

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microcopy No. 179

**MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

7 • Roll 298

April 1-16, 1869



**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

Washington: 1964

Treasury Department.

April 1st 1869.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the 30th Ult^o.
relating to the appointment of Mr. Fernando
J. Moreno as Consular Agent of State Germany
at Key West.

In compliance with your request I have
instructed the Collector of that port to recognize
Mr. Moreno in his capacity of Consular Agent,
and to give due faith and credit to his
Official Acts.

Very respectfully.

Hon. Hamilton Fish.

Secretary of State.

Secretary of Treasury.

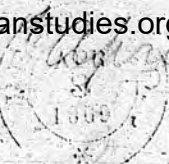
Jas M Edwards

April 1, 1869. Bordentown N.J.

Rel. to his arrest & imprisonment
in Cuba

Delivered June 21, 1870 to
General Bureau

3-



41
Sent

War Department

Washington, April 2 1869

Sir: I have the honor to submit herewith for your information, despatch No 36, with its several enclosures, from Rear Admiral H. N. Hall, commanding the North Atlantic Squadron, relative to the seizure of the American Brig "Mary Lowell," at Ragged Point, by the Spanish War Steamer "Andalucia," after having availed yourself of the contents of these papers, I will thank you for their return.

Very respectfully

Honorable
Hamilton Fish,
Secy of State.

Daniel D. Pratt
In. Secy of War

✓ North Atlantic Squadron
U. S. Flag Ship. Controcock (Crater)
Key West, 26th March, 1869

Sir:

I had the honor to
telegraph to the Department
on the 25th instant reporting
the capture of the American
brig "Mary Lowell," of New
York, by the Spanish war
Steamer "Andaluza" or —
"Andalucia" at Ragged
Island (one of the Bahamas).

The brig at the time
she was ordered to lower
her sails was three #

quarters

quarters of a mile south
of the South-East point
of Little Ragged Island
in British waters with
an English Revenue
Officer and Pilot on
board and she was
engaged in shifting
her berth from the
main of war to the inner
anchorage for greater
safety in the event of
bad weather.

The particulars of
this unjustifiable
seizure, brought to
Havana by H. B. M.
ship "Cerberus", are con-
tained in the following

Enumeration

Enumerated enclosures viz:

Enclosure N^o 1. Letter from
Mr Thomas Kilpatrick, U.S.
Consul, at Nassau (copy)

Enclosure N^o 2. Extracts from
the Nassau Herald of —
19th instant.

Enclosure N^o 3. Copies of
communications &c, sent
to A.B.M. Consul General
at Havana, by the Gov-
ernor of the Bahamas.

Enclosure N^o 4. Copy of
letter from Mr Hall U.S.
Consul at Havana.

Enclosure N^o 5. Copy of
report of Comd^r Tillbrown
of the "Arragansett."

I have received

For info. of the
cc. clasp 170/29/46/4

information from Havana that when the English Consul General called upon the Spanish authorities upon the subject, he was told that nothing was known officially, of the affair but if the facts were as above stated, the commander of the "Andaluza" had acted without restrictions.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

H. K. Hoff

Rear Admiral Comdr. U. S. N.
Hon. A. E. Borie

Secretary of Navy
Washington D. C.

United States Consulate General

Habana, March 23^d 1869.

Rear Admiral Henry K. Hoff

Commanding North Atlantic Squadron
Key West.

Sir:

I have the honor to accompany
herewith the following enclosures relating
to the capture of the American brig
"Mary Lowell" of New York, at Ragged
Island by the Spanish gunboat "Andalusia",
the news of which has been brought here
by the British war steamer "Cherub".

No. 1. Letter from Mr. Thomas Kilpatrick,
U.S. Consul at Nassau.

No. 2. Extract from the Nassau Herald
of 19th inst.

No. 3. Copies of communication etc. sent
to H. B. M. Consul General at this port by
the Governor of the Bahamas.

The substance of all appears to be, that
the brig "Mary Lowell" was at Ragged Island
and had been watched for a number of

days by the Spanish war Steamer "Andalusia"
or "Andaluza", that the Master of the brig
had left her and returned to New York for
instructions, leaving the vessel in charge of
Mr. Thomas Wilson, Custom House officer at
that port.

That on the 15th Mr. Wilson in his double
capacity of pilot and Custom House officer was
moving the brig from the men-of-war anchorage
to the inner harbor, the Commander of the
Spanish gunboat, with few preliminaries took
possession of the brig and soon afterwards sailed
in a South westerly direction, having her in tow.

It also appears that one of the Peruvian
Monitors made its appearance at the port
at about the time of the capture of the
brig.

I send you the above information
for your guidance, you being where you can
communicate to the Government by telegraph
ad libitum.

It appears, however, to be a matter
that interests the British Government more

particularly than our own.

I was informed today that the Spanish Government here has information that a filibuster expedition of four hundred men, of which three hundred are Americans, is either about to sail or has sailed from the United States for this Island; my informant (the Political Secretary) states that preparations had been made to capture the expedition in Spanish waters - that the whole of them would probably be shot. He states also that they are sold; to use his own words, "vienen vendidos como Cristo"; leaving the inference that they are betrayed - sold by one of their own number.

