIO JOSE GONZALES, of Matanzas.
JOSE SANCHEZ YZNAGA, of Trinidad de Cuba.
CIRILO VILLAVARDE, of Havana.
J. M. MACIAS, of Matanzas.

New York, December 1, 1849.

Washington *Republic*
17 December 1849, 3.
ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS

Irving Hotel
Corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 12th Street
A. J. Gonzalez, Cuba

Daily Cincinnati Commercial
27 February 1850, 1.
ARRIVALS AT THE PRINCIPAL HOTELS
UP TO 5 O'CLOCK LAST EVENING
BROADWAY HOTEL--Joseph Cromwell, Proprietor
A T Soncaler [A J Gonzales], Cuba
Gen Lopez, do

Claiborne, John F. H. *Life and Correspondence of John A. Quitman, major-general, U.S.A., and governor of the state of Mississippi*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1860, pp. 383-385.

Jackson, Miss., March 17th, 1850.

To Governor J. A. Quitman,

This shall attest, that we, General Narciso Lopez, chief of a mediated expedition for the assertion and establishment of Cuban independence, and Ambrosio José Gonzales, member of the 'Patriotic Junta' organized in the United States of North America for promotion of the same object, do, on our own account and responsibility, and on behalf of our coadjutors in the United States, and of the people of Cuba in whose behalf all our proceedings are instituted, propose to the Hon. John A. Quitman, now Governor of the State of Mississippi, and late major general in the army of the United States operating in Mexico, to join and co-operate with us and all the good people of Cuba in their meditated struggle against the tyranny of Spain; and as inducement for a frank and fraternal co-operation with us Cubans in that behalf, and to insure to us, by the consideration of his popular and highly distinguished military character, and his well-tryed experience in civil and political council, the active sympathies and confidence of his countrymen, to whom, in this behalf, we also appeal as brethren for their cordial assistance, we

do specially and distinctly propose that, upon engaging personally in such service, the said General John A. Quitman shall be invested with the office and powers of general-in-chief of the organization, movement, and operations of all the military and naval force which shall or may be employed in behalf of the contemplated revolution, and in behalf of which organization and movement I, the said General Lopez, who, in conjunction with other patriotic Cubans, have instigated said revolution, do cheerfully consent and propose to act as second in military command to the said General John A. Quitman.

And we, the said General Lopez and the said A. J. Gonzales, for ourselves and on behalf of the patriots of Cuba, and in the cause of Cuban independence, do promise to the said General Quitman the united and fraternal support of the people of Cuba in sustaining the authority of the said General Quitman with all respectful and prompt subordination to his military command.

We also engage for the people of Cuba that the said General J. A. Quitman shall be liberally compensated in financial provision for his personal services, and that all officers and soldiers who shall join his standard from the United States or elsewhere shall also be liberally and fairly remunerated for their military services at rates and upon terms to be approved by the said General John A. Quitman.

That in consummating these ends and objects we pledge, on our part, zeal, devotion, and fidelity, and submit in confidence to the well-established honor and integrity of the said General Quitman that he will so discharge the high and delicate trusts of his great commission as to maintain good-will and harmony among the various departments and interests subject to his command, and in such manner as shall best achieve the prosperity and glory of the common cause.

To give better assurance to these propositions, it is intended that General Lopez shall repair to Cuba with all dispatch, and at once raise the standard of Cuban independence, and will, from the field of revolution, furnish General Quitman sufficient evidence that the people of Cuba approve these suggestions, and will welcome his presence to aid their cause as herein indicated.

It is believed by General Lopez that General Quitman will concede that he, General Lopez, with the approval of the Cubans, shall be the recognized head of the civil administration, and that so much of civil authority as may be safely confided to the civilian during the conflict of arms about to be waged is reserved from this proposition, and is to be exercised and put in operation as emergencies and the most judicious policy of the parties interested may from time to time suggest and approve, having ever in view the ultimate triumph and establishment of free democratic republican government, and ultimate annexation to the great confederation of the United States of the North.

If these propositions are favorably responded to by General Quitman, General Lopez, in proceeding to open the campaign, will point his proclamations and course of action with reference to such anticipated juncture, and will hope with greatest confidence, from such united action, for the glory and freedom of his country.

Narciso Lopez,
Ambrosio José Gonzalez

ADDENDA

All the means and expenses for fitting out military expeditions, and furnishing supplies and munitions of war from the United States or elsewhere, shall be provided for by Cuba, and General Quitman will in no case be expected to incur personal responsibilities involving his private fortune.

Narciso Lopez,
Ambrosio José Gonzalez

Jackson, March 18th, 1850.

General Narciso Lopez, chief, etc., etc.
Senr. Ambrosio José Gonzales, member, etc.
Gentlemen,

I received with profound gratitude the manifestation of your great confidence in my character and abilities contained in the proposals which you did me the honor to submit to me on yesterday.

My devotion to the cause of civil liberty, and to the extension of the glorious republican principles of our government to the adjoining states of America, powerfully urge me to accept your proposals.

Were I entirely free to act upon the impulses of my own inclinations, convinced as I am that civil liberty and human happiness would be promoted by the successful termination of your patriotic enterprise, I would at once embark in it, on one condition only: that the people of Cuba, by their own free act, should first erect the standard of independence. I am now, however, bound by official engagements to the people of my own state, which do not leave me at this time at liberty to contract obligations inconsistent with my assumed duties. It is possible, however, that, after a short period, these obligations, which my sense of duty now imposes on me, will cease to exist.

In that event, should circumstances be favorable, I should be disposed to accept your proposals. Leaving myself, however, free to decline your propositions under any contingencies which might make it advisable in my estimation so to do, I can not ask that you should remain even conditionally committed to your propositions. On the contrary, I recognize your entire right in the mean time to adopt any measures you may deem proper for the promotion of your great enterprise, without reference to the proposals you have tendered to me.

Under whatever circumstances they may be prosecuted, confident that your motives are purely patriotic, I hope that success may crown your efforts in behalf of your oppressed country.

John A. Quitman

JQP

Natchez, March 20th 1850

[To Governor John A. Quitman]

Dear Sir:

I have the honor of addressing you this note at the suggestion of our friend Genl. Henderson, in order to give you the views of Genl. Lopez and myself of the subject of answering Mr. M.¹⁶ propositions, as you expressed a desire to know them.

The omission of any proper name or circumstance which might place Mr. M. and his compeers in our track and the reiteration of your declaration to us, that "you could not engage until the people of Cuba, by their own free act, should first erect the standard of Independence" would, in our opinion, meet our wishes so far as we may be concerned in said communication.

General L. remains here for a few days and then leaves for N.O. Our indefatigable and

¹⁶ Cuban emigre Cristobal Madan, opposed to the Lopez plans.

true friend General Henderson¹⁷ will leave with me this evening, himself for Bayou Sara whence he will proceed to Wilkinson county: myself for N.O. direct.

Any communications which you may be pleased to make to me will safely come to hand by addressing the initials A.J.G. Box S 154 Post-office = New Orleans.

Genl. H. gives me to-day the very cheering news that prospects are brightening more and more at Washington.

With the joint regards of Genl. L. and myself for yourself and family, I remain, Sir, very truly

your obt. servt.

Ambrosio Jose Gonzales

P.S.

Mr. Henderson is a very *progressive* man.

JQP

New Orleans March 23d 1850

My dear Sir:

when you stated in conversation some days ago that you would be in this city 15 days from that time, I remarked that it might be too late for the purpose we derived it. I have since corrected that idea and I am now of opinion that as we can not possibly leave before the 10th or 12th of next month, your presence in the city at the time indicated by you, would be of incalculable value to ourselves. I have received very cheering news from California which I have transmitted to my friend this day. I will give you the details when we shall have the pleasure of seeing you here.

I would thank you to send me the name of your mother.

I now forward to you a New York paper. Enclosed are extracts unconsciously calculated, some to reassure the public mind with regard to the slaves while they direct the attention of the same to remote quarters. Our position cannot be better.

As some deficiency may occur in numbers at a late hour, would it be in your power to take such steps within your state, that, with a *reserve* gotten up through your personal friends, it might be filled up if need be?

With great respect,

I subscribe myself

your obt. servt.

A. J. Gonzales

Genl. John A. Quitman
Jackson,

Miss.

JQP

New Orleans April 5th 1850

Dear Sir:

Your favor of March 31st was handed to me by our friend Mr. Henderson, yesterday

¹⁷ Attorney John Henderson, former Mississippi Whig senator.

morning. In the evening I had the pleasure of an introduction to Genl. Smith¹⁸ and Maj. Bunch¹⁹ who also handed me two notes of presentation from you.

I will say in answer to your inquiries 1: that none of the emigrants will arrive here until the very day appointed for our sailing. It is our intention that no steps shall be taken in N.O. which may diffuse the knowledge of this matter, at present circumscribed to a very few persons. By not having the emigrants here until the day of sailing a much greater degree of secrecy is insured than otherwise. 2: Major Theodore O'Hara, who I believe was in your staff in Mexico, commands the Kentuckians. He has been Editor of a Kentucky paper and started lately the Champion of Reform, if I mistake not. Among the officers associated with him are Adair, Craig, Hancock, Field, Mr. Pickett, late U.S. consul at Turk's Islands. All belonging to the best families in the State and all efficient men as I have been told. Most of them have served in Mexico and some have been in West Point. 3: I am now contracting for a steamer of nearly 600 hundred tons; she carried during the Mexican War 560 men at one time, and her owner assures me that she can very conveniently carry 600. Great hopes are held out to me of effecting the negotiation. The basis is this: to pay the owners \$10,000 cash on our arrival in C. and \$40,000 in bonds. I have extended the contract to as many 500 men as they may be able to take over within 30 day after our departure and at the same rate \$100,000 in bonds to be given them in case they succeed in landing in C. 3,000 men within the 30 days above mentioned.

The owners and captain of the steamer wee no difficulty whatever in getting out safely, with a tolerable supply of arms, and in going into one of our ports. As one of the owners is still to be consulted, I cannot know the definite answer until to-night. I hope it will be favorable: for that is the corner stone. 4: The steamer is actually in the Chagres line and it will be on the return of her actual trip that, without awakening suspicion, she will take us out, and drop us in the way. 5: Our friend has not decided yet where he will land. He has many plans: according as the force he takes ranges from 200 to 600 men, so will the plan be which he will adopt as also according to any further news he may receive from the island. 6: We hope to be enabled to sail on the first day of May: as by that day we can reasonably expect that the transportation will be secured and ready, the men all in, and the money collected which we consider barely necessary for the great point the starting under successful auspices of our revolution. 7: The news from the land are cheering. All are expecting us. Some with dread, some with hope and anxiety. The brother of one of our Junta,²⁰ in a recent letter writes to the latter, that he had just returned from Vuelta Abajo and that the chiefs were ready on the moment the Genl. should land, to seize the forts of Cabanas, Mariel and Bahiahonda, and the towns of Guanajay, Mantua and Pinar del Rio; the latter the capital of the Province; and that by themselves for as I have stated to you they have several thousand men already armed and munitioned. The remainder of the island is in the same state of feeling and the organization although not so compact is more formidable for it embraces the men who for their wealth and influence are the lights of our people. Among this news I will include that of the Havana Club having completely disavowed and rebuked the New York Consejo, presided by Mr. Madan. You know that this Club is composed of men of great wealth,

¹⁸ Lt. Col. Peter S. Smith.

¹⁹ William J. Bunch.

²⁰ Juan Villaverde, brother of Junta member Cirilo Villaverde.

of progressive views although not of practical abilities in these matters nor of the desirable knowledge of the resources to be found in the country or facilities to aid us materially, nor of sufficient energy and decision to subvert a state of long existing things. It is shielded behind the promise given by these men, and counting upon the guarantees which they have placed in his possession for the purpose of contracting a loan under certain specific conditions, that Mr. Madan has acted throughout this whole affair. Now these gentlemen have sent an official letter to our friend the genl. which came by the last arrival of the Falcon. In said letter they notify the Genl. that they have ceased all official intercourse with the New York Consejo because they consider it incapable of organizing an expedition. That the proposition for reunion which the Genl. had made to said improvised corporation were deemed admissible by them. That although Mr. Madan and Betancourt had still their confidence, in case they should not unite with the Genl., they would name other commissioners in their stead. That their guarantees were not to be touched until such reunion with the Genl. should be effected and that they would take no part in any combination which should exclude Genl. Lopez without whom nothing could be done in Cuba -- and to the New York Consejo they have addressed the following words "We are henceforth entirely disconnected with that body for the want of ability and policy which it has exhibited in alienating Genl. L. without whom nothing can be done in C. and to show our disapprobation of the want of courtesy and consideration with which a genl. has been treated who is certainly entitled to all the respect and gratitude of his countrymen." On the reception of this communication in N. York by the Consejo, there was a great flareup. Mr. Madan and three more called for its dissolution which I suppose has taken place by this time. Three of the members have left for Europe and the remainder except two say that they have been humbugged and that they will follow the Genl. whenever he will admit them. This he will be glad to do.

With regard to the communication from Havana, it would be all very well if a clause were not inserted requiring that their guaranties shall not be used *until the certainty is acquired that the U.S. government will not prevent the sailing of an expedition*. This destroys the whole. But even without that, the Genl. has no confidence in Mr. M.²¹ The time which would be lost would be more than six months in carrying out new and what is more, in his conviction, impracticable plans. He doubts moreover the sincerity of men who have left him some experience in the matter and last of all he is too near his object to do else than admit the cooperation of these gentlemen in the only manner that it can be made available and practicable. He has written to them to the effect of obtaining for the forces which are to follow him, the armament usurped by Mr. M. which is now in the hands of a N.O. banker and then instructing them to give immediate orders to Mr. M. to place at the disposal of his agents here and for the furtherance of American troops the famous guaranties which he is convinced would never come to light, unless by compulsion or necessity. We have not the slightest doubts that all these gentlemen repenting of their proceeding and immensely interested in the success of the movement, will, *when once started* come with all their means and support to the aid of the Genl. Before this time, a thousand petty motives and childish apprehensions will enerve their actions. In the news from N. York I will include that the Hungarian patriots have offered their services to us and to sell us 16 pieces of artillery of 12 p. calibre. So says one of our friends. 8: With regard to the 2d party, you know how limited our means are and how at a loss how to provide *immediately* for its equipment and support. As the news of our sailing from these shores and still

²¹ Cristobal Madan.

more so those of our landing will necessarily create an extraordinary excitement and interest in this country. The bonds which the Genl will leave with his friends will be taken up with more favor than this can be now. There is a source of immediate use for the 2d party. Besides the Genl. is confident of sending from 50 to \$100,000 in cash as soon as he lands on the island by the return steamer and more afterwards by the steamer he has there.

The 750 muskets, 200 rifles, 200 sabres, 100 revolvers, 1,000 lances, 1300 uniforms, hats and cartridge boxes, 100,000 cartridges, 1 howitzer with ammunition & composing our former armament must necessarily be placed at the disposal of the Genl. as soon as he leaves; and finally the guaranties alluded to above which Mr. M. could not escape giving over. If the transportation be contracted the principal difficulty and expense will be removed, for the men could be had at their own homes until the [...] would be in readiness. 9: The second party should land in bodies of 500 men whenever you should have the means to forward them, which we would strenuously exert ourselves in furnishing to you. 10: Of the disposition of our people, I will only say as a very eloquent and significant fact, that in some cities of C. the ladies have given up dancing and attending to public festivities in token of mourning. A revival of the act of your revolutionary matrons.

I hope you will excuse the writing for the sake of the hurry in which I am for the mail. On your visit which I trust will soon take place, I shall be able to be still more minute. We want very much at this stage of our affairs of your presence in this city. In your aid in getting us out and your valuable cooperation hereafter we principally rely as the main pillar of our success.

With very cordial assurances of the consideration of the Genl. and myself

I remain

Your obt. sevt.

