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DESPATCHES FROM UNITED STATES CONSULS IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA, 1799 -

Roll 7

Volume 7

January 3, 1870 - December 23, 1873



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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House Ex. Doc. 760

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FEB 15 1870  
A.T.E. D.

United States Consulate at  
Santiago de Cuba January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1870

To the Hon. Hamilton Fish  
Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department  
the receipt of circular No. 3, likewise transmit my  
Quarterly returns ending Decr. 31<sup>st</sup> 69.

The aggregate returns of the Consular Agencies  
of this Consular district I have not been able  
to get in time to send with my report, but will  
forward them, so soon as received.

The Commercial Report is as follows, for the  
term ending Decr. 23<sup>rd</sup> 69.

Importations—Excepting Flour of which there is  
a fair stock, the market is moderately supplied  
with all other sorts of commodities at regular prices.



Lumber. Scarce no arrivals would fetch \$28 to 29 if wide and regular in length.

Potatoes and Onions, abundant \$22 per 100 lb.

Rice. Receipts have been large sold at \$5 9/16

Copperage. The demand for hoops is better.

Kerosene. Limited stock. 60¢ gall.

Coal for Steamers depots sold at \$5 3/4 4 months.

Jerked Beef. Little in the market \$7.00

Codfish. The market quite bare retailing at \$12.00. Exports.

Sugars. Grinding is about general now, the crop will be about 50% less than formerly.

Some centrifugal sugars already have been exported to N. York on planters account.

Muscavados will come in next month.

Rum. None has been rec'd, a few puncheons old on hand, the holder has refused 35¢ gall.

Coffee. With increased confidence in the coffee districts, planters do not hasten so much with



The pickings. Bag kinds sell readily at from 10 to 12½ cts for island consumption.

Cocoa. The receipts of new of no importance, about 1000 bags of old on hand at \$10½.

Tobacco. Any estimates for the present are unreliable and hazardous.

Justic. None offered nominal \$35.

Beeswax. Always scarce and worth \$28.99

Freights: scarce for all parts.

Exchanges. Are high owing to the small number of vendors. France 3½% for Sterling 21½% for Spain 8½% for U.S. in currency 16½% for

N.B. All Captains, omitting to deliver to the Custom House officers in the visit boat a third copy of their Manifest made at sea by them, will be fined \$500.

The political state of affairs at this Consular district are in a most deplorable condition.

The assassination at Bayamo of the citizens sent,

Begin



from this city by order of Count Valmaseda  
which fact I have already communicated to  
the Department was nothing more than that  
which is daily perpetrated. It is well known  
that Valmaseda, aspires to the position of Captain  
General of the Island, and in order to increase his  
popularity amongst the blood craving Catalans  
who are operating in his behalfs both in this Is-  
land, and in Spain, gives imperative orders to  
make this a war of extermination and we daily  
learn of peaceful citizens residing in the country, assa-  
sinated by the mobilized Spanish troops, these  
orders are probably carried to an extreme from the  
fact that those commanding such troops are con-  
stantly supplying some Catalan produce dealers  
of this city and whose object is to sack the country  
and forward to their agents such portions of the  
crop that may fall into their hands.



The planters are persecuted to such a degree as to be compelled to flee from their estates, whose crops are immediately sequestered and appropriated to private purposes.

Very little credit can be placed upon the *Sp. Press.* being a government organ which maintains that the insurrection is finished in this department, which is far from the truth; the insurrection continues in full force, frequent encounters take place as is seen by the frequent arrivals of wounded Spanish soldiers. The Cubans being better armed and disciplined than formerly in many cases take the offensive position and having had their ranks increased by desertions from the Spanish army are becoming bold and fight well. Much sickness prevails amongst the newly arrived Span. troops who find it impossible to endure the climate; it is estimated that 50% of the Spanish Volunteers from



Sickness are full (hors du combat) the hospitals are full to overflowing. Much anxiety has been felt by the Cubans respecting the position of our government in the Cuba question and I am inclined to believe unless some action is taken upon the matter the insurrection will continue for a long time as it is impossible for any force that Spain can send to exterminate the rebel force owing to the climate and topography of the country, while both contending parties destroy every vestige of Agriculture. It is generally known and admitted by the liberal minded Spanish officers who do not conceal the fact that it is impossible to suppress the insurrection and the only inducement offered for the continuance of the same is that the commanding officers are filling their pockets at the expense of the country. The above is the actual state of the country founded upon a long residence



and thorough knowledge of the people and country. The health of the city continues in an abnormal condition, small pox, endemic fevers and misery to an alarming extent prevails. I have on other occasions manifested to the Department the want of a flag and of the following forms which I hope will be forwarded in due time. Viz Forins Nos 4, 8, 11, 13, 17, 21, 34, 35, 38, 39, 47, 58, 121, 136.

Yours Sir

Your Most Obedt Servt

A. S. Phillips

Acting U. S. Consul

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Mr. - A. Smith  
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No 8

United States Consulate

Santiago de Cuba Jan 26<sup>m</sup> 1870

Hon Hamilton Fish  
Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the  
Department of the receipt of despatch No 116  
which came duly to hand. Per Amer<sup>ca</sup>

Brig Water Witch of Baltimore I forwarded  
my reports for quarter ending Dec<sup>r</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>

I have to inform the Department that to day  
concluded the three days of national feasts  
given by Count Valmaseda in honor of the  
pacification of the Insurrection in this  
department.

The City was decorated with flags,



N<sup>o</sup> 36.

United States Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 1871

Hon Hamilton Fish  
Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit  
herewith Returns from each of the  
Agencies of this Consulate namely Baracoa,  
Guantanamo, Manzanillo and Sta Cruz  
for Quarter ending Sep 30<sup>th</sup> 1871

I am Sir

Yr Obedt Servant.

Wm H. Russell  
Consul

Enclosures

Returns from the Agencies <sup>part</sup> <sub>not</sub>



Mr. Young

*Mr. Young*

RECEIVED  
JAN 2 1872  
DEPT. OF STATE.

N<sup>o</sup> 411-

U. S. Consulate Santiago de Cuba

December 15<sup>th</sup> 1871

ACKNOWLEDGED  
JAN 3 1872

Mr A M Young to the Department of State

Subject - Presenting Mr Fred Roca as U.S. Cons Agent -

Presenting Mr Fred Roca as U.S. Consular Agent at Manzanillo to fill vacancy occasioned by Mr Charles H. Bithorn's resignation

cut. enclosed  
Jan 23 1872



N<sup>o</sup> 41. United States Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1871

Hon<sup>ble</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Hunter

Ass<sup>t</sup> Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I would most respectfully present the  
name of Mr Fred Rocas U.S. Consular  
Agent at Manzanillo to fill the vacancy oc-  
casioned by the resignation of Mr Cha. G.  
Bithorn. Mr Rocas is highly recommended  
to me by his predecessor in office Mr Bithorn  
and is citizen of the U.S.

Your early attention to this is respectfully solicited

Dear Sir

Your Obt Servant.

Wm Hunter



NAMES OF PERSONS employed at the United States Consulate at *Santiago de Cuba*

NAME.	PLACE.	OF WHAT COUNTRY A CITIZEN OR SUBJECT.	RANK,	DATE OF NOMINATION.	DATE OF APPROV.
<i>A. N. Young</i>	<i>Santiago de Cuba</i>	<i>United States</i>	<i>Consul</i>	<i>Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 1871</i>	<i>Jan'y 15</i>
<i>Emilio J. Schmitt</i>	<i>" " "</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>Vice Consul</i>	<i>May 25<sup>th</sup> 1871</i>	<i>July 25<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Pablo E. Mayo</i>	<i>Baracoa</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>Consular Agent</i>	<i>Feb'y 3<sup>d</sup> 1871</i>	<i>Feb'y 22<sup>d</sup></i>
<i>Wm. F. Allison</i>	<i>Guantanamo</i>	<i>United States</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>" " "</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>Charles Huger</i>	<i>Santa Cruz</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>" " "</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>Frederick Roca-</i>	<i>Manzanillo</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1871</i>	

*Santiago de Cuba December 31<sup>st</sup> 1871*

*[Handwritten Signature]*



Triumphal arches were erected in the principal streets bearing appropriate devices and at night the city was brilliantly illuminated.

The ~~Vatukans~~ and lower orders of society freely participated in the festivities, while Religious procession took an active part. There was a display of Fire Works in the evening, and Balls were not forgotten. At the Theatre a piece was put upon the stage founded upon some of the incidents of the war, terminating in presenting ~~Salmaseda~~ Salmaseda with a laurel wreath as the "Conquering Hero".

