

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microcopy No. 179

**MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Roll 300

May 1-15, 1869



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

Washington: 1964

From Rear Admiral Moff's
despatches, dated off Navana,
30 April and 1st May.

Seams of the arrival of 1800
troops under Generals Letona and
Escalante at Cuernavaca from Villa
Clara; also of 1200 from Puerto
Principe, under Genl Lesea, who
started with 2200 and left detach-
ments along the old road.

These troops report no resistance
on the march over the island, although
large bodies of insurgents were posted
on the high ground, some distance from
the road, and numbers of well
constructed benches, breastworks,
ditches &c. were visible.

It is said that General Pineda
the Revolutionary leader, purposely allowed
the Spaniards to march across without
opposition (from interior to sea coast)
intending to obstruct their return and,
if possible, capture provision trains.

4000 men, among them 1500 Catalan volunteers recently from Spain, concentrated at Huevitas. Were to commence repairing the road between Huevitas and Principe, to get cars running and convey provisions to the troops at Principe said to be on half rations.

Doctor Simmons, accused of circulating insurrectionary proclamations and giving aid and comfort to the insurgents, still confined at Principe. Genl. Lessea states that the Doctor's life was spared because he is an American.

On application from Rear Admiral Hoff, the Captain General had promptly and politely released a young Engineer (Rafael Estrada) who had never taken out his final papers although he had married in the U.S. and been some years there.

The U.S. Consul at Caribarien (Mr. Stone) informed the Commander of

the Penobscot, that he had received a verbal order from the Governor of Remedios, not to hoist the flag of the Consulate again.

Admiral Stoff had applied to the Captain General to allow the flag to be hoisted.

[no reasons for the action of the Spanish authorities stated]

St Condi Eastman reports that at Carbanera, one S. B. Vallas, who claims to be an American citizen, but had no evidence with him to sustain it, was on trial under outrageous charges preferred by the volunteers. Expected to be sent to Havana soon for sentence.

The Penobscot expected to convey a number of American citizens, who had been allowed to pass from the Interior to Cienfuegos, to Havana. Many of these people were destitute. The ship was relieving their wants as far as possible, giving some of them refuge on flag ship.

until they could get passage to U.S.

Narragansett at Key West, watching American steamer "Salvador", and guarding that end telegraph cable, it having been rumored that some Cubans at Key West intended to destroy it, to cut-off rapid communication between Cuba and Spain.

Dayli

late aducis report Salnave in possession of the Cape on the North, but the people in a starving condition. Affairs about Port au Prince quiet.

Government party (Salnaves) besieging Aux Cayes, that point, together with Jeremie and Jacmel in the South and St Marks in the North, being held by the Gacors — a party of the rebel faction.

Populace at Port au Prince in destitute condition for want of necessaries of life.

Executive.

May 10th

1869

Case of Porter D. D.
Vice Admiral U.S.N.

Despatched from Rear
Admiral Keuff concerning
Cuban matter

Respectfully referred to the Hon.
the Secretary of State

By order of the President,

W. A. R. A. C.

Secretary.

L.R.A. 522

Department of State
Washington

187

Wilmington Del.
May 3. 1869.

Anthony Higgins rel to Capt Jones

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

Department of State

Washington

187

New Brunswick N. J.

May 3. 1869.

J. V. Brito.

Sent to Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872.

RECEIVED
4
MAY 1869

Treasury Department,

Fifth Auditor's Office,

May 4th 1869.

Mr. *O. S. P.* *Smith* United States
Consul General at *Havana* 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. *Smith* charges from
April 16th to May 3rd, 1869, 18 days.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. Barrer
Auditor.

Hon. *J. C. Davis*
Assistant Secretary of State.

Havana

Navy Department.

Washington, May 8 1869

admitted 26

Sir

I have the honor to submit
herewith for your perusal, a despatch
dated the 21st inst., received from
Commander W. J. Feltz, commanding
U. S. S. "Albatross", off Havana,
in reference to the release of the
two passengers taken from the
American Schooner "Vigilance"
by the Spanish War Steamer "Perduran
de Calabico".

Very respectfully

Daniel D. Pratt

Secretary of the Navy

Honorable

William H. Fish

Secretary of State

RECEIVED
APR 29 1869

W. J. S. Maganville
North Wallis Sweden
Havana, Cuba
April 24 69

Honorable A. E. S.
Secretary of the Navy
Washington D. C.

Sir
I have today been informed by
Consul General Hall that the two
passengers, Amiel & Rives, taken
from the American Schooner Lizzie
Major by the Spanish War Steamer
Ferdinand de Castile, have been released
from prison at Remedios and are now
on their way to this port.

The cargo of the Mary Lowell is now
stored at the Arsenal and I am informed
every thing on board was devoted to the
Insurgent General Caspides, and the
names of the parties from whom sent also
appended.

Havana has been very quiet for the past

Troops continue to arrive from Spain notwithstanding the proclamations of the Captain General to the effect that the Rebellion is at an end.

A report was current a day or two since that Trinidad had been captured and occupied by the insurgents. This

report however has not been confirmed.

Admiral Peff has not yet arrived though it is reported he left New Orleans ten days since.

Very Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
J. M. Scott F. M. M.
Esq.

(S.D.) (arrived) (3rd Rate)

North Atlantic Squadron

Havana, Cuba

April 24, 1869

Fellbroon, Mrs. Scott
Comdr

States that the prisoners Arnibal
& Rivas have been released by the
Spanish authorities & that the
"Mary Lowell's" Cargo has been dis-
charged at the Arsenal in this
port. Also communicates in-
telligence of affairs in & about
Havana & the non-arrival of
Admiral Hoff from New Orleans.

J. Hogg

State of Pennsylvania

City & County of Philadelphia.

I, Fred G. Wolbert

do hereby certify the within to be a true and correct copy of the record (full and complete) of the Naturalization of Gregoria Gonzales as the same now remains on file in this office

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 22nd day of April A.D. 1889.

Fred G. Wolbert

Prothy

United States of America.



State of Pennsylvania,

CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA, SS.

Be it Remembered, That before the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the 21st day of September in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty six personally appeared Gregorio Gonzales who, upon his solemn Oath did depose and say, that he is a Native of Cuba now residing in the City of Philadelphia, aged 25 years, or thereabouts, and that it is **BONA FIDE** his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Queen of Spain of whom he is now a subject.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Court, this 21st day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty six

Thos B Reeves (Prothonotary.)

NOTICE.—Two years from this date, you can receive your final paper at the office of the Court of Common Pleas, 9 State House Row.

To the Honorable the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia.

The Petition of Gregoria Gonzales

A Native of

Havana

Respectfully Sheweth:

That he declared on oath before the the Clerk of the said Court
on the 21st day of September A. D. 1866

That it was and still is bona fide his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and of renouncing forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Government of Spain

of whom he was at that time a subject.—That your Petitioner has resided within the United States upwards of five years, and one year in the State of Pennsylvania last past, immediately preceding this his application to become a Citizen of the United States.

That he has never borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility in his own or any other country.

He therefore prays, that on his making the proof, and taking the oath prescribed by law, he may be admitted a Citizen of the United States of America.

and he will ever pray, &c.

Gregoria Gonzales

a Citizen of the United

States of America, being duly sworn, according to law, saith, that he knows and is well acquainted with Gregoria Gonzales the Petitioner; that to his know-

ledge he has resided in the United States five years, and one year last past in the State of Pennsylvania, immediately preceding his application to be a Citizen; that during the said period he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Sworn in open Court

Wm. B. Rufel

PROTHONOTARY.

J. B. Dequene
602 N 23rd St

I Gregoria Gonzales do swear that the contents of my petition are true; that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and I now renounce and relinquish any title or order of nobility to which I am now, or hereafter may be entitled, and I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Government of Spain

of whom I was before a subject.

Sworn in open Court,

this

5th

day of

November

A. D. 1866

Gregoria Gonzales

Wm. B. Rufel

PROTHONOTARY

APPROVED.

United States



of America.

Be it Remembered, THAT, at the COURT OF COMMON PLEAS for the City and County of Philadelphia, held at Philadelphia, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the United States of America, on the Fifth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight Gregorio Gonzales a native of Havana exhibited a petition praying to be admitted to become a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and it appearing to the said Court that he had declared on oath, before the Prothonotary of the said Court on the 5th day of November A. D. 1866 that it was *bona fide* his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Government of Spain of whom he was at that time a subject; and the said Gregorio Gonzales having on his solemn oath declared and also made proof thereof agreeably to law, to the satisfaction of the Court, that he had resided one year and upwards within the State of Pennsylvania, and within the United States of America upwards of five years immediately preceding his application; and that during that time he had behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same, and having declared on his solemn oath before the said Court, that he would support the Constitution of the United States, and that he did absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Government of Spain of whom he was before a Subject. And having in all respects complied with the law in regard to Naturalization, thereupon the Court admitted the said Gregorio Gonzales to become a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and ordered all the proceedings aforesaid to be recorded by the Prothonotary of the said Court, which was done accordingly.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereto affixed the Seal of the said Court at Philadelphia, this 5th day of November in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight and of the SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE of the United States of America the ninety third



Wm. Rufus Spay Prothonotary.