Ambrosio J. Gonzales

Genl. John A. Quitman

Jackson

Miss.

From letters received today from the West, I see that we have there the full numbers of 200 select emigrants. But in case we can get the steamer I have referred to, which I will know by tomorrow, what steps could be taken to secure the balance of the required number from Mississippi, that clan of men who could pay their expenses down the river?

Despatches from United States Consuls in Havana, 1783-1906, Roll 23, Vol. 23, Microcopy T-20, NA.

With Consul Campbell's letter of 19 May 1850.

Translation

Don Francisco Javier Mendoza, Knight of the Royal American Order of Isabel the Catholic, Captain of Infantry, with a medal of distinction, and one of the prosecuting attorneys (fiscal) of the Court of the permanent executive military Commission of this Island.

Whereas D. Cirilo Villaverde, who made his escape from the Prison of this Capital, D. José Maria Sanchez Iznaga, D. Ambrosio José Gonzalez, D. Juan Manuel Macías, the Licentiate D. Pedro Agüero, D. Victoriano de Arrieta, D. Gaspar de Betancourt y Cisneros (alias) el Lugareño, and D. Cristóbal Mádan, whom I am prosecuting for the crime of conspiracy against the legitimate rights of Her Majesty (Whom God Save) directed to bring on an insurrection in this country and the Island of Puerto Rico, to obtain their independence from the Metropolis, the

two former who have before been tried, and incurred the penalties of rebels, insisting in their previous criminal projects, have absented themselves from this city and other places of the Island, where they had been residing, exercising the powers conferred by Royal ordinances upon officers of the Army. I do by this my first proclamation, cite, call, and summon the above named individuals to present themselves personally within the precise term of nine days at the Public Prison of this place to produce their pleas and legitimate defences, in the understanding that if it is not complied with in the given time, the actions will be continued against them, and they will be sentenced as rebels by the Council of War of this Court without being further called or summoned, for such is Her Majesty's Will. Let this proclamation be fixed at the customary places, and published in the official Gazette that it may reach the notice of all. Havana May 7th 1850. Francisco Xavier Mendoza -- José Fernandez Cotá, Secretary.

New Orleans Evening Picayune
21 June 1850, 1

U.S. DISTRICT COURT.--The Grand Jury of this court came in this morning at 20 minutes to 1 o'clock, and found true bills against the following persons, as having been engaged in the Cuba expedition, in violation of the statute:

Narciso Lopez, John A. Quitman, C. Pinckney Smith, John Henderson, J. L. O'Sullivan, Theodore O'Hara, L. J. Sigur, D. Augustin, R. Wheat, Thos. T. Hawkins, John F. Pickett, J. A. Hayden, W. H. Bell, N. J. Bunce, Peter Smith, and **Gonzales**.

New York Tribune
25 June 1850, 4

Arrival of Cuban Invaders in Custody.

NEW-ORLEANS, Thursday, June 20.

The U.S. Marshal has arrived from Key West with Cols. Gonzales, O'Hara and Pickett, and Capt. Lewis, Cuban Invasionists, in custody.

Cincinnati Daily Enquirer
27 June 1850, 2

The Key West correspondent of the Charleston Mercury says that Gen. Gonzales and Col. O'Hara and Pickett are to be sent to New Orleans for trial, as soon as the condition of their wounds permits their removal.

BOOK²²

SKETCH OF ADJT. GEN. GONZALES.

"A. J. Gonzales, who received at Mugerres, the appointment of Adjutant General, was born of respectable parents, at Matanzas, in the Island of Cuba. He left the place of his nativity at an early age, and in the city of New York, carried off the highest honors of his class. By excellent fortune, the directors of his college were exiles from sunny France, who spared no pains to imbue the young man and promising Cuban, with correct ideas of Republican principles. Returning to his oppressed country, the pursuit of the law seemed to afford the best avenue for his restless spirit. We find him graduating in that department at the age of twenty. The rank

²² Richardson Hardy, *An Authentic History of the Cuban Expedition* (Cincinnati: Lorenzo Stratton, 1850), 79-81.

pollution that beset him on every side, soon disgusted him with the avocation in which he had embarked. Until the age of twenty-six, (a thing unprecedented in the history of literary institutions,) he remained a Professor of latin, mathematics, geography, and modern languages, in the two royal colleges of Havana. There are few instances on record, of one so young, possessed of such varied accomplishments and occupying so prominent a position. It is not surprising, that the requisite confinement, and application and assiduity would soon impair the most vigorous constitution. At this time, the sudden death of a beloved parent weighed heavily upon the natural buoyancy of his spirits. He resolved upon a change of employment and scenery. Two years were now spent in the excitement of travel in Spain and the United States. If his ardent soul had faltered at any previous time, in the choice between tyranny and the glowing charms of Republican freedom, he could palter to the sense no longer. Oppression, in its most abject and loathsome character, afforded a wonderful contrast to the pervading happiness and prosperity of a people who exercised, in its fullest extent, the right of government. He loved his native isle, and like the daughters of Judea, he wept in secret, as he remembered her woe and captivity. The polished man of letters, the adept in ancient and modern lore, determined, from that time forth, to devote his recruited energies, and the talents which the God of nature had bestowed upon him with no unsparing profusion, to the redemption and disenthralment of the bright and sunny island that gave him birth. We find him again in Cuba, a full-blown conspirator, plotting, in conjunction with the noble Creoles, against a foul foreign domination. While we reflect, that a very large body of the more gifted and influential of the islanders are solemnly committed to this enterprize, and that Gen. Gonzales was unanimously appointed one of the four of the secret 'junta for the promotion of the political interests of Cuba,' and that he was deputed a commissioner to solicit the services of Gen. Worth in aid of the contemplated revolution, it can well be imagined that a spotless reputation, and inordinate talents, could alone have inspired such boundless confidence.

"A casual observer would pronounce Gonzales a deep and powerful thinker. A heavy, and somewhat sluggish, yet strongly marked countenance would indicate a preference for the closet, with its seclusion and dusty tomes, rather than a desire to mingle in the fierce excitement and personal hazards of a dangerous revolution. We would say that the extreme benevolence and kindness of heart apparent in every feature, would induce the General to perform acts of private and unostentatious charity, and then hurry to his studio to pen a political essay enforcing the amelioration of his fellow creatures. But a glance at his strong, and full, and restless dark eye, dissipated the illusion. You might as well attempt to confine the Hyrcanian tiger in a fisherman's net, as subject to the quiet walks and pursuits of life this same Gonzales. Converse with him five little minutes and he will display to you the most erudite knowledge of character and the general world. I shall say that deep policy and mental activity were his distinguishing characteristics. I have often thought that a blending of the different traits that distinguished Lopez and his Adjutant-General, would revolutionize the world--the tiger and the fox, divested of ferocity and meanness. Without any tuition in that particular department, General Gonzales has displayed, upon several occasions, powers of oratory of no ordinary character. Once instance suffices in corroboration. Upon a complimentary dinner given to Elwood Fisher, by the Legislature of Virginia, some time during the year 1849, he startled the assembled crowd by the pathos in which he depicted the horrors of his native land, and the wild tones of defiance he launched against her besotted oppressors."

Savannah Morning News

22 July 1850, 2

Gen. N. LOPEZ and Gen. A. GONZALES arrived in our city last evening, from the West, and took rooms at the Pulaski House.

Savannah Georgian

22 July 1850, 2

Gen. A. Lopez and his aid Gen. A. Gonzales, arrived in this city last evening in the cars, on their way to Washington.

Cincinnati Nonpareil

17 October 1850, 2

HEROINE.--A young Cuban lady who participated in the late struggle for the Independence of her country, and who belonged to the staff of Gen. Gonzales, is now in our city. She is on her way East, and will remain here but a short time.

Savannah Morning News

13 November 1850, 2

PASSENGERS.

Per steamer Ivanhoe, from Burnt Fort, &c--H. R. Rees, Rev. W. M. McIntosh, **Gen. A. J. Gonzales**, J. L. Boatwick, 2 deck.

The Savannah Georgian

13 November 1850, 2

PASSENGERS.

Per steamer Ivanhoe, from Jeffersonton--H K Rees, Rev. W. M. McIntosh, Gen A J Gonzales, J F Bostick and 2 deck.

Solomon's Lodge No. 1, Free and Accepted Masons, Savannah, Georgia, Minutes Book, roll X-0940-05, Savannah Historical Society.

At a Regular Meeting of Solomon's Lodge No. 1 A. Y. M. held at their Hall on Thursday evening 21st Nov. 5850.

Present

Richard T. Turner	W.M.
George W. Aldrich	S.W.
William Cox	J.W.
E. F. Thode	Treasurer P.T.
James M. Jones	Secretary
O. J. H. Dibble	S.D. P.T.
James Yokum	J.D. “
C. Schneider	Tyler

Bros. Lama, Mitchell, White, Ponce, & Yonge.

Visiting Bretheren

Bro. W. M. Buker, Bro. J. Watson Miller, Honsdale Lodge No. 218, Penn.

A Lodge of Master Masons was opened in due form, the Minutes of our last Regular

Meeting was had and confirmed.

The petition of Mr. William G. Foot for Initiation was read the second time and on being balloted for was found worthy.

This Master Mason Lodge was called from Labour to Refreshment.

An Entered apprentice Lodge was opened in due form Mr. Ambrose Jose Gonzalez being in waiting and duly and truly prepared was introduced in due and ancient form and received the Entered Apprentice degree with the proper Masonic Instructions from the Worshipful Master.

This Entered Apprentice Lodge was then duly closed.

A Lodge of Master Masons was called from Refreshment to Labour, Bro. Gonzalez was balloted for the Fellow Craft and Masters degrees and found worthy. This Masters Lodge was then duly closed.

A Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons was duly opened. Bro. Gonzalez being in waiting and duly and truly prepared was introduced in due and ancient form, and passed to the degree of Fellow Craft Mason with the proper Masonic Instructions from the Worshipful Master.

There being no further Business this Lodge was closed in due form.

Received from Bro. Gonzalez \$15.00.

Confirmed 5th Dec. 5850.

James M. Jones

Savannah Morning News

7 December 1850, 2

PASSENGERS.

Per steamer St. Mathews from Palatka--Dr. Elwood, J. Cole, C. M. Hogg, Mr. Hogg, J. B. Stearason, J. M. Harley, W. S. Bryant, S. C. Forman, E. Atkinson, E. N. Atkinson, S. C. King, H. M. Duffie, J. C. Moore, G. W. Ratcliff, Col. C. H. Hopkins, **Gen. Gonzales**, W. H. Mongin, J. C. Lord, Dr. H. Bacon, J. M. Forman, lady and servt, R. Spaulding, J. B. Howell, H. L. Bilbo, 7 deck.

Solomon's Lodge No. 1, Free and Accepted Masons, Savannah, Georgia, Minutes Book, roll X-0940-05.

At an Extra Meeting of Solomon's Lodge No. 1 A. Y. M. held at their Hall on Tuesday evening 10th December 5850.

Present

Richard T. Turner	W.M.
George W. Aldrich	S.W.
William Cox	J.W.
George S. Nichols	Treasurer
James M. Jones	Secretary
E. Yonge	S.D. P.T.
James Lachlison	J.D. “
C. Schneider	Tyler

Bros. Mitchell, Hoyt, Oats, Lama, Ponce, Footman, Bashler, & Montfort.

Visiting Bretheren

Bros. George Cuyler, J. W. Miller, J. W. Miller, Prentice, Lafils, Hitchcock, Barnum, John W. Rudisill, Hamilton Lodge No. 58 and Abraham A. Heard.

A Master Masons Lodge was opened in due form, the Worshipful Master informed the Bretheren that they were conveyed for the purpose of conferring the Masters degree on Bro. Gonzalez.

Bro. Gonzalez being in waiting and duly and truly prepared was introduced in due and ancient form and Raised to the Sublime degree of Master Mason with the proper Masonic Instructions from the Worshipful Master.

There being no further business this Lodge was duly closed.

Received from Bro. Gonzalez -- \$12.00

Confirmed 19th December 5850.

James M. Jones
Secretary

New Orleans *Picayune*

19 December 1850, 2

Arrivals at the Principal Hotels--Dec. 18.

Gen. A. J. Gonzales, Cuba

New Orleans *Picayune*

12 January 1851, 2

U.S. CIRCUIT COURT--Judge McCaleb--*The Cuba Affair.*--The examination of witnesses on the part of the Government, in this case, was brought to a close yesterday, at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Hunton, the U.S. District Attorney, offered in evidence the clearances of the bark Georgiana and brig Susan Loud, for Chagres, in coal ballast.

Gen. Gonzalez was then called and sworn for the defence. He stated he was a Cuban by birth, and left Cuba in 1848, for New Orleans, on account of political differences. Gen. Lopez was charged, a month or two before he left Cuba, with an attempt to separate that island and Porto Rico from Spain, and revolutionize them. He was detected, escaped, and was condemned to death after his flight. Since this Lopez and others formed a junta at New York to promote the political interest of Cuba; Gen. Lopez was president of the junta. This was published, and was the subject of correspondence between Mr. Clayton and the Spanish Minister. This junta consisted of Gen. Lopez and four others. Three of the four accompanied Lopez to Cuba. In the effort of Lopez and this junta to accomplish the project the purpose was to do it without violating the laws of the United States. They published this, and took advice how to do it without violating the law; they saw members of Congress and officers of high station, and took counsel of all persons of standing as to the extent to which they could lawfully go in this manner. Witness became acquainted with the accused at the President's house, in Washington. Before witness and Lopez saw the accused they had held counsel and made engagements with parties in the West, which looked to and resulted in part of the expedition to Cuba. The accused had no participation in getting up the military part of the emigration by the Susan Loud, which carried out the Louisiana Battalion; nor any thing to do with the financial part of it. The vessel carried out no arms; the first order of the day was issued ten days after leaving the coast of Louisiana; and no act of military organization occurred in the United States, as far as witnesses's conception goes of what is a military organization.

The witness further deposed that orders were expressly given to the officers not to open the boxes or distribute arms and ammunition, &c., until they got beyond the jurisdiction of the United States. The point of departure was a subject of long discussion. He and his friends

believed that Americans had the right to emigrate with or without arms. This was the basis of their combination. In the discussion he suggested the Island of Lobos or Mugerres for the rendezvous. He was supported in this by Mr. Henderson, on the ground that the two islands were out of the United States and within the territory of Mexico. That being there under the American flag they could not be seized by Spanish cruisers, their papers being regularly taken out from New Orleans to Chagres. To this all assented. The question was then which of the two islands was the best. Mugerres was chosen because nearer Cuba, and because it allowed of a descent on the northern or southern shore of Cuba at their pleasure. The articles furnished for the expedition, so far as Mr. Henderson is concerned, were provided for by the sale of Cuban bonds. Gen. Lopez was at the head of the expedition. Since the expedition to Cardenas witness has been sentenced to death by the Spanish authorities.

It being 3 o'clock the Court here adjourned, and met again at 5 o'clock, when Gen. Gonzales was cross-examined by the prosecution. The cross-examination was very minute and strict as regards all the acts and participation of the accused with the expedition. Points were frequently raised and debated with great warmth by the prosecution and the accused. From \$100,000 to \$150,000 of Cuban bonds were sold in New Orleans at ten cents on the dollar. About \$40,000 or \$50,000 was raised on these bonds by Mr. Henderson. The first meeting Mr. Henderson had with Gen. Lopez was at Vicksburg.

Mr. Segur was then sworn, and testified that he was present at conversations concerning the selection of Mugerres for the rendezvous, and that Mr. Henderson took every precaution that was possible in order to avoid violating the laws of the United States. He was scrupulously strict on the subject, and would accede to no other place. So far as witness was concerned he considered the act of Congress unconstitutional, and not warranted by the laws of nations. Mr. Henderson then offered in evidence the correspondence between Mr. Clayton, Secretary of State, and Mr. Hunton, District Attorney, calling his attention to this expedition, and Mr. Hunton's reply, in which he assured the Secretary of State that the parties engaged in the expedition had taken good legal advice, and had not violated any law of the United States. (Great laughter).