Public opinion thinks these demonstrations have been premature as during the first day of the festivities a convoy which had been ordered to leave for "La Cruz" and "La Bonita" had been detained from information rec'd that Genl Jordan had



made his appearance in those vicinities with a force of 2000 men. Subsequently (some day) news was received that Capt<sup>m</sup> Roestero had captured a valuable Spanish Convoy of 80 mules under Command of Capt<sup>m</sup> Campillo near the sugar plantation called Sta Isabel, after which the estate belonging to Antonio Puente El Retiro was destroyed; we hear frequently of bands from 4 to 500 Patriots in the vicinity of the Villa del Cobre (12 miles from this city.) On the 21<sup>st</sup> an order was issued containing the news that the Insurgent Lieut. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Francisco Marciano had been captured which has proven true, he was publicly shot at this city at 8 1/2 A.M. this day - the whole city was under arms. Reports says that the family of Gen<sup>l</sup>. Figueroa has been captured and that they are



now on the Cobre Village

The extravagant display of the festivities  
has excited the ridicule of the better classes  
who call it a *face a la Don Quixote* and  
ascribe the object as purely emanating  
from Valmaseda's love of ambition, aspir-  
ing to the Capt<sup>y</sup> Generalship of the Islands.  
There is no doubt of the fact that he has  
improved the opportunity of amassing an  
immense sum of money, having had  
perfect control for several months of all  
the cattle sent from the interior to this city.  
Last evening his promotion to Lieut<sup>nt</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>  
was received officially

Capt<sup>y</sup> Rodolph Cchoa of the  
Spanish army is being court martialed  
for desertion. So you perceive Sir  
these revolting spectacles are continually  
of shooting



presenting themselves before the public, and it is  
time that the humane and Christian Nations  
take measures to stop such needless shedding  
of blood.

The destruction of the agricultural interest  
of the country continues, which will only termin-  
ate when the natural resources of the country  
will be entirely exhausted.

I have been informed that Mareano  
was arrested by a Spanish assistant who  
for a long time has been in the insurrection  
with him, who also delivered up the family  
of Figueredo all being sick and away from  
their Camp.

I have the honor to be  
Your Most Obedt Servant

A. S. Phillips



Translation.

United States Consulate at  
Santiago de Cuba 21<sup>st</sup> of Jan. 1870

To His Excellency the Captain  
Genl. of Cuba.

Most Excellent Sir:

The jurisdiction of Cuba, Guantánamo  
and Baracoa are free from Insurgents;  
with the exception of the first ~~where~~ remains a  
few runaway negroes and criminals who  
are secreted in the ~~same~~ woods where I leave  
sufficient forces to persecute and exterminate  
them. Bayamo, Manzanillo and Jiguani  
continues at Peace. The columns charged  
with the principal attacks already are (en route)  
for the jurisdiction of Holguin, & the slight  
resistance which oppose them and the numbers  
who present themselves seeking their protection

U. S. Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 1870



inclines me to believe that the pacification will be effectuated within a fortnight.

The efforts made by the troops which your Excellency placed at my orders to achieve this result has been extraordinary and have suffered with the greatest resignation for the last three months, exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and moreover have to combat with intensity the cruel infirmities and epidemics, crossing impassible forests and swampy lands; Our soldiers have come cheerfully on with their triumphs proud of their own valor.

The losses which my troops have sustained within the last three months I will transmit to your Excellency in a separate Despatch. I will also send to your Excellency, if you acquiesce to my proposicion, recommendations



for services rendered by the troops and volunteers, and for the zealous demonstrations of the inhabitants towards the suffering and wounded soldiers.

I leave within a few days for Bayamo to take command of the troops in the ensuing campaign before Las Tunas and will there await your Excellency's instructions.

Published for the Genl. Satisfaction  
of the Inhabitants of this Department.

(Signed)

El Conde de Valmaseda



RECEIVED  
MAR 3 1870  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Nº 9.

United States Consulate

Santiago de Cuba Feb 12<sup>m</sup> 1870

Hon Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State

Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that on Thursday Feb. 10<sup>m</sup> a naturalized American citizen John Francis Portocarrero (whose papers are in due form and deposited in this Consulate) was arrested together with a number of prominent Cubans, and on the following day ~~was~~ bound and sent some 12 miles into the country where one Commander Don Carlos Boet of the contraguerrilla of Valmaseda awaited them for trial of complicity in the political struggle pending.

Upon ascertaining of the fact and knowing



of the exasperated feelings of the Spaniards since the receipt of the news of the death of Castañor at Key West, and recollecting the tragic end of those who perished at Bayamo under similar circumstances. I felt it my duty to communicate with the local authorities requesting that the said Portuons do be tried in this city and in my presence agreeable to instructions given by Rr Admiral Hoff to the Spanish Government when here in July last. That in future cases all American prisoners shall be given to them a fair trial before a competent Tribunal and in the presence of the American Consul". I consequently without delay addressed a communication to the acting Governor as will be seen per enclosed copy and received a reply of which I enclose a translation.



I have answered the Governor's despatch to me,  
and have the honor to enclose a copy and  
a translation of the reply to the same I  
have also communicated the circumstances  
to Henry C. Hall Esq. Vice Consul General  
at Havana for his information.

Since Valmaseda's proclamation of the  
pacification of the Eastern Department,  
continual encounters are taking place in this  
vicinity of the particulars it is quite  
impossible to obtain a correct version: but  
suffice it to say that every day new arrests  
are being made which has greatly alarmed  
the public and owing to the numbers of  
natural born and naturalized American  
Citizens residing in this city and its vicinity  
who are at the mercy of personal calumnia-  
tion or caprice of the Spanish Government



feel that no protection offered to them and liable at any moment to be hurried off to the interior maltreated or shot without having any opportunity for defence as seen in the case of Portuondo.

Capt<sup>m</sup> Harvey (an Englishman) of the Consolidated Copper mines of Cobre informs me that in his vicinity the state of affairs are in a most deplorable condition small bands of insurgents roam through the vicinity of that Village destroying every source of agricultural product while the mobilized troops shoot at discretion all whom they think unfavorable to the sp. cause "Thus it can be said that we are living in the "Reign of Terror" every Cuban is suspected the nightly arrests increases so that no one dares to pass



the night at his own residence and seek a place of safety elsewhere. Last night reminded one of the Eve of Saint Bartolomeo's Massacre. The police were in secret operations all night and many arrests were made.

This Consulate office has been beset with alarmed american citizens and Cubans, asking for protection and every night I am compelled to lodge some alarmed persons who are not in any way implicated in the pending struggle. I fear very much that the time will arrive and perhaps not for distant when the persecuted Cubans will have no recourse left to them but by an uprising "En masse" when a general massacre will ensue.



I hope Sir some action may be taken for the  
- protection of american citizens at this city  
and be allowed to them, in case of arrest  
a fair trial, in presence of a representative  
of their country so that justice may be  
done to them and that the Department  
take immediate action in the case of  
Portuondo sustaining if justifiable the  
actions that I have taken in aforesaid  
case

February 15<sup>th</sup> 4 o'clock P.M.  
The Contraguerrillos de Valmaseda under  
Commander Carlos Boet have just  
returned to the city and I have ascertained  
from an eye witness that the prisoners  
had no form of trial. a part of the  
number were shot at the estate the  
remaining being some 15 to 20 were



assured that they would be sent to this  
city this day for trial, elated by these  
hopes ~~to~~ to their respective families  
accordingly when but a short distance  
from the place of departure quietly riding  
on were fired upon by the accompanying guard  
and all shot and left to fester in the sun until  
the following day when negroes were sent from  
this city to inter them all in one common trench  
Portuondo, was the first to fall notwithstanding  
the assurance to me from the Governor that  
he should have a fair trial, these unfortunate  
individuals guilty or not were hurried  
into eternity shot from behind when  
they entertained hopes of having a fair  
trial and justice be done into them the  
wholesale massacre with those shot at  
the estate numbers some 40 individuals



among whom were persons of the highest respectability and fathers of families.

It has been intimated to me by an officer in the Spanish Army that the revenge for the death of Castañon was the principal cause of the perpetration of the act

Thus you perceive Sir what little confidence can be placed in the Spanish Government and with what little security do we live, when contempt is shown to me by protesting against the barbarous manner of harrying off American citizens to the high roads and shooting them like dogs, denying them a trial

What security shall I have after being releaved from my Consular duties unless our Government protects its citizens

I have the honor to be

Your Most Obedt Servt

A. W. Phillips



United States Consulate

Santiago de Cuba February 11<sup>m</sup> 1870

To Colonel Ojeda  
Acting Governor

Sir:

Having been informed that John Francis Poturondo a citizen of the United States of America as proven by his naturalization papers, deposited at this Consulate has been to-day taken to the country under arrest, I have in conformity with instructions from my Government demand that said person be tried in this Capital before a competent Tribunal and in my presence, and in accordance with the protest made by Admiral Hoff when here in July last respecting the cases of Speakman and Weyth.

Signed - A. E. Phillips



## Translation

The Governor's reply. Letter No. 1

I have received your communication bearing the same date respecting the arrest of the American Citizen John Francis Portuondo who has been sent to the country and in virtue of the instructions that you say to have received from your Government ask that Portuondo be judged in your presence.

I believe that Portuondo not only is an American Citizen but that you have such instructions from your Government which is substantiated by your communication; but you must also believe in your turn that I cannot deviate from the formalities which our legislation exact in our transactions therefore not having superior instructions it is impossible to proceed in any other manner.

Nevertheless I can assure you that Portuondo will be judged in due form for which I require no previous recommendations and in view of this I transfer a copy of your despatch to the Fiscal charged with his case, that he may know of your interference in this matter.



I do this in consideration of a friendly nation; because  
respecting your demands I must make present to you  
that in the quality of Vice Consul you have no  
diplomatic bearing your powers being that of  
a Commercial Agent.

Confident that I have  
attended to your despatches

May God preserve you many  
years.