U. S. Marshal's Office,

Southern District of New York.

New York May 6th 1869

Hon Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State
Washington DC

Sir

The news papers have been filled for the last two days with stories of a Cuban expedition. The facts are as follows.

Last week Messrs Speofford & Dileston chartered to Mr Mora a Cuban merchant the Propeller Steamship "Perib" (about 500 tons burden) belonging to them and formerly in the Galveston line. She was chartered for the voyage to Kingston Jamaica and the words prohibiting "Articles Contraband of war" were erased from the charter party. She

Perk cleared openly at the Customs House
for Kingston and her manifest shows that
~~her cargo was~~ arms and ammunition. She
sailed on Tuesday night and I am informed
by Mr Hunter of Skifford & Dileston who was
on board when she sailed, that she took on
board not exceeding 200 men ^{unarmed} ununiformed and
unorganised and mostly Cubans who were
desirous of returning home and that there
were few if any Americans among them.

I am inclined to believe Mr Hunter's
statement is correct.

The Arago sailed on
Monday for St Thomas with a cargo of
provisions and some powder, but as far as
I can learn took no men.

These clearances with
their cargoes were made openly. I am told

at the Custom House that when a vessel was cleared some time ago for Hawaii under similar circumstances word was sent to the Spanish Consul but he took no steps to prevent the vessel's departure,

Not having received any instructions I assume (and it seems to be assumed by the Customs Authorities) that such clearances and departures are within the law and that it is not the intention of the Government to stop them, I ask for instructions, and I take this occasion to respectfully ask information as to the duty of the Marshal to detect offences against the United States, as to ^{the} neutrality laws for example,

The law

Creating the Office of Marshal declares "that he shall attend upon the Court and execute

4
"all lawful precepts directed to him under
"United States Authority."

I understand of course
that it is the duty of the Marshal to perform
such other duties as he may be especially
directed to perform, not having received any
instructions from Washington and not having
learned that any have been given to my
predecessors. I do not understand that I
~~am expected to put my subordinates upon~~
the duty of detecting and ferreting out offences
against the Neutrality laws, like all the other
Federal Officers I conceive it to be my duty
to communicate to the Government any infor-
mation which may come into my possession
affecting the public interests, but the question
is whether I am bound to take ^{such} steps as de-
tective Officers usually take to discover crimes.

and Criminals,

If I am to do it at all, I ought to do it thoroughly, My Office is not now organized for any such service, I have ten Deputies who are amply occupied by their attendance on the Courts and in the performance of their ordinary duties of the Office,

Detectives must of course be selected with a view to ~~their fitness for that especial work~~ and must have the leisure so essential to its successful performance,

If I am to keep on the lookout for Cuban expeditions or other violations of law I must take measures to organize my Office accordingly, I earnestly ask that I may not be considered as making these inquiries from any desire to avoid any responsibility or

labor which the laws or the instructions of my Superior Officers may impose upon me.

I wish to ascertain my duties that I may perform them, not avoid them, but as neither the laws nor instructions nor the traditions nor organization of this Office require or permit of these detective services, I have up to this time assumed that there is no responsibility of the kind upon me. I respectfully ask for information.

Of course I shall communicate with avidity all trustworthy information which I may receive, but whether I am bound to go out and seek it, so as to become responsible if infractions of law occur without my having discovered and prevented them, is another question.

It is unnecessary for me

to say that, except in very extraordinary cases which did not admit of my receiving instructions from Washington, I should not feel authorized to detain any vessels of my own motion.

If I am to seek out and prevent crimes against the Neutrality laws I do not see why I am not also bound to do the same service in regard to Counterfeiting, forgery, Customs revenue and all other violations of law, which will give the Office of Marshal a very much wider scope than is supposed to belong to it.

If I am wrong in the foregoing views as to my obligations I respectfully ask to be set right.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Very respectfully,

Wm. Marshall
U.S. Marshal Southern District of New York

U. S. Marshal's Office, ✓

Southern District of New York.

am. 10 May New York May 7th 1869

Hon Hamilton Fish,
Secretary of State,
Washington DC,

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that Messrs Skifford & Eileston (owners of the Berth of which I wrote yesterday) have just informed me that an application has been made to them by Mr Mora to charter the Steamer "Dybee" for Kingston Jamaica with leave to carry articles Contraband of War.

They suppose it to be precisely the same kind of a transaction as that which I stated yesterday in relation to the Berth, Should the

Government desire to stop this transaction
it can be done upon a suggestion to Messrs
Spofford & Directors,

Very respectfully
Wm. S. Barlow
U. S. Marshal
D. C. of N. Y.

Department of State

Washington

187

Wilmington Del.

May 8. 69.

Anthony Higgins rel to Capt. Jones

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1870

U. S. Marshal's Office,

Southern District of New York.

New York May 8th 1869
14

Hon Hamilton Fish,

Secretary of State,

Washington DC,

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that your telegram of May 7th directing me to enquire about the Quaker City was received last night at 6:15 PM and at once acknowledged.

Had your telegram been my only information on the subject I should not have allowed those engaged in fitting out the vessel to know of my investigations because I should have desired them to go on until more complete proof was obtained.

As the morning papers

were full of the matter, however, the above stated reason for caution did not exist and I at once sent a man to the Vessel.

He was refused admission and I then went myself. At first I was refused admission but on my stating that the refusal would be a suspicious circumstance I was allowed to go on board.

About four or five days ago the Quaker City was brought to the dock of the Novelty works,

She is being repaired (not however by the Novelty works) by removing below the Cabin and State room which formerly occupied the main deck. Her wheel is being put astern, where as formerly she was steered forward.

I went entirely through the Vessel

3

and there is nothing warlike or exciting
suspensions of war-like purposes above or below
unless it is the "clearing of her decks", which
may be intended to make a place for guns,

Possibly one familiar with
Naval architecture might see in the changes
evidences of warlike intent, but I did not.

The only explanation given for the rem-
oval of the Cabin from the deck was that
of the Captain (who called himself owner)
that "he did not like the old arrangement".

The person in charge of the vessel called
himself Captain Jefferson and said he was
an Englishman and that he bought ^{the} vessel
a few days ago and was the sole owner.

He could not tell who the "vendors"
were but said the sale to him was made
through a Mr. Schmidt and that the bill

of sale had not been recorded at the Court House,

The story of a sale to him and his ownership is evidently moonshine,

He said the Vessel was to sail ~~out~~ to Rio on an ordinary trading voyage in ballast and with passengers out, and to bring coffee back. She has no accommodations for any number of passengers, unless they be crowded in as troops are and this account of her destination is evidently false,

The Superintendent of the Novelty Iron works, Mr Dowlbridge tells me that although she is lying at the dock of the Works, as any vessel may, he has nothing to do with her. That on Monday last Mr Sorensen, a well known ship builder, whose Office is near by, applied to the Novelty

Wrote to build eight Gun Carriages for heavy Ships guns which he said was for the Quaker City, He said they were to be done by to-day when the Quaker City would sail.

The order was declined, I have been unable to see Mr Sordani, Possibly the gun Carriages are being built elsewhere but I do not know.

I believe that this vessel if unmolested will sail for Cuba, or go to sea as a Privateer, But she may sail without an armament or fighting crew and take them aboard elsewhere.

Should we seize her now we could not probably get sufficient evidence to detain her as, with the exception of the gun Carriages, there is nothing warlike about

6
her, except as I firmly believe the intensions of her owners,

If I am to watch her I must have detectives as all my Deputies are perfectly well known, & their appearances puts every one on their guard,

The only effective way to deal with such a case would be to seize on this vessel or any suspicious vessel and put the burden of proof on those who claim that her purposes are legal, but this would in many cases very much impede legitimate Commerce. The chances of seizing a vessel after she has got the evidences of her war-like character on board and before she sails are of course small,

The Spanish Consul has been to see me, He knows but little

7
of the Quarter City, not so much as I do.
He says that the Spanish Minister
told him to call on me.

I heard all he had to say but
told him nothing, because I do not know
whether it is your desire that I confer
freely with him.

I respectfully ask to be in-
formed whether I shall do so.