Mr. Hunton then offered in evidence another letter of his to Secretary of State expressing a different opinion, and informing the Department of the arrest of several of the expeditionists.

The testimony here closed on the part of the defence, and at half-past 8 P.M. the court adjourned.

The argument will be entered on to-morrow.

New Orleans *Daily Delta*

14 January 1851, 2

United States Circuit Court

THE UNITED STATES vs JOHN HENDERSON

The following is a continuation of the evidence for the defence:

Mr. Gonzalez: is a Cuban by birth; left on the 7th of August, 1848, for New Orleans; not then with intention of not returning, but on political objects; he since, by reason of these objects, has made this country his residence; knew Lopez by sight and renown; Lopez was charged a month or two before witness left Cuba, with an attempt to separate Cuba and Porto Rico from Spain, and revolutionize them; he was detected, escaped, and was condemned to death after flight; he knows that since this expulsion of Lopez from Cuba, Lopez and other Cubans formed a political junta at New York, to promote the political interests of Cuba; Gen. Lopez was

President; this was published, and was subject of correspondence between Mr. Clayton and Spanish Minister; this junta consisted of four and Gen. Lopez; three of the four accompanied Lopez; one remained; in the effort of Lopez and his junta to accomplish the project, the purpose was to do it without violating the laws of the United States; they published this; they took advice how to do it without violating the law; they saw members of Congress and officers of high station, and took counsel of all persons of standing as to the extent to which they could lawfully go in this matter; Lopez don't speak English at all; witness has been very intimate with Lopez; more than any other person; has been his organ of communication with Americans that sympathised with his objects and views; was the sole and exclusive organ of communication between Gen. Lopez and John Henderson, with very slight exception; the precise date of conversation between Henderson and Lopez on these subjects, he cannot remember; it was at the President's house at Washington, that witness first saw accused; it was 2d to 5th April last that Lopez and witness first put themselves in communication with accused on the subject of the expedition; this was in New Orleans. Witness was not accompanied then by Lopez, who was in Vicksburg; the first interview with Lopez by Henderson was in Vicksburg; witness and Lopez were then direct from Washington *via* the West; Lopez and Gonzalez did, before seeing Henderson, hold counsel and make some engagements with parties in the West, which worked to and resulted in part in the expedition to Cuba; Henderson had not yet been conferred with on the subject; witness heard part of the testimony of one of the witnesses for prosecution about the band collected in Cincinnati; they were called Kentuckians; it is to witness' knowledge that Henderson had no knowledge or participation in that engagement of people of the West for mining and other purposes; the vessels of transport assembled at Contoy that formed the expedition that went to Cuba are known to him; they are the bark Georgiana, the brig Susan Loud, and the steamer Creole; what he says is of his own knowledge; those on the Susan Loud were the Louisiana Battalion; accused, according to witness personal knowledge, had no participation in getting up the military part of the emigration by the Susan Loud, nor the financial part; that, correctly speaking, there was no military [...] in getting up the emigration; that in the getting up providing means and making contributions for the emigration that went in the Susan Loud, accused had no participation to witness' knowledge; witness knows that the Susan Loud carried no arms on the expedition; witness is so intimately connected with the expedition that he don't think she could have carried arms without his knowing it; he did not go in her; he went on the Creole; he came across the Susan Loud at intersection of 26 degrees of latitude and 87 degrees of longitude; those on the Susan Loud came on the Creole; a boat from the Creole took witness aboard the Susan Loud; he remained a short time and returned to the Creole; the Susan Loud was ordered to follow, and the next day the General gave orders that those from the Susan Loud should come aboard; they brought no arms; they were supplied with arms from a different source; the Creole passed the bar in the afternoon of 8th May; this is brought to his mind by a conversation with a person since yesterday; the first order of the day was issued a day or two after leaving New Orleans--thinks it was on the 9th, that officers were recognised, that witness himself was appointed; by leaving New Orleans he means the coast; it was after they were at sea, outside of the coast; he was appointed Adjutant General in the first order of the day; it was on the same day that Commissary Moore was appointed commissary to the boat; that he cannot tell what may have occurred before, between him and the Colonel of his own regiment, as regards the appointment Moore spoke of yesterday; knows of no act of military organization that occurred in the United States, as far as his conception goes of what military organization is; was

conversant with all the acts of Gen. Lopez, nearly all passed through witness; commissions were never issued; they began to write them the day before reaching Cardenas; they had printed blanks, of which, those for one regiment were filled up the day before they reached Cardenas; promises were made in the United States of commissions for offices under the republic of Cuba; in his opinion these promises, whether verbal or written, were not commissions; the commissions that he speaks of, as written near Cardenas, were the only ones considered or recognized by the General or Junta--of the arms and ammunition belonging to the expedition that went to Cardenas, none were given to any one for use till they left the United States,; it was expressly said to the officers of the expedition, that the boxes of arms, clothing, uniforms, &c., were not to be opened nor distributed till they got out of jurisdiction of United States; to his knowledge no discipline nor organization of any of the men within the United States; it was a subject of long discussion about the point of departure, he and his friends believed that Americans had the right to emigrate with or without arms; this was the basis of their combination; then the question was, how could this emigration be carried on; some spoke of the emigrants congregating on the Chandeliers; others of the Florida Keys, in their conference, as a suitable place of rendezvous; others of Texas; remembers distinctly of witness having suggested the Isle of Lobos; also the Isle of Women or Mugerres, on the coast of Yucatan, which was the place where the first expedition of 1849, that was broken up by Gen. Taylor, was to rendezvous; witness was supported in his suggestions of Lobos and Mugerres by Mr. Henderson; on the plea that these two islands were out of the United States, within the territory of Mexico; that being there under American flag they could not be seized by the Spanish cruisers; their papers being regularly taken from New Orleans for Chagres; to this all assented; the question was then which of the two Islands was best; Mugerres was chosen, because nearer Cuba, and allowed a descent on northern or southern shore of Cuba at their pleasure; all the articles that were provided for the expedition were provided for by sale of Cuban bonds, so far as General Henderson is concerned, but not as concerns the Susan Loud; John Henderson, as he believes, contributed nothing but what proceeded from the sale of Cuban bonds; General Lopez was the head of the expedition to Cardenas; he is not an American citizen; he was born a subject of Spain; both witness and Lopez are under sentence of death; witness was not at the time of the expedition to Cardenas, but Lopez was.

Cross-examined. -- The number of men that composed the expedition to Cuba was six hundred and ten, according to the report made before landing; they had four hundred and odd United States' muskets, about fifty Mississippi rifles, and two hundred patent rifles there were about ninety pairs United States' dragoon pistols, and about the same number of dragoon sabres; no Colt's pistols were furnished to the men; some of the men had them. The arms were put on board the Creole at the termination of the Mexican railroad; he means the depot, on the Mississippi river, of the Mexican Gulf railroad; all were put on there; some went there on the railroad, and others on a tow-boat, and were there put on board the Creole; cannot say where they were procured; cannot say where the ammunition was procured with any positiveness; all were procured within a month previous to sailing; some were furnished by some individuals whom he knows, and others by others whom he does not know; knows not where they came from, not from what arsenals, nor where purchased; some were procured out of the State of Louisiana, some came from the North; cannot say that there was any conference amongst the leaders about procuring the arms, but there was a talk; some arms were brought from the North previous to any conversation with the parties about procuring other arms; Mr. Sigur spoke of

the probability of getting arms; knows not where they came from; also with Mr. O'Sullivan; don't remember of any conversation with Mr. Henderson; Mr. Henderson knew that the Susan Loud was to leave; knew that some of the men for the expedition went on her; Mr. Henderson knew, as he believes, that arms were to be sent after the Susan Loud, by another vessel, for arming the men on the Loud; Mr. Henderson was one of the confidential persons who was informed of all the arrangements, or nearly all, made for the expedition; he did not know all the details in relation to Susan Loud, but knew the general facts; did not know the details as fully as he knew those relative to the other vessels; the 400 United States muskets were taken, 250 on the Georgiana and the remainder on Creole; knows that the 400 United States muskets were all procured from the same source, by one of the persons connected with the expedition; heard from that person that they were all procured in Louisiana; knows not from what place in the State; the 50 Mississippi rifles were obtained from the State of Mississippi; a gentleman who went in the expedition, whose name he don't remember, brought them down with him; they were obtained directly from a State officer of Mississippi, or some friend of his; 200 patent rifles came from the North; knows not by what means, negotiation or combination, they were got; of the 90 pairs dragoon pistols and sabres, he don't remember where they came from; they were procured through Mr. Sigur; don't know where, nor from whom, he procured them; don't remember the exact amount of bonds issued; knows that they were put in Henderson's hands to be sold; some were left unsold; from one to two hundred thousand dollars he believes were signed and issued; they purported to promise that the Republic of Cuba would pay so much to bearer, and were signed by Gen. Lopez, as the presumed future head of the Republic; only remembers that they were delivered to Mr. Henderson; don't remember that any other person than Lopez was bound to pay the bonds; can't remember if his own name was not on them as a member of the junta; they were printed elsewhere and signed here or at Jackson; thinks it was here; that mode of raising money was adopted in New Orleans, when he first saw Genl. Henderson; don't remember if it originated with accused or witness; the accused and witness were present when this mode of raising money was concerted and determined on; the one or two hundred thousand dollars was the amount of the face of the bonds; can't say how much was sold; thinks forty to fifty thousand dollars; they were sold at ten percent; he means that for every dollar sold, ten cents were received; Mr. H. sold some of these bonds to procure the money; forty of fifty thousand dollars were received by Mr. Henderson from sales; he meant, when he says that one or two hundred thousand dollars of bonds were issued, he means bonds that if sold would have produced that amount; Mr. Henderson reported, as he thinks, that he had sold bonds sufficient to produce forty to fifty thousand dollars of proceeds; Mr. Henderson retained some of the bonds--bonds calling for one hundred to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which if sold would have produced ten or fifteen thousand; Mr. Henderson bought himself some ten or fifteen thousand dollars worth of bonds; don't remember of Mr. Henderson's giving written promises to any one of commissions if they would go on the expedition; General Lopez made promises of commissions to certain persons; the persons to whom those promises were made, performed the duties appertaining to the offices promised in the expedition after it left, but no commissions were ever issued; some of these promises were written; thinks Mr. Henderson knew of these promises to some gentlemen; knows that General Henderson introduced several gentlemen from Mississippi to General Lopez as suitable persons for office; thinks that some of them received offices; is not certain of this; it was agreed before the expedition left who were to be the principal officers of it, so far as concerns the American gentlemen that joined it; promises were made to

some, of commands, proportioned to the number of men they procured; others were promised here, specified rank in Cuba; it was known before they left who were to be the colonels as soon as they got outside; is not so positive as to the majors; General Lopez left it to the colonels to appoint their subordinates, subject to his approval; this appointment was to be recognized as soon as they got outside, by which he means that they were to enter into the performance of these offices as soon as they got outside, but not to be recognised in a formal manner till they reached Cuba, as commissions were not issued; it was a provisional, temporary arrangement; he don't mean by this that they were not considered as such officers, but that their appointment was not final till the seal of the Republic of Cuba was put to it; Mr. Henderson was not promised any office, nor was he to follow the expedition; flags were provided and kept in boxes, and only taken out after leaving the United States; it was the Independent Cuba flag, that is well known in the city; there were flags for vessels and colors for regiments, not for companies; no military music was provided; they had no pass-word agreed on; rockets were provided as signals for the Susan Loud and Creole, in case they should meet at night.

Examination in Chief.--That Henderson knew little or nothing about the arms except from general conversation; that according to his belief there was a portion of arms furnished from New Orleans of which Henderson knew nothing; his recollection about the origin of the conversation about the bonds is indistinct, whether in Vicksburg, Jackson or New Orleans; he remembers being in the same room spoken of by accused in Jackson, where he remembers there was conversation about the bonds; the first conversation with Henderson was in New Orleans; whether the bonds were then spoken of he don't remember; Henderson went with him and they found Lopez at Vicksburg; this was their first meeting at South; they remained one night before going to Jackson; can't be positive that first conversation about bonds was in Jackson; he believes the General's intention was to send back the Creole, with a flag, as a Cuban vessel; it was not intended that the Georgiana or Susan Loud would go to Cardenas; but transport passengers to Mugerres, and carry coal to supply the Creole; the Creole was supplied with a small portion of the coal on the Georgiana; Gen. Lopez gave the coal that remained on the Georgiana to the captain of that vessel; Gen. Lopez expected the Georgiana to carry this coal to Key West, where the Creole might buy it on her return from Cuba; there was a general permission proclaimed that all who chose might return from Contoy, and would be provided with food; Capt. Moore was provided by witness with some articles; some persons availed themselves of the offer, and remained on the vessels; a number of the officers of the expedition left letters for their friends in the United States on the two vessels.

It is alleged by accused, and admitted by prosecution, that the note of \$2,000, spoken of by Mr. Geddes, had interest calculated on it and added, so as to make it equal to cash.

L. J. Sigur. Mr. Henderson's desires and precautions to take every means to avoid violating the law, appeared even ridiculous to witness and his friend Mr. O'Sullivan; witness wanted to go ahead without all these precautions; he wanted Pecan Island for reasons he states, but Mr. Henderson insisted that this would violate the law; witness' objections were so strong to Mugerres that at the last moment he tried to avoid it, fearful of being discovered by fishing smacks; witness would not have scrupled at violating the law as being absurd and ridiculous, so far as it goes beyond the law of nations; but he never knew a man so determined in adhering to his plan--he means his advice and opinions--as Mr. Henderson; he was always for avoiding to violate the law.

KRC

[New Orleans] 1st of February [1851]

[To: Ambrosio Jose Gonzales]

Last night Dr. Sanders²³ (your guarantor) was here to see me, who manifested to be very surprised and distressed by your departure without his consent. He told me he would have to deliver today two thousand dollars because that is what the sheriff said yesterday, when not finding you, he went to look for him. To me this must be exaggerated; first because Sanders is not your guarantor to keep you in this city, but so that you appear in due time to be tried and 2nd because having I told Sigur²⁴ when he came to tea, he told me that you had departed well and that Sanders should not worry about it. Anyway it is I am afraid that Dr., from what I have seen, is scared of anything, will send you when you least expect it a telegraphic despatch so that you return immediately, which despatch you should disregard, because I will be careful of telling you in particular to come or stay there in your labors which is convenient to all.

I have just received the letters from the Ysabel; not one word about money in any except in the one of M.,²⁵ who tells me that on the next steamer he will send me some news which could be very good if he was sure that all of his offers were accomplished, that the result will tell. He also tells me that finally the Cuban²⁶ found a way of sending his pal in N.Y. the jewels and the duplicate of the 3,000 dollars from Camagüey, knowing from the last letters that he had not yet received the principal. We thus have an explanation for the trip of Najasa,²⁷ as I had sustained here with the doubts that you will remember.

According to the other letters, I am going to tell you the curious and magnificent summary that I derive from two of the men, that we have there ready for the independence campaign, armed and committed, under the orders of different leaders and officials.

In Havana and its suburbs including Regla and Guanabacoa	5,800	
In the immediate area to a distance of five leagues	2,550	
In Vuelta de Abajo	3,000	
In Matanzas all cavalry	800	
From P[uerto] P[rincipe] to Cienfuegos	<u>1,650</u>	13,800

I'm not aware of anything from [Puerto] Principe to [Santiago de] Cuba so that I could add to the previous summary for not having received one letter from those parts; but you already know the previous news that I have of the brilliant state of opinion in that land; if we also take into account the always increasing favorable disposition of the garrison, we should not doubt what the *Yankee*²⁸ tells me in his letter "My general, believe me, if you are able to give a blow

²³ New Orleans Physician A. L. Saunders.