Santiago de Cuba Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 1870

Signed Juan de Céspedes



(Copy)

United States Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba Feb 12<sup>m</sup> 1870

To Colonel Juan Ojeda  
Acting Governor

Sir

I have the honor to reply to your Official Despatch dated yesterday and received by me this day at 11-30 A.M. in which you refuse to allow the American Citizen Portuondo to be tried in this City in my presence; I take note of that, although you may consider it unnecessary, you had sent a copy of my despatch of yesterday respecting him to the Fiscal of his case, and that you did so as a mark of deference to a friendly nation; but ~~at~~ the same time you considered me nearly as a Commercial Agent and you give me to infer that you were of opinion



I had not the power to make any  
reclamations in his behalf; though  
you may hold this opinion as to my  
powers I am quite satisfied of that  
entertained in this respect by the United  
States Government who appointed me,  
and on their part, I now protest  
against your refusal to grant my just  
demand with regard to Portuondo, hold-  
ing you responsible for any consequences  
thereof

I shall at once report the case  
to my Government who will decide  
what course to pursue

I am Sir Most Respectfully  
(Signed A E Phillips)



## Translation

(Governor's reply) - Letter <sup>To</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 2  
I have received your despatch of this  
day at 4½ P.M. and am informed  
of its contents. I shall forward at the  
earliest opportunity account of the  
same to his Excellency the Captain  
General of the Island

May God preserve you many  
years

Santiago de Cuba Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 1870

Signed. Juan de Céspedes



RECEIVED  
MAR 24 1870  
DEPT. OF STATE

No. 2  
is an  
order on the  
department  
of State

United States Consular Agency  
Manzanillo Cuba 25<sup>th</sup> Feby 1870.

Sir,  
The increased impositions  
of fines upon American Masters by the Custom  
-House Authorities and the tardy attention,  
if any, which their protests against com-  
-pulsory fines receive, when presented to  
higher Authority at Havana - have in-  
-duced me to remit to the Department of  
State the enclosed printed Custom-rules  
and regulations, which, regardless of the  
entire absence of any sense or meaning in  
the English translation of some of the articles,  
are first on arrival of vessel at this port  
placed into the hands of masters, who  
are expected to know their contents pre-  
-vious to receiving them and in default of  
complying with the different enactments  
are obliged to pay heavy fines; whereas it  
should be the duty of the Spanish Consul  
or Agent at the port of clearance in the U.  
States to bring these regulations to the notice  
of masters or shippers, whenever a vessel  
clears for a port in this Island.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Th. H. Vetterlein & Sons, Merchants  
in New York, who despatched in December

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department  
of State  
1870

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1870





No. 2  
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United States A. Consular Agency  
Manzanillo Cuba 25<sup>th</sup> Februy 1870.

Son: Sir,

The increased impositions of fines upon American Masters by the Custom-House Authorities and the tardy attention, if any, which their protests against compulsory fines receive, when presented to higher Authority at Havana - have induced me to remit to the Department of State the enclosed printed Custom-rules and regulations, which, regardless of the entire absence of any sense or meaning in the English translation of some of the articles, are first on arrival of vessel at this port placed into the hands of masters, who are expected to know their contents previous to receiving them and in default of complying with the different enactments are obliged to pay heavy fines; whereas it should be the duty of the Spanish Consul or Agent at the port of clearance in the U. States to bring these regulations to the notice of masters or shippers, whenever a vessel clears for a port in this Island.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Th. H. Vetterlein & Sons, Merchants in New York, who despatched in December

25<sup>th</sup> Februy 1870



Hon: Sir,

The increased impositions  
of fines upon American Masters by the Custom  
- House Authorities and the tardy attention,  
if any, which their protests against com-  
- pulsory fines receive, when presented to  
higher Authority at Havana - have in-  
- duced me to remit to the Department of  
State the enclosed printed Custom-rules  
and regulations, which, regardless of the  
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should be the duty of the Spanish Consul  
or Agent at the port of clearance in the U.  
States to bring these regulations to the notice  
of masters or shippers, whenever a vessel  
clears for a port in this Island.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Th. H. Vetterlein & Sons, Merchants  
in New York, who dispatched in December

Hon: Hamilton Fish  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington/D/c



Last the Amer<sup>n</sup> Brig<sup>nt</sup> "Queen of the South" of New York, Jas: W. Burns Master, for this port, were informed by the Spanish Consul at New York, that only one Manifest was required on vessels arrival here, and this assertion the same official repeated to them, when they despatched the Amer<sup>n</sup> Schooner "James O'Donohue," Amos Smith M<sup>r</sup>, a month later for this port. - The "Queen of the South" however was fined \$500 - five hundred Dollars for not presenting a Duplicate Manifest on her arrival and the Schr: "Jas: O'Donohue" escaped the same fine, only by receiving of the Consignee here timely notice through the pilot, which brought her from Cape Cruz to this port. -

The Amer<sup>n</sup> Brig "Crimea" of Stockton, S. R. Waterhouse Master, was fined in Sept<sup>r</sup> 1868 \$125 - one hundred and twenty five Dollars by the Customs Authorities of this port and on representation of the Consignees Mess<sup>rs</sup>: Venecia Rodriguez & Co, Merchants here, to the U. States Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> at Havana, this latter obtained of the Intendente of Customs there the promise, that the amount should be refunded by the Collector of Customs here, as it had been unjustly imposed upon the vessel. - The Collector here however on Mess<sup>rs</sup>: Venecia Rodriguez & Co application refused refunding the fine without a written order of the Intendente and since



Last the Amer<sup>n</sup> Brig<sup>te</sup> "Queen of the South" of New York, Jas: W. Burns Master, for this port, were informed by the Spanish Consul at New York, that only one Manifest was required on vessels arrival here, and this assertion the same official repeated to them, when they despatched the Amer<sup>n</sup> Schooner "James O'Donohue," Amos Smith M<sup>r</sup>, a month later for this port. - The "Queen of the South" however was fined \$500 - five hundred Dollars for not presenting a Duplicate Manifest on her arrival and the Schr: "Jas: O'Donohue" escaped the same fine, only by receiving of the Consignee here timely notice through the pilot, which brought her from Cape Cruz to this port. -

The Amer<sup>n</sup> Brig<sup>te</sup> "Crimea" of Stockton, S. R. Waterhouse Master, was fined in Sept<sup>r</sup> 1868 \$125 - one hundred and twenty five Dollars by the Customs Authorities of this port and in representation of the Consignees Mess<sup>rs</sup>: Venecia Rodriguez & Co, Merchants here, to the U. States Consul Gen<sup>l</sup> at Havana, this latter obtained of the Intendente of Customs there the promise, that the amount should be refunded by the Collector of Customs here, as it had been unjustly imposed upon the vessel. - The Collector here however on Mess<sup>rs</sup>: Venecia Rodriguez & Co application refused refunding the fine without a written order of the Intendente and since



acquainting the Consul General of the United States at Havana of this requisition nothing further has been heard on the subject. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Blanchard Pouslandale, 140 Commercial St. at Boston, Mass., have addressed me twice on the subject in behalf of the master of the Brig "Crimea" and are now advised by Vice Consul Genl. H. C. Hall at Havana to refer their claim first to the Depart<sup>t</sup> of State.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully

Your obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>  
C. A. Withorn.

Consular Agent.



file  
Mr. Smith  
RECEIVED  
MAR 23  
DEPT. OF STATE

United States Consulate 23

Santiago de Cuba March 9<sup>th</sup> 1870

Hon. J. C. B. Davis  
Asst. Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acquaint you of my arrival at this city on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>. but, owing to enfeebled health produced by sudden change of climate, I requested my predecessor, Dr. Phillips to remain in charge until my health reached a condition to qualify.

From force of most deplorable circumstances I assumed the duties of Office on the Evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst, of which fact, I have advised the Department by this Mail. The



particulars attending my sudden induction to Office are as follows. On yesterday, the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. the steamer "Villa Clara" from Havana arrived bringing the N. Y. Herald dates of the 26 inst. containing the letter of Dr. Phillips to the Department of State under date of January 3<sup>rd</sup> couched in bitter terms of denunciation against the Spanish Authorities and the military subjects of that Gov<sup>mt</sup>. Upon the arrival of the letter it was translated at the office of the "Bandera Española" the Spanish Official Organ and its contents transferred to the Column of that Sheet.

As soon as distribution commenced and the contents of the letter became known to the Catalans and Volunteers, the excitement became intense - his life was threat



ened, and I expected that every moment would be his last. Dr Phillips realizing the danger, closed the Office, and appealed to me to intercede with the Governor for his protection. In company with Mr Ramsden the English Consul I repaired to the Palace and sought an interview with the Governor and insisted in the name of the United States Government sufficient protection for the life of the Amer<sup>n</sup> Consul. The Gov<sup>mt</sup> received me very cordially and informed me that he had already taken active measures to prevent any outbreak or attempt by the soldiers to carry out their threat of Assassination, I asked him if he could guarantee official protection to the Amer<sup>n</sup> Consul and he replied he could, but qualified



the remark by saying that he would advise Dr. Phillips, as a friend to leave the country immediately, manifestly agreeing with him in this, advise.

