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MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Roll 294

January 1-31, 1869



L. G. V

Hon. W. Williams, Secretary
U.S. State Dept.
Washington

copy sent to Rodriguez
Washington Jan 11

Havana January 8th 1867

Sir

Fearing that you may not remember who I am, because never known me personally, I do consider myself obliged to let you know that I am the Mexican who was appointed, by the Emperor Maximilian, as Consul General for the United States, and resided in New York during the years 1864, and 1865. In 1866 I was appointed Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs in Mexico, which employment I occupied till 1866 that was appointed as Minister of the Imperial House.

In 1867 I went again to the States in performance of an special commission in favour of the Imperial government and left New York to go home, in the month of April, but at my arrival to this port, I know that all the roads were cut off by General's troops, and of course determined myself to remain here expecting the course of further things in my country. What happened there is known to you and those final events obliged me to expect here the future.

proceedings of the new government against
those who saved the Emperor.

I did know that the most respectable
mexicans were seized by hundreds, and
nevertheless that I do not count myself
amongst them, I became an exile all
because the decree that was given compre-
hended me. Since that time I am here,
and few months ago my situation became
worse on account of not having the
necessary means to live on.

There is something more. An account of
all my misfortunes I felt ill on the 24th
of August last, and had been so serious-
ly ill that no body believed I could escape
from death.

For those reasons, and convinced that
sufferings in the liver will not permit
myself to feel well, and what is more
not to be tranquil living on this island
I concluded to write to you asking you
kindness the following great favour, to
which I shall live eternally thankful.

I am sure that if you write, in my
favour, to Suarez Minister of Foreign
Affairs, demanding a safe conduct for
me to go home, you shall obtain it
and do me a great service; to which
I shall be recognised and all it will
be to my unhappiness and little danger.

Besides you will give me the opportunity
to ease myself, because the only hope
I have is to get some health going home.
If I can not obtain this I shall die soon,
not only on account of my sickness, but
also on account of the melancholy that
has ruled my spirits.

My dear Sir, do me the favour I have
asked for, and pardon me the liberty I have
taken writing to you without having the
honour of being introduced to your friend,
Miss.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Luis de Arroyo

My address is the following:

Ramon Carballe
for Mr. Luis de Arroyo - Bo. Apartado n° 95 -
Havana.

Tamtiago de Cuba

Treasury Department.

January 5 1869

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 14th instant covering copy of letter dated the 17th ultimo from Mr. Manuel R. Esay, United States Consul at Manzanillo, Cuba, in which he states that owing to his ill health he has been obliged to leave his post and repair to Havana and is consequently unable to comply with the request of this Department, to be present at Philadelphia as a witness on the trial of a certain suit to which the United States was a party.

In regard thereto you are respectfully informed that the suit above referred to was tried some days since, and a verdict rendered adverse to the Government; consequent-

by there is no necessity for the testimony of Mr. Eacy in the premises.

It may be proper to add that it is understood to be the opinion of the gentlemen who represented the Government on the trial of said suit that had Mr. Eacy been present and testified to matters which were understood to be within his knowledge a result favorable to the Government might have been obtained.

I am

Very respectfully

Wm. S. Seward

Secretary of the Treasury

Hon. William H. Seward

Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Confidential

United States Consul Agency

San Domingo City

Dec 10th 1868.

Hon. S. H. Leonard.

Secretary of State.

Sir,

Since my dispatch of yesterday's
date. Mr Belmont has called
on me at the special instance
of the President to inform me
that he Mr Bay addressed
letters to the different
authorities throughout the
Republic on the question of
seeking the protection of
the United States, and has
received replies from all

quarter, affirming that
such a measure is most
highly approved of and is
very popular in all parts
of the country.

That President Rags
is most anxious that the
proposals made through
Mr. Smith will be accepted
by the government of the
United States in which
event he is firmly decides
that three vessels of war
should be sent out with
a Commission to this Port
one ~~is~~ to remain here
one to proceed and take
possession of Damaran
and one to go to Punta Arenas

and that neighborhood - and
license to send out one
thousand (1000) arms of
approved arms for the
citizens composing the
National Guard.

I am myself well aware
that the protection of the
United States will be hailed
with great satisfaction by
not only all the friends of
Mr. Rags, but by the majority
of the nation now in exile who
will be allowed to return
and who will strongly
advocate annexation.