²⁴ Attorney Laurent J. Sigur, editor of the New Orleans *Delta*. Narciso Lopez was living in his home.

²⁵ Venezuelan Consul in Havana Manuel Muñoz Castro, alias Catuche, the nephew of Narciso Lopez.

²⁶ Manuel Rodríguez Mena.

²⁷ Pseudonym of Gaspar Betancourt Cisneros, editor of *La Verdad* in New York City.

²⁸ John Sidney Thrasher, American living in Havana, editor of *El Faro Industrial*.

upon your arrival, your march toward this city will be in triumph.”

Do not jump or get rattled with joy, work toward realizing the triumphant march, and write relentlessly from afar although it is burdensome everything characteristic of the motherland Cuba

N[arciso] L[opez]

M. says that the small pictures are plenty and that they run from hand to hand with enthusiasm and daring.

[Envelope postmarked] New Orleans, La., Feb 1

John Lama Esq.²⁹

Savannah

For D. German [pseudonym of Ambrosio Jose Gonzales]

The men are ready

MBL

Macon, Ga March 14 1851

Genl. Mirabeau B. Lamar

My dear General:

I have been looking for you in this city; and expecting to meet you here and converse with you on the subjects we have so much at heart, I have abstained from giving you any account of my proceedings or operations. Besides I was in the dark as to the exact place of your residence. I hear from Mr. Robert A. Smith, of this city, that you have been lately in Columbus and have had a conversation with our warm friend Capt Forsyth. As the Capt. is aware of the result of my operations to a very great extent, I do not know that I could add much to what you have learnt from him. I must say however, that I have been eminently successful in all departments; -- that I have sold Bonds of the Republic, that I have made arrangements to collect one thousand men and from 200 to 300 horses, that one steamer carrying as they tell me from 6 to 700 men & 200 horses will be procured or rather is, by the time I write: that I have, both from purchase & donation, 10 pieces of brass artillery; the present ones being expected every day. That several companies in the State both of cavalry & infantry have promised me their armaments; that the *high functionary* you introduced me to has been very friendly & *liberal* with me; that with the exception of \$10,000 Gen. Lopez has the means for the purchase of a 2d. Steamer perfectly substantial & seaworthy & as her mate running 16 miles per hour, that I am using every effort to procure that sum & forward it to the Genl. in which case we can transport the whole of our men, artillery and horses that for this important and desirable object I need very especially your moral influence 1. with our Columbus friends 2. with the Macon ones and 3. with your cousin Charles³⁰ in Savannah. That I have as good officers & men as we could desire; that wealthy planters are selling their property to come with us, both in Savannah, McIntosh³¹ & Florida, that they are all delighted to serve under you, and as Govr.

²⁹ John Lama was a French merchant who migrated to Savannah in 1843.

³⁰ Charles Augustus Lafayette Lamar.

³¹ McIntosh County, Georgia.

Towns³² told me, even in Milledgeville there would be 10 or 12 who would go, if with you; that 200 and more noble Hungarians and Poles have been enlisted, with expectations of having from 3 to 400; all veterans & tried republicans:-- that the news from Cuba are such as to make it painful to receive them here; that Cap Scott³³ of this city & Mr Sidney Lanier, of do, have just arrived from Havana by the Gabel & they speak with highest terms of the perfect unanimity of the Cubans and of the acknowledged fact that one half of the troops will join us, that the latter are not allowed a moment of repose for fear of their concocting plans with the people and that they are only allowed to remain for a very short time at any of the garrisons for the same motive. That I have a magnificent plan of embarkation and one which I have kept entirely to myself; that in three weeks hence we will be at the place of rendezvous that for that reason & to converse with you I expect you will come hither as soon as you can, as this is the central point: that as you know already, in all probability, we have all been discharges, under circumstances amounting to an acquittal; that this result is to have a powerful influence both at present & hereafter; that *just now* your letter upon Cuban matters would be most opportune; and finally, that upon your exertions at this eleventh hour depend to a very great extent the amount of men we shall take over and what is of more importance, the possession of *two* steamers. Two steamers will not only carry over in one trip the 1800 men we have in the Southwest ready to follow us armed and equipped under Cols. Downman³⁴ & Clendennin,³⁵ but will insure 100 fold our own operations of embarking, crossing, & landing; will give additional confidence to all; will under all circumstances give each other important aid and even in some contingencies make themselves respected to our very enemies, as they will be armed. I beg of you therefore as a very signal favor to induce our friends in Columbus and Cpts. Davis³⁶ & Forsyth³⁷ can point out the gentlemen to you, to take our Cuban Bonds. I will sell them now for the sake of raising this sum on the spot, at 10 cents on the dollar so that by giving \$2,000 any of those gentlemen will receive from me 40,000 in bonds and have besides the satisfaction of doing us a very great service; a service too that falls back upon their own interests as gentlemen & americans. I know that importuning for money is a thing as strange to you as it is to me but we do certainly do things for humanity that we would never do for our own selves. To beg & entreat for the redemption of hundreds of thousands of Cubans who labor under Spanish tyranny and the selfishness of a few of their own people, contemptible speculators on the misery & thralldom of their brothers; as you know some of them to be, is charitableness indeed, not by the handful, but by the cartload. Your life, disinterestedly & bravely spent for the good of your fellows is destined to close under increased radiance and if Lafayette is called in the Parisian hymn "la liberte de deux mondes,"

³² George Washington Towns.

³³ Isaac Scott.

³⁴ Robert L. Downman, of Mississippi.

³⁵ W. S. Clendennin.

³⁶ Captain John E. Davis, Columbus Guards Georgia Militia and Mexican War veteran.

³⁷ Captain John Forsyth of the Columbus Guards Georgia Militia and Mexican War veteran. Editor of the Columbus *Times*. Later edited the Mobile *Register*. Son of former Governor John Forsyth.

which, as regards France is incorrect, you will with more propriety be called, “la liberte de deux peuples” and the pride of your own. I trust, however, that the Cuban people will know how to be grateful in contradistinction to this preceders in annexation.

With very cordial regard to your lady, I remain
Very sincerely your friend & sevt.
Ambrosio Jose Gonzales

KRC

No. 9

N[ew] O[rleans] March 28 [1851]

My esteemed D. German: I have read your letter of the 21, No. 12, that I should not answer, because I should not spend the time but on important things and that they may be of use in our actual situation and that of our committed friends in the island.

Najasa³⁸ should have informed you of the real circumstances and of my thoughts and resolutions. I hope that you have proceeded according to those reports and with what I wrote you at the same time. Not proceeding thus, my friend, all of your works, no matter how good they are, will not be any good to us if the moment that I fear with more than enough reason arrives. We strive here, with that motive, to be timely in the assistance if it is carried out, in spite of my opinion, the *pronunciamiento* [military insurrection] in Cuba, and when a sudden departure would not be necessary, always before the 20 of the next month, on which I have given my word pledging my honor, to the leaders that we have in the island (who with their associates will be the ones to liberate her, even though you may not want to see it that way here) with the idea that they stop the already determined and even sworn to movement in which they gave me a part, and we will gain here some more time to avoid with our departure the evils that are easily foreseen in such a *pronunciamiento*, without a leader who has the respect of all, in a country so full of dangers because of its particular conditions and for other considerations of great importance for the quick and complete triumph of the revolution. Now you see that I cannot or should not fail on my promise, so I will keep it even if I have to go alone. Fortunately we have done some tasks in this city which today almost give me the security of having the means in which to leave whenever I want to. You, then, informed of this, and knowing what has been done or what is left to do in N.Y. should tell me: If there is something to go to in your theater of operations before the 20 of the next month, or if there is no possibility of having anything ready in that time, so that I can resolve here the best for my purpose, which will be reduced to finally doing what you went with eagerness to put into practice in that part of the Union before anything.

I beg you not to lose time in answering me or in talking to me for now of anything not related to the previous matter.

Yours as always

N[arciso] Lopez

If General L.³⁹ does not believe that he should go with no less than 1,000 men, he should stay.

BOOK⁴⁰

³⁸ Gaspar Cisneros Betancourt.

³⁹ General Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar.

⁴⁰ Herminio Portell Vilá, *Narciso López y su época (1850-1851)*, Vol. III (Havana: Compañía Editora de Libros y

Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Co.

Savannah, 5 April 1851

My suggestions of the 30th of March by intercession of Mr. Dixon should be adopted; the circumstances make it imperative. I have sent two thousand to Rawley, [John O'Sullivan] I will send the rest next week. I have had great success with my negotiation: only two more weeks for the funds and another to have the results and return home...

A. Herrmany
[Ambrosio German]

KRC

N. 12

N[ew] O[rleans] April 6, 1851

My dear D. German: yesterday very late I was given your letter of the 30 last, no. 3rd, (I should first tell you that the 2nd has not reached me if that was not one in English that you sent Sigur) by the bye those letters in English knowing [*torn*] under which [*torn*] Sigur to translate and I to guess at what it says [*torn*] he understands what is written in Spanish with great [*torn*] you explain this, especially to correct it?) Well, sir, I continue. Your letter contains a very good plan for other circumstances and a different politic. It is not adaptable to our position and therefore, be concise as to what I told you dated the 3, a copy of which I am including, which will serve you as well as those in N.Y.

Fortunately you think, according to your letter, that you will be ready for the 15 of this month, adding all the fuel to the fire, and I in that communication, give six days more for it. Why, then, new plans? Remember my doctrines on fluctuations. After I consider that you received that communication from me, I will wait from one moment to the next for you to tell me: *the steamer will leave there the 16th as you say and steer it to such place where you, who should come with time by land, and I, will be waiting for you with what we have here to put into it; I have said the same thing to N.Y.* A little thing like that, or something like it, would make me now the happiest man on the earth and it would be the most convenient for the cause to which we are committed. Send, then, such words.

You have not told me anything about what I asked you to do, according to the copy of a letter of Cruz that I included in one of my previous ones, and it is, regarding the acquisition of a pilot, something that we need very much and that we still do not have (as a warning, and do some adequate miracle.) Captain Louis and his assistant are in Philadelphia, where I have written him and sent 100 dollars and telling him to present themselves to O'S. in N.Y. to give them passage.

Do not forget to send some money and orders to Macias who awaits with 12 more almost all broke like him [*torn*] but [*torn*] should stay behind. [*torn*] in case there is something to tell him [*torn*].

I do not know if this one will be mailed in time; but here it goes and send of it what ever you want to N. York, and the letters that I will include which are part of the ones I have just received from Havana, because it was the Ohio the one that fired the cannonball.

Manuel,⁴¹ my nephew, was expelled giving him eight days to leave with his family: they

Folletos, 1958), 191.

⁴¹ Manuel Muñoz Castro, alias Catuche, Venezuelan Consul in Havana.

say that the friend Farquino or tartufo⁴² is to blame, the truth is that he was expelled and he left on the 26 of the previous month for Caracas. I have received incomplete two thousand dollars and they tell me, in the included letter, that another sum is coming by way of the Tribune, but without saying how much; tomorrow we will know because not until tomorrow will this one receive his letters. I am also waiting for the arrival of a pilot which I asked for, and they also tell me will bring me a special communique (this should not serve as impediment for the miracle requested). The willing spirit is equally presented in all the letters. The two original ones that I enclose, one from a colonel (el Habanero) and the other from one of my old correspondents, will serve so that you comprehend that what is important is not to miss being on the 24 in the promised land. Toward this end, you do there whatever is needed to be done, and even more; do hasten even if just hours, because hours are armies in this occasion; they are more than what we could take delaying them. Do not think about more money, but that Brown comes any way to the point that you will definitively indicate and where he and I will find ready what you have been able to prepare, be what it may. I can send the vessel, even if it is one or two days before the 16, ~~I will do it telling L. S. is very~~ in communication [*torn*] is [*torn*] to you, I will do it [*torn*] to do the same [*torn*] to gain something by the 21-- that I have set to you and now set again.

If you have been fortunate in the hopes that you had of money when you wrote me your letter, and can send some here, after leaving there what ever you think is necessary, send it, informing by the telegraph of some commercial house in that city to another one here so that we will receive it, if this is possible without compromising anything. This steamer, my friend, fortifies my resolutions. Forward then. Downman⁴³ is ready and his transport is ready.

Copy this letter and send it with the enclosed ones from me to O'S-- G-- and P-- because I do not have time to tell them that you will send them. I have thought that it would be very interesting that they see what I tell you, and the evidence of what they tell me from Havana. That will make them race.

Yours as always
N[arciso] L[opez]

Write to N.Y. addressed to the father-in-law of O'S--
[Envelope marked:] Urgent
To D. German.

MBL

Macon 12th April 1851

General Gonzales

Dear Sir,

I will explain to you in person, when we meet again, the imperious circumstances which place it entirely out of my power to cooperate with you in your noble endeavors for the good and glory of your deeply injured and oppressed country, and this inability on my part you will please communicate to the noble incorruptible old vetran [*sic*] and patriot Genl. Lopez, for whom I entertain the highest degree of friendship and esteem and whose cause, being that of God & Liberty, I sincerely hope may be as triumphant as heart can desire.

⁴² *Tartufo* is Spanish for hypocrite. This is the word López used in his correspondence to refer to Cristobal Madan.

⁴³ Robert L. Downman, of Mississippi.

I hope to see you soon.

your truly,
M. B. Lamar

BOOK⁴⁴

Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Co.

Savannah, 15 April 1851

Informing Laurent Sigur that Brown was ready to a “major carriage” on 19 April.

A. Joseph

[Ambrosio Jose]

Washington *Daily National Intelligencer*⁴⁵

21 April 1851, p. 3, col. 1

THE LATE CUBAN MOVEMENTS.

The Savannah papers state that the recent movements of a portion of the Cuban invaders in Georgia were premature, caused by a rumor that a revolt had actually taken place in Cuba. This induced sixty three of the party, who resided in the Cherokee region of country, to hasten towards Savannah to tender their services to Gen. GONZALES, (formerly of Cuba,) who is a resident of that city; but learning that the movement was premature, *and that they had mistaken the rendezvous*, they returned home to await the proper time. Rather strange, we should think, if there be no truth in the various rumors concerning the getting up of a second unlawful expedition against Cuba, that such a body of men should have been already organized, so as to repair to Savannah at a moment's warning. The Atlanta “Republican” of Thursday notices the return of the adventurers to that city, but says that it has not been able to learn whether they have abandoned their desperate enterprise, or returned with the object of taking a new route. It supposes the latter to be the case. We trust, for the honor of the country, that the explanation of the Savannah papers of the source of the reports which we have lately had on this subject may turn out to be the true one.

New Orleans Daily *Bee*

21 April 1851, 1

CUBA--MORE RUMORS.

For the fiftieth time rumors are in circulation of a contemplated descent of “filibusters” upon Cuba. Whether the story has more substance in it now than before, is best known to the leaders in the scheme and the grand scribe of the independent order of ousel owls. The latter looks provokingly mysterious and seems to have locked up in his breast a world of information, but remains as impenetrable to curiosity as befits a high officer in that peculiar association.--Jesting aside, however, there would appear to be serious grounds for the belief, that the parties who were the head and front of the first unfortunate attempt to capture Cuba with 500 men, have determined to pick their flints and try it again. Independently of the mere street reports

⁴⁴ Herminio Portell Vilá, *Narciso López y su época*, Vol III, page 191.

⁴⁵ The *Daily National Intelligencer* was a Whig newspaper, bitter critic of President Polk, the Mexican War, and expansionism.

that are buited about, we find two paragraphs in the papers which have a direct bearing on the subject. The first is the following from the Atlanta (Ga.) *Intelligencer*:

Ho! for Cuba!--One hundred and twenty enterprising looking young men took the Macon and Western cars from this city, this morning, bound professedly for California, but it is well understood here that their intended destination is the island of Cuba. Several young men at Atlanta joined the company before it left. It is, perhaps, worthy of notice in this connection, that half a dozen boxes of rifles were yesterday morning shipped on the Atlanta and West Point railroad from this place.