I would respectfully suggest that you would communicate the above to our Government. No change of secrecy was enjoined, but I think our Government should be informed, Confidentially, and if possible prevent the departure of any such expedition, which is almost sure to end disastrously.

I am, Sir,

With great respect,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) Henry C. Hall,

Vice Consul General

Copy
U. S. S. Farragut (3 Rate)
North Atlantic Squadron
Havana, Cuba,
March, 23rd 1869.

Senado
1869

Rear Admiral,
Henry B. Hoff,
Comd'g North Atlantic Squadron,
Key West.

Admiral.

U. S. S. "Cherub"
arrived here last night
with important despatches
to the British Consul in
General, and also to our
Consul General, Mr. Hall,
to the effect that the
Spanish Gunboat
"Andaluza" had captured
the

~~The American Brig~~ #
"Mary Lowell" at Ragged
Island on the 15th instant
while within one half
to three quarters of a
mile from the shore;
said brig being at the
time in charge of a
British Revenue Officer.

I called to see
Mr Dunlap this A.M.
who submitted all his
despatches for my #
perusal and kindly
allowed such as were
desired to be copied
for your information
and for transmittal
to the Hon Secretary of
State

State, Mr. Hall's letter will
however inform you of his
action in the matter.

Deeming the matter
of sufficient importance
I telegraphed it to you
and Mr. Hall having at
the same time sent a
message to the Honorable
Secretary of State at
Washington.

The Commander
of the "Sherut" informed
me that the "Andaluza"
would probably take her
prize to Matanzas. You
will also perceive by the
Hassan Herald Extra,
enclosed to you by

Mr. Hall, that one of
the Peruvian Monitors,
lately at Key West
is now at Ragged
Island having run
into and sunk the
steamer towing her. The
whereabouts of the other
Monitor is not known.

While at Key West
I was informed by
the Commander of the
Peruvian that after
leaving there, his first
stopping place would
be at Crooked Island
for coals.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
F. Scott Fillebrown
Comdr.

New York: April 2nd 1869.

Sir.

I have addressed two letters to your Department, one on the 23^d of Jan^y the other on the 12th March on the Subject of the belligerent rights of the Republic of Cuba, concerning which I am authorised to negotiate with the Government of the United States.

I beg to be informed if these letters have been brought to your attention.

awaiting your answer I am
with great respect

yours Truly
James P. Levy
Tam^{on}

To the Hon^{ble}
Samuel Fish
Secretary of State
Washington
City D.C.

Telegram

New York. Apr. 3. 69.

E. C. Villaverde

Minister of Interior Havana

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

Treasury Department.

April 5th 1869.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ult. stating that you had been advised by the Minister of Spain that he had received information of the fitting up of a steamer supposed to be the "Salvador", at the port of Jacksonville or Fernandina, Florida, as a Cuban privateer, which might leave port under the flag of the United States.

Sincerely,

Hamilton Fish,

Secretary of State.

for the purpose of committing depredations
on the Maritime Commerce of Spain.

Admiral, I have to inform you that
inquiry was made of the Commanders of
the above ports, who report respectively
that no such vessel is fitting out as
alleged. I enclose herewith a copy of
the reports in question.

Very respectfully

J. W. B. B. B.

Secretary of Treasury

Wm

Hamilton Fish.

Secretary of State.

Jacksonville, Fla.
Custom House
March 26, 1869.

Sir:

I have the honor, - in reply to your letter of 22nd inst. directing that I "examine and report if there be any such vessel fitting out in this Port," as Salvador or other, with intent of being a "Cuba Privateer" &c, to inform you that there is no steamer or other vessel in this port fitting or preparing to fit out for any such object. There are no steamers in this port except our regular river boats, besides the steam pleasure Yacht "Fire Fly" of New York, belonging to Mr. J. P. James - who is on board with his family.

I am very respectfully &c.
(Signed) P. Moody
Collector

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Custom House, Fernandina, Florida.
Collectors Office.

March 29th 1869

Sir:

Respectfully referring to your letter of the
22nd March inst., I have the honor to reply,

That
there is no Steamer in, or near, these waters named
"Salvador", nor any Steamer else than small Tow
boats employed heretofore.

Should any movement
be developed, your instructions relative to the
Neutrality Act of April 20th 1818. will be duly
Enforced.

I have the honor, Sir, to be

With great respect

Your obh. servt.

(Signed) Geo. S. Howe
Collector

Hon Geo S. Boutwell
Secy of Treasury
Washington
D.C.



File

Mr. L. Johnson

✓

am? apl 5.

Room Committee on Commerce

U. S. Senate

April 5. 1869

Hon. Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State

Sir: Will you

*Please send for the information of this Com-
mittee the recommendations and papers on file
in your office - On which Mr. Plumb was
nominated as Consul General to Cuba.*

The papers will be duly returned.

Very Respectfully

Yours &c.

L. Chace

Chairman Committee on Commerce

U. S. Senate

6
Treasury Department.

V
April 6th 1869.

ans? 14 apr

for

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 27th ultimo with a copy of a despatch (No. 7) from the U.S. Vice Consul General at Havana, dated the 20th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a decree of General Dulce, whereby, among other things, are established certain discriminating export duties in the island of Cuba, to take effect on the first of the present month - subject however to the approval of the home Government of Spain.