I requested a passport for himself and wife to leave by the French Steamer Darien bound for Kingston, Jamaica, which was to sail the same day. I returned to the Consulate and recounted the result of my interview, whereupon Dr. Phillips remarked "I will leave the country immediately." As he had but a brief time to surrender the Office, and hastily collecting a few articles of wearing apparel, he requested me to return to the Gov<sup>t</sup> and obtain the Passport, I did so, but was informed by his Excellency that none would be granted until I had assumed the



duties of Consul and officially notified the Government of this fact. You will perceive that to save this Gentleman's life I was obliged to accede to this demand and that Dr. Phillips departed the country a private Citizen. When the hour arrived for their departure the Authorities detailed special police and military guard to remain on the wharf where a concert action of attack had been agreed upon by some of the more indignant Troops and despatched the Military Secretary to escort them to the Steamer Darien, on board of which they arrived in safety and sailed as exiles at 6 P.M.

There were three destitute Amer<sup>n</sup> Seamen from the Sloop Champion of which case you were previously advised by my



predecessor and now awaiting instructions. In view of the precarious state of affairs I deemed it advisable to take their deposition and forward them by the same steamer to Jamaica where they could re-ship on board of some Amerm. Vessel for the States. Application for Passports to carry out my desired object was promptly refused, and the reason assigned that the case was pending and their presence would be required to witness in case Valmaseda should instruct the Govern<sup>mt</sup> to proceed to trial before a Marine Tribunal.

The men are therefore on my hands.

I hope the Depart<sup>mt</sup> will immediately advise me what course to take in the disposition of this case as every day makes it more aggravated in character together with



increased expenses to the Govern<sup>mt</sup>.

In reference to the necessity of having a man of war at this place - from the repeated earnest intercessions of Dr. Phillips for that form of protection pending the continuence of these troubles.

I infer the Govern<sup>mt</sup> is of the opinion that he has manifested unnecessary alarm or it would have despatched such relief before this. The occurrence of yesterday plainly shows the absolute and immediate necessity of Naval protection if the Govern<sup>mt</sup> desires to avert a multiplicity of trouble and vouchsafe a feeling of security to our defenceless countrymen.

Yours Sir,

Your Obedt Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. W. Parsons.





United States Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba

Hon. Hamilton Fish  
Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you  
of my arrival at this post on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>  
and that on the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst. I entered upon the duties  
of this Office. In obedience to the require-  
ments, I forward herewith a copy of the list of  
the effects of this Consulate accompanied by  
"joint Certificate" agreeable to form N<sup>o</sup> 134  
of "Consular Regulations".

Amn Sir,

Your Most Obedt Serv<sup>t</sup>  
J. W. Parsons



Consulate of the United States }  
at Santiago de Cuba } March 8<sup>th</sup> 1870

We certify, on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March  
the services of A. E. Phillips ceased, and he  
is entitled to his salary or fees, including  
said day; and that the services of John W.  
Parsons commenced the day following, he  
having received the archives, a full and com-  
plete inventory of which, a list is hereto annexed,  
as required by the Consular Regulations.

Chapter XXIII.

J. W. Parsons U. S. Consul

A. E. Phillips Late Acting U. S. Consul



Kingston Jamaica  
10 March 1870



Luggage to be taken

Hon. Hamilton Fish  
Secretary of State,  
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that I have  
been compelled, for the preservation of my life, to  
quit the U.S. Consulate at Santiago de Cuba.  
Arriving here in the French Steamer "Darien" last  
evening, I immediately laid the whole particulars of  
my case before U.S. Consul Wheeler of this place  
requesting his aid and protection in the matter. Copies  
of my correspondence with him will doubtless be  
forwarded to the State Department, and it will therefore  
be unnecessary I should repeat them. It is however  
well that I should draw your particular attention to  
the cause of the Catalan opposition to me, as the actions  
I have, on several occasions taken, in protection of  
American Aborigens, but especially so, my dispatch to  
you dated 3 January 1870, which, originally made public  
in the columns of the New York Herald was afterwards  
copied in the Havana papers. Any official acts, therefore,  
which are the only cause of the hatred of the Catalans to me,  
which, but for my fortunate escape, would certainly  
have culminated in my death at Santiago de Cuba, I am  
fully convinced that the U.S. Government will forthwith  
take such steps, as shall indemnify me from any  
pecuniary loss. By Mr. Wheeler's assistance I am  
about to leave for Port au Prince, in search of the Admiral  
of the North Atlantic Squadron, or any of our vessels of War.



request that under the protection of our Guns, I may  
be conveyed back to Santiago de Cuba, especially for  
the purpose of arranging the matters of the United  
States Consulate there; with Mr Parsons my successor.  
Owing to the very hurried and excited manner in  
which I was compelled to leave I had no time to  
transfer anything whatever to him; this is the more  
unfortunate on account of the complicated matters  
now before the Consulate.

Again earnestly soliciting the protection of the  
U.S. Government against the acts of the Catalans, by  
demand being made upon them for indemnification  
for my very heavy pecuniary losses.

I have the honor to be

Yours Obedient Servant

A. R. Phillips

Late Attorney General

U.S. Consulate, Santiago de Cuba



J. Smith



United States Consulate

Santiago de Cuba March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1870

Hon. Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have appointed the following named gentlemen to be Commercial Agents at the respective ports of entry dependant upon this Consulate.

- To be Consular Agent at Sta Cruz Cha. Hugar
- " " " " Manzanillo Cha. H. Bithorn
- " " " " Guantánamo W. F. Allison
- " " " " Baracoa P. E. Alayo

Messrs. Bithorn Hugar and Alayo were appointed by E. F. Wallace late Consul at this place, and Mr Allison by E. Hedman Esq;

4



J. A. Smith



United States Consulate

Santiago de Cuba March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1870

Hon. Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have appointed the following named gentlemen to be Commercial Agents at the respective ports of entry dependant upon this Consulate.

To be Consular Agent at St. Cruz Cha. Sugar

" " " " Manzanillo Cha. H. Bithorn

" " " " Guantánamo W. F. Allison

" " " " Baracoa P. E. Alayo

Messrs. Bithorn Sugar and Alayo were appointed by E. F. Wallace late Consul at this place, and Mr. Allison by E. Sedman Esq;



These gentlemen have proven themselves to be  
honest, capable, and efficient in the discharge  
of their respective duties, being thoroughly con-  
vinced no better selections could have been  
made, I earnestly recommend their immo-  
diate confirmation.

Yours Sir,

Your Obedt. Servt.,

Jno. W. Parsons

U. S. Consul

Received

Appointment of Consul  
Agent's

Jno. W. Parsons  
No. 4.

1870

Sancti Spiritus de Cuba. March 22<sup>nd</sup>

to the Consulate at



9. April 20  
RECEIVED  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE  
1870

United States Consulate

Santiago de Cuba March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1870

Hon. Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit

herewith a letter received from Henry  
Bithorn Commercial Agent at Manzanillo,  
a dependency of this Consulate, recounting  
recent engagement between the Insurgents  
and Government Troops in the vicinity of the  
town of Holguin, also one from Mr. Sugar  
at Sta. Cruz.

I have nothing of importance to communicate  
from this point the conditions of affairs at

Santiago de Cuba March 23<sup>rd</sup>



present are as quiet as in profound peace,  
though it is rumored that in the immediate  
vicinity of this place small detachments of  
roving troops of both parties are burning and  
destroying property to quite an extent seques-  
tering for themselves everything transportable.

It is quite difficult to obtain accurate infor-  
mation from the interior, as any rumor circu-  
lated one day by the sympathizers, or Labor-  
antes as they are termed is denied by the  
Government the next.

No cases requiring my official intervention  
have occurred up to this date and I am per-  
suaded that after the settlement of those pen-  
ding, contentious cases will cease at this  
Consulate.

I am Sir,

Your Obedt Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. W. Parsons



Sta Cruz (Cuba) 19th. March 1896

J. W. Parsons Esq  
Consul of the U.S. of America  
Santiago de Cuba

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated 6th inst. advising that you have taken charge of the archives of that consulate.

In respect to informations about the actual state of political affairs in this vicinity, I can only tell you that the insurgents have pitched their camps at from 20 to 24 miles from this town and that the country has been totally destroyed principally by the rebels without any respect for properties belonging to friends, neutrals or strangers, although, according to documents which I have had occasion to see, I am entitled to believe that the destruction of those belonging to strangers do not descend from head-quarters, but from the captains of the Cuban detachments that are not aware of the laws of war and act without obeying the orders of their generals. The greater part of the Cuban army is concentrated on Guamao & Sabana, in consequence of the Spanish troops having marched from Pto. Pico in that direction with the purpose of occupying militarily those villages, which were destroyed long ago by the rebels.



Havana (Cuba) 19th March 1895

J. W. Parsons Esq  
Consul of the U.S. of America  
Santiago de Cuba

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated 6th inst. advising that you have taken charge of the archives of that consulate.

In respect to informations about the actual state of political affairs in this vicinity, I have only told you that the insurgents have retired their camps at from 20 to 24 miles from this town and that the country has been totally destroyed especially by the rebels without any respect for properties belonging to friends, neutrals or strangers, although, according to documents which I have no occasion to see, I am entitled to believe that the destruction of those belonging to strangers do not descend from head-quarters, but from the captains of the Cuban detachments that are not aware of the laws of war and act without obeying the orders of their generals. The greater part of the Cuban army is concentrated on Guamarao & Sabana, in consequence of the Spanish troops having marched from Pto. Pinar that direction with the purpose of occupying militarily these villages, which were destroyed long ago by the rebels.