The next is from the Savannah *Georgian*. It may possibly refer to the parties alluded to by the Atlanta papers:

A report having reached the Cherokee region of Georgia, that an insurrection had occurred in Cuba, upwards of a hundred men, in that section, rallied on the strength of the rumor, and set off for Savannah, to offer their services in aid of the revolutionists, to **Gen. A. J. Gonzales**, now a resident of this city. Sixty-three came as far as the twenty mile station, where they learned that the rumor was premature, and further, that Savannah was not the point to which they should have directed their steps, had it been true. They, therefore, returned by the way they came, on yesterday. The rest of their number, probably learning their mistake in Macon, came no further in this direction. We understand that the party was made up of young men of highly respectable families, spirits of the true grit, prepared to dare any danger, or encounter any difficulties, for the promotion of the cause of liberty among the down-trodden Cubans.

It is said moreover, that the Captain General of the island professes to have received authentic information of the intended *razzia*, and has publicly made it known to the huge consternation of the worthy Dons. How much truth there is in all this, we shall probably know in a short time. In the meanwhile let us wait and watch.

BOOK⁴⁶

Henry Lytton Bulwer, British Minister to the United States, to Daniel Webster, Secretary of State of the United States.

Private.

British Legation, April 22, 1851.

My Dear Sir: I beg to inclose some additional information which I have received relative to the supposed invasion of Cuba.

I am &c.

(The following two unsigned notes, both dated April 12, 1851, accompanied this note)

Savannah, April 12, 1851

I have been informed that fifty men arrived last night by Railroad at the Station twenty miles from Savannah, and another Company also enlisted in Tennessee for the expedition to Cuba was expected tonight--A considerable quantity of arms had been sent from the State Arsenal in this city to Atlanta, (supposed through the connivance of Governor Towns) which arms had been recently returned to this city and are now lying at the Railroad Depot.

General Lopez has not yet arrived, but is daily expected--He has been on a visit to General Quitman, & it was generally believed that Mirabeau B. Lamar, formerly President of Texas, & now a resident of this State, was to be Commander in Chief of the expedition.

⁴⁶ William R. Manning, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States: Inter-American Affairs 1831-1860, Vol. VII--Great Britain* (Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1936), 433.

The place of rendezvous is not yet known but I should think some point on the Florida Coast would be selected, as it would be impossible to embark an expedition with secrecy from this Port.

Charleston, April 12, 1851

An expedition has been recently organised, or sought to be organised by Mirabeau Lamar, & **General Gonzales** in Georgia & Tennessee, where General Gonzales has been personally very busy.

It is reported that portions of the force raised marched towards various points of embarkation, & that one party are within 30 miles of Savannah. Darien--St. Mary's, St. Marks, & Apalachicola would appear the most probable points in addition to Texas, for this purpose.

Cincinnati Gazette

26 April 1851, 2

The Washington Telegraph of Tuesday, says:

The Cuban expedition now on foot, is said to be headed by Gen. Mirabeau B. Lamar, of Georgia, and a Senor Gonzales, of Havana. It is said, also, that Gov. Towns of Georgia, is identified with the enterprise, which has for its object the conferring of liberty of Cubans.

NA, Miscellaneous Letters of the Department of State, Microcopy No. 179, Roll 125, March 1--May 31, 1851.

New York April 26, 1851

His Excellency

Millard Fillmore

My Dear Sir

I enclose an extract from a letter from a very highly intelligent gentleman, who has been passing some time at the South. It may not communicate any information of which the Government is not already in possession -- and although the writer says it is positive only so far as it deduces his conviction that a plot tending utter violation of the Nation's Neutrality & Honor is on foot. I have deemed it proper to lay it before you even though it may not give any facts of which you are not already apprised.

The writer is well known to me -- a gentleman in honor, intelligence & patriotism -- observant & shrewd -- he has been a casual sojourner at the South when the information which he gives has been as it were forced upon him -- he does not desire his name to be communicated, but I know that he is moved by no other consideration than the good of his Country in giving this information.

His suggestion of the employment of an agent at the place designated appears worthy of consideration.

I will in haste to save the mail.

With [...] regard
Your obdt svt.
Hamilton Fish

At Savannah it is asserted, with the utmost confidence that an invading expedition will sail for Cuba in the course of the Spring--perhaps in the first half of May. There can be no doubt

that a project of that sort not only is entertained but in [torn]stive course of organization and there is reason to believe that their organization is very extensive, branching into Georgia, Alabama, [...] and West Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi.

The prime mover at least in Savannah, is a person known a Genl. Gonzales who was one of the notorious Lopez' staff. He is of good dress, class, and accomplished, circulates in good society in and near Savannah, and is probably favored by some of the large planters. His instrument with the rank and file, is a man known as Harry Titus a celebrated fighting man. These men and these filibusters frequent the Pulaski House, Savannah, and any person of ordinary observation cannot fail to see that there is a mysterious relation existing between them and many of the frequenters of that hotel. Gonzales is said to have much money at his command, and to have enrolled as many men as he wants for his purpose. Three large steamboats it is said are at his disposal. What is inconsistent however with the suscription of so much money [torn] Gonzales is the allegation that Bonds of the *Provisional Cuban Government* have been offered for sale in Savannah.

The leading personages in the contemplated expedition are [torn] with great confidence by those who profess to be acquainted with the subject. They are said to be (besides Gonzales) Gen. Quitman, and Gen. Henderson and that [...] sub-agency is said to be exercised by a Mr. Delperoe or Deperoe⁴⁷ chief of the Municipal Police of N. Orleans who was employed in secret service by Gen. Scott in Mexico, and to whom are attributed [...] and address. Apalachicola is spoken of as the probable point of embarkation -- Then going out of this so much in advance may be a [...] and [...] to the [...] that some other point will be selected perhaps one of the Sea Islands which are much secluded from the [...] of [...] & may be the *rendezvous*.

Jacksonville *Florida Republican*

1 May 1851, 3

The Cuban expedition now on foot, is said to be headed by Gen. Mirabeau B. Lamar, of Georgia, and a Senor Gonzales, of Havana. It is said, that Governor Towns, of Georgia, is identified with the enterprise, which has for its object the conferring of liberty upon the Cubans.--*Washington Telegraph*.

Savannah *Republican*

1 May 1851, 2

The Cuban Expedition.

It has already been announced That the U. S. Marshal for this State, Wm. H. C. Mills, left here some days ago, on board the *Welaka*, upon business connected with the Cuban expedition. By the arrival here yesterday of the steamer *St. Mathews* from Florida, we learned that the Marshal had discovered no traces of the expedition at St. Mary's. It is said, however, that there were about six hundred men at Jacksonville when the *St. Mathews* left, and that the Marshal was on his way thither, having been passed a short distance this side by the *St. Mathews*.

It was rumored along the southern coast that there were near two thousand men in the vicinity of "Burnt Fort," and the Satilla river, though it is probable the number has been exaggerated very considerably. The next steamer from the South will no doubt being more authentic intelligence, both as regards the number of men and the action of the Marshal. It was

⁴⁷ Possibly Captain Alphonse Duperu.

not known when the expedition would depart, nor the whence it was expected to sail. Rumour says that General O'Hara, of Kentucky, was in or near Jacksonville, as well as Gen. Lopez and Gen. Gonzales. The Marshal, we believe, had warrants only for the two latter gentlemen.

New York Tribune

2 May 1851, 5

The Descent on Cuba

The *Newark Advertiser* of yesterday afternoon contains the following letter from its Florida correspondent. It throws considerable light on the nature and extent of the new piratical movement against Cuba. It is to be hoped that the leaders will this time receive something more than a mere show of trial, at the hands of the U.S. Government:

Jacksonville, East Florida, Friday, April 25.

For the past ten days we have had "rumors of wars," not well authenticated, but furnishing certain evidence that another Quixotic expedition against Cuba was intended. It is evident that there are several points of departure along the Gulf Coast--at New Orleans and St. Mary's, and from St. John's River, Florida. There are six steamers at least, and probably 2,600 to 3,000 men. Savannah is the headquarters of operations on the Atlantic side. I was shown a letter from Genl. Gonzalez, a week ago, dated at Savannah, directing the movements of men and military stores, but believed that it might be an attempt to divert public attention from some other quarter.

It is now plain that the many evidences of a movement in the States bordering the Gulf of Mexico indicate an invasion of Cuba, which will be attempted before this reaches you. The expedition will undoubtedly sail in the course of twenty-four or thirty-six hours. A large quantity of forage (among which was 300 or 400 bushels of oats) was deposited here the day before yesterday, and this morning I saw put into the same storehouse cannon, gun-carriages, rifles, muskets, ammunition, and the furniture of an army equipment to a very large amount. I have never seen so many implements of war, except in an arsenal. Large quantities of wood and resin for the fuel on board the steamers, and horses and men are collected in this vicinity, ready for embarkation. A steamer is expected from New York to-morrow.

This expedition would appear to be much better appointed, manned, and officered, than the one that landed at Cardenas. Gen. Quitman is said to command and Lopez to be the second. Some here who are pointed out as connected with the expedition as officers, are said by some to be men of bravery and military talent. Most of the privates of whom I have heard are men who learned the art of war in Mexico, where they contracted the taste of blood and long for more. Bloodhounds and tigers are not the only animals who become fierce by killing. It is a desperate business and requires reckless, desperate men. It is supposed that they will land 3,000 on the south side of the island, supplied with field pieces and good cavalry horses--that the steamers that convey them will be burnt or sail immediately, leaving the invaders no alternative but to conquer or die.

It is said that a large number of the Creole population are fully prepared to join the landing party, and that an organized force awaits the movement in the mountains. It is said the Spanish population is only one-sixteenth part of the whole; and it is represented that the remainder desire to fight for liberty. I am told that \$70,000 worth of jewelry, and \$150,000 in money, was sent to Gen. Lopez the other day, from Havana, and that \$80,000 was contributed by a rich planter, who is regarded at home as favorable to the government. The agents here seem to

have plenty of money, and to spend it freely. They have several ways to raise the wind. One by the issue of bonds, to be redeemed if the expedition is successful; another by the sale of commissions. A lieutenancy was offered to a brother of Gen. Shields. It is said, at Savannah, for \$1,000, with a promise of \$10,000 worth of bonds.

The citizens here have given the enterprize no direct encouragement, and no United States officer here has the right to interfere. There is no U.S. Marshal here. The thing is looked upon generally as chimerical, and until they saw these warlike preparations and military stores, the citizens generally discredited it although a few knowing ones have known all about it and cautiously hinted it, when necessary, in order to make the necessary preparations. The Creoles and Cubans who are here and the few who were engaged in the Cardenas affair, talk indignantly of Spanish tyranny, and say that the Cubans are on the very point of revolution, with or without help.

It seems quite certain that before to-morrow evening the steamer will be here to receive the military stores and embark for the war. The captain of the company is a fine military looking man, the hair of his face being disposed a la California. This is a place out of the highway of travel, there being a mail here but once a week, and it may be, therefore, that all this letter contains has been anticipated. It is interesting to observe how enticing and contagious is the war spirit. If things could remain a few days as at present, it would seem that any number of men could be enlisted in this service, which but yesterday all pronounced wild and chimerical. The field pieces and the muskets seem to have turned the heads of some from whom more wisdom would be expected.

The 26th (to-morrow) is the day that was named ten days ago by one of the agents here, as the day of departure, and considerable wisdom has been manifested with regard to the management of the business, where it is remembered that probably from 3,000 to 5,000 persons must have known all about it. I understand however that Gonzales has been threatened with arrest at Savannah, where he has endeavored to enlist men and procure money.

The preparation for the attack on the part of the Spanish authorities is fully appreciated. They expect hard fighting, but rely principally upon the representations that a revolution in Cuba is ready to take place, and only needs a rallying point.

NA, Miscellaneous Letters of the Department of State, Microcopy No. 179, Roll 125.

Custom House
Collectors Office
Savannah May 3d 1851

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 27 of April, also your despatch dated 2d May, and herewith state the substance of information received during the trip of the Steamer chartered. On Sunday night [27 April] the Steamer Welaka left this port with the United States Marshal and one deputy, the Surveyor of this port and one Inspector, together with the officers clerk and crew of the boat with an understanding with the charter party that in case the services of the clerk was wanted it would be had. The instructions was to proceed to St. Mary's and should information there be received which was thought worthy to be trusted to proceed to Jacksonville in Florida and on the return to call at some other points. I have been informed by Thomas Burke Surveyor of this port, and who was placed in command of this expedition that after the arrival at St. Mary's he learned from tumors that there was from 500 to

1500 persons collected at Jacksonville, hence they proceeded on to Jacksonville. On arriving there however but few persons other than the citizens of the place could be seen, and from the best information that could be got, there had been no such gathering together of persons as had been spoken of when in St. Mary's. Under this appearance of things, the expedition returns again stops at St. Mary's and there was informed that an express man had passed through the County to Jacksonville. From St. Mary's the Steamer went up the Satilla River near to Jefferson and passed burnt Fort (Burnt Fort is spoken of as a place of rendezvous). The information there received was that some sixty or seventy persons was encamped about the country in the vicinity of Burnt Fort without arms except a few of those passing, some with rifles and others with pistols and Buoy Knives. From thence the Steamer went into Darien, and there heard that a number of persons had crossed the Altamahaw river some distance above Darien and that nine persons had arrived in Darien and had taken passage for this city stating that they was dissatisfied with the expedition and was going to return. Thence the Steamer returned to this City arriving 8 O'Clock Thursday morning. The morning that the Steamer arrived here [1 May] I received information that General Gonzalez and some other persons, Genl Lopez supposed to be one, was on Wilmington Island and that these persons would probably endeavor to take the Florida boat which left that morning at 10 O'Clock. This information was received about half passed nine O'Clock. The necessary arrangements could not be perfected by 10 O'Clock, and I had the boat detained until the Marshal was ready and placed on board. During this time there was an apparent uneasiness discovered when the parties was supposed to be in possession of the movements of the Cuba expedition and I immediately went to Thunderbolt, there intersected the Steamer that had left. When proceeding on the way and arriving opposite the residence of E. B. Barstow on Wilmington Island the Steamer Bell was rung and a number of persons appeared at the landing, where a boat appeared to be in readiness and waiting to convey passengers to the Steamer. Under these circumstances my attention was drawn towards the shore and in a few minutes I discovered the steamer's small boat rowing toward the shore. Immediately on its arrival the Mate of the Steamer jumped out and went to this group of persons, was seen to hold communication with them, and they immediately dispersed. Observing this feature in the Scene I called on the Marshal and one other person, lowered down the Steamer's other small boat, and with one oar sculled ashore and went to the dwelling of Mr Barstow, asked for the gentlemen who accompanied him at the landing, and in return was asked if we had any authority to enter his private residence, to which the Marshal answered he had none.

From observations made after this it was apparent that there had been a lunch prepared for persons who had partaken of it, as the table was still furnished with the remainder of the collation. I will further remark that after I had detained the Steamer at the wharf in the city I saw Mr. Barstow in the city, and when I arrived at his house he was there. Under these circumstances I believe that Generals Lopez and Gonzalez are in the vicinity as so stated to you yesterday by telegraph--and in company with the Marshal I spent yesterday in search for their persons-- and from the circumstances here detailed I have been prevented from giving you an account of the discovery made on the trip of the Welaka, which I hope will be satisfactory.

I have been called upon this morning to furnish one hundred dollars by the District Attorney and he has sent officers to arrest some of these persons who appear to be in command of these parties who are going Southwardly across this State. The person I sent through the country to look after this matter returned this morning and states that the persons who left the Central Rail Road have continued their march, dividing their number however into many squads,

and one portion went on towards burnt Fort and another towards Florida.

I have the honor to remain
Very respectfully your obt. servt.
Hiram Roberts
Collector

W. L. Hodge Esq
Acting Secretary of the Treasury

Savannah Morning News
10 May 1851, 2

The Cuban Expedition.