This new legislation seems to pursue the same spirit of hostility to American
Hon. Hamilton Fish.
Secretary of State.

Shipping

Shipping that has for so many years characterized the Spanish policy; but which this Department had been led to hope was about to be abandoned. It was understood that Spain but awaited the exhibition of a corresponding spirit on the part of the United States to open commerce with entire freedom to our shipping, relieved of all unfriendly exactions.

It was partially in that expectation that this Department recommended, and Congress passed the late Law of March 7, 1859, removing to a very large extent the retaliatory burdens and restrictions heretofore imposed by us on Spanish vessels from Cuba and Porto Rico, and elsewhere; and it was in the

Since

same expectation and belief that this Depart-
ment credited its letter to you of the 26th
ultimus.

If these views and expec-
tations have been (mistaken it is of
the highest importance that this Department
should understand it, and it would on
that account seem proper that this need
business should not escape notice.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

G. B. Smith,
Secretary of the Treasury

✓
Navy Department.
Washington, Pul O. 1869

I have the honor to inform you
that a report having reached the Department that an expedition was fitting
out at, or had sailed from New Orleans,
to land in Cuba, instructions were
immediately sent by telegraph to
Rear Admiral H. K. Taft, command-
ing the North Atlantic Squadron,
to endeavor to arrest the expedition.

He has telegraphed in reply that he
would leave Havana the 3^d of April
for the Mississippi in execution of
the Department's orders.

Very respectfully,
Hamilton Fish }
Secy of State }
David D. Porter }
Vice Adm.

John May Jr.
Navy Department. ✓

Havana Washington. April 8 1864

I have the honor to enclose herewith
for your information copy of despatch
No 42, dated the 31st ult^o, received by
this Department from Rear Admiral
H. K. Hoff, commanding the North
Atlantic Squadron, relative to affairs
on the island of Cuba; also to the
case of the American brig "Mary Lovell".

Your attention is respectfully in-
vited to the suggestion of Rear Admiral
Hoff as to the propriety of
a public expression by our govern-
ment upon the arrest of foreigners
in Cuba, on suspicion only.

Very

Very respectfully
A. R. de la Cova

Secy of the Navy

Honorable
Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State

North Atlantic Squadron

U.S. Flag Ship Contoscook, 2^d.

Havana, 31st March 1869

Sir,

In obedience to the Department's telegram of the 24th of March, directing me to investigate the capture of the American Brig "Mary Lowell", in British waters, I have the honor to inform it, that the case is now in the hands of the English authorities. Consequently, I called upon their Consul General here, a few days since. He stated that he had taken the matter in hand, for his Government, & had received a reply to the demand for the return of the vessel, from the Captain-General, who stated that the case was now in the Spanish Admiralty Court, and as soon as its decision was known, he would inform him.

The enclosed list of the names of American Citizens - some with their families - was handed yesterday, to the Captain-General, with the request that they might have a safe conduct to Veracruz, through the Spanish lines, being at present in the interior, in the neighborhood of Principe.

He promptly complied with the request, by

issuing the necessary Orders the same day.

The want of vessels, I regret to say, prevents me from sending to bring these people to Havana, in order that they may get the means of transportation to the United States, the Haragansett being at Key West, and the requirements of American Citizens making it necessary for me to remain at Havana, for the present, but I hope to relieve them, at an early day, if they can find their way to the Coast, through the lines of both Cubans and Spaniards.

One of our Consuls, at a small town on the Northern Coast (Sibana) a Mr. Codrington, was released by the Government at the joint request of our Vice Consul-General and myself, although suspected of conspiring against the Spaniards.

In connection with this subject, I would respectfully recommend that some public expression be made by our Government, in reference to the dangerous principle of the arrest of Foreign Citizens on suspicion, which I perceive is being carried out in this Island, by those in power, & increasing, daily. Such a course, I feel satisfied, will, in some measure, check this

disposition in those, who evidently control
the Island (the Radical Spaniards) and
eventually prevent a complication of diffi-
culties.

Very respectfully
your Ob. Serv.

Henry K. Hoff
R. Adm. Comm'r
C. A. Squadron

Hon. A. C. Borie,
Secretary of the Navy
Washington
D.C.

List of emigrants remaining at last accounts,
near Puerto Principe and Neuviitas.

Robert K. Bruce

Charles M. Cormack

Patrick M. Carvil

John Titus

Alexander Crowley

Charles Smith

John Kemple

John Dalton

George Foster

Robert Stephens - Wife and family

Henry Story and family

John Canniff

Thomas Ross

Dr Simmons

John Donahoe

John Fulton

Mrs Josephine Del Risco - near Principe

Mrs Agramonte " "

Stephen Blake and wife at Neuviitas

Robert Fullerton " "

U.S. Consulate General. Havana, March 30. 1869.

Attorney General's Office

Washington April 10, 1869.

Mr. Hamilton Fish,
Secretary of State.