The Spanish Consul says that
he never received from the Customs House
the information sent him at the time the first
vessel cleared with arms and ammunition
for West India ports, and expressed a
great desire to be informed by the Customs
Officers when applications were made for
the clearances of vessels loaded with arms
and ammunition.

I suggested to him to make

to his Minister application on this subject,

I presume that the Department knows that there is a sort of Office kept by the so called Cuban authorities at 71 Broadway New York. This was the place where young White who was mentioned in the papers of Wednesday, enlisted and the people at this Office seems to represent the Cuban Junta,

I have no doubt that several vessels have cleared openly for West Indian ports (other than Cuba) with arms and ammunition, whose real destination is Cuba. They clear openly at the Customs House with their cargoes as above stated, But I cannot learn that any bodies of Men sailed except some two hundred, (mostly Cubans) in the Perch as before stated,

I presume there will be

9
no difficulty in suppressing these recruiting
places if the Government desires it.

My address during Sunday and
in the evenings is 258 South Avenue,

Very respectfully,

Quas C. Barlow

U. S. Marshal

S. S. of U. S.

New York, May 8th 1869

Hon Hamilton Fish
Secy of State
Washington

Yr letter of 4th inst
came duly to hand

It is of considerable im-
portance to me to receive
early information on the subject
referred to - and I shall
be much obliged by your
forwarding the "manuscript"
at an early date

Faithfully M,
Chas. H. Reid.

Telegram

New York May 8. 1869
Recd at Dept of State 3 30 P.M.

May 8. 1869.

Secy. of State.

I have been aboard in
Quaker City. Alterations in
her are not suspicious, except
clearing cabins from main deck,
which possibly means an Armament,
otherwise nothing hostile in her
appearance.

Last Monday Inceaden, builder
requested Novelty works to make
Carriages for Eight (8) Heavy
guns, which he stated were for
Quaker City. Novelty refused
and I cannot learn where the
Carriages are being made.

Accounts from Captain as to
Ownership and destination are
Suspicious.

They say she is going to Rio,
in trade, but their story does not
stand criticism.

I believe that if vessel sails
without interruption, it will be on
Cuban expedition, or as privateer.

Should we seize now, they will
deny all, and I doubt if we
have enough proof.

Letter by mail — Shall I
communicate and act freely with
Spanish Consul? Sunday

address 258, fourth Avenue,
Francis J. Barlow,

U. S. Marshal,

U. S. Marshal's Office,

Southern District of New York.

New York May 9 1864

Hon Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State

Washington

Sir

I have the honor to state
that your telegram directing
me to watch the "Hacker
City" & seize her when I
have sufficient proof was
received at 7.30 PM. of
May 8 & at once acknow-
ledged.

When I consider "Suf-
ficient proof", & whether
it is that degree of proof
which would authorize the

condemnation of the vessel, is not stated, but - unless otherwise directed I shall proceed as follows -

Should the vessel attempt to clear, we will withhold a clearance, even though nothing additionally suspicious is learned about her, until we can communicate with Washington & are affirmatively satisfied that her objects are legal. I am told that some small arms were carried aboard on Friday. Should she attempt to go to sea without a clearance (which is undoubtedly likely) I shall seize at once -

We have the vessel watched

& the Revenue cutter near
at hand.

Mr. Grinnell is exceedingly
vigilant & interested & will
give the Spanish authorities
every assistance & informa-
tion.

The vessel today bears the
British flag & I understand
that she was yesterday
transferred to British owner-
ship - probably to the cap-
tain whom I saw.

They told Mr. Grinnell's
man, that she was going
to St. Thomas instead of
Rio.

Should the Government
desire to prevent the ship's

Shofford & Lileston from sending to "Jybee"
(of which I wrote a few days ago) to Kingston, I
can do so by a request to them.

I am not informed how the Govt.
desires to treat these clearances
to neutral ports with arms & am-
munition & these "Cuban Head Quar-
ters" & recruiting places & there-
fore take no action on the sub-
ject.

These open clearances can of
course be stopped by a simple
instruction to the Customs author-
ities. Should unlicensed ship-
ping of men & munitions of war,
underhand shipments to Mexico
let to, and it is desired to
stop them, a detective force
will be needed.

Very Respectfully
Wm. B. Darlow
U.S. Marshal S. D. of N.

Treasury Department.

May 10 1869

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 8th inst. respecting the Steamer "Quaker City," and to advise you that pursuant to your request the Collector of Customs was on that day instructed to prevent the sailing of that vessel in violation of the Neutrality Act.

Very Respectfully

Wm. B. Smith
Secretary of the Treasury

Hon. Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State

New York.

May 10. 69.

M. C. Rodriguez & Co.

Ref. to protest.

Sent to Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

Treasury Department.

May 17th 1869

Sir.

I have the honor herewith to transmit copy of a letter received from the Collector of Customs at New York in reply to my communication of the 8th instant, informing him of the alleged intended fitting out of the Steamer "Bugler City" at that Port to cruise against Spanish shipping under letter of marque, communicated to me in your letter of the 8th instant.

Very Respectfully
L. C. B. Smith.
Secretary of the Treasury

Hon. Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State.

Copy
1834
Custom House. New York.
Collector's Office, May 10. 1869.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of May 8th inst. with reference to the fitting out of the Steamer "Quaker City" from this Port to cruise against Spanish commerce under a "Letter of Marque" I have the honor to say that previous to the receipt of this communication I had been advised of the suspicious movements in and about this vessel and had ordered the Captain of the Revenue Cutter "McIntosh" to hold his vessel in readiness for any emergency which might arise in this connection.

Subsequently the testimony against the vessel growing stronger I ordered the Cutter into the East River within sight of the suspected vessel, at the same time placing her under the espionage of intelligent officers on shore, detailed to watch and report her movements.

I would further add that I have conferred with the U. S. Marshall, General F. E. Barlow, who

who is prepared to act with me, should
any emergency arise requiring his cooperation.

Be assured that I shall continue to
exercise the utmost vigilance in this and
kindred cases, and promptly advise the
Department of whatever steps I may feel con-
strained to take to vindicate the present atti-
tude of the Government under the Neutrality
Act of April 25, 1818.

Very respectfully,
(Signed) "McA. Grinnell"
Collector.

To the

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

✓ *Dep May 14th* *Havana* *W. D. Smith*
Treasury Department,

Fifth Auditor's Office, ✓

May 11th 1869

Mr. Henry C. Hall United States
Consul General at *Havana* having
transmitted to this Office for adjustment, his Accounts for time occupied
at his post of duty,

I have the honor to inquire for what period I am to credit him
therefor.

Mr. Hall charges from
March 4th to the 31st, 1869, days.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. Barron

Auditor.

Hon. *J. C. Davis*
Assistant Secretary of State.

acknowledged
and thanks



Caravan

Mr. A. Smith
Navy Department

Washington, May 11. 1869

Sir:

I beg leave to enclose you a
communication I have just received
from the U. S. Consular Agent at
Caibarien.

I have the honor to be

Yours
Daniel D. Pratt
in A & L

Hon:

Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State

Caitanua, Mch. 28. 69.

E. B. Vales.

Cuban Commission

Aug. 1892.

U. S. Marshal's Office,

Southern District of New York.

New York May 11th 1869

Sir

My instructions in your telegram of May 8th just - were to "watch the 'Guarber City'" & "Seize her whenever I obtained 'sufficient proof'"

Under these instructions I should not have seized her (subject to due precautions to prevent her escape) until I had obtained some further evidence of her illegal character.

Today, however, Mr Minnoll acting under

instructions from the Secretary
of the Treasury put the
Revenue Cutter along
side the Quaker City.

This will of course
prevent the latter from
going to sea without the
permission of the Customs
authorities, but will pre-
vent our obtaining
further information, I
suppose, by putting her
owners on their guard.

I received information
this afternoon from one
of a mercantile firm
who had sold arms &
munitions to the "Junta"
which had been stopped

31 on the Schooner "Safesheet",
that the Safesheet had
put into Beaufort.

I telegraphed this for
what it is worth.

The information was
given to me by this
person because he had
not been paid for
his service.

Very Respectfully

Wm. B. Farnham

U. S. Marshal

S. D. of N. Y.

Hon. Hamilton Fish

Sec. of State

Washington

Custom House. New York.
May 11th. 1869.

Sir:

Since my letter of yesterday with reference to the Steamship Quaker City I have the honor further to report that I have been informed that a change in the ownership was made on the 5th day of May last for the sum of \$125,000. and that on May 8th one Mr. Albon M. Jefferson claiming to be a British subject went before the British Consul and took the oath of ownership of the said Steamer under the new name of Columbia.

I would further add that the vessel is closely watched and that there is no possibility of her making any movement of which I shall not ^{be} promptly advised.