Nothing new has transpired respecting the Cuban movement in this quarter for the past few days. It is very evident that the expeditionists have been disconcerted, but it is not so certain that the expedition has been finally abandoned. We have before expressed the belief that another blow will be struck for Cuban emancipation, and if there is any reliance to be place in the reports that have gone out in regard to the matter, there are men engaged in the enterprize who will not be deterred by temporary or trifling mischances from a consummation of their designs.

The Northern papers are filled with rumors and reports respecting the movement in this section, and some of the papers are furnished with letters from the South, in which the writers draw largely on their imaginations for their facts. Of this class is the following from the *Newark Daily Advertiser*. The writer under date of Jacksonville, April 27, says:

Gonzalez is here, and the reason of the delay is generally not understood. The ladies have worked pretty banners of red, blue and white, in stripes, with a single blue star in the white ground, and half the town seems disposed to go if their wives would let them, and many of those who "leave their country, for their country's good" because they can well be spared, are "enrolled."

The plans seem to be wisely made in many respects, and considerable wisdom is reported to be exhibited. Several distinguished names are mentioned of those who have filled prominent situations in the Southern States. The Judge and District Attorney were persuaded a week ago to take an excursion to the wilderness, and are now where no telegraph or mail can reach them. The telegraph wires are cut northward, and the whole seems to be so stranged as to ensure success with regard to effecting a landing, unless intercepted near the mouth of the St. John's river. The wise shake their heads and express their fear that the United States Government may become involved in difficulty, but tacitly bid it God speed.

It is well known, here, that **Gen. Gonzales** was not at Jacksonville at the time stated. The statement about the telegraph, might be true, but for the fact that there are no telegraphic wires to cut between this city and Jacksonville.

Savannah Morning News
13 May 1851, 2

Rumored Arrest of Gonzales.

BALTIMORE, May 8.--Despatches have been received here announcing the arrest of Gonzales at Savannah, who is charged with planning an expedition against Cuba.

This is news here.

New Orleans *Picayune*
13 May 1851, 2

Some of the papers have described **Gen. Gonzales**, the supposed leader at Savannah of the new Cuban expedition, as a dancing master. This is a mistake. Gonzales is a Cuban by birth, and inherited a large estate on that island. He was sent to the United States in his boyhood for his education, and was for a number of years in the celebrated institute of the brothers Peugnet, at New York. He became thus thoroughly Americanized, and carried his republican ideas back to Cuba.

The General is still a young man, scarcely more than thirty years of age, and has on all occasions exhibited courage and talents of a high order with fine manners and courteous address.

Savannah Morning News
19 May 1851, 2

Gen. Gonzales.

The New-Orleans *Picayune* says:--“Some of the papers have described **Gen. Gonzales**, the supposed leader at Savannah of the new Cuban expedition, as a dancing master. This is a mistake, Gonzales is a Cuban by birth, and inherited a large estate on that island. He was sent to the United States in his boyhood for his education, and was for a number of years in the celebrated institute of the brothers Peugnet, at New York. He became thus thoroughly Americanized, and carried his republican ideas back to Cuba. The General is still a young man, scarcely more than thirty years of age, and has on all occasions exhibited courage and talents of a high order, with fine manners and courteous address.

Gen. GONZALES is well known in this city as an amiable and accomplished gentleman, and a devoted patriot, and numbers among his personal friends many of our most influential citizens.

BOOK⁴⁸ [Translated].

[Wilmington Island, 23 June 1851]

[To Cirilo Villaverde]

My dear friend: I am deeply grateful to you for having given me quick notice of the infamous tricks and machinations that are being perpetrated in that city against our cause, against the necessary prestige of Genl. Lopez and against my good name, until now without stain. In this very moment I have just received your letter in a place that the Genl. is familiar with while on my way, in obedience to his orders, to carry out a commission for the benefit of Cuba and this even though I am ill and taking quinine as a result of an attack of bilious fever that I just suffered and having been left extenuated by my efforts on behalf of the aborted expedition.

Who ever has said that they have received any letter from me after I left N. Orleans, excepting the Genl. and Sigur, is saying what is not so, because I have not written to anyone, from Georgia toward the West, regarding any matter, who are not these two gentlemen. Who ever says that I have received or answered a letter regarding my taking command of the revolutionary movement of Cuba, or about any intrigue whose object is to belittle the influence of Genl. Lopez, or to lower him one inch or one line from the place upon which he has placed

⁴⁸ Herminio Portell Vilá, *Narciso López y su época (1850-1851)*, Vol. III (Havana: Compañía Editora de Libros y Folletos, 1958), 228-230.

himself with the anger of the Spanish government and we of the Junta and the immense majority of the Cuban people have maintained him, is either a stupid victim of the Spanish government, or is crazy, or is an infamous assassin of the liberty of his fatherland and also a vile liar and paid agent of Concha. Not one hundred thousand forged letters, nor one hundred thousand assertions of those fooled or of tricksters, will I believe, will not be able to alter in those who know me, the confidence in my dignity and true love of fatherland. I believe the one or the other would drag through the dust, who would prefer the ephemeral personal elevation to the harmony among Cubans, or he who would try to lower one iota the position of Genl. Lopez, a position so strong today that it has prompted Spanish gold sent to this soil to try to undermine it here. I am afraid that I am giving this matter more importance, in that which concerns me, than what it could have. The Genl. with his magnanimous heart and with the intimate knowledge that he has of my defects and my qualities, should have pushed aside with his foot such tricks; but I believe that I should not let this occasion pass without saying four statements that may be advantageous and are: 1st That General Lopez is the chief par excellence of the future movement in Cuba by combining the greatest and largest qualities of any other Cuban in relation to the enterprise. 2nd That all true Cubans should honor him for his sacrifices and obey him for the sake of their fatherland for which he does his utmost. 3rd. That I went, as everyone knows, as a simple soldier in the Cardenas expedition, and Genl. Lopez named me Chief of Staff believing it was convenient for the enterprise, due to my being more aware of what existed then in personnel and matériel; and above of Mr. J. Sanchez Iznaga with whom he shared a longer friendship, which proves two things: that I do not have an ambition to place ahead of country and that the general does not have preferences in matters of public importance. 4th That since the Genl. left for N. Orleans I have remained incognito and ill in a shack in a pine forest in a neighboring State⁴⁹ and that the only letter that (with the exception of one answering to one of O'Sullivan to Mr. Lama on matters of the aborted expedition) I have written since the Genl. left to anyone alive outside of the States of Georgia and Florida, is the present one and one that I had begun for the Genl. this same evening but that I have interrupted to attend to this. 5th That what I have done since the frustrated expedition and that what I will continue to do here and wherever I will be, is according to the plan arranged between the Genl. and I and always laboring as his agent and subject to his orders, to the best of my health and my strength. 6th That far from pretending with wings of wax to liberate Cuba or attack the Spanish government ahead of Genl. Lopez, I have been and actually are seeing how I can even by making the sacrifice of staying, recuperate my health to be able to assist the Genl. later, according to the plan that he himself indicated to me before we parted. 7th That tomorrow I will publicly denounce my detractors by way of the newspapers and the telegraph. Believe me as always, your affectionate friend and comrade,

Ambrosio J. Gonzalez

KRC

No. 2

N. Orleans 23 June 1851--

My dear D. German: you have not yet answered my letter, and I only know through the brother of the difficulties that arise to send what has been requested, although, you were on your way to make everything ready, in case they could be overcome. Today I have reformed this part

⁴⁹ Callawassie Island, South Carolina.

of my work, and now what I most urgently need is that you come here bringing with you, if it is possible a pilot from the coast of Florida.

Move swiftly and we shall gain much, and much more, if you can, with all speed, negotiate two or three bonds that will place us a little more buoyant than what we are.

Awaiting to see you very soon your friend

N[arciso] L[opez]

KRC

N. 3

N. Orleans, 2 of July of 1851

Dear D. G.⁵⁰ I reply to your letter of the 23 last No. 1 that I have just received. In it and by what Villaverde⁵¹ had read me of another one that he also received from you, I see that you have given too much importance to the madness and chicanery of J. M. Hz.⁵² and the fools who sustain, that is who believe they are upholders of his fantastic flag: they are only six or seven that they themselves have done us the favor of declaring themselves hindrances and leaving us more expeditious. The tricksters and the fools have always been a great remora in all types of enterprises, and remora by its nature very laborious to eliminate. Although they have tried to give themselves importance by vociferating that they are in agreement and correspondence with you and other distinguished Cubans, I was careful to let our compatriots and friends here know, exactly the same as you, giving way to your indignation, as you now say in your letters; in the end I have looked at this matter in such a way, that I thought that I should not say a word about it to any one.

As I considered you already out of alembics and refineries, and like I, strong and healthy, to undertake the campaign again, is why I told you, and repeated for you to start on your way here. Upon giving you such an order, Hernandez and his madness were to me in another world, I was only motivated by the interest of the Cuban cause, believing, I repeat; that there would not be the great physical impediment that exists,⁵³ after so many days of calm and even of immobility and that you would begin your march immediately, I gave the orders there that I believed opportune. Leaving these aside, dedicate yourself to reestablishing your health using the time so that you can take part in the fight that will occur, at least departing with the second push, if that does not happen, you can be sure I will have the same sentiment as that caused by the impossibility found by the other Z. of following me now. To the baths⁵⁴ then, Mr. D.G., and without thinking in anything else until you receive my next letter in which I will manifest what I will want you to do from there.

⁵⁰ Don German was the code name for Ambrosio Jose Gonzales.

⁵¹ Cirilo Villaverde.

⁵² Jose Manuel Hernandez, former Cuban Junta member, who landed with the Lopez expedition in Cardenas, Cuba, on 19 May 1850.

⁵³ Ambrosio Jose Gonzales was laid up in coastal Georgia after contracting malaria.

⁵⁴ Gonzales went to the baths at White Sulphur Springs, W.V.

When I left you I told you of my resolution that absolutely no one would have further intervention in the labors that I would again renew to carry out the enterprise, than those which I would directly give to carry out my definite orders, I am surprised then by what you say that you wrote to O'S.⁵⁵ You tell him "that if he had not received orders from me of remitting to me what was left after the sale of the steamer, to send it to you to help me with a force in those States,⁵⁶ according to your agreement with me before we departed." My friend, there has not been such an agreement nor have I ever thought about that because before that there are other things of greater interest, but even when there had been, are you not aware that with such orders, without my knowledge in our actual circumstances of particular disorganization, it would suffice to start an uproar of unconvincing and of false postures that the devil himself would be unable to fix afterward. Such error has had no small part in the recent failure and nothing more wise than to accept the experience, if it does not fit the axiom that he who leads should create everything to be able to communicate. I therefore recommend to you, with anticipation, that you absolutely unite to carry out that which I will entrust you, as I have already said, because I cannot rely on your services to depart with me due to the bad state of your health. I know that you will say that I am one who sets precepts as you have told me on another occasion; but that does not matter to me; I am an old soldier accustomed to command, I sincerely like you, and as I know your beautiful qualities of the heart and of the head I infinitely lament more a certain small defect that I have spoken to you about many times and which you still do not want to correct, so I will continue with my preceptorial subject with you by which I will give you a clear proof of my friendship and of my affection, and in consequence I will conclude this paragraph recommending that you never forget that he who aspires to command well, it is precise that he start learning to strictly obey without allowing for interpretations.

If you have kept copy of the letter I am answering and look with consideration at the two concluding paragraphs, I believe that you will answer them yourself recognizing in one the total lack of all good principle in circumstances such as ours, and in the other, an unjust unfounded apprehension that denaturalizes my character and does you little favor. My friend, I have in you all the confidence that would inspire anyone who knows you as I do, your unblemished honor, and in regards to me, I believe that no one with good sense will be able to consider me, not even disposed to the miserable vice that you believe to have found in me.

I conclude by saying that I need that the brother have the men ready as I have ordered him, in the manner which I have told him, and that Titus⁵⁷ do the same with those he is with; that which [...] will be also [*torn*] in a reserved place and easy to take without great loss of time and that the rest of the effects, armament and munitions, be also ready in the same place to be also embarked as they should go with us and return to Savannah where the steamer will return to conduct the second departure. Especially without losing an hour's time you should find me and send here in the same manner, a trustworthy pilot who will conduct me with the steamer to the place where I should find everything prepared to fill my object, which place you will tell me with every possible detail, also, in the letter that the same pilot will bring me. No more or less than

⁵⁵ John Louis O'Sullivan.

⁵⁶ Georgia and Florida.

⁵⁷ Henry Theodore Titus.

this, and I assure you that everything will come out just right. Forget for a moment, if you can, your ailments or make the brother act so that everything will be done as I have said and as quickly as possible and later heal yourself with great care so that you can go to support your friend from the heart

N[arciso] L[opez]

Villaverde will go there real soon with my complete instructions, I only hope to know that I can count on 4,000 dollars that I still need.

Jacksonville *Florida Republican*

3 July 1851, 3

Arrivals at the Jacksonville Hotel.

June 26th. R. W. Brown, Baltimore, Md.; Col. Lewis, Ala.; **Gen. Gonzallas, Ga.**

New Orleans *Evening Picayune*

19 July 1851, 1

Cuba Rumors.--The Savannah Republican of the 14th inst. says:

Nearly every week brings some idle report about a new expedition to Cuba. We should be gratified to hear less of these rumors, as we do not believe that they are based on any sufficient foundation. The last one here was that Gen. Gonzales had left the sea-coast of Georgia with troops in three steamboats. Another report of a movement from New Orleans, we see by the Western papers, was started by a letter writer from that place about the same time. We confess that the frequent and regular recurrence of this Cuba news looks a little like design--rather fishy.

Charleston *Mercury*

25 August 1851, p. 2, col. 3

Cuban Affairs

We publish a letter from Gen. GONZALEZ, touching a single point in our remarks of Saturday. It was no part of our object to press Mr. CALHOUN'S authority into the discussion, and we alluded to his opinions solely for the purpose of correcting the statement that he had been opposed to the annexation of Texas. The grounds of his opposition to the acquisition of any of the populous portion of Mexico, we took from his public speeches, and applied it to the case of Cuba, only by way of inference, because the reasons were the same. We do not know that he ever made any public declarations on this subject, and we should interpret with some grains of allowance the impressions which his private conversations may have made on men who were eager for the sanction of his approval. It does not need either argument or evidence, to those who knew the comprehensive and generous nature of his statesmanship, to prove that he took a deep interest in Cuba, and earnestly desired the freedom and independence of that beautiful land. But this does not necessarily involve annexation.

To the Editors of the Mercury:

Charleston, August 24, 1851.