It is highly important
not to allow this question
to linger. But if the problem

of Bond + Bag are accepted
I would respectfully
recommend prompt action

I have the honor to be
with the highest respect

Your obedient servant

John Liners Smith

U.S. Agent.

Revol vack^d. Jan. 13th 69

Allowed as

Charged Treasury Department.

Fifth Auditor's Office,

January 13th 1869.

Forward
To Mr. Markins United States
Consul General at Honolulu having
transmitted to this Office for adjustment, his Accounts for time occupied
receiving his instructions,
I have the honor to inquire for what period I am to credit him
therefor.

Mr. Markins charges from
September 29th 1868 30 days.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. M. Walker
Secretary

Wm. F. Fernald
Assistant Secretary of State

Ans. Jan 16th

✓

Alexandria, Va.,
Jan 15th, 1869.

Dear Sir - I was at
the "State Department" to-day
on some business, about which
I was told to address you.

It is this: I am a widowed
lady and a legatee of the
late Gen. W. Blacum once
command to Rio pensans S. A., &
I am desirous of getting
information from the "State
Department" as to whether
the said Gen. W. Blacum ever
made contract with Government
for compensation for his services
rendered the country in the
hardness & travels by his visiting
Mexico and his in...

witnesses to develop the
fraudulent claims of the
Gardner? If ^{you} will do
me the favor (which I hope
you may) of letting the paper
be examined by some
clerk of the "Department"
you will be doing me
a kindness for which I
cannot thank you too much.
I will call personally
at the Department to-mor-
row afternoon.

Yours Respectfully,
Mrs. Jane H. Birney
Deputy of the late
Gen. W. B. Allen

To

Hon. Wm. H. Seward,
Sec of State,
Washington, D.C.

CT
JAN 19
1865

Dr. J. P. ...
Washington Jan 15

File
Hon. William H. Seward
Letting of 130 no 2 road
160 Long Deer Ln

I addressed you
a letter on the 13th from Alexandria
I have just ascertained from
The Department of State, that
the letter was not received.
I therefore address you again
asking the favor of having
an examination of papers
relation to the Gardiner
Friend in which my
Brother the late G. W. Placens
was employed I think by
the Government & for which
business he did unpaid.
in his last sickness he said
he had contracted with the

and the money paid to D. Gardiner
had been recovered, as I am
his Legatee. I ask this favour
from you, hoping it may
meet with your approbation.
I remain with great
respect, This I H. P. 1811



Wm. D. Howson
Washington 15 July 1889

File

Dear Sir

Unexpectantly extending my visit to New York on to this city because of some business of personal interest near by one of the largest and most interesting countries; and, by the way, I thought I would call personally on you at your department on Saturday last. Whilst at New York I had recourse to the most reliable authorities respecting the operations in Cuba; and I perceived some questions might suggest themselves to you, in a personal interview, that I might be prepared to answer, and if not, would cheerfully undertake to acquire the information.

I was sorry on that account that your engagements prevented me from seeing you there. I was informed that the evening was that of your usual Reception, and that I could meet you there - so going myself from Washington, I arrived to see you for a moment just before dark to learn if you would be disengaged. I was designated ^{to stay} at the department, so that I should be enabled to arrange my own business to conform to it - rather the occasion was the Conf. party, permitted my attendance of the lecture I prepared, and all an opportunity present to make the appointment I desired, although for the I would mention.

The information I received in New York on to the effect that the revolutionists in Cuba number 20,000 is good; and they are very

reception from the western part of the island, I had positive evidence
in the arrival this morning (Friday last) of a number of young men from
Havana, in order to the west of here in Cuba - Several others from Havana
left the same steamer at Naples, to avail of an early opportunity from
there -

Laesada, who is a native of Cuba, and it is said, has returned
from Mexico has been against his countrymen - His opinion will
be of importance to the Cubans - The specimens it is stated have in the field
3000 - 3500 men - This is probably all they can spare from the numerous
posts about the island, and to do this I was informed they have for the
first time made use of the colored troops as a guard at the Captain General's
residence - Havana.

Delany's plan of operations as I understand, was the
movement of his force in three columns from these points on the western
coast, the columns to form a junction and then to march on Bayamo
the locality for 3 months inconsistent of the liberal government, the intention
being to break up the latter - It is reported that one of the columns has
been routed - It looks confirmation further than that the government has
lost control of all communication to the country by telegraph, do not
contact it.