Sir:

I am in the receipt of a letter from you of the 3^d inst.,
containing certain information received by your Department from the
Legation of Affairs of Haiti relative to the fitting out of a
steamer named "Florida" at Chester, Penna., for the service
of the insurgents now in arms against his government.
I enclose you herewith a copy of a communication
addressed to the United States Attorney for the Eastern District
of Pennsylvania upon this subject.

I have the honor to be, —

Very respectfully, &c. &c.

E. R. Hoar,

— Attorney General.

Attorney General's Office

Washington April 10th 1869.

United States Attorney
Eastern District of Penna., Phila.

Sir:

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter addressed to this office by Hon. William Fish, Secretary of State, stating that he has received information to the effect that a steamer named "Florida" is in course of being fitted out at Chester, Pa., for the service of the insurgents in arms against the government of "Haiti." You will please take such steps and institute such proceedings as seem to be necessary to prevent or to punish a violation of the laws of the United States by the parties who may be engaged in any illegal transaction connected

with this vessel. You will report also to this
office any reliable information upon the subject,
and any action that you may take in pursuance
of these instructions.

Respectfully, Yours,

E. R. Weir,

Attorney General.

Department of State
Washington

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C. C.

Phila. Apr. 10. 69.

Barcroft & Co. for Ralph Estrada

Sent to Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872.

U. S. Department of State
April 2d 1859.

Treasury Department.

Dr

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st Inst. relative to the fitting at Chester. Pa. of the Steamer "Florida", which the Charge d' Affaires of Hayti had advised the Department of State, was for the service of the enemies of his Government, and whose clearance therefore he asked might be prevented; and you request this Department to cause inquiry to be made, and to adopt

Wm. Hamilton Fish.

Secretary of State.

such measures as are proper in the premises.

In reply, I have to inform you that a copy of your communication was transmitted to the Collector at Philadelphia with instructions to report if there were any grounds for the suspicion entertained by the Haytian Agents, and be vigilant to enforce the provisions of the act of 20th April 1818.

On the 8th Inst. the Collector made his report stating that he had fully advised the Commanding Officer of the Revenue Steamer "Sulard" which was to pursue, and


Amelia Fish

had also communicated with the Assistant Sur-
veyor at Chester in relation to the matter, a copy
of whose letter was enclosed, and herewith I trans-
mit copies of these documents.

I also enclose you a copy of the instruc-
-tions of this Department to the Collector of
Philadelphia, of this day's date, directing him,
if the case demanded it, to take the bond
provided by the 1 Section of the act above cited.

With great respect

Wm. B. Smith

Sir,

Secretary of Treasury.

Hamilton Fish.

Secretary of State

Customs House, Philadelphia
Collectors Office
April 8th 1869

Sir:

I have received your letter of the 5th inst. enclosing copy of letter of Secretary of State, in relation to an apprehended violation of the neutrality laws in fitting out Steamer "Florida" at Chester Penna.

I have fully advised the Commanding Officer of the Rev. Ste "Seward" what course to pursue and have also communicated with Assistant Surveyor at Chester in relation to the matter, a copy of whose letter is herewith enclosed.

Very respectfully Yours.
(Signed) Henry C. Moore
Collector of Customs

Hon Geo S Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Office Surveyor of Customs
Chester Pa. April 8th 1869

Sir:
In answer to your inquiries in regard to the Str. Florida now undergoing repairs at this Port. I have the honor to say that I have made diligent inquiry in regard to her destination, and from information obtained, find she is bound for Rio, South-America. The Florida belongs to Fred^d. W. Clapp of Boston, No 17 Bowes Wharf of whom any information in regard to her destination can be obtained

Respectfully
Your obedient servant.
(Signed) Senor Litzemberg
Surveyor, Chester

Collector of Customs
Philadelphia

C. J. Fox
Treasury Department.

April 12th 1869

Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th Inst. relative to the Steamer "Florida," alleged to be fitting out at Chester, Penn^a, for the service of the enemies of the Government of Haiti, and stating that you had fully advised the Commanding Officer of the Revenue Steamer "Seward" what course to pursue, and communicated with the Asst Surveyor at Chester concerning the matter, a copy of whose letter you enclose.

Reply. That the Department approves your action in the premises, and if the case demands it, you will please take the Bond provided for by the 1st Sec: of Act of 20th April 1818. Cap 88. p 447. Statute at Large, Vol III.

Very &c

Collector of Customs
Philadelphia

(signed) Ego S Bonpwell
Sec of Treas^y

Santiago de Cuba

April 12 1869

O. G. Schmitt

Cuban Commisera

Jan 1872

Wm. D. Smith
Navy Department. ✓

Washington, April 14 1869

✓
S. H.
ack
Apr 15

I have the honor to submit
herewith for your information, copy of
a despatch, with enclosures, received
from Commander Thos. Scott Gilbreath,
Commanding the U.S. Steamer Albatross,
dated Havana April 8th, relative to
the boarding of the American Schooner
"Lizzie Major" by the Spanish Frigate
"Fernanda Catalina", and the removal
therefrom of two persons, said to
be passengers.

With great respect, Yr.

S. B. Stone

Secretary of the Navy

The President
of the
United States.

U. S. S. "Narragansett" 3^d Rate.
North Atlantic Squadron.
Havana Cuba.

April 7. 1869.

Honorable A. E. Borie.