I saw some days ago in the New York Journal of Commerce, a letter from its Washington Correspondent, stating that the late Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN had expressed himself, in writing, against the admission of Cuba into the Union. Had such a statement proceeded no further than the columns of the Journal, a paper so uncompromisingly, and at times so unscrupulously, inimical to Cuban liberty, I would not have felt inclined to notice it. But I find in Saturday's Mercury a long editorial sustaining, much to my astonishment, Mr. CALHOUN'S

alleged position in regard to Cuba. I do not intend to enter into the merits or demerits of the acquisition of that Island, or even those of her independence, as bearing upon the future development, safety, grandeur, and peace of the United States. The immense majority of the American people have already, with their usual sagacity and common sense, “made up their minds” upon this subject. I am thus far relieved. But when I see even the great name of the South Carolina Statesman thrown into our adverse scale, I feel that I have, however reluctantly, one word to say in this connection. When Gen Lopez made a visit to Washington in the spring of 1849, the Hon. J. C. Calhoun was the first gentleman in that city who called on the General. He even carried his civility to the extent of making a second call before his first had been returned. In his conversations with General Lopez, through Mr. SANCHEZ⁵⁸ and myself, he expressed himself as warmly in behalf of Cuba and her annexation, as has any other man in the country, either before or since. A short time after a prominent Southern Senator favored me with an appointment in the recess room of the Senate, Mr. CALHOUN was invited thereto, as were also four other Senators, three Democrats and one Whig. The purpose of the gentlemen, as it seemed to me, was principally to learn Mr. CALHOUN’s views upon a subject of such vital importance to the country. Mr. CALHOUN then expressed himself as decidedly as to the justice of our cause, the assistance which would be lawfully proffered by the American people in case of insurrection, and his non-apprehension of European interference, as he had done on former occasions. The gentlemen present fully coincided with his views. Such, Messrs. Editors, were the opinions and sentiments of JOHN C. CALHOUN in the spring of 1849. The Wilmot proviso question then assumed increased gravity, and as the contest became fiercer, Mr. CALHOUN’s views underwent a visible change. He was no longer for action, but for procrastination. He felt, no doubt, that the Cuba question would draw the minds of the people from an internal to an external contest, and that his issue, his “threshold” issue, might be postponed, if not abandoned. Then but not until then, did Mr. CALHOUN express himself as quoted by the correspondent of the Journal of Commerce. But Mr. CALHOUN’s hopes were not realized. The South did not unite even in the absence of the Cuba excitement. Were he now living, every consideration invites the belief, that having failed to unite the South upon the admission of California, he would strive to do so, with greater probabilities of success, upon the Cuba platform, thus obtaining for her that “equilibrium” with which alone can this Union be preserved, through the Union of the South.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, Your obed’t serv’t,

AMBROSIO JOSE GONZALEZ, of Cuba.

Charleston Courier

25 August 1851, 2

Arrivals at the Charleston Hotel, Aug. 23.

Gen. A. J. Gonzalez, Cuba.

Col. Gardiner, do.

Passengers.

Per steamer Gov. Dudley, from Wilmington-- ... Messrs. Gonzalez, Clark, L. S. Christiansen, S. M. Manning, Andrew, ... Gardner, ...

⁵⁸ . José M. Sánchez Iznaga.

Charleston Courier
26 August 1851, 2
Arrivals at the Charleston Hotel, Aug. 25.
Gen. A. J. Gonzalez, Cuba.

Tri-Weekly Kentucky Yeoman
(Frankfort, Ky.)
28 August 1851, 2

We learn that a private despach [*sic*] was received in this city day before yesterday, by a gentleman from Indiana, which stated that Col. Gonzales had effected a landing somewhere in the neighborhood of Havana. He had 500 men and eight or ten brass field pieces in his command. The gentleman who received the despach, if we are rightly informed, either is raising, or has already raised an equipped, a regiment in Indiana.

We have no doubt that the above is correct, as we have reason to believe that the steamer Pampero has made three successful trips to Cuba. *Louisville Courier*.

Louisville Courier
3 September 1851, 3

The telegraph must have been in error in reporting the safe arrival of Gen. Gonzales in Cuba. We see that he was in Charleston, S.C., on Saturday week, and on Sunday morning left that place in the cars for Columbia.

Charleston Courier
4 September 1851, 2
Arrivals at the Charleston Hotel, Sept. 3.
Gen. A. J. Gonzales, Cuba.

Cincinnati Nonpareil
15 September 1851, 2

ANOTHER EXPEDITION--“Letters state that Gen. Gonzales is preparing an Expedition, consisting of two thousand men, for another demonstration in favor of Cuban independence. The head-quarters of the expedition is stated to be at Savannah.” The above is a telegraphic dispatch from Baltimore.

NA, RG 21, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Georgia, Savannah, Case File D-15.

United States of America
vs
Narciso Lopez
Ambrosio Jose Gonzales
Capt. Robert Young
Capt. Samuel J. Coockygy
Capt. William B. McLean
Lieut. Richard Ralston
Lieutenant Rogers
Sergeant Brown
Sergeant Howard
Lieut. Chapman

and others
Violation of Neutrality Act of April 20, 1818
Warrant to Arrest
Retd. & filed in Clerks office Nov. 7, 1851
G. Glen
Clk
H. Williams
U.S. Dist. Attorney

United States Marshals Office
Distrts. of Georgia, Savannah October 17th 1851

By virtue of the within Warrant, I have this day arrested Ambrosio Jose Gonzales, and have him before Joseph Bancroft, Esqr. U.S. Commissioner--

W.H.O. Mills, U.S. Marshall
Distrts of Georgia

NA, Miscellaneous Letters of the Department of State, September 1--October 31, 1851,
Microcopy No. 179, Roll 127.

U.S. District Atty's Office Georgia
Savannah October 23d 1851

Sir:

In the month of May last, four young men were arrested in this District charged with having set on foot, within the United States, a military expedition against the Island of Cuba in violation of the act of 1818. They held the position of Officers in a body of men which had assembled at "Burnt Fort," in Camden County, in this State, with the object, as was believed, of uniting, in some manner with the enterprise against Cuba at that time agitated throughout the Country. The immediate purpose of their arrest was answered in the dispersion of the body of men with whom they were connected. They entered into recognizances to appear for trial at the coming term of the U.S. Circuit Court for this district, which will commence its session in the 6th of the month of November next.

In April last, warrants were issued against General Lopez and General Ambrosio Jose Gonzales by the same office. The Marshal did not succeed in arresting them, as they could not be found in the district. A few days ago, however, General **Gonzales** voluntarily surrendered himself to the Marshal, and entered into recognizance returnable likewise to the Circuit Court.

After the voyage of the "Pampero" to Cuba Mr. Sigur of New Orleans, (her reputed owner) appeared in Savannah, and became principally instrumental, as is believed, in creating whatever excitement existed in this City upon the subject of the "Cuban Invasion." Although no open demonstration was made, beyond the delivery of harangues at popular meetings, yet it is certain that several individuals left for Savannah, for the purpose of accompanying [...] expedition to Cuba in the "Pampero"; and were on board of that vessel before, and at the time of her seizure in Florida. It is strongly suspected that Mr. Sigur was concerned in persuading these individuals, to embark in this enterprise. The secrecy, however, which has characterized the movements of these persons rend it extremely difficult to obtain direct legal testimony against them.

Under ordinary circumstances, I would in the exercise of the discretion vested in me in criminal matters, present bills of Indictment to the Grand Jury, against all these persons and their Confederates when discovered, without deeming a special communication or report to any of the

Departments at Washington necessary.

Many things, however, conspire at the present time to render the position of the participants in the late Cuban enterprise, so different in its relations from that generally occupied by Offenders against local criminal laws, that the course to be pursued towards them should, it seems to me, be dictated rather by the policy of the General Government, than by the ordinary rules which govern the conduct of a Prosecuting Officer.

I therefore address this communication to the Secretary of State, and respectfully request to be specially instructed, as to the course which I shall pursue with reference to the individuals now under arrest; and all others who may be found to have been unlawfully concerned in any of the enterprises against Cuba; and whether prosecutions shall be instituted and pressed against them.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully Yr obdt. Servt.
Henry Williams
U.S. Dist. Atty
Dists. of Georgia

The Hon. Danl. Webster
Secretary of State
Washington City

Savannah Morning News

15 November 1851, 2

Gen. Gonzales.⁵⁹

It is generally known by our readers that GEN. GONZALES recently surrendered himself to the United States authorities in this city, and that a hearing of his case is shortly to be had before the U.S. Court. A letter from Savannah in the *New York Times* says:

“The President of the United States issued a warrant for his arrest some month ago, charging him with being connected with getting up the late expedition to Cuba. He obtained information of the fact, and has given bonds to take his trial at the next term of the United States District Court. He will be acquitted of the above charge, as it is known here that he had no connection in fitting out the Pampero’s expedition, or furnishing means for that purpose. He was in Virginia sick for several months previous, and did not return to this neighborhood until after the disaster which befell Gen. Lopez and his associates, in their attempt to revolutionize Cuba.”

Cincinnati Nonpareil

17 November 1851, 1

It is stated that Gen. Gonzales, who is supposed to have been concerned in the late Cuba expedition, has surrendered himself to the United States authorities at Savannah.

New Orleans Daily Delta

18 November 1851, 1

Surrender of Gonzalez.--It is stated that Gen. Gonzales, who is supposed to have been concerned in the late Cuban expedition, has surrendered himself to the United States authorities

⁵⁹ Reprinted in the *Florida Republican* (Jacksonville), 27 November 1851, 1.

at Savannah. A letter in the New York Times says: "The President of the United States issued a warrant for his arrest, some months ago, charging him with being connected with getting up the late expedition to Cuba. He obtained information of the fact, and has given bonds to take his trial at the next term of the United States District Court. He will be acquitted of the above charge, as it is known here that he had no connection in fitting out the Pampero's expedition, or furnishing means for that purpose. He was in Virginia, sick, for several months previous, and did not return to this neighborhood until after the disaster which befell Gen. Lopez and his associates, in their attempt to revolutionize Cuba."

NA, RG 21, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, Case File Crim 1-267, Deposition of Ambrosio J. Gonzales, 15 December 1851.

The President of the United States of America,
to R. M. Charlton and Francis S. Bartow, Counsellors at Law, at Savannah, Georgia.

Greeting:

Know Ye, That we, in confidence of your prudence and fidelity, have appointed you Commissioners and by these presents do give you *or either of you* full power and authority, diligently to examine upon *his* corporal oath, or affirmation, before you to be taken, and upon the interrogatories *and Cross Interrogatories* hereunto annexed,

Ambrosio J. Gonzalez

as witness of the part of the *defendants* in a certain cause now pending undetermined in the District Court of the United States of America for the Southern District of New-York, wherein *the United States are prosecutors, and John L O'Sullivan, A. Irvine Lewis and Louis Schlesinger are defendants.*

And we do further empower you, *or either of you*, to examine on the same behalf, and in like manner, any other person or persons who may be produced as witnesses before you; and we do hereby require you, *or either of you* before whom such testimony may be taken, to reduce the same to writing, and to close it up under your hand and seal directed to *George W. Morton* Clerk of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New-York, at the City of New-York, as soon as may be convenient after the execution of this commission; and that you return the same when executed, as above directed, with the title of the cause endorsed on the envelope of the commission *and that you return the same when executed by the usual mode of transmitting Letters from Savannah to the city of New York.*

WITNESS the HONORABLE *Samuel R. Betts* Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New-York, at the City of New-York, this *twentieth* day of *November* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty *one* and of our Independence the seventy *sixth*.

F. B. Cutting
counsel for defts.

Geo W. Morton
Clerk of the District Court of the United

States

J. Prescott Hall
New-York.

for the Southern District of

U.S. Atty

* * * * *

The execution of this Commission appears in certain schedules hereunto annexed. Francis S. Bartow Esqr, the other Commissioner named, is not in Savannah, he being in

attendance, at Milledgeville, Georgia, as a Representative to the Legislature of Georgia.

Robert M. Charlton
Commissioner

* * * * *

U.S. District Court
for the Southern District of New York
John L. O'Sullivan imp &

vs

The United States

Deposition of Ambrosio J. Gonzalez a witness produced sworn and examined the 18th day of December the year 1851 at Savannah, Georgia under and by virtue of a commission issued out of the District Court of the United States of America for the Southern District of New York in a certain cause therein depending and at issue between the United States of America and John L. O'Sullivan, A. Irvin Lewis & Louis Schlessinger defendants, as follows: Ambrosio J. Gonzalez, at present of Savannah, aged 21 years and upwards being duly and publicly sworn pursuant to the directions hereunto annexed, and examined on the part of the defendant doth depose and say as follows:

Interrogatories on the part of the Defendant

1st Interrogatory

Were you in constant & confidential correspondence with Mr. John L. O'Sullivan in the months of February March and April last, you being in Georgia and he in New York?

He was.

2nd Were you kept informed through that correspondence of all the acts and plans of Mr. O'Sullivan respecting the despatching of a Steamer from New York to the South with a number of Hungarians and other passengers.

Yes, as he has every reason to believe from the fullness and confidence of said correspondence.

3rd What was the engagement made with said passengers.

They were to be taken to Texas.

4th Was that engagement with them one of good faith, which was to be kept?

Yes. It was intended that a proposition should be made to them at a later period and at a place not within the jurisdiction of the U.S. to consent to change that destination but every one who should not then choose voluntarily to accept that proposition and enter into a new engagement was to be carried to Texas according to promise.

5th Did Mr O'Sullivan at any period during the preparations for the despatching of said Steamer and passengers conceive the apprehension that such faith might not be fully ~~carried~~ kept with them and that some of them might possibly be placed in a situation in which they might feel constrained by circumstances to consent to change their destination?

Yes; though the apprehension was groundless having grown out of a misunderstanding and jealous anxiety on his part on the point in question.

6th What did Mr. O Sullivan thereupon do?

He wrote to the effect that the requisite means must be provided in advance for the transportation of said persons desiring to go to Texas, in strict fulfillment of the said engagement and that if that was not one he would at once retire from the affair and have nothing further to do with it. He was answered that he might rest perfectly easy on the subject, that his apprehension

was groundless; that none of the parties connected with the business would be capable of acting differently from what he thus insisted upon and that the requisite means for that purpose would be duly provided and applied accordingly. Mr. O'Sullivan having confidence in these assurances was therefore satisfied.

7th Was any kind of military engagement of the said men to be made within the jurisdiction of the United States.

No; on the contrary nothing of the kind was to be done but after arriving at a point beyond the jurisdiction of the U.S. it was intended to propose to these persons to go to Cuba, leaving it optional with them to accept or decline the proposal.

8th Was the said Steamer to carry any arms or Military Equipments from New York or any part of the United States?

No.

Allowed subject to all legal objections.

J. Prescott Hall

U.S. Atty.

F. B. Cutting

for Mr. O'Sullivan

Robert M. Charlton

Commissioner

Cross Interrogatories on the part of the United States

1st Cross Interrogatory.

If in answering the first direct Interrogatory you shall say, that you were in a constant and confidential correspondence with Mr. J. L. O'Sullivan in the months of February, March and April last-- then answer further and say why was that correspondence confidential? why was it constant? and how long did it continue?

It was confidential because, as it was intended to make the proposal before stated, it was obviously important to keep the matter from the swarming spies of the Spanish Government; constant, because each felt particularly desirous at that period of hearing frequently from the other and it continued through the months of February, March and April.

2nd What was the subject of such correspondence?

It referred to the expedition intended to be formed referred to in his former answers for which purpose materials likely to be suitable in themselves and likely to be willing when such a proposition should be made to them were to be found and sent abroad beyond the jurisdiction or responsibility of the United States.

3rd Was General Narciso Lopez referred to in that correspondence? was his name mentioned therein, or was he in any way connected with the subjects of the communications which passed between yourself and Mr. O'Sullivan.

He was.

4th Was the said General Lopez in the months of February, March and April last or immediately before or after that time in any way directly or indirectly interested, concerned or engaged in any Military expedition or enterprize to be carried on against the territory or dominions of any foreign Prince-- or State-- or of any Colony, district or people with whom the United States of America are at peace and if you answer this Interrogatory in the affirmative then state particularly what such expedition or enterprize was-- and what its destination was to be.