I suppose fully the circumstances to prove in regard to
the ultimate result - That the Cubans are laboring under great disadvantages
they have also circumstances in their favor - It is known that the Havana
is dependent for the supply of Beef on the island, the island where the

revolution is going on - of course the supply is cut off and the whole
must come to a halt - but what you described in Havana - a letter
written by a Spaniard who is in Havana - saying how much he is informed
the Spaniards acknowledge his dependence & condemn the prosecution &
inability of the Spanish government in Cuba - There is a strong revolutionary
feeling in Havana which is only kept in subjection by military force.

I am confident the difficulty of transporting troops from
the other side of the Atlantic - even from the United States
which that number will soon be destroyed by a small force of soldiers.
The part of the country is well adapted to that class of warfare - I am
disposed to judge according to the statement given to me, & from present indications
I believe the Spanish troops which they are likely to send to the frontiers
of the zone, Matanzas & Havana; and then will begin the period of
negotiations.

Something has said to me by Cuban in Havana as to their
views - I have no doubt the majority of them agree on means of success.
They plead for an acknowledgment of belligerent rights, so that if they obtain
from the U.S. they can receive the supplies & clothing in the best - I thought that
an agreement with England - as yet to the Cuban - claims might
be made in the year or so I give them to expect, to moderate the expectations
of the revolution ^{in the field} in Cuba - and when they will probably expect the Spanish
troops to be kept out of the island and maintain a separate government
for the present and then turn back to the island.

As to the revolution there is a great deal of the American spirit.

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in the arrival this morning (Friday last) of a number of young men from
Havana, in order to the west of here in Cuba - Several others from Havana
left the same steamer at Naples, to avail of an early opportunity from
there -

Laserna, who is a native of Cuba, and it is said, an active
lover in Mexico, has been against his countrymen - His opinion is
in of opposition to the Cubans - The specimens it is stated have in the field
300 or 350 men - This is probably all they can spare from the numerous
posts about the Island, and to do this I was informed they have for the
first time made use of the colored troops as a guard at the Captain General's
residence - Havana.

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movement of his force in three columns from these points on the western
coast, then columns to form a position and then to march on Bayamo
the locality for 3 months notwithstanding the liberal of movement, the intention
being to break up the latter - It is reported that one of the columns has
been routed - It looks confirmation further than that the government who
have control of all communications to the country by telegraph, do not
contradict it.

I sympathize the circumstances to prove in regard to
the ultimate result - What the Cubans are laboring under great disadvantages
they have also circumstances in their favor - It is known that Havana
is dependent for the supply of Beef on the last, the Island where the

separation is going on - of course the supply is cut off and the whole
must come - later state your disapproval in Havana - a letter
written by - Spencer sent in New York - today was made by my informant
the letter acknowledges his disapproval & condemns the prohibition to
liberty of the Spanish government in Cuba - There is a strong revolutionary
feeling in Havana which is only kept in subjection by military force

You comprehend the difficulty of transporting troops from
the other side of the Atlantic - even Havana if that is the limit of number
which that number will soon be destroyed by a Spanish force, I believe.
The part of the country is well adapted to that class of warfare - I am
satisfied to judge according to the statement given to me, & from present indications
I believe the Spanish troops which they are likely to send to the provinces
of the future, Matanzas & Havana; and then will begin the period of
negotiations.

Something has said to me by Cuban in New York as to this
war - I have no doubt the majority of them agree in desire of success
they plead for an acknowledgment of the rights of the people, so that if they obtain
in North they can have the privilege of voting in the land - I thought that
an agreement with England in regard to the blockade - Claims might
be made in the future as I gave them to expect to moderate their expectations
if they maintain ^{in the future} in Cuba - whereas they will probably expect the Spanish
hope from the part of the island and maintain a new form of government
for the future, and even then help the island.

As to the blockade that is a part of the American Order

they are very dangerous - but not sufficient to run the heat of
the blood, & cannot be transmitted to the brain.

I expect I am in no way connected with
the question in Cuba - I take a deep interest in the subject
and I have spent considerable time there; and I am well
acquainted with the subject with the people & the government. I must say
to you in order that you may have full information, perhaps that
you should give the measures, rather than they should be prohibited
by various measures in Congress.

If I can procure any information (or information to
be) that will be of service to you, I can be of service to the
Office, having charges for letters to you - please to
- I should like to know for how - probably not too long -
and will call frequently if you are not to be any more at my
house to know your name. Perhaps I have myself nothing further
to say, than the information I give in the communication.

I remain Sir

Very Respectfully

Your obedient

B. A. Wright

How it is done