The air is thick with rumors of the secret preparation of other vessels for similar enterprises of which I shall

promptly inform you should the circumstances
warrant an active interference.

Very Respectfully,

Your Obt. Servant,

(Sgd.) "M. H. Grinnell,"

Collector,

To

Hon. George S. Boutwell,

Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington. May 12. 1869.

W. T. Sherman rel. to Manuel Lanza.

Sent to Cuban Commission

Jan - 1872



Mr. Dan

Attorney General's Office

Washington May 12th 1869

Hon. Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter, of the 11th instant, from Mr. Evariste Laroche, ~~Charge d'Affaires of Hayti~~, in relation to the steamer "Florida".

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

E. R. Hoar,

Attorney General

(Copy.)

Office of the Attorney of the United States for
the Southern District of New York.

41 Chambers Street, May 12, 1869.

Hon. E. R. Hoar,

Attorney General.

Sir,

Your letter of yesterday and telegram of to-day relating to the "Quaker City" are received. I had already taken means to get evidence upon that subject. I have also seen the Collector. I believe the Steamer is intended for unlawful expedition, but as yet, no one is willing to make any affidavit sufficient to warrant me instituting judicial proceedings. After full interview with the Collector, he has agreed to keep the cutter in such position that the "Quaker City" cannot possibly escape. Within a few days, I believe that I shall be in possession of evidence sufficient to libel the Steamer. I think I can assure you that she will not escape on any unlawful errand.

Very respectfully yours

Edwards Pierpont,
U. S. Attorney.



Treasury Department.

May 14 1869

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th. instant, informing me that Mr. Roberto the Minister of Spain had represented to your Department that the steamer Atlanta at Philadelphia had been sold to Cubans, and that the steamers Memphis and Santiago de Cuba at New York and the steamer Florida at Chester, Penn. were being fitted out under suspicious circumstances. The suggestion contained in your letter

To the Honorable
Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State

36
Treasury Department.

May 14th 1869

Sir:

I transmit herewith a copy of a letter, under date of the 18th instant from the Secretary of State relative to representations made to him by the Spanish Minister in regard to the alleged fitting out of certain Steamers under suspicious circumstances at the Ports of Philadelphia and Chester in your District. You will please exercise special vigilance to prevent the sailing of any vessel from your Port in violation of the neutrality act of April 20, 1818, and keep the Department

(over)

fully advised respecting the matter.

I am, Very respectfully,
(Sgd.) "George J. Boutwell"

To, Secretary of the Treasury.

H. D. Moore Esq.

Collector of Customs,

Philadelphia, Pa,

207
Treasury Department.

May 14th 1869.

Sir:

I transmit herewith a copy of a letter, under date of the 13th inst. from the Secretary of State, relative to representations made to him by the Spanish Minister, in regard to the alleged fitting out of certain Steamers at your Port, under suspicious circumstances. You will please exercise special vigilance to prevent the sailing of any vessel from your Port in violation of law, and keep the Department fully advised respecting the matter.

To Mr. Grinnell Esq. I am, Very respectfully,

Collector of Customs, (Signed) "George B. Brewster".

New York.

Secretary of the Treasury.

in regard to the expediency of this
Department issuing instructions to
Collectors of Customs, relative to the
information communicated, has been
promptly acted upon, and such
instructions have been, this day, issued
to the Collectors of the ports above
mentioned, copy of which is herewith
transmitted.

I am, very respectfully,
Yours truly,
G. B. Smith,
Secretary of the Treasury

in regard to the expediency of this
Department issuing instructions to
Collectors of Customs, relative to the
information communicated, has been
promptly acted upon, and such
instructions have been, this day, issued
to the Collectors of the ports above
mentioned, copy of which is herewith
transmitted.

I am, very respectfully,
Geo. S. Smith
Secretary of the Treasury



Treasury Department,

May 14th 1869.

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

Sir:

I have the honor
to enclose to you a copy of a letter
received this day from Special Treasury Agent
W. M. J. Godwin, dated Beaufort, N.C. May 12th
1869 relative to the Schooner "Grapeshot" having
on board arms, ammunition, etc. I have written
Mr. Godwin that he will be advised if further
action is deemed necessary.

Very respectfully
Geo. H. Russell
Secretary.

Beaufort N.C. May 12. 1869.

copy
#2
Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury.
Sir,

On the 16th ulto, the schooner "Grapeshot" of and from New York for Falmouth, Jamaica, put into this port for supplies, she yet remains here, but will probably sail in a few days.

As the cargo of this vessel consisted of arms and ammunition, and about 32 passengers. Coll. Hedrick considered this circumstance suspicious, and on the 27th ulto sent Collr. Grinnell, at New York, the following telegram. "Are arms & ammunition mentioned in 'Manifest of scho. 'Grapeshot,' cleared by you for Falmouth. 'Ja. Apl. 20. 1869'".

On the following day Collr. Grinnell sent this reply, "Arms and ammunition were both cleared per Scho. 'Grapeshot' for Falmouth Apl. 20. 1869".

In view of the reply of

the reply of Coltr. Grinnell, and the papers of the vessel being correct in every particular. Coltr. Herdick decided that no further action on his part was necessary. On the 10th inst. however, the Rev. Cutter "Moccasin" Capt. Usher, arrived in port. Capt. U. called on Coltr. Davis (who had succeeded Coltr. Herdick) and consulted with him in regard to the necessity of seizing this vessel. Coltr. D. informed him that his predecessor had thoroughly investigated the whole matter, and could find no authority of law to justify him in detaining the "Grapeshot", and that he concurred in this decision.

This matter having been brought to my notice by Coltr. Davis, and having informed him of my concurrence in the above decision, I deemed it my duty to forward to the Dept. this report, to counteract any misrepresentation of the affair which might reach the Department.

Very Respectfully
(signed) W. H. J. Goddard
Special Agent



Treasury Department.

am? 15 May

May 14th 1899.

Dr

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. covering Dispatch No 41. dated April 30 from the U.S. Vice Consul General at Havana relative to the discriminating duties imposed upon American vessels in Cuba and Porto Rico.

This Department has very maturely considered the subject as presented and in compliance with the

Very

Hamilton Fish.

Secretary of State.

Apr. 29th.
Baltimore Md May 19th

Report in relation
to the "Gratification"
having same and
communication with
Harrisburg in form

suggestion of the Vice Consul General the
draft of a Circular is enclosed herewith for
your consideration to be addressed to
Collectors of Customs directing them to discontinue
the Collection of discriminating Tonnage duty
on Spanish vessels entering our ports from ports in
the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico, and other
Spanish possessions.

If the immediate discontinuance of this
Tonnage duty on our part should meet your
approval. I would suggest that the attention
of the Spanish

Son.

Hamilton Fish

Minister be called to the fact, and that he be requested to inform the authorities in Cuba and Porto Rico of our action that steps may be taken to put an end at once to the collection of discriminating Tonnage duties on our vessels in the ports of those Islands.

Despatch No. 411. is herewith returned as requested.

With great respect,

Geo. W. Merrill
Secretary & Treasurer

Admiral
Navy Department.

Washington, 14th May 1869



*acknowledged
with receipt
May 19/69.*

Sir,

I have the honor to
transmit, herewith, for your
information a copy of a despatch
from Rear Admiral H. H. Hoff,
commanding the North Atlantic
Squadron, dated Havana, May 6th,
in relation to affairs in Cuba.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt.

Daniel D. Porter
Lieut. Secretary of the Navy

Wm. H. Hamilton Esq.
Secretary of State.

* 60.

Copy:

North Atlantic Squadron
U.S. Flag Ship Contocook, 2nd rate
Havana, 16th May 1869.

Sir,

As I am to be absent from this port, for a few days, to relieve the U.S. "Narragansett" at Key West, and for a change of air, for the Officers (and) Crew, I shall give the Department a few items upon the political status of affairs.

I have just received information from Commander Fillebrown at Key West, that the English Steamer "Salvador" (supposed Cuban privateer) that we have been watching for some time at the instance of the Government, has cleared for St Thomas, via Nassau, without arms or munitions of war of any description. Every thing here, is remarkably quiet: The Spanish Authorities seem confident of suppressing the rebellion before the expiration of the year; the rainy season, now coming on, precludes the possibility of any active operations. The probability is, that no news of importance from the interior, or the movements of either party, will be received at present.

In conversation with Cubans who were at one time sanguine of success, I find that those in this
this

this end of the Island, are dissatisfied, from the fact that the revolution has not been conducted in a manner to coincide with their views. There is little or no organization among them, although they claim that the cause of their present inactivity, is owing to their forces being exercised and instructed in the use of arms, preparatory for a campaign at the close of the rainy season - Generals Cespedes and Zuesada are acting independently, and have their own separate forces and adherents. Mr. Hall, our Consul General, and the Commodore of the English fleet seem to think that the insurrection is being crushed, and that in a few weeks, it will consist of nothing but irregular bands of outlaws scattered thro' the interior.