He finds it difficult to answer this question from the vagueness of the general terms "*military expedition or enterprize*" but can only presume them to be now employed by the U.S. District Attorney of New York in the same sense in which he explained and expounded the law

from which they are quoted to two of his Cuban friends, one of whom he feels at liberty to name Mr. J. Sanchez Yznaga, in the month of August last when those gentlemen consulted him in his office respecting their purpose of procuring a steamer to convey them and their friends to the Island of Cuba, to take part in the insurrection which had broken out in the neighbourhood of Puerto Principe, Trinidad and other places, and when he assured them, as Deponent is satisfactorily informed and believes, that they had a perfect right without subjecting themselves to interference from the authorities of the United States to buy or charter a Steamer for that purpose, to go on board of her publicly and openly they and their friends Cubans or others, in any numbers, ten thousand if they pleased; to carry with them each a rifle, pistol, sword &c and ammunition; and moreover each an extra set of the same for the use of any friend on the island; to clear openly for Havana, if they wished to elude the Spanish cruisers, and afterwards land at Puerto Principe or any other point they might choose; and to cause a cargo of arms and munitions of war to be placed by contract at any point or points beyond the U.S. where they could then easily go and take them. Learning that the U.S. District Attorney for New York, Mr. Hall, gave such official instructions and advice as this respecting the meaning of the terms of the law in question, showing that he did not understand such a proceedings this to be covered by those terms provided it were done openly and without military organization, he finds himself enlightened as to their proper and their intended meaning. Deponent recalls also the authority of the U.S. District Attorney at New Orleans on the same point, who by his letter to the Secretary of State of the United States of May 14th 1850, published in Executive Documents, printed by order of the Senate, No. 57, 31st Congress 1st Sess. page 25, referring to a proceeding in which he stated that not more than 1500 "emigrants" had just sailed from New Orleans, with the Island of Cuba as their "ultimate destination," assured the Department officially that no violation of that law had been committed in that District, and afterwards in the trial which ensued argued that the law had been violated on the ground that a degree of *military organization* and arming unknown to him before had taken place within the limits of the United States. Enlightened by both these high official authorities as to the meaning of the terms in which he is interrogated, he can have no hesitation in answering the question in the negative and particularly with respect to any proceedings of Mr. O'Sullivan's. He does not know of anything done or intended to be done by him one quarter as nearly approaching to a "military expedition" or enterprise," as the acts thus authorized by the U.S. District Attorney of New York when consulted on the subject by his aforesaid friends calling on him with the particular view of regulating their course by his advice.

5th Had the correspondence between yourself and Mr. O'Sullivan any reference to an expedition or enterprise against the Island of Cuba? or against the Government thereof-- or any persons resident therein-- if so then what was the nature of that expedition or enterprize-- what was its purpose-- what were its objects and in what manner was it to be begun-- set on foot-- or carried on?

Limiting his answer (as he is advised) to such matters as may not tend to implicate himself, he will say that Mr. O'Sullivan's letters did have reference to an expedition designed to assist an expected rising of the people of Cuba against the tyranny of Spain, with a view to the object of aiding them in achieving their liberty and independence under a republican form of Government, after the example of the United States. It had its origin in the labors of many Cuban patriots some of them being refugees and exiles in the U.S. and some of them patriots in the Island itself exasperated by the abominations of Spanish despotism there prevailing. A project of insurrection formed in Cuba in 1848, having been frustrated by a premature discovery by the

Spanish authorities, and Genl. Lopez, its head, together with others having been compelled to escape, ~~from the Island~~ he and they continued in correspondence with the patriots of the Island, by whom from many quarters after, as well as before his unsuccessful attempt at Cardenas, he was constantly urged to return to place himself at their head with frequent threats that they would begin, improvident as they were with arms, ammunition or officers, without the benefit of his leadership, if he did not hasten his coming. In the end of January last at New Orleans he engaged his friend Mr. O'Sullivan to proceed to New York and to procure a steamer to convey from that place to a point at the South to be afterwards designated to him, a number of passengers expected to consist mainly of Hungarian and Polish refugees from European despotism. Informed of the particulars of his arrangements with Mr. O'Sullivan mainly through his confidential correspondence through the period referred to, deponent may add that this was to be done in a manner not to violate the neutrality law of the U.S. said law having been recently fully elucidated by the discussions on the trial of Genl. Henderson at New Orleans; that said passengers from New York were to be persons engaged simply as peaceful emigrants, without arms, or any species of military organization, to whom when no longer within the jurisdiction of the United States, a proposition was intended to be, at a later period made, inviting them to consent to engage in an expedition to assist the Cuban insurrection for liberty; and to whom or as many of them as should choose to accept such proposition then and there made, arms should be furnished, accompanied then with the formation of a military organization.

6th Was the said John L. O'Sullivan during the said months of February, March and April, or at any other time shortly before, or after those periods engaged in any correspondence with the said Genl Narciso Lopez. If so-- what was the subject of that correspondence?

He cannot speak of positive knowledge but presumes that there was some such correspondence and that it related to the matters above stated.

7th Was the said General Narciso Lopez during the said months of February, March, and April-- or at any time shortly before or after those periods-- concerned or engaged in any military expedition or enterprize, having for its destination directly or ultimately, the Island of Cuba? If so state what that expedition was and all the circumstances connected with it, the time and place or places of its preparation, the persons or parties engaged or who were to be engaged therein-- and the nature and extent of such preparations as fully and particularly as if you were specially interrogated with regard to each fact or circumstance.

This question being substantially but a repetition of the 4th, I reply to it by referring to the fourth answer.

8th Do you know anything of the signing, issuing or putting off during the periods aforesaid any paper or papers in the form of bonds-- or promises-- for the payment of money signed by the said Lopez and purporting upon their face to set forth General Narciso Lopez as chief of the Patriotic Junta for the promotion of the political interests of Cuba-- established in the United States of North America-- and the contemplated head of provisional Government and Commander in Chief of the Revolutionary movement about to be undertaken through his agency and permissive authority-- for the liberation of the people of Cuba-- from the tyranny and oppression to which they are now subject by the power of Spain?

He declines answering because an answer might tend to implicate himself.

9th If you answer the foregoing question affirmatively then say whether said bonds or paper issues did not purport upon their face to pledge to the payee thereof-- or bearer the public lands and public property of Cuba and the fiscal resources of the people and Government of Cuba for

the faithful and complete discharge of those obligations, and did not said Bonds or paper issues or some of them purport, to be sealed with the seal of the said Provisional Government and were they not signed by the said Narciso Lopez, and did they not purport to be witnessed by Ambrosio Jose Gonzales and Jose Maria Sanchez Yznaga-- members of said patriotic Junta and the Honorable Cotesworth Pinckney Smith, Judge of the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals of the State of Mississippi?

He declines answering because an answer might tend to implicate himself.

10th Do you know the said Ambrosio Jose Gonzales? who is he? and where is he now?

Yes, as in obedience to the precept "nosce te ipsum" he knows himself to be an officially calumniated Cuban and a lover of his country. He is at present in the city of Savannah, Georgia.

11th If the foregoing Interrogatory should be answered affirmatively then state how much in amount of said Bonds was issued, by what authority they were issued by whom and what disposition was made of the same?

He declines as in the 8th & 9th answer above.

12th Did the said O'Sullivan receive or dispose of any of such bonds or the proceeds thereof? If you answer particularly and affirmatively then state dates and amounts.

He declines as in the 8th & 9th answer above.

13th Was not the said John L. O'Sullivan at some time during the years of 1850 and 1851 and if so at what time engaged in fitting out or setting on foot a military expedition or some warlike enterprize or enterprizes against the Island of Cuba-- and were not you and the said Narciso Lopez-- and the said J. Sanchez Iznaga or some one or all and which of you connected with the said John L. O'Sullivan in the fitting out or setting on foot the said expedition or enterprize.

Referring to his 4th answer, and answering in relation to the procuring or fitting out of the Steamer Cleopatra and her contemplated voyage, the subject matter of the present indictment in the trial of which he is interrogated or anything at any time done by Mr. O'Sullivan within the Southern District of New York, he answers in the negative.

14th Where were you during the months of January, February, March, April, May, June and July in the year 1851? State particularly.

In New Orleans, through the month of January. In the State of Georgia through the following months, chiefly in or near the city of Savannah, with occasional visits to Macon & Columbus.

15th Had you any information except through your correspondence with the said John L. O'Sullivan of any of his acts or ~~places~~ plans respecting the despatching of a steamer from New York or New Jersey to the South? If so state what that information was-- whence it was denied-- and the whole extent of it.

No.

16th Was there any intention on the part of the said John L. O'Sullivan or yourself-- or the said Narciso Lopez actually and bona fide to send from any Northern Port,-- say from any port or place in New York-- or New Jersey-- any person or persons-- emigrant or emigrants-- to the State of Texas to Mexico or any part of Central America for the actual and bona fide purpose of settling-- or colonizing such individuals in the places last named.

Yes. It was intended to furnish passage to Galveston, Texas to all who should not voluntarily when no longer within the limits of the U.S. choose to engage in an auxiliary liberating military expedition for Cuba and it was intended that such emigrants should be maintained at that point until they should find satisfactory settlements or employments and it was

not only believed that they would be willingly welcomed by the people and authorities of Texas but Deponent has been ~~been~~ informed and has no doubt that correspondence was had by Mr. O'Sullivan's direction with a friend then in Texas for the purpose of facilitating such reception.

17th If any engagement, arrangement or contract was ever made during the year 1850 or 1851 by the said John L. O'Sullivan and with any individual or individuals-- purporting to be for the purposes of colonizing in Texas, Mexico, or Central America, was not such contract or arrangement made with the design of an ultimate attack upon the Island of Cuba and for the overthrow of the Government thereof.

This question is already answered in his former answers.

18th Was the said John L. O'Sullivan during the periods aforesaid the owner, proprietor, possessor or lessee of any lands, farms-- or estates in Texas, or Mexico, or Central America? If so state what such possessions were.

He has no information on the subject.

19th Was the said John L. O'Sullivan to your knowledge, the agent of any land proprietor in Texas-- Mexico-- or Central America, for the actual and bona fide purpose of causing immigration to those places or any of them for the purposes of permanent settlement there. If so state who his principals were and their places of residence.

He has no information on the subject.

20th If any such settlement or colonization was in the actual purpose of the said John L. O'Sullivan then set forth so far as you know the equipments with which said emigrants were to be provided the provisions and stores with which they were to be furnished the particular place-- or places where they were to be settled and say whether they were to be accompanied by women or children?

He has no further knowledge of the subject than is contained in his former answers.

21st For what particular time, were the said emigrants to be engaged by the said O'Sullivan-- and what were their particular occupations to be? What compensation were they to receive? were they to be mechanics, Farmers-- or Shepherds-- and how were their homes or habitations to be provided.

He has no further knowledge of the subject than is contained in his former answers.

22nd Was there no fear expressed by the said John L. O'Sullivan or entertained by him-- as you are supposed by the 5th direct Interrogatory to be acquainted with his apprehensions that the good faith therein referred to might not be kept by the passengers described in said last mentioned Interrogatory and that the said passengers after their departure from the North for Texas, Mexico, or Central America when upon the high seas might violate their sacred engagements with the said O'Sullivan and proceed against his wishes to the Island of Cuba for the purpose of Colonizing there.

Mr. O'Sullivan did at one period at the end of March express an apprehension that the good faith of the engagement for the conveyance of said emigrants to Texas might be in danger of being violated by a course of proceeding which might operate as a sort of coercion or undue influence to induce them to consent to change their destination and engage in an expedition for Cuba. This had however no reference to any particular point whether upon the high seas or the dry land.

23rd From what did the apprehension of Mr. O'Sullivan referred to in the 5th direct Interrogatory arise? was it from the declarations of the passengers-- the nature of the emigration-- or the character of the individuals engaged.

It did not arise from any of the said sources. It grew out of a punctilious scrupulousness on the subject, on Mr. O'Sullivan's part, causing him to misapprehend the intended meaning of some expression in a letter received by him and consequently to imagine a possibility that for want of adequate preparation of the means requisite to carry said engagement fully and at once into effect a stress of circumstances might arise which would operate as an undue influence on their minds to control or warp the entire freedom of their choice and action.

24th Who were the persons referred to in said 5th Interrogatory as those who might possibly be placed in a situation in which they might feel constrained by circumstances to consent to change their destination.

The persons referred to in his answer to the 22d cross interrogatory.

25th What were the situations and circumstances referred to in the last mentioned Interrogatory-- and where was the place to which said passengers might feel constrained to change their destination.

[See answer to 26th cross interrogatory]

26th From whom was such constraint to come? who was to compel them to change their destination? and why was it to be altered from the original one if that were bona fide and real.

One answer will best cover both these interrogations. Mr. O'Sullivan had understood that when a division should arise as was to be expected at the place where a military expedition should be organized, and when the proposition should be made to the above mentioned Texan emigrants to change their destination and voluntarily engage to go to Cuba, some of them should so consent and others perhaps object to do so, and prefer to continue on to Texas, there should be proper provision on the spot for at once and fully carrying out that engagement with them. His apprehension at a later period growing out of some incidental expression in a letter, was lest there might not be *provided in advance* a vessel for their transportation; he feared lest they might perhaps be left at the time at such a place of division, with a view to their being shortly afterwards sent for or called for to complete their voyage to Texas and lest some of them might there upon feel in danger of being abandoned there altogether whether from suspicion that faith might not be kept with them by those controlling their means of transportation or from fear that circumstances might arise to frustrate their intention of sending or calling for them; which situation Mr. O'Sullivan seemed to regard as calculated to exert an undue influence upon their freedom of choice and perhaps to cause some to consent unwillingly to go to Cuba who might otherwise have preferred to continue on to Texas.

27th Why did Mr. O'Sullivan undertake the business of carrying passengers by steamer from the north to the South while he was under apprehension as to the conduct of the passengers during the voyage.

He did not so undertake; on the contrary on his conceiving the mistaken apprehension referred to he at once wrote that unless it was removed he would withdraw from and have nothing further to do with the business; and that it was better that the cause of Cuban liberty, dear as it was to all concerned, should perish than that from neglect to provide the requisite means, a single individual should have the right to say that good faith had not been fairly kept with him. The nature of the reply to him deponent has already stated in his sixth direct answer; and Mr. O'Sullivan was satisfied that his apprehension was groundless.

28th Was the said John L. O'Sullivan during the periods hereinbefore referred to a merchant, shipowner, an emigrant agent or engaged in the business of transporting passengers by sea from one point to another.

That he has no other knowledge on the subject than is contained in his former answers.

29th If you answer in the negative to the last Cross Interrogatory then state what was his business and what his occupation during the time referred to.

That he has no other knowledge on the subject than is contained in his former answers.

30th Of what country were the passengers referred to in the fifth direct Interrogatory-- natives-- Had they been Farmers, mechanics or Soldiers-- and if you say that they had been Soldiers in what service had they been engaged.

He has no particular information on the subject but believes them to have been very mixed of various kinds of agricultural, mechanical or manual laborers; and all or most of them to have seen more or less of military service in Europe.

31st If said passengers should during their aforesaid voyage escape from the control of Mr. O'Sullivan according to his apprehension-- to what place was he afraid they would go? If to Cuba-- what was he fearful of their doing in that Island?

His preceding answers have already sufficiently explained that there was no question of any such "escape" as is here indicated. As for those who should consent to engage to go to Cuba, he is not aware that Mr. O'Sullivan was "fearful" at all as to what they would do, but on the contrary he presumes he was hopeful that they would render useful aid to the Cubans in their intended insurrection for liberty, against the vast military force under which they are kept crushed, as a small nucleus of efficient auxiliary volunteers.

32nd Had General Narciso Lopez or Major Louis Schlessinger any knowledge or connection with the said proposed enterprize of transporting passengers-- and did they share in the apprehensions of Mr. O'Sullivan.

To the first part of the interrogatory he answers, yes; to the second part, that he has no knowledge on the subject.

33rd Do you know of any money having been sent to the said John L. O'Sullivan for the purpose of carrying out his plan of transporting passengers as described in the 5th direct Interrogatory-- or any other purpose connected with the transportation of men from the north to the South or from the United States to any other country? If so state the amounts thereof-- the persons by whom the same were furnished and the places from whence they were derived.

He doth know of money having been so sent, the sums, as deponent is informed, amounted to about twenty-eight thousand dollars. The persons by whom they were furnished, as also the places from whence they were derived, he declines to state because an answer might tend to implicate himself, except in regard to the greater portion of said amount, which, as he has been informed by others, came from the purses of various patriots in the Island of Cuba and in part from the proceeds of a large number of articles of jewelry, consisting of rings, brooches, crosses, chains, reliquiaries &c