Secretary of the Navy.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose herewith
copies of a correspondence between A. W.
Giles, Master of the American Schooner "Lizzie
Major" (marked A), Isaac Stone, U. S. Consular
Agent at Remedios (marked B) and Don
Augustin Delgado, the Comandante de
Marina at Remedios (marked C) in relation to
the boarding of the "Lizzie Major", 10 leagues
from the Cuban Coast and taking from her
Two Passengers, both Cubans.

These communications were received
by Mr. Hall, the U. S. Consul General here,
and submitted to the Captain General,
of this Island who has replied that he will
instruct the General of Marines to investigate
the matter most thoroughly.

Very

Very Resp'y.

Your Obedt Servt
Thos. Scott. Fullbrown

Comdr

Schooner "Lizzie May" at sea
March 27, 1869

Mr. Stone

U.S. Consul at Cairabon, Cuba,
Dear Sir:

This letter will be presented by Mr.
Mannibal, late a passenger on my
vessel to New Orleans, who is this day
taken out of my vessel at sea, by
the Spanish Frigate "Fernando Catalina".

I submit this case to you, pro-
testing against this act as, an
outrage on an American vessel
on the high seas.

Trusting that you will take
all necessary steps in this matter
I am,

Very Respectfully Yours
W. H. Giles
Master of Schooner "Lizzie
May"

United States Consular Agency
for San Juan de los Remedios
Carabien April 1, 1869.

Sir:

Yesterday I found in the public
prison of Remedios and among a class of
people not of very good character or
antecedents, two young persons, one called
Santiago A. A. Amible about 20 to 23 years
of age, and the other, Ramon V. Rivas,
who does not appear to be more than 10
years old, and it gave me great pain to
see them abandoned and mixing with such
unfortunate companions and much more so
because I consider that those two persons were
duly despatched from Havana for a foreign port
and that they arrived here on their way to
New Orleans on board the American Schooner
"Lizzie Major", whereof Giles is Master; and
which arrived here on the 13 day of March, loaded
and left on the 26 of said month for New Orleans
and that the same day she was boarded by boat
of the Spanish frigate of her Catholic Majesty
called the Fernando Catolico on the high seas

about 10 leagues distant from the Coast of this Island, and they were brought to this port and placed in the prison of Remedios where they still remain under the only pretext as I understand that their names were not placed on the manifest of the ship. Granting that this was so, the fault is not of the passengers, for they have nothing to do with the papers of the ship which was dispatched by the Consigners according to custom, and if that requisite was indispensable it should have been exacted while the ship was in the Spanish Waters and not in neutral waters as it appears it has happened. Consequently they alone are responsible to the Country under whose flag they sailed, and for this reason I hope these gentlemen may be placed at liberty without delay, proper documents given them to continue their journey and such expenses as they ^{may} have incurred be paid to them.

God preserve your honor many years.

(signed) Isaac Stone.

To the U.S. Consular Agent.
Senior Comandante de Marina,
of this Province - Don Augustin Delgado.

Marine Court of Admiralty
Of the Province of Remedios.

I cannot possibly exceed to the
withdrawal from prison of the persons of
D. Santiago A. Amible and Don Ramon
V. Rivas, to which you refer in your
communication of yesterday until it
be so ordered by the Superior Authority
to whom I have reported the imprison-
ment of the same.

I say the same to you in answer
to your aforesaid communication which
I have the pleasure of answering.

God preserve your honor many years
(signed) Augustin Delgado.

Barbaten, April 2, 1869.

Consular Agent of the United States }
at San Juan De Los Remedios.

Book 11 ✓ ✓

Washington, Dec. 14. 1872.

G. W. Hotchkiss rel. to care of

Enilio D. Silva.

Cuban Commission

any. 1872.

Secy of Navy

April 14, 1869

Rel. to the seizure of the
"Lizzie Major" (a Cuban affair)

Delivered to Consular Bureau
June 21, 1870.

G. W. Hatchkins

Washington, April 14, 1869

Rel to arrest of Emilio de
Silva in Cuba

Delivered June 21, 1890. To
Consular Bureau

Washington. Apr 15. 69.

John Scott relative to case of

Enilio Cabada.

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872.

Hon John Scott.

April 15, 1869.

Rel. to arrest of Emilio F. Caballero
in Cuba

Delivered June 21, 1870. To
Consular Bureau

New York. Apr. 17. 1869.

A. B. de Luna.

Cuban Commission

May. 1872

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microcopy No. 179

**MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Roll 299

April 17-30, 1869



**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

Washington: 1964

Wm. Smith

Treasury Department.

April 17th 1869

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th instant, transmitting, in connection with a previous correspondence on the subject, a copy of despatch No. 23, dated the 3rd instant, from our Vice-Consul General at Havana, relative to the swindling operations of William Jones, late a Special Agent of this Department.

I am, Very respectfully

Wm. Smith

Hon. Hamilton Fish Secretary of the Treasury
Secretary of State

Treasury Department.

am. Apt 22

April 17th 1869.

At the request of Professor Benjamin Peirce, Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, I enclose the ~~above~~ enclosed to submit for your consideration and such action, if any, as may be deemed expedient by you, a letter addressed to him by Professor Agassiz, dated at Harvard February 26th last.