In this town there are about 100 spanish soldiers  
& 150 volunteers, but as the country is not protected  
by any spanish troops no body can't reside in it  
consequently, no produce is raised. No battle  
or skirmish of any importance can't be reported  
from here and it is my opinion that pacification  
has not advanced anything yet in this vicinity  
I am Sir

Yours very old friend  
H. H. Hugu  
Antonio Aguado

10. 10 cigar  
Commercial agents  
Sto Emg March 19  
Dec 8 " 22  
Shewens  
Content - Phillips  
affairs



United States of America: Consular Agency

Havana, Cuba 21<sup>st</sup> March 1870.

Jos. W. Parsons Esq<sup>r</sup>

U.S. States Consul,  
Santiago/Cuba.

Sir,

Since addressing you on the 7<sup>th</sup> ult. I have received your valued communications without date advising your entrance upon Consular Duties.

Complying with the desire of the Department of State at Washington, as expressed in your aforementioned despatch, I have to advise, that the Span. Gov. tug boat 'Derruge', which is employed carrying troops, ammunition & provisions from here to Cauto-river, arrived here on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. with about 80 sick and wounded soldiers; among which several officers, of whom three were buried already yesterday.

From all accounts obtained from most reliable Spanish sources, the Spanish forces consisting of 3 battalions, which advanced in the earlier part of last week in three different roads from Cauto upon Las Tunas, it is acknowledged, have met a serious encounter with the insurgent forces under Modesto Diaz and Marmol about five leagues distant from Cauto. It is stated, that the 3 battalions had orders to proceed at a distance not exceeding

Dr. de Cova



3 leagues; that the Chief of the battalion of "San Quintin" on morning the first day, sent two reconnoitering divisions to ascertain whether the two other battalions were at the prescribed distance; that the two companies proceeded four leagues distant and sent back word, that they had not been able to meet with any of the Matanzas men, but had heard sharp firing at a distance, in strength of which San Quintin proceeded in the direction and found the Matanzas men surrounded and hotly attacked by the insurgents. It is further stated extra officially, that the two battalions finally succeeded in making their retreat, but not without heavy losses (over 200 men) - The Matanzas battalion had come suddenly upon the insurgents and were ~~very~~ severely attacked & engaged from all sides, the insurgents trying repeatedly to capture their field pieces of artillery, which discharged at short distance grape shot and killed many (estimated 500 insurgents). - An insurgent taken prisoner by the Matanzas troops shortly before the engagement, gave them notice of the insurgents' proximity and time to mount & prepare their field artillery, else it is believed the routing of the whole battalion would have been inevitable, such was the severeness of the



engagement and the courage displayed by  
the insurgents in trying to capture the guns.  
Without "audubatur ab altera parte" it is dif-  
ficult to form an exact account, as much,  
like on previous occasions, is either overrated or  
undervalued, according to the interest of the  
relating party. So much however seems  
to be certain, that the insurgents, who were  
estimated 2 to 3000 men strong, must have  
fought with considerable spirit & courage  
and have inflicted considerable loss, so  
much so that the General in chief Comte  
de Patmaseda hastened at once from Baijuro  
to take the lead in military operations beyond  
the Cañonier on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst.

Should any further particulars trans-  
pire I shall transmit the same to you  
by the earliest opportunity, remaining

respectfully

Yours obt. servt.  
A. Pithom.

Consular Agent.



United States Consulate at

Santiago de Cuba March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1870

Hon. Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to call your attention to Despatch N<sup>o</sup> 3, under date of the 25<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> of the late acting Consul at this place to the Consul General communicating the arrest and imprisonment of Ramon Duconger an American Citizen upon charges of complicity with the insurgents.

I have to advise you that he has been duly tried by a military commission, fully acquitted, and released from custody on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst.

I am Sir, your Obedt. Servt.,

J. W. Forsyth Consul





Mr. Smith  
North Atlantic Fleet.

U. S. Flag Ship Severn, (2d Rate.)

Santiago de Cuba April 10<sup>th</sup> 1870.

Hon. J. C. B. Davis

Assistant Sec. of State

Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches Nos 120 and 121 handed to me by my successor J. W. Parsons Esq<sup>re</sup>. I am indignant at the false accusations made by the military Governor of this city which appears to me has for its object some particular policy to me unknown. I hope soon to leave for Washington where I expect to exonerate myself from the unjust charges

I am Sir

Your Obedt Servant

file



file

Hon. J. C. B. Davis

Assistant Sec. of State

Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches Nos 120 and 121 handed to me by my successor J. W. Parsons Esq<sup>re</sup>. I am indignant at the false accusations made by the military Governor of this city which appears to me has for its object some particular policy - to me unknown. I hope soon to leave for Washington where I expect to exonerate myself from the unjust charges

I am Sir

Your Obedt Servant

A. S. Phillips.

Late Acting U. S. Consul



DEPT. OF STATE  
APR 16 1870

United States Consulate

Santiago de Cuba April 16<sup>th</sup> 1870

Hon. J. C. B. Davis

Assistant Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Nº 18

Sir:

I have the honor to advise you that in compliance with a request of Admiral Port. Governor Ojeda this day released from custody Jno. B. Latte a Naturalized American Citizen, imprisoned by the Spanish authorities upon charges of complicity with the Rebels; upon his release, the Admiral offered him a passage to Jamaica, which he declined to accept, preferring to return to his Hacienda.

I am Sir,



Your Obedt. Servant.  
Jas. W. Parsons  
Consul

W. J. Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba April 16th  
1870  
Jas. W. Parsons  
1870  
Recd.  
Registering return from  
consulate of Jas. W. Parsons.



✓  
Hon. Hamilton Fish.

Secretary of State.

Sir

I am here for the purpose of having an official interview with you and to acquaint you fully with the events which drive me away from my post as Acting Consul of the United States at the port of Santiago de Cuba as you have already been informed on the 8th of March 1870.

I desire this interview in no wise for personal grievance, but only that you may have no doubt resting on your mind Mr Secretary that through me the United States have been outraged and insulted in a manner that could only be possible in a place under Spanish rule.

Will you be pleased to designate some hour whenever it will be convenient for you to see me in this behalf.

I have the honor to be  
Your Obedient Servant

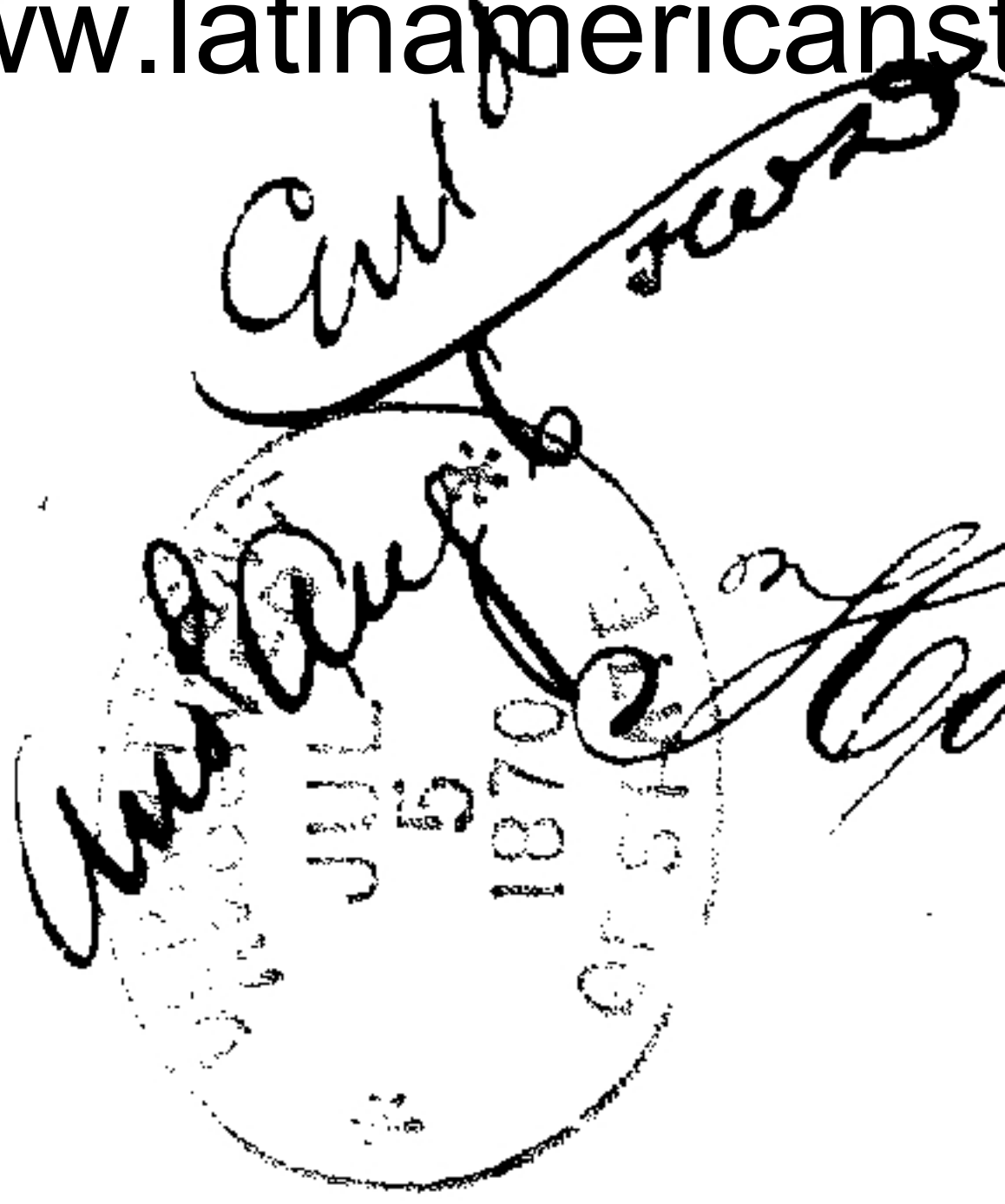
J. P. Phillips.