The Peruvian Monitor "Mines Cipac", reported a, last, has arrived at St Thomas, and the crew of her Convoy, the "Monterey" sank some time since, by a collision, sailed from this port yesterday, in a French Steamer bound to New Orleans.

The Spanish Admiral, English Commodore, and Captains of Swedish, North German, and Dutch men-of-war, have arrived within the week, called and the customary salutes, Military honours, courtesies,

Courtesies,

Courtesies &c, exchanged.

Very respectfully
your Ob. Servant

Henry K. Hoff
Rear Admiral,

Commy N.C. Squadron,

Hon. A. E. Borie
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington.
S.C.

Department of State

Washington March 12. 1867.

Hon John P. Stockton.

U. S. Senate.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Communication, of the 18th instant, enclosing the protest of Jose Vicente Brito, in relation to an alleged outrage on his person and property by the authorities of the Island of Cuba, and to inform you, in reply, that the papers have been placed on file for such Consideration and action as the Case may be deemed to require.

I have the honor to be

Sir your obedient Servant.

Hamisham Fish.

Department of State.

Washington May 10 1867.

José Vicente Brito

New Brunswick. N.J.

Sir. In reply to your letter of the 3^d inst. I have to inform you that the protest, in respect to an alleged false imprisonment in Cuba, to which you refer, is not found upon the files of this Department.

I am Sir. your Obedient Servant
Hamisham Fish.

New Brunswick, N. J.

May 14. 1869

Product of J. & B. Co.

Sent to Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872



202 p 12 5m
Army Department.

Washington. May 15th 1869.

Sir:

recd
May 18. 1869

As the enclosed information may be of use to you I beg leave to send it.

Very Respectfully.

Daniel D. Pratt

Min. Sec.
In Service of Army.

Hon:

Hamilton Fish.
Secretary of State.

The Spanish government have contracted for thirty (30) light draft boats about 16 tons each with double screws and not to draw over 5 feet water - of these

15. to be built in New York by Brillin, Stack and others.

15. to be built at Mystic Conn. by Mallory and others.

The engines are to be built by Delameter of New York. Dispatch to be used as they are wanted immediately and are expected to be ready in from 60. to 90. days.

There is also in New York an Admiral or Commodore of the Spanish Navy, to superintend their construction, and he is waiting orders from Maruma to my other boats now ready here - old blockaders &c.



San Juan, P.R.

New York 15 Mayo 1869.

Al Honorable W. Hamilton Fish
Washington

Señor

Tengo el honor de remitir a V^o una relación de lo ocurrido conmigo en San Juan y una copia de la protesta que dejé en manos del Señor J. P. Robeson, consul del Estado Unidos de América.

El Gobierno Danés no puede tener queja alguna contra mí y mi vida completamente retirada no podía causarle el menor perjuicio. Si me ha expulsado de todas las islas danesas, ha sido únicamente por complacer al gobernador de Puerto Rico, interesado, como el gobernador de Cuba, en perseguir, maltratar y arruinar a todo ciudadano cuyas opiniones sean contrarias a la dominación de España en América. El perjuicio que para mí se sigue de esta expulsión es considerable y duplica a V^o de si se le puede esperar la protección de este gobierno, para volver a ocupar si quiera, un puesto de donde me es posible manejar mis asuntos particulares, con el fin de recoger los bienes que me quedan en Puerto Rico. Sería bien penoso ver lo contrario, cuando una simple indicación de este gobierno, bastaría tal vez para

18
New York 15 Mayo 1869.

Al Honorable W. Hamilton Fish
Washington

Señor

Tengo el honor de remitir a V una relacion de lo ocurrido conmigo en San Tomas y una copia de la protesta que dije en manos del Señor J. P. Robeson, con-
sul de los Estados Unidos en America.

El Gobierno Danés no puede tener queja alguna contra mí y mi vida completamente retirada no podia causarle el menor perjuicio. Si me ha expulsado de todas las islas danesas, ha sido unicamente por complacer al gobernador de Puerto-Rico, interesado, como el gobernador de Cuba, en perseguir, maltratar y arruinar a todo ciudadano cuyas opiniones sean contrarias a la dominacion de España en America. El perjuicio que para mí se sigue de esta expulsion es considerable y dignifico a V. de suerte de que pueda esperar la proteccion de este gobierno, para volver a ocupar si quiera, un puesto de donde me es posible manejar mis asuntos particulares, con el fin de recoger los bienes que me quedan en Puerto-Rico. Seria muy penoso ver lo contrario, cuando una simple indicacion de este gobierno, bastaria tal vez para

evitarle, to grave perjuicio conseqüentes a las medidas
tomadas por el Señor Gobernador de San Tomas.

Con la mayor consideracion, soy de V.

Señor;

Su Servidor

R. E. Betances

D. M. P.

4th av. 439 late 419.
New York.

Mr Hamilton Fish
Secretario de Estado

Washington.

Copia

Señor J. J. Robeson, Consul de los Estados Unidos
de América en San Tomás.

Señor Consul

En violación de todos los derechos de Ciudadano y en
contravención con todas las leyes de neutralidad, me veo hoy
arrebataado de mi domicilio y embarcado contra mi voluntad
para Venezuela, sin formación ninguna de causa y sin mas
procedimiento que el de la fuerza. Mi familia queda aislada
en Santa Cruz; mis intereses quedan abandonados en Puerto-
Rico.

Por lo tanto, protesto con todas las fuerzas de mi volun-
tad, contra la violencia y la injusticia que se me hacen y,
declarando a este gobierno responsable de los males, daños y
perjuicios que me resultaren, y, para hacer respetar mis derechos
que son los de todos los Ciudadanos Americanos, me pongo
bajo la protección del gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América,
que reclamo, por haber renunciado desde el 21 de Agosto
de 1867 a toda fidelidad y obediencia a cualquier principe
extranjero, potentado, estado o soberanía cualquiera que sea
y particularmente a la de la reina de España, según consta
en el documento que he tenido el honor de presentar en este
Consulado.

San Tomás 15 de Marzo de 1869

R. E. Betances

MAY 7, 1869.

PORTO RICO.

The Inhabitants Ready for Revolt Against the Government—Watching the Result of Affairs in Cuba—Expulsion of an American Citizen from St. Thomas—Insult to the United States Consul.

It is understood, from a gentleman who has recently arrived from the island, that the inhabitants of Porto Rico are all ready for revolt, and only await the result of the revolution in Cuba to rise against the government. The St. Domingans are already in a state of open revolt, and desirous of annexation to the United States; and it is but natural that Porto Rico, which lies immediately contiguous, should also desire to join the confederacy.

The situation of affairs in St. Thomas is set forth in the following translation from a paper which has been sent for publication by Dr. Betances, who was banished from that island by the Danish authorities, who seem to have persecuted him for his sympathy with the inhabitants of Porto Rico:

After having received the order of his expulsion from St. Thomas, without an explanation how it happened that the Danish government could constitute a police for the Spanish authorities, Dr. Betances was carried off by the Chief of Police and two assistants, and forcibly shipped on board the schooner Galgo, a LaGuayra packet, on the 16th of March last. In accordance with the instructions received from the Governor, he was to be confined to the fore deck, and such punishment would have been inflicted but for the gallantry of Captain Ernst, commanding said packet. The remonstrances of the American Consul, Mr. Robeson, under whose protection Dr. Betances had placed himself (having in his possession a letter declaring his intentions to become a citizen), were useless against preventing such an outrage, and the Consul, being entirely disregarded, became soon convinced that the Spanish Governor of Porto Rico enjoyed a greater consideration in this Danish Island than the American government, the Doctor was compelled to embark without being made aware of the motive of his expulsion.

A few days after, having to visit New York, the Doctor was entrusted by the American Legation at Caracas with special despatches for the government at Washington. Necessarily he had to pass through St. Thomas to take passage in the Brazil steamer. On his arrival there, he presented himself before the police, and showed his passport as despatch-bearer. Hardly had he entered the police-office when he was arrested and taken before the Governor. The American Consul was called to examine the passport, which was found in due form, and in his presence the Doctor was asked for the despatches, which he politely showed, but refused to deliver them, in accordance with his duties, in spite of all remonstrances to the contrary by the superior authority of St. Thomas.

"What is your object in coming to this Island?" was asked.

"I pass through here on my way to the United States, there being no other road," the Doctor replied.

"And who will guarantee me that you are going to the United States?" was then asked.