Very Respectfully
Geo. S. Brewster
Secretary of the Treasury

Hon. Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State.

Havana, Febr. 26th 1869

My dear Sir,

I arrived safely here the day before yesterday. Under the circumstances prevalent in Cuba it occurred to me that it would be proper to call upon the Captain General of the Island, General Dulce & to explain to him the object of our voyage, that we might not appear suspicious if in the course of our investigation it became desirable to dredge in the immediate vicinity of the Island. I therefore called upon Admiral Hoff & requested him to introduce me to the Captain General which he very courteously consented to do. By appointment we called this morning at the Palace & were very graciously received. After giving to General Dulce an account of what had already been done by the Coast Survey to explore the Deep Sea Fauna on the American side of the Gulf Stream and expressing my wish of connecting these results with the Island of Cuba, he at once offered every assistance in power & went so far as to say that if the cooperation of his vessels, officers, pilots & instruments was needed, it should readily be tendered & that orders would be sent to all the Comanders of the coast to inform them of the object of our voyage. It seems to me that under the circumstances this is a manifestation of unusual courtesy. I intend to take the liberty of suggesting that you request the Secretary of State to acknowledge the courtesy in warm terms. Now that nations take their standing by the degree of culture they manifest, I feel that no opportunity should be lost to express our appreciation of such acts.

Ever truly your friend
Benj. Peirce, Jr. U.S. Coast Survey.

L. Agassiz

In any further correspondence
on this subject, quote the word
letter, Number and Volume

Post-Office Department.

FINANCE OFFICE.

April 20

April 19th 1869

For: Mr. J. B. Davis

I have the honor to transmit herewith
a package addressed to the U. S. Consul
General, Havana, Cuba, with the request
that the same may be forwarded with
dispatches from your Department.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Very respectfully,

Third Assist. P. M. General

Hon. J. Bancroft Davis,
Assistant Secy of State,
Washington,
D.C.

Washington, Apl. 19. 69.

Jose A. Caranova

Ret to Claim

Sent to Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

Department of State
Washington

187

Thurs. Apr. 20. 69.

L. C. Madron. rel. to Emilio F.
Canada.

Sent to Cuban Commission

June 1872



New York, April 20th 1869

ack. 21, apr

Mr. Hamilton Fish
Secy of State
Washington,
Sir

The undersigned on behalf
of the New York & Mexican S. S. Line beg to call your attention
to the following.

This line dispatch their steamers to Vera Cruz & Sisal
every twenty days from this port - calling at Havana going
out & returning sail from New York on Schedule Line

The cargo hence is nearly all for Mexico - most of the
trips taking none for Havana.

The Spanish Consul here expects from us a Manifest
to be certified by him of the above mentioned cargoes for
Mexican ports, this document must contain the full
particulars of every package, viz - weights, values, consignees
etc; which is of very serious inconvenience ~~thous~~ as on
acct of this requirement, the steamers are obliged to
cease receiving goods earlier than if that ^{requirement} ~~formality~~
was not needed by him; we say useless, because we have
positive information from the Custom House Authorities
at Havana that this certified document is not requisite
there, We are able to give without inconvenience a
Manifest of the goods laden here for Havana & only
ask that the steamers of the New York & Mexican Mail

It can be allowed to clear at the Spanish Consul here without giving any manifest of the cargo intended for the Mexican ports, being only bound to Havana in transit for those ports.

We have no doubt, but that the ~~Spanish~~ Minister will give the Consulate here the necessary instructions to further our desires by the laying before him the facts.

We beg to mention that the Customs Authorities at Havana only require from the Ship, a manifest of the cargo on board, in transit without all the details as required by the Spanish Consul here - & that document is made on board by the Purser of the Ship on his way to Havana.

The steamers referred to in the foregoing carry the U.S. Mails for Havana & Mexico -

Yours Very truly
J. Alexandre Leuz

New York and Mexican Mail Steamship Line

ENTRE NUEVA YORK y VERA CRUZ,

Tocando á Sisal y Habana á la yda y á la vuelta,

Saliendo cada veinte dias de Nueva York y de Verá Cruz.

CITY OF MEXICO, - Capitan J. DEAKEN.

CLEOPATRA, - - Capitan S. F. PHILLIPS.

Y D A.				V U E L T A.			
Sale de Nueva York.	Sale de la Habana.	Sale de Sisal.	Llega á Vera Cruz.	Sale de Vera Cruz.	Sale de Sisal.	Sale de la Habana.	Llega á Nueva York.
Mayo 9	Mayo 16	Mayo 19	Mayo 21	Mayo 26	Mayo 30	Junio 2	Junio 7
" 29	Junio 5	Junio 8	Junio 10	Junio 15	Junio 19	" 22	" 27
Junio 18	" 25	" 28	" 30	Julio 5	Julio 9	Julio 12	Julio 17
Julio 8	Julio 15	Julio 18	Julio 20	" 25	" 29	Agto 1	Agto 6
" 28	Agto 4	Agto 7	Agto 9	Agto 14	Agto 18	" 21	" 26
Agto 17	" 24	" 27	" 29	Set. 3	Set. 7	Set. 10	Set. 15
Set. 6	Set. 13	Set. 16	Set. 18	" 23	" 27	" 30	Oct. 5
" 26	Oct. 3	Oct. 6	Oct. 8	Oct. 13	Oct. 17	Oct. 20	" 25
Oct. 16	" 23	" 26	" 28	Nov. 2	Nov. 6	Nov. 9	Nov. 14
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 15	Nov. 17	" 22	" 26	" 29	Dec. 4
" 25	Dec. 2	Dec. 5	Dec. 7	Dec. 12	Dec. 16	Dec. 19	" 24
Dec. 15	" 22	" 25	" 27	Jan. 1	Jan. 5	Jan. 8	Jan. 13

Cuando la fecha de la Salida de Nueva York sea un Domingo Saldrá el Sábado.