Washington  
May 26th 1870

Arlington House.



Consul General  
Santiago de Cuba June 12<sup>th</sup> 1870



Hon. J. C. B. Davis  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, containing enclosures, under date of the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, requesting information respecting the illness, demise and burial of Genl. Wm. H. Stedman, likewise incurred expenses for his sickness and burial.

Herewith transmit Declaration of Adolphus E. Verdereau Esq. (an attaché of this Consulate); Capt. W. Johnston, Master of the Brig *Monk Rose*; Letter signed by Dr. Louis Fernandez and the Physicians constituting the medical consultation; likewise a statement accompanied by receipts for all known expenses incurred for services rendered to the Genl. prior, and subsequent to his death. I have also thought proper to forward the private letters of the deceased, and Government Passport, which his bereaved family may wish to preserve. The respective enclosures embrace all the information referred to in your letter, and the persons whose sig-



natures, at least their contents are all that remain here possessing any reliable facts concerning the case in question; Dr. Phillips to whose house the Genl. immediately proceeded upon his arrival, at Santiago de Cuba; is absent, as are, also those who officiated as Pall-bearers with the exception of Capt. Johnston who happens here at this particular time. The statements made by these gentlemen, are somewhat dissident, particularly with regard to the personal attentions the Genl. received during his illness, and while I cannot say who is mistaken in this particular, I cannot finish without alluding to the private character of each individual contributing this information under oath.

Dr. Louis Fernandez, the Genl.'s attending physician, received his education in the United States, and during our Rebellion served in the capacity of assistant physician in several of our largest and most important Hospitals with marked credit to himself and the Government, on the termination of the service, he regressed to his native place Santiago de Cuba, where he has since resided in the practice of his profession, and has had large experience in that type of fever which terminated the life of the late Consul, he is esteemed by the entire community as a man of unexceptional cha-



...any reliable facts con-  
cerning the case in question; Dr. Phillips  
to whose house the Genl. immediately pro-  
ceeded upon his arrival, at Santiago de Cu-  
ba; is absent, as are also those who offi-  
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personal attention the Genl. received dur-  
ing his illness, and while I cannot say  
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ting this information under oath.

Dr. Louis Fernandez, the Genl.'s  
attending physician, received his edu-  
cation in the United States and during  
our Rebellion served in the capacity of  
assistant physician in several of our  
largest and most important Hospitals  
with marked credit to himself and the  
Government, on the termination of the ser-  
vice, he regressed to his native place St.  
Jago de Cuba, where he has since resided  
in the practice of his profession, and has  
had large experience in that type of fe-  
ver which terminated the life of the late  
Genl., he is esteemed by the entire com-  
munity as a man of unexceptional cha-  
racter and I feel assured that in any func-



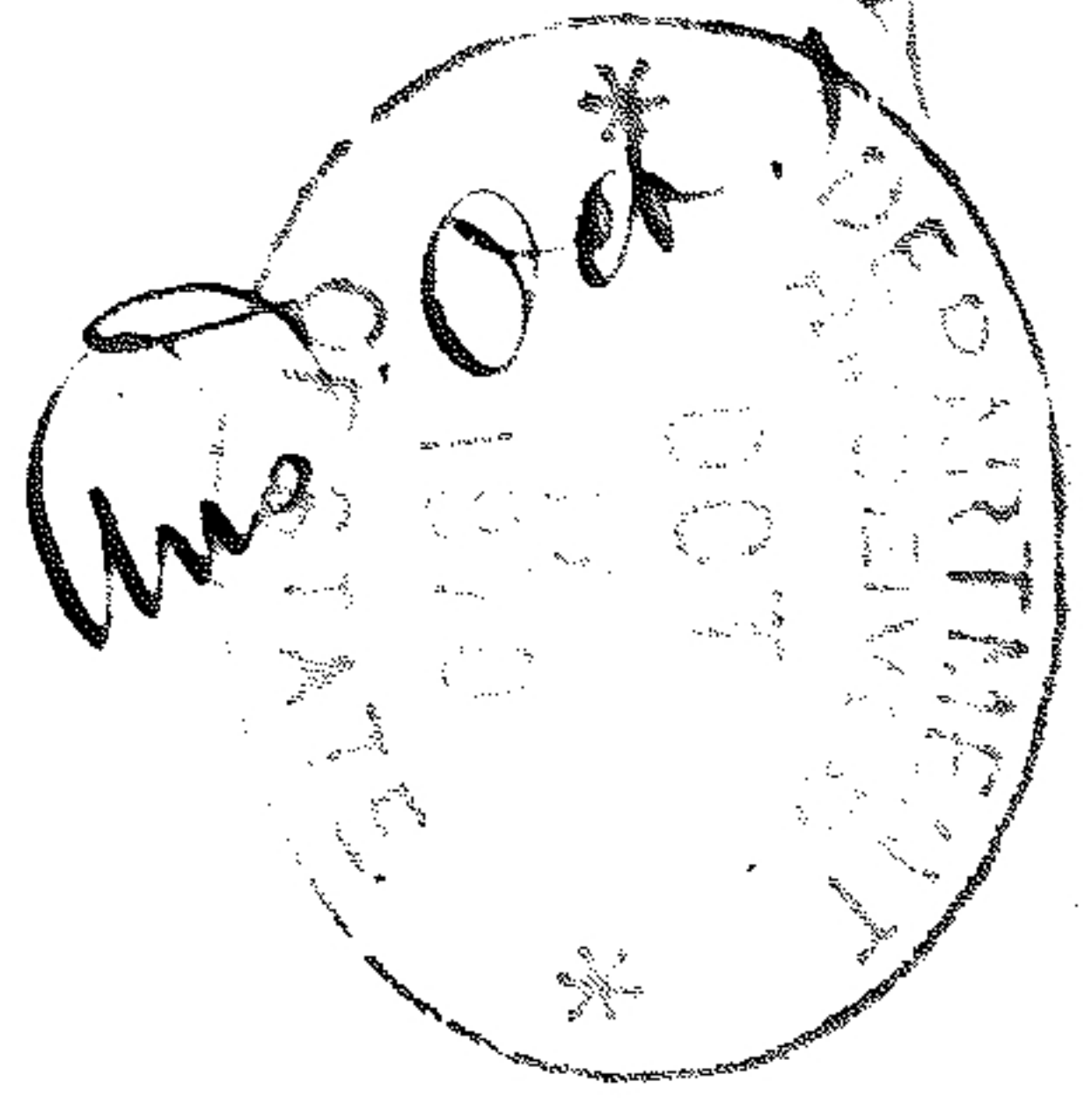
him with other medical assistants, each of whom are most estimable gentlemen and eminent in their calling, every effort was made to check the progress of the fever, and save the General's life, and I will here add that in consultation with Dr. Fernandez he says that on the morning of July 3<sup>rd</sup> he was summoned and found him with symptoms of yellow fever, and thought that the case justified calling immediate consultation to divide the responsibility, this was done, and the course of treatment adopted was that resolved upon by each member of the profession present, as the most judicious and effective. The other gentlemen whose testimony is introduced in regard to the burial

and posthumous disposition of Gen. Sedman's effects, are equally entitled to be mentioned for the reputation they both sustain as honorable and truthful persons, Mr. M. E. Ferriereau is, connected with the office, and during a term of nearly 4 months close intimacy, as associated in office, I have never had occasion to distrust him in any respect; Capt. Johnston enjoys unimpaired reputation for veracity, and integrity by all who know him.

I am, Sir, Your Obedt. Servt.,  
D. W. Parsons  
U. S. Consul.



Wm  
H. Smith



W. H. Smith

Cincinnati, O. Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 1870

Hon Hamilton Fish  
Secretary of State  
Washington  
D. C.

Dear Sir I have the honor to inform you  
that I accept the appointment of Consul  
of the United States at Santiago-de-Cuba.  
that I will perform the duties of said  
office to the best of my ability.  
I was born in Brown County Ohio and recd  
my appointment while residing in the State  
of Kentucky. I have never resided in Spain  
or any of its dependencies.  
Herewith please find my bond as oath of office  
and allegiance.

I have the honor to be Sir  
Very Respectfully  
W. H. Smith



MS  
1870  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
RECEIVED  
OCT 17 1870

W. J. Smith

Cincinnati, O. Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 1870

Hon Hamilton Fish  
Secretary of State  
Washington  
D. C.

Dear Sir I have the honor to inform you  
that I accept the appointment of Consul  
of the United States at Santiago-de-Cuba.  
that I will perform the duties of said  
office to the best of my ability.  
I was born in Brown County Ohio and recd  
my appointment while residing in the State  
of Kentucky. I have never resided in Spain  
or any of its dependencies.  
As with please find my bond my oath of office  
and allegiance.

I have the honor to be Sir  
Very Respectfully  
W. J. Smith



United States Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1870

Hon Hamilton Fish  
Secretary of State  
Washington D. C.