"My passport, the despatches which I carry, and, if necessary, I can find persons in this island who will go my sureties," was the response.

This conversation took place between the Governor and the Doctor in the presence of the American Consul and Mr. Richardson, a merchant of St. Thomas. It was then that the Governor asked him to deliver the despatches with which he was entrusted, and having refused, in compliance with his instructions, he evidently compelled them to resort to extreme measures. It appears that the Charge d'Affaires of the United States at Caracas, Mr. Pruyn, was not considered enough guarantee by the Governor, inasmuch as the Doctor was not allowed to leave the presence of the Governor without being escorted by two police officers, who embarked him anew on board the La Guayra packet. This vessel, notwithstanding she bore the Hollandic flag, was transformed during the space of three days into a Danish prison. Two sentinels guarded constantly the American despatch-bearer. Captain Ernst was fined for having brought him from La Guayra. On the arrival of the Brazil steamer (proceeding to New York) in port, the Doctor was transferred to the American steamer South America, which during some hours was invaded by the police, and used in the same manner as the Hollandic schooner Galgo, the officers, until her departure, remained on board and followed the steamer at a distance in a boat while on its way outward.

Porto Rico is one of the West India Islands; is 105 miles long and 46 miles broad, and had a population in 1850 of 380,000, of which one-sixth were slaves. The climate is considered more healthy than any of the Antilles, and the proportion of sugar obtained from an equal area is much greater than in the other West India Islands. Porto Rico was discovered by Columbus in 1493, and invaded in 1609 by the Spaniards, who, in a few years, exterminated the natives, then about 600,000 to 800,000 in number. The capital, San Juan, stands upon a small island on the north coast, connected with the main island by a bridge. It is strongly fortified, and has been three times unsuccessfully and once successfully attacked by the British.

Thomas vs. Ballard.
Joye et al. vs. J.
Brookfield

Translation

New York 15 May 1869,

The Hon. Hamilton Fish,
Washington -
Sir,

I have the honor to remit
to you, a relation of what has happened
to me at St. Thomas, and a copy of the
protest which I left in the hands of Mr.
J P Robeson, Consul of the United States
of America.

The Danish Government cannot
have any complaint against me, and
my very quiet life cannot cause me
the slightest prejudice. If it has expelled
me from all the Danish Islands, it has
been merely to please the Governor of
Puerto Rico, interested, like the Governor
of Cuba, in pursuing, maltreating and
ruining every citizen whose opinions may
be adverse to the domination of Spain in
America. The damages which result to me
from this expulsion is considerable, and I

beg you will please to tell me if I can hope for
the protection of this Government, to return
and occupy perhaps, a post from which it
may perhaps be possible for me to manage
my affairs private affairs, with the purpose
of collecting the property which remains to
me in Puerto Rico. It would be very
painful to me to see the contrary, when
a simple intimation from the Government
would perhaps suffice to free me from
the heavy losses consequent upon the
measures taken by the Governor of St Thomas.

With the highest consideration

I am Sir Your humble servant

R E Betances,

~~D. M. P.~~

4th avenue - 437. late 419

New York

Hon: Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State

Washington

W. T. P. Robeson, Consul of the United States of
America at St Thomas

Mr Consul

In violation of all the rights of citizens
and in contravention of all the laws of neutrality
I find myself to day thrust out from my domicile
and shipped against my will for Venezuela,
without any institution of a suit, ~~and~~
without other procedure than that of force.

My family, rests isolated at Santa Cruz,
my interests abandoned in Porto Rico,

Therefore I protect with all my strength
and will, against the violence and
injunctive ~~which~~ which is done to me,
and declaring the Government responsible
for the wrongs, damages and prejudices
which may result to ~~me~~ me; and to cause
my rights, which are those of all American
Citizens, to be respected, I place myself
under the protection of the United
States of America which I solemnly, having
renounced on the 21 August 1867 all faith
and obedience in or to any foreign prince
potentate State or Sovereignty whatever and

especially that of the Queen of Spain, as
appears in the document which I have had
the honor to present at this Consulate.

H Thomas 15 March 1869

R & Benjamin

P. M. P.

Microcopy No. 179

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Roll 301

May 16-31, 1869



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Washington: 1964

In the District of New York
James M. Annable
being duly sworn deposes and
says: I am a citizen of the
United States of America,
my place of residence is Boston
Massachusetts.

I took passage
from Havana to New Orleans
on the 1st of March last, in company
with a young man under my
care of the name of Ramon V. Cruz
on board the Schooner Sigsbee
Major Capt A. W. Giles, with
the requisite passports furnished
by the Spanish Authority, and
as the vessel could not charter
at Havana, we had to go
to Cienfuegos, we sailed from
that port on the 5th March 1869,
arriving there the 10th of March,
and on the 11th we presented our
papers to the Authorities of the
place, who informed us that
we needed no other documents,
and could remain there until
the vessel should receive her
cargo. The vessel finished
loading her cargo, (which was
sugar) on the 26th March, when
she sailed for Bay of San Juan.

of the parts of barbarity eight miles distant and on the 27th we sailed for Port Orleans at six o'clock in the morning. About nine o'clock a steam frigate, *Germando l'batolins* gave us chase, and came up with us at one o'clock, when she intended to us by the firing of a musket to haul to, which order our Captain immediately complied with, then two officers accompanied by several marines boarded the *L. Howe* and after searching the papers and demanding our passports found that our names were not on the manifest although they were on the one from Havana this being a the officers from the frigate state, a sufficient cause for our arrest, - there was considerable time spent in going from the two vessels. I was then conveyed on board the frigate, the Commander of the frigate then asked for the boy (who) was under my charge and the officer answering him stated that as the boy was only thirteen years of age he had left him on board

the Schomier to pursue her
voyage, then the Commander took
for the bay, stating he was under
my charge and must face the
Kame as me, We then presented
our passports to the Commander
of the Tugati, and he told us
that we would have to make
a statement which we complied
with immediately after our
baggage had been searched.
And at seven o'clock on the
evening of the same day, we
arrived at Cay. Jacaris, and were
then conveyed to Laibarian
in a boat accompanied by
an officer, and several marines
arriving there at one o'clock.
In the morning of the 28th we
were immediately going up to
the Authorities of the place, who
certified to the officer who ac-
companied us, that we had already
presented ourselves to them with
our passports, and we went there
carried to the barracks and at
about 6 o'clock in the morning
we were conveyed to the jail
of Ramadial, immediately I
wrote a letter to Daac How Ey
Consul Agent at Laibarian, stating
to him the facts of our arrest.

and of my having a letter in
my possession for him from
the Captain of the Schooner,
he immediately called at the
jail and requested me to
lend him a written statement
of what had passed, so that
he could be kind to the
Consul General at Havana,
which statement I sent to
him on the 2^d of the month.
On the 18th of April we were
released from jail, I imme-
diately presented myself to Mr
Stone who directed me to the
Captain of the port for our
passports and baggage, which
had been detained there during
our confinement. This officer
informed me that our passports
had been sent to Havana,
and that he would give us
a certificate for the Governor
of Remedios to give us another
passport, which request the
Governor complied with imme-
diately. On the 24th of April we
embarked for New York on the
brig Lizzie for I don't know
the request of the Consul Mr
Stone, he also gave me a

note requesting one to make the
statement to the United States

District Attorney.

also should be to

be made this 14th

day of May 1869

James A. Annable

W. M. Ashfield

U. S. Marshal

Southern District of New York

United States of America, } ss.
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK.

I, **KENNETH G. WHITE**, Clerk of the Circuit Court of the United States of America, for the Southern District of New-York, Second Circuit, ~~do hereby~~ *do hereby* Certify, that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of *John D. Shields* whose name is subscribed to the annexed *Affidavit* and that the signature to the same is in his proper handwriting. And I do further Certify, that he was at the time of signing the same a United States Commissioner, duly appointed by the Circuit Court of the United States of America, for the Southern District of New-York, Second Circuit.

In Testimony Whereof, I have herunto subscribed my name, and affixed the seal of the said Circuit Court, this *17* day of *May* in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and *sixty nine* and of the Independence of these United States, the ninety *three*

Kenneth G. White Clerk.



Department of State,

PASSPORT BUREAU,

Washington,

1867

Wm

No Passport issued
with name of *James*
of *timothy* since
Jan 1st / 66.

James D. Stucoble

Deposition

New York. 17 May 1869.

✓

Strong & Helme for J. M. Delgado

Cuban Commission

Jan 1872



Treasury Department.

21 May

May 18th 1869

Sir:

Respectfully referring to your communication of the 13th instant and to my reply thereto of the 14th, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Collector of Customs at New York dated the 15th instant, stating that he had refused a clearance to the Steamer "Columbia" (Quaker City) because of "suspicious circumstances connected with her."