Los Agentes podran adelantar la Salida de Sisal y de la Habana.

Sres. R. C. Ritter y Ca Agentes en Vera Cruz.

Sr. Francisco Diego, id Sisal.

Sres. I. M. Zangroniz y Ca id Habana.

F. ALEXANDRE & SONS,

NUEVA YORK.

by our navy in their efforts to
leave the island.

I would be needless to state
in how much distress are the
family of Mrs Risco in consequence
of her perilous situation.

My Sister although married
to a Cuban has never renounced
her rights of American Citizenship
and her husband has never
been engaged in this war against
the Spanish Authorities as
he is a man in extremely feeble
state of health and if the Spanish
authorities will not grant the favour
of a passport for him we at least
claim the protection of Mrs Josephine
del Risco a native of this city
and an American citizen.

Will you please give me the
information herein desired.
Very Respectfully yrs. J. Thompson. No 273 Henry St
Brooklyn L.I.

To the Hon
H. Fish.

Dr Sir

April 20th 1869

A. 29th
copy sent to
V.C. sent. (Hamm)
Apr. 27. 69
A. Apr. 29

My Sister Mrs del Risco
now or lately residing in the
vicinity of Puerto Principe
in the island of Cuba with
her husband and four
children were when heard
from in March last desirous
of retiring to this City but
were fearful to attempt it
lest they might be massacred
on their way to the seaport
of Sancti Spiritus were the hoped
to take refuge ^{and passage} on board a
National vessel to Havana
or if possible to some southern
port of the United States
there being no merchant
vessels sailing to or from
the port of Sancti Spiritus.

addressed a note to the
Hon W H Seward and received
a letter from his secretary
saying I believe that measures
would be taken to get to my
sister and family a passport
to bring them through the
lines of the Spanish army
which extended five or six miles
out from the port of Newitas.

We were informed that
the Authorities at Havana
had sent orders that they
should safely be conducted
so that they might be embarked
on board a vessel of war if
one was there to receive them.

I wish to know if a vessel
has been directed to remain
there to receive and protect
those Americans wishing to
embark.

From all that we can learn no
dispatch has ever reached them
and as the Spanish troops have
since then penetrated to the
City of Principe it is probable
that there has been some
negligence on part of the
Authorities to send the
promised passport. Can
no communication be had
by our government with our
relatives and countrymen
in the interior and a safe
escort be given them to the
sea port of Newitas and
a war ship be ready to take
them on board on their arrival.

It seems that the Authorities
are powerless to protect our
countrymen and relatives from
the attacks of the Spanish
Volunteers. Can they have protection

W. S. Controcock, J. W. Tazewell,

Mississippi River 11 April 1869.

Sir:

In obedience to your order of the 8th inst. directing me to "proceed to the City of New Orleans to communicate with the authorities, Civil and military for the purpose of obtaining all possible information in regard to the supposed fitting out of Cuban expeditions in that vicinity".

I have the honor to report that I arrived in New Orleans on the 9th and communicated at once with the following officials:

Mr. Gray, Collector of the port of N. O.
Mr. Keith, Surveyor " " "
Judge Durell, Judge U. S. Dist. Court
General Mower, Military Commdr Depart.
Senor Charles Pie' Comant d'Espagne

Upon diligent inquiry it appears that the four first named gentlemen neither know, nor have they any grounds for believing that such expeditions are proposed, in the vicinity of New Orleans; Mr Gray,

Collector, has specific instructions from Washington on this subject and has recently exercised great vigilance to arrest all infractions of the Neutrality Laws.

Senor Charles Pic, the Spanish Consul has no information of a reliable character, but states that some weeks since there were movements on foot, believed to have in view the formation of an expedition against Cuba, but that it failed for want of means; that some negotiations had been commenced for the purchase of a steamer, but that they had failed as money could not be raised to complete the purchase, and the steamer had found other employment. At this time he has no other, or more definite information than flying rumours which cannot be traced to any authentic source.

From the conversation held with these gentlemen for the purpose of gaining information on this subject I am unable to discover that there is even a probability of any such expedition being seriously

contemplated, although its organization
has doubtless been discussed and
perhaps proposed.

I am very Respectfully
Your Obdt. Servt.

J. C. P. de Krieff

Commander, U.S.N.

Fleet Captain, N.A. Squad,

Rear Admiral

H. K. Hoff,

Comd'g N.A. Squadron,

U.S. Flag Ship "Contoocook".