Sir:

I would most respectfully  
ask for a Passport for Mrs  
Amanda Young and child  
"my family" who wish to sail from  
New York on the 19<sup>th</sup> Dec to join  
me here. You will please forward  
it to my wife to New York "in care  
of Sullivan Murphy N<sup>o</sup> 103 Pearl St."  
at your earliest convenience

I am, Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant.

W. M. Young  
U. S. Consul



N<sup>o</sup> 13 United States Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 1871

Hon J. C. B. Davis  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowl  
edge receipt of your despatches  
Nos 29 and 30.

In reply to latter  
would say that the safe is a  
very good one and would answer  
the purposes of the Consulate very  
well.

Will you please to give me  
the authority to purchase a desk,

as



as I am not authorized to purchase  
the table ~~or~~ it will be impossible to  
do without either. I do not feel ~~to~~  
disposed to make these purchases  
on my own account. the articles asked  
for are for the exclusive use of the Gov<sup>mt</sup>  
and besides the cost of living here is  
much greater than in other parts of  
the Island on account of the Insur  
rection and it takes about all my  
salary to pay my necessary expenses.  
If consistent I would respectfully  
ask the privilege of either purchasing  
the table or a desk.

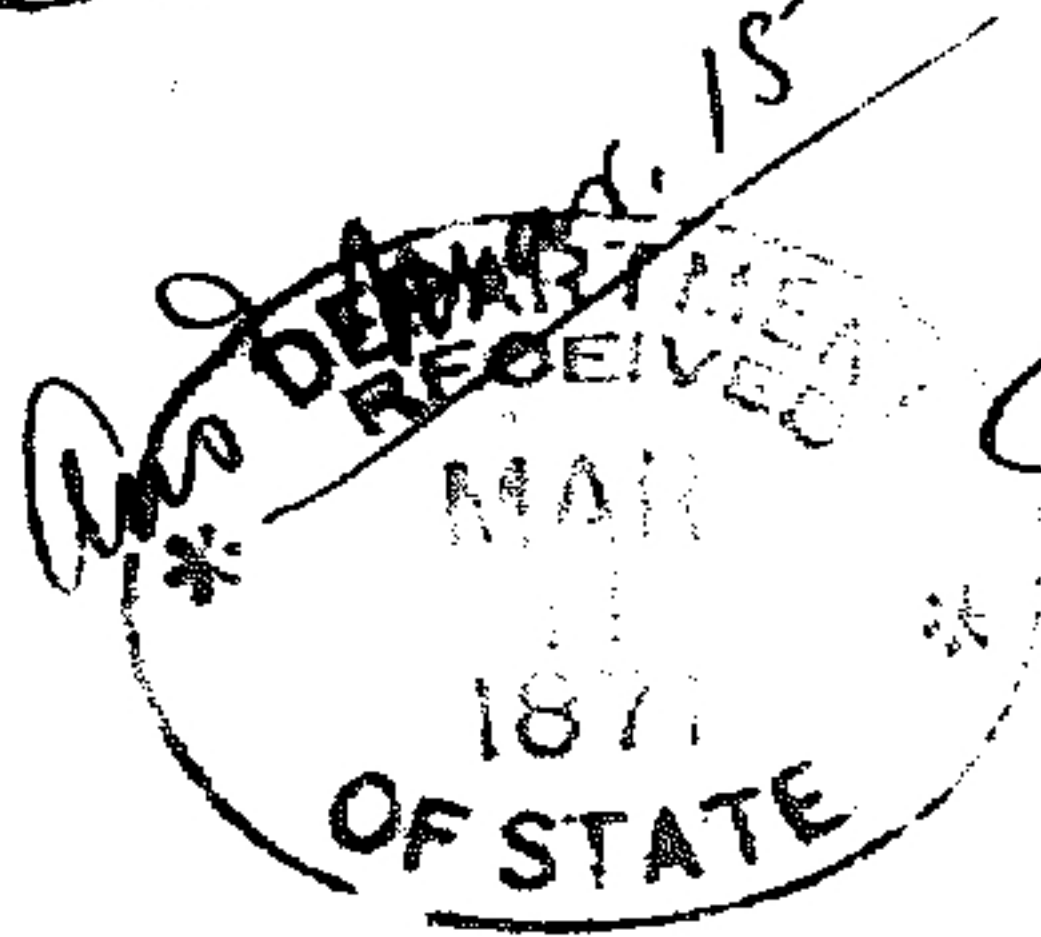
I am Sir Respectfully  
Your Most Obedient Servant.

Wm. P. ...  
W. P. ...



Private

Arch. in Ministry of War Mr Wood  
March 11



Consulate of the United States. A  
Santiago de Cuba Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 71

Hon. Hamilton Fish  
Secretary of State  
Washington  
H

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to lay before you the state of affairs in this Consular jurisdiction as far as I am able to do so.

I have been treated very kindly indeed by the Sp authorities since my arrival here. They have listened very attentively to all they have had to say, of course always drawing my own conclusions. The Gov of this Dept especially has  
upon



upon every favorable occasion persists  
in informing me that the Rebellion is  
fast drawing to a close. But I think  
I have learned far different. I was  
informed by His Excellency the Gov  
just after my arrival that the In-  
surrection was on its last leg and  
that there was but a very few  
marauding bands in this Dept. but  
it was but a few days before a  
force of about 250 Insurgents came  
within three miles of here and burned  
a small fishing village killing quite  
a number and escaping without any  
loss to themselves. There is not a word  
a day paper but I hear of the Insurgents  
burning estates. On the night of the  
16<sup>th</sup> inst they the Insurgents burned Christ  
Station on the Sabarillo & Masato R.R.  
about 9 miles from here. burned quite



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informed by His Excellency the Gov  
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surrection was on its last leg and  
that there was but a very few  
marching bands in this Dept. but  
it was but a few days before a  
force of about 250 Insurgents came  
within three miles of here and burned  
a small fishing village killing quite  
a number and escaping without any  
loss to themselves. There is not ~~scarcely~~  
a day paper but I hear of the Insurgents  
burning estates. On the night of the  
16<sup>th</sup> inst they the Insurgents burned Christ  
Station on the Sabanillo & Masato R.R.  
about 9 miles from here. burned quite



a number of houses and taking of  
a large amount of stores, without  
firing a gun, notwithstanding there were  
a number of soldiers stationed there.  
about the same date 15<sup>th</sup> there was  
quite a battle fought at a small  
village "Mayori" some 30 miles N. E.  
of here, between 600 Insurgts & some 400 Sp  
troops in which the Spaniards lost  
160 men besides 1 Capt and 5 Suits killed,  
and ended in the Sp being completely  
routed. On the 17<sup>th</sup> inst there was a  
sudden disappearance of one whole  
company of Sp about 15 miles N. of  
here in command of a 1<sup>st</sup> Supt  
numbering about 60 men all fully  
armed and equipped supposed to have  
deserted and gone over to the Insurgts.  
Upon the whole, I think from all the  
information I can gather, that the  
Insurrection



Insurrection is no nearer an end than  
it was this time one year since.  
One thing I notice very particularly  
is that the Sp Officers are beginning  
to complain openly about the way  
military <sup>affairs</sup> are conducted.  
It is a very hard matter to get  
any information except it be favorable  
to the Sp. as all military movements  
are made very secretly and we hear  
very little of the results unless favor-  
able to the Sp cause and then they  
are highly colored. I gain the most  
of my information at table, where there  
are constantly Sp officers conversing and  
going and later they express their  
opinions very freely. It has been  
my aim since my arrival here to  
make myself as agreeable with the  
Sp authorities as possible without committ-  
mill



sitting myself, or expressing an opinion about  
the Insurrection although they have  
repeatedly endeavored to force an  
opinion out. I inform them that my  
business here is to look after the  
interests of my Govt and that I  
am expected not to interfere in the  
local affairs of the Island one way  
or the other.

The Str "Montezuma" arrived here yesterday  
from "Puerta Plata" but brought no news  
from our Commission as they only re-  
mained there but two hours. All I  
could learn was that there was expected  
to be trouble between the two parties  
for & against annexation very shortly.

The Sp Man of War "Isabela Catolica" arrived  
here also yesterday from Port au Prince  
I had a conversation with the chief  
Engineer who is a native of New York. who  
gives



gives me the following information,  
They have been on duty at Port au Prince  
for about a fortnight watching the  
the "Hornet" lying in that Port. He  
says the Hornet keeps the A.S. flag  
flying day and night for fear of  
being boarded by the Sp. He met  
him Capt on shore and had quite a  
conversation with him. He also infor  
ms, that U.S. flagship "Sworn" was on  
her way to "Port au Prince" to take the  
Hornet in charge. he reports two volca  
nos in full operation in the vicin  
ity of Port au Prince. We have some 12 dis  
tinct shocks of earthquakes here within the  
past three days. no damage done.

I remain Your Most Obedt  
and Humble Servant

W. M. Jones



N<sup>o</sup> 23

United States Consulate

Santiago de Cuba May 25<sup>th</sup> 1871

Hon J. C. B. Davis

Asst Sec of State

Washington D.C.