Yours respectfully,

To the Honorable

Hamilton Fish,

Secretary of State.

Geo. S. Postnell,

Secretary of the Treasury.

(Copy)

Customs House, New York.
Collector's Office May 15, 1869.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, transmitting a copy of one from the Hon. Secretary of State in regard to the alleged fitting out of certain Steamers at this port, and I have to report that the special vigilance of the officers of Customs in this District had already been directed to the vessels named, and I have this day refused to grant a clearance to the Steamer "Columbia" ("Quaker City"), the suspicious circumstances connected with her, having induced me to adopt that course.

Anticipating your approval of my action in the matter.

I am, Very respectfully,

(Sgd.) M. H. Grinnell

Collector

Hon. George B. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

a true copy

We Alton M. Jephson, at present of New York, owner of the Steamship "Columbia" lately called the "Quaker City" and James C. McAndrew of New York, agt. of said owner, severally make oath and say, that the said ship, which has been recently purchased at this Port by the said Alton M. Jephson, is now being loaded with a cargo of flour and provisions shipped by Jeremiah Leacroft of this City for Kingston, Jamaica, for which port the said vessel will be ready to sail in the course of Monday or Tuesday next. These deponents further solemnly swear that the said ship has not been purchased for, and is not intended to be used in any manner whatever either on the part of the insurgents in Cuba or of the Government of Spain. They further solemnly swear that she will proceed from hence to Kingston, Jamaica, direct, and will not carry from this, or from any

Cover

other Port or place in the United States,
or from any other Port arms, men, or munitions
of War, of any kind to the said Island
Cuba, and that she is in no manner
whatever destined or intended to be used
or employed, by, or for, or on behalf of the
Insurgents or any other parties whatsoever
in Cuba.

(Sgd.) "Albion M. Jephson."

(Sgd.) "James C. McAndrew."

Witness:

(Sgd.) "James Langan."

{ Certificate affixed, sworn to before
a Justice of the Peace for the State of
New York, }

Custom House, New York,

(May 14. 1869

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter from E. M. Archibald Esq. British Consul. together with the affidavit of the owner and agent of the Steamship "Columbia"; - asking your instructions thereon, & I take this occasion to reiterate the opinion I have already expressed with reference to the character of the vessel and the possibilities of her destination; the cargo is calculated for either Military or ordinary use.

A copy of the written documents have been transmitted to the District Attorney's Office in order that that office may be fully advised in the relation which the suspected vessel bears to this office.

Yours Very respectfully

Wm. George Bentwell,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington,

I am, Very respectfully &c
(Sgd) "M. H. Grinnell."
Collector.

Copy

British Consulate
New York. May 17th 1869.

Sir:

I beg leave to transmit to you, herewith enclosed, an affidavit made by the owner and the Agent of the Steamer "Columbia", late the "Quaker City", stating that the vessel is bound on an ordinary voyage from here to Kingston, Jamaica, and is laden with a cargo of flour and provisions shipped by a merchant of this city engaged in the Jamaica trade, who has also represented to me that the vessel is bound on an innocent voyage direct to Kingston. The affidavit declares positively that the vessel is not destined for the use of either the government of Spain or the insurgents in Cuba, and that she will not carry, from this or any other port whatever, any men or arms, or munitions of war to Cuba, or to, or for the use of parties in that Island.

Under these circumstances, I trust you may feel at liberty to grant a clearance to this vessel which is now, I understand, ready for sea.

I beg leave to add that, notwithstanding the suspicions raised

to Hon. the Collector of the Customs,
New York

raised by the alteration of the vessel so as to render her more fit to carry guns, I have myself no doubt, from enquiries which I have made, that she is not intended either to carry arms or men to Cuba, or to be used by or on behalf of either the Government of Spain or the insurgents in that Island.

I have the honor to be &c. &c.
(signed) E.M. Archibald
B. Ma. Consul.



Treasury Department.

J. - Chilton

am 21 May

May 18th 1869

Dr

I have the honor to acknowl-
-edge the receipt of your letter of the 15th Inst.
covering the translation of a dispatch from the
Spanish Minister here, relative to his authority to
declare from that date vessels of the United
States and those of Spain on an equal foot-
-ing as to the payment of Navigation and
Port dues in the ports of the Islands of
Cuba and Porto Rico.

Treasury Department.

May 15th 1869.

Sir:

You are hereby directed on and after this date to discontinue the collection of all discriminating Tonnage duty on Spanish vessels entering your port from ports in the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico in accordance with the provisions of the Act for the repeal of Tonnage duties on Spanish vessels, approved March 1. 1869, this Department having been officially advised that on this date discriminating Tonnage tax upon American vessels will cease to be collected in the ports of the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico.

Very respectfully

(Signed) Geo B Boutwell

Collector of Customs Secretary of the Treasury

In compliance with your suggestion the department is now issuing a Circular to Collectors of Customs, which has already been addressed to our principal ports, directing the discontinuance of the Collection of Discriminating Tonnage tax on Spanish vessels from the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico from and after the 15th Oct. - a copy of which is inclosed.

With great respect.

Geo. S. Brewster
Secretary of Treasury.

Hon
Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State

New York. May 18. 69.

Confident Bros. for Thos. J. Moran.

Catan Commission

Jan. 1872

L.



Mr. Jefferson Fish

Attorney General's Office

Washington May 18, 1869.

Sir:

I have the honor to send enclosed herewith a copy of a letter this day received by me from the United States Attorney of the Southern District of New York, relating to the Steamers "Memphis" and "Santiago de Cuba". The several District Attorneys are instructed that whenever sufficient evidence is made known to them to establish before a Court of justice, probable cause to believe that any vessel is forfeitable for a violation of the Neutrality laws, they are to file a libel and arrest the vessel. The expediency of your informing the Minister of Spain that the United States Attorneys of the several districts will receive directly from the Spanish Consuls any facts they may be pleased to communicate respecting any violation of the Neutrality Laws of the United States, is submitted to your consideration.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, yours, Wm. S. Seward.

E. R. Hunt,
Attorney General.Hon. Hamilton Fish,
Secretary of State.

(Copy)

Office of the Attorney of the United States
For the Southern District of New York
111 Chambers Street May 17 1869

The Hon E. R. Hoar

Attorney General
Dear Sir,

Yours of the 11th relating to the
"Memphis" & "Santiago" came duly & rec'd prompt attention.
There is no evidence as yet on which to detain them.

I would suggest that if the Spanish Minister would
instruct the Spanish Consul here, to take some pains
and collect some evidence relating to these matters,
and bring it to my notice, I shall act with the greatest
promptness. Up to this date I have never seen or
heard from the Spanish Consul.

Very respectfully yours
(Signed) Edwards Pierpont
U. S. Atty.

And

Mr. [unclear] ✓
Attorney General's Office

Washington May 18, 1869

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. enclosing a copy of a translation of a note of the 12th inst. addressed to the Department of State by Mr. Evariste Laroche, Chargé d'Affaires of Hayti, all relating to the steamer Florida at Chester, Pennsylvania. A copy of the translation of this note has been by me sent to the Secretary of the Treasury that he may issue any instructions to the Collector of the Customs for the revenue district within which Chester is situated that he deems best. Instructions relating to this

steamers have already been sent by this office to the Marshal and Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The United States Attorneys and Marshals are instructed to receive any information that may be offered—tending to show that any violation of the Neutrality Laws has been committed or attempted, as well as to be attentive themselves to any matters of suspicion that may come within their knowledge, and whenever complaint is made against any vessel on trustworthy evidence sufficient to establish before a court of justice probable cause to believe that such vessel is forfeitable for a violation of the Neutrality Laws, they are instructed to file a libel and detain the vessel. The

propriety of your informing Mr.
Saroche that he may communicate
any facts within his knowledge relating
to a violation of the Neutrality Laws
directly to a United States Attorney,
is submitted for your consideration.

Very respectfully
your obedt. servt.

E. R. Hoar,

Attorney General.

Hon. Hamilton Fish,
Secretary of State.

Encl.

Copy
AL

Custom House, New York,

Collector's Office, May 20, 1869.

Sir:

In accordance with instructions contained in your letter of the 18th instant I have consulted with the District Attorney in relation to the Steamer "Columbia" late known as the "Quaker City."

He is of the opinion, in which I concur, that at present there is no reasonable cause to believe that she intends to violate the neutrality laws of the United States, and, unless further and more satisfactory evidence is presented on this point, I shall, in the absence of positive instructions to the contrary, on to-morrow grant the usual papers.

The examination referred to in your letter, I have, in co-operation with the District Attorney, had made, and I enclose herewith the report of W^m H. Webb Esq^r who was requested by me to make said examination. The report of W^m Phelps therein referred to is, as I understand from the District Attorney, to the same effect.