✓

Navy Department
Washington 21 April 1869

Sir:

I have the honor to submit herewith for your information, a copy of a despatch dated the 13th instant, received from Rear Admiral W. H. Hoff, commanding the North Atlantic Squadron, relative to his inquiries concerning reported expeditions fitting out at New Orleans to land in Cuba.

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servant

Harold R. Porter

Per Secretary of the Navy.

The President

178 North Atlantic Squadron.
U. S. Flag Ship Contocook,
Pensacola Bay.

13 April 1869.

Sir:

In consequence of the North
West Pass Bar, at the mouth of
the Mississippi River being par-
tially blocked up by vessels -
aground, I did not deem it
prudent to go up to New Orleans
in this vessel - therefore I
despatched Fleet-Captain de
Strafft to that place for the
purpose of obtaining as
much information as pos-
sible in regard to Cuban
expeditions fitting out.

I have the honor to
enclose herewith a copy of
his report by which the
Department will observe
that there seems to be no
likelihood of any armed
parties leaving that co-

cality at present.

Very resp'y

Your Obedt. Servt.

Henry H. Hoff.

Rear Admiral

Comd'g N. A. Squadron.

Hon A. E. Bone,

Secy of the Navy }

U. S. S. Cutwocock S. W. Pass,
Mississippi River 11 April 1869.

Sir.

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Mr. Gray, Collector of the port of N. O.

Mr. Keitt, Surveyor " " " "

Judge Durell, Judge U. S. Dist. Court.

General Hoover, Military Commissary Depart.

Senor Charles Pié, Consul d'Espagne.

Upon diligent inquiry it

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From the conversation held
with these gentlemen for the
purpose of gaining information
on this subject I am unable
to discover that there is even
a probability of any such
expedition being seriously
contemplated, although its
organization has doubtless
been discussed and perhaps
proposed.

I am very Respectfully
Yours &c &c
W. H. Hoff
Commanding U. S. Squadron
U. S. Flag Ship "Contocook." J. C. P. de Strafft
Commander U. S. N.
Fleet Captain U. S. Squadron

Wash^g. Apr. 21-1869.

Jose A. Casanova.
Rel. to Cuban Claims.

Sent to Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

New York. Dec. 22. 1869

A. B. De Luna.

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872.

Duque, Carlos & others

Philadelphia, April 23, 1869

Rel. to arrest of Gregorio Gonzalez
in Cuba

Delivered to Consular Bureau
June 24, 1878.

Philadelphia, Dec. 23. 69

Carlos T. Dique

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

||

Agalactia No. 2469.

L. C. Wells.

✓ Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

Wm. A. Smith

Treasury Department.

April 27th 1869.

Sir:

I am directed by the Secretary to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, transmitting the Official Bond, approved by you, of Edward L. Plumb, Esq., appointed Consul General of the United States at Havana, Cuba, and to inform you that said bond has, this day been referred to the First Comptroller of the Treasury, to be placed on file in his office.

I am, Very Respectfully,

Wm. A. Smith

Assistant Secretary.

Yours,

William Fish,

Secretary of State.

New York. Feb. 27. 1869.

Thomas A. R. R.

Cuban Consumption

Aug. 1872.

Mr. Jefferson ✓

Attorney General's Office

Washington April 29th 1869

Hon Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State
Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that
I have this morning received a telegraphic despatch
from the U. S. District Attorney at Key West of which
the following is a copy:

"Key West, April 28. 1869"
"British bark reported sunk off Santiago, Cuba"
"by Spanish Frigate with all on board. Information"
"received from British Consul Havana"

(Signed) J. A. Dockray
Dist. Atty

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

E. R. Hoar,
Attorney General

Matanzas Mr. J. Smith

May 3

New York April 29/69
Hon Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State
Washington

Sir

We beg to bring to your notice the following fact, which appears to us, worth of your attention

Upon the 16th day of May 1868, the American Schooner "Alfred Keen", Capt. David Robinson, arrived at Matanzas Cuba from Aspinwall, in ballast without cargo. Capt Robinson produced and delivered to the Custom House Officials a manifest written in Spanish also one written in English stating that the vessel was in ballast having no cargo on board. There being no Spanish Consul at Aspinwall, a consular certificate to the manifest could not be obtained, the Spanish Authorities claimed that inasmuch as there was no consul at Aspinwall to certify

his manifest, the Captain should have had them certified by three resident Merchants of Aspinwall; in default of which a fine of one thousand dollars in gold was imposed upon the Vessel -

Capt Robinson placed the amount of the fine in the hands of his Consignee who gave bonds to pay the money over to the Customs officials, if, upon reconsideration they decided not to remit the fine.

This fine has not been remitted and as the Vessel's Consignee cannot have their bond cancelled without paying the fine the whole thing remains as at first.

This same Vessel has before this gone upon the same voyage to Aspinwall then to other ports in Cuba, and many other Vessels have ^{done} the same, but never to our knowledge has the fine been imposed for lack of a manifest certified by Merchants of Aspinwall. We respectfully beg that you will instruct the Consul at Matanzas to make inquiry into this matter, and if possible have this fine remitted.

*Dr. R. B. Johnson may recover his
money.*

*Yours Respectfully
Snowd Burgess*