Sir:

Agreeable to instructions from  
Dept of State of date Nov 23<sup>d</sup> 1870 I would  
most respectfully ask that Emilio G. Schmitt  
Esq of this City be appointed Vice Consul  
of the U. S. A. to this Post. Mr Schmitt  
is an am<sup>r</sup>: citizen of good standing here  
besides he has been Vice Consul here  
a number of years ago and I feel  
confident that should I be called  
away at any time the Consulate would



be left in trustworthy hands. I  
will please find his bond herewith  
properly executed.

I am Sir  
Your Obedt Servant.

Wm Young  
Vice Consul

Enclosure Bond of E. Schmitt Esq. as Vice Consul



Know all men by these presents, that  
we A. N. Young and A. de Pons  
are held and firmly bound  
to the United States of America in the  
sum of two thousand dollars money of  
the said United States, to the payment  
whereof we bind ourselves, jointly and  
severally, our joint and several heirs,  
executors, and administrators

Witness our hands and seals, this  
twenty fourth day of May, 1871

The condition of the above obligation is  
such, that if the above bounden Emile J.  
Schmitt appointed Vice Consul of the  
United States at Santiago de Cuba  
shall truly and faithfully discharge the  
duties of his said office according to law,  
and also shall truly and faithfully ac-  
count for, pay over, and deliver up all



moneys, goods, effects, books, records, papers,  
and other property which shall come to the  
hands of the said Emil Gabriel Schmitt  
or to the hands of any person for his use  
as such Vice Consul, under any law now  
or hereafter enacted, and that he will  
faithfully perform all other duties now  
or hereafter lawfully imposed upon him  
as such Vice Consul, then this obligation  
to be void; otherwise, to remain in full force

E. G. Schmitt

W. J. ...  
C. J. ...

Signed, sealed, and delivered in  
presence of - Calisto Lopezera #  
E. G. Schmitt



United States Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 1871

How W<sup>m</sup> Hunter  
Acting Sec of State  
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have to inform you that W. A. Jones  
Master of the Am<sup>r</sup> Brig Lydia H. Cole of New  
York and lately arrived in this port from  
New York was arrested and thrown into  
prison last evening 8<sup>th</sup> inst at 5 P.M. I  
offered my official security also that  
of residents both were refused I immedi-  
ately protested against the proceeding to the  
Gov and asked that he take charge of the  
vessel, he accepted the abandonment, then  
tried to avoid it.

Please find a copy of the charge preferred against  
the Capt which I think should be placed in the  
Smithsonian Institute as a curiosity. I explained  
the case fully to the Com<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> in Havana who  
will give you full particulars.

I am Sir your obt serv<sup>t</sup>

W. M. Hunter



Cuba Julio 22 de 1871

Vistos: - Considerando que el Cap<sup>te</sup> Don Guillermo A. Jones del Bergantin goleta americano Lydia H. Cole al admitir en la embarcacion de su mando a Don Nicolas Cornelio Ramos San Martin con su familia con destino a Nueva York está averiguado que el Don Nicolas carecia de pasaporte para indicado punto; que esta circunstancia unida a lo depuesto de contrario por el Cap<sup>te</sup> en su declaracion en la que dice le fidió y presentó el pasaporte, es un indicio del cual se desprende que dicho Cap<sup>te</sup> al recibir y conducir en la embarcacion al Don Nicolás lo hacia con conocimiento de la fuga que efectua-  
ba y delito cometido, que referido indicio no es aislado, pues viene en su apoyo la racional presuncion del juicio que el Cap<sup>te</sup> debió hacerse por el conocimiento que de la persona tenia que esta siendo como era un empleado de corto sueldo no era natural ni que dejara su destino ni menos que emprendiera un viage costoso -  
Considerando = que el que con conocimiento -



to de la perpetración de un delito interviene con posterioridad a su ejecución auxiliando a los delinquentes para que se aprovechen de los efectos del delito, es encubridor, y que el Capt<sup>mo</sup> Mr Guillermo A. Jones, hay meritos en la causa por lo espuesto para suponerle con conocimiento del delito perpetrado, y por la circunstancia confesada por el mismo de desembarcar en San Marcos al repetido Don Nicolas Ramos San Martin auxiliandole para que se aprovechara de los fondos del Estado que habia extraido de la Colecturía de Rentas de Guantánamo. Se decreta la prisión de citado Capt<sup>mo</sup> Jones, el cual será conducido a esta Carcel, espidiendose oportunamente el mandamiento de prisión al Alcáide de la misma: — recibase al procesado su ingatoria que tendrá lugar tan pronto engrese en la Carcel y notifiquese este auto—



en el particular referente a la  
prision, lo mismo que al Sr.  
Consul de eu. Nacion de Sr.  
Gregorio Gutierrez Herrizuelo - José Sasso -  
Notificado el auto anterior al  
Sr Consul americano el dia  
nueve de agosto de 1871 - por ha-  
berse verificado la prision  
del Capitán Jones - Sasso

Sr Consul de los Estados Unidos  
en esta Ciudad

I certify that this is a true copy  
of the original on file in this  
Consulate -

W. J. Murray  
Sr Consul



N<sup>o</sup> 30

United States Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 1871

Hon J. C. B. Davis  
Acting Sec of State  
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have to inform you that the  
Am<sup>o</sup> Brig<sup>t</sup> "Georgia" Charles  
Miller Jr Master was fired  
into at sea by the Sp<sup>r</sup> Man of  
War "Isabel la Catolica" on  
the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> August  
about 8 A.M. You will please  
find herewith declaration  
of Master and crew also  
copy of Master declaration



I called Genl. Count Valmaseda's attention to the case when he was here. He informed me he would give the case his early attention. I informed him I thought this was clearly a violation of article 18 of the treaty of 1795 between Spain and the United States to which he made no reply but assured me he would give the case a thorough investigation.

Yours Obedt Servant.

Wm. Murray  
U.S. Consul

Enclosures  
Copy of declarations of master



United States Consulate  
Santiago de Cuba, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 1871

Charles Miller, Junior Master of American  
Brig Georgia and crew personally appeared  
before me A. N. Young Consul of the United  
States of America for Santiago de Cuba and  
its dependencies do make the following de-  
claration under oath -

On the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> August 1871 at  
8 O'clock A. M. a Spanish man of war fired  
into the vessel under the following circum-  
stances. - We saw her bearing down upon  
us from the westward when she was 2 miles  
off we hoisted our flag to peak she came within  
100 feet of and passing to windward of us  
passed around the stern and read our  
name just before reaching us a shot was  
fired from a musket which struck about  
the foremast head afterwards falling on  
deck. When abreast of us Captain asked if  
they wished us to heave to but received  
no answer. We hauled our foresail up and  
backed our yards but as the steamer  
made no reply but steamed off we continued



on our course. We supposed we were at  
least six miles off the land when the  
War Steamer approached us.

~~Alfred  
McDonald~~

Chas Miller Jr	Master
Wm Birch	Mate
George W Donnelly	2 <sup>d</sup> Mate
Juan R Perry	Seaman
Waller	Seaman



To the Consul of the U. S. States  
at Santiago de Cuba  
August 28<sup>th</sup> 1871

Sir:

On the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> I made  
a Steamer standing to the Westward  
about four miles to the Southward of  
me the wind being very light from S. E.  
ward vessel going about two or three  
miles an hour with strong current  
setting to the Eastward vessel in  
danger of drifting ashore was going  
to hoist my flag for assistance when  
the Steamer hauled down for me on  
seeing her ~~she~~ her course I imme-  
diately hoisted my flag at the main  
peak when she fired a shot afterwards  
I hauled my foresail up and backed  
my yards the shot I afterwards  
found on deck the same as presented  
to you. I spoke him but received no  
reply whatever but proceeded on  
his way down the coast.

This is a true statement of the



whole proceeding  
Signed Chas. Miller Jr  
Master of Brig "Georgia"  
Wm Kisch  
George W. Donald  
Robert B Perry  
Wm. Seaman.



Nº 35

United States Consulate

Santiago de Cuba Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 1871

Hon J. C. B. Davis

Assistant Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir:

The American Steamer "Ocean Queen" from New York to Aspinwall entered this harbor on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September last for the purpose of landing three passengers, Mr Theodore Brooks of this place and two ladies, it was the intention of Mr Brooks to have his steamer which plies between here and Guantanamo to call outside the harbor and take them off but the Governor here received a despatch from the Spanish Consul in New York



before the arrival of the "Ocean Queen" stating that she had on board as passengers a number of Insurgents (General Quesada amongst the number) who were going to Venezuela to send an expedition to Cuba. The Captain General Count Valmaseda who happened to be here at the time sent for me on the arrival of the steamer in the lower bay (where she came to anchor) and informed me of the fact of the Insurgents being on board and that he thought it an insult to the Spanish flag to allow this people to come in here under a foreign flag and communicate with their friends and then go off and brag about it. He asked me to report the case home and I told him I would, but I found after returning to -



to my hotel that the passengers and crew of the vessel were denied all communication with the shore. The three passengers who were landed were sent on shore by the ship's boat in command of the mate and four men who were not allowed to leave the boat. I went to the landing and spoke to the mate telling him to inform the Captain of the suspicions of the Government here. The mate informed me that there was not an Insurgent on board, and the next day a telegram to the associated press stated that General Quesada was in New York. I did not think then that it was a matter worth reporting officially as there was nothing more said about it here and I informed

Coneil



Council General Hall of it in a private  
letter, and by his instructions I now  
report the case officially to you

I am Sir

Your Obedt. Servant.

Wm. James  
Consul