Although I have at present no sufficient evidence to authorize the retention of the vessel I have not changed my opinion as to the ultimate use for which she is intended. I would state further that the owners

and agents of the "Columbia" aver that she
is destined to Jamaica and express a wil-
lingness to give bonds that she will proceed
directly there and land her cargo.

I am, Very Respectfully,
(Signed) M. H. Grinnell
Collector.

Hon. Gen. S. Boutwell,
Secretary of the Treasury.

~~Collector~~

New York. May 28th 1869

Further Report rel.
ative to steamer
"Columbia" (Qua-
ker City) as to her
clearance.

May 20. 1869.

Reporting exam-
ination of Str.
"Columbia"

copy
#2

New York May 20 1869
Hon. Moses H. Grinnell
Collector of the port of New York

Dr. Sir,

In accordance with your request, I have this day visited, in company with Benj. K. Phelps, Asst. U. S. Attorney, and Lewis J. Kirk, Dept Surveyor, the Steamer "Columbia" of London, (formerly the "Quaker City") now lying at the foot of Twelfth Street East River, and find upon examination, that the alterations lately made in the internal arrangements of this vessel, both on the Main deck, in the between decks, and in the lower hold, are such as are usually made on board vessels intended for Naval purposes, and such as were absolutely necessary to be made on board the "Columbia" to fit her to mount and use an armament of heavy guns.

Yours Very Respectfully
(sg'd) W. H. Webb

Copy
AL

B+

Telegram

May 21. 1869.

Moses H. Grinnell

Collr. of Customs

New York.

If the "Columbia"
has not cleared with her
papers till further orders.

(signed) Geo S Boutwell

Secretary

Charge Dept.

Copy
AL

Custom House New York

May 21. 1869

Sir,

Evidence calculated to excite suspicion that the "Columbia" late Quaker City, intends to violate the neutrality laws of the United States, having today been brought to the attention of the District Attorney, I have, with his concurrence and advice declined to clear said vessel and shall detain her until tomorrow afternoon, with a view to allow time for the presentation of further testimony.

I am advised by the District Attorney that the evidence now presented is not of itself sufficient to authorize the institution of legal proceedings against the vessel, and that unless further evidence of a more decisive character is presented tomorrow a clearance should be granted. I would add that the British Consul

at this Port, in an interview
this afternoon, gives me the
most positive assurance
that the cargo on board the
"Columbia" is shipped in
good faith for Kingston, Ja-
maica, and that it will
be landed there in good faith
and that the vessel intends
a legitimate commercial
voyage from this port to
Kingston.

I shall, if further
evidence is presented, con-
sult with the District Attor-
ney, and be guided by his ad-
vice.

I am
Very Respectfully
(signed) M. H. Grinnell.
Collector.

Am. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury.

Q. 32
Treasury Department.

May 22^d 1869

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a letter under date of May 20th from Moses A. Grinnell, Esq., Collector of the Port of New York, and also a copy of a letter from the same gentleman under date of the 21st of May, relating to the Steamship "Columbia"; also a copy of the report of an examination made by W. H. Webb upon the character of the Steamer; together with a telegraphic New & Hamilton Fish despatch Secretary of State.

despatch to Mr Grinnell from me, sent
on the afternoon of the 21st inst, and
after the receipt of Mr Grinnell's letter
of the 20th enclosing Mr Webb's report.

Very respectfully,

Geo. S. Postwell,

Secretary.

To Hon. Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State.

✓
Hon. W. Hamilton Fish

Secretario de Estado

Washington.

24 May 7

Señor

Infinito siento haber ocupado y ocupar, aun despues
de la apreciable carta del 19 del corriente, la atencion de V.^a,
mas estoy seguro de obtener su benevolencia, si se sirve V. con-
siderar lo transcendental que para mi es este asunto.

No tengo la honra todavia de ser Ciudadano de los Estados
Unidos de America. Pero si, al declarar su intencion de serlo,
como me sucedio a mi desde el 21 de Agosto 1867, el
gobierno de esta republica le exige a un hombre que renuncie
"a toda fidelidad y obediencia a cualquier principe extranjero,
potentado, estado o soberania cualquiera que sea," ¿no es
natural pensar que, desde ese instante, este gobierno, en cambio
de tan peligrosa renuncia, reemplazara con la suya propia, la
proteccion de la cual se deshace el postulante? ¿Puede
existir un hombre entre dos sociedades, sin pertenecer a
ninguna de ellas? fuera, en una y otra, de esa ley natural
de proteccion que las forma y las sostiene? — Es verdad
que no es siempre natural lo que hacen y entienden los hom-
bres; pero seria demasiado doloroso no esperar justicia de los
que gobiernan al pueblo mas respetado de la tierra. Si tan

desgraciado caso se presenta ; que pensar ? que hacer ?
No hay mas tribunal a quien apelar!

soy D. D. con el mayor respeto y la mas
perfecta consideracion,

Señor

Señor atº Señor

R. E. Betances
D. M. P.

4th Avenue 437 lote 419

New York 24 Mayo 1869.

Translation.

Mr Jefferson

New York, May 24. 1869.

4th Av. 437 late 419.

Hon Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State — Washington

Sir.

I regret very much that I have
been and still am obliged, even after your esteemed
letter of the 19th inst. to occupy any portion of your
time, but I am sure of your good-will, if you
will but consider the great importance of this
subject for me.

I have not yet the honor of being a
citizen of the United States of America. But if,
on a declaration of his intention to become such, —
as was the case with me on Aug 21, 1867, — the
government of this republic calls upon a man
to renounce "all allegiance and obedience to any
foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty
whichever," is it not natural to suppose that

from that instant, this government in exchange for
this perilous renunciation, replaces by its own, the
protection renounced by the applicant? Can
a man exist between two societies without
belonging to either? — can he be outside, in both
cases, of that natural law of protection which
forms and sustains these societies? It is true
that what men do and understand by so doing
is not always natural, but it would be
too distressing not to hope for justice from
those who govern the most respected nation
on earth. If such an unfortunate circumstance
should occur, what can be thought of it? —
what should be done? — There is no tribunal
to which to appeal!

I am with the greatest respect and the
most perfect consideration

Sir, your obedient servant
(signed) R. E. Betances.

31. 5. 1869

New York May 25 /69

✓
Hon J C Davis
Off Secy of State
Washington

Sir

We have the pleasure to acknowledge
the receipt of your valued favor of
24th inst. containing copy of letter
from Vice Consul Hall at Havana
respecting the affair of the Sch
"Alfred Keen" for your prompt
attention, receive our thanks

Respectfully yours

Wm D. Burgess

New Brunswick, N. J.

May 26. 1869.

Jose Venuti Brito
Memorial

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

May 26. 69.

Inocencio Casanova
Memorial

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

Havana. May 28. 69.

Theodore Cabias.

Sent to Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

New York. May 29 69.

Condert Bros.

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872

Innocencia Casanova

Washington May 31, 1869

Ref. to his arrest in Cuba (declared
in Spanish

Delivered June 23, 1870 to
Innocencia Casanova

U. S. Marshal's Office,
Southern District of New York.

New York May 31st 1869

Hon Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to
state that the Steamer
Bint (whereof I have
written you heretofore)
which sailed from this
port on May 4th last
reached Nipe Bay, Cuba,
on May 11th, & during the
11th & 12th last. landed
her cargo of arms &
ammunition - The pas-
sengers consisted, as I
before stated, of some

21

Two hundred men (of whom
all but about twenty
were babies return-
ing home) also seem
to have gone rather for
the purpose of as-
sisting in the unload-
ing of her cargo than
as an "expedition" -

Most of these men
remained with the
cargo -

The Brit was not
joined by a "large
steamer" or by the "Gra-
go", as some of the
newspapers
state neither saw
nor heard of any
other vessel or expe-

(3)

dition -

They saw a Spanish battery about 4 or 5 miles distant in Nipe Bay but were not fired upon by it.

They were not attacked or threatened by either land or naval Spanish forces, as stated by the paper, or saw nothing of the kind -

A small part of the cargo was not landed or was brought back -

This is the substance of what

(4)

happened up to the time
when the Boat left -
of what took place
afterwards they of
course are not in-
formed.

A person cal-
led by the papers
Captain Wright, who
is stated to have been
wounded in action &
who came back in
the Boat, shot him-
self accidentally
with his pistol in
the foot while
chasing wild hogs.

This was the only cas-
ualty up to the sailing
of the Boat in return.

Wm. R. B. B. B.
Wm. B. B. B.
A. S. W. B. B.

New York May 31. 69.

M. C. Rodriguez.

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872