

JAMAICA.

Cuban Society in Kingston—Consul Gregg on Annexation—Spanish Spies—Slave and Free Servants Compared—The North American Steamship Company.

HAVANA, Jan. 8, 1869.

The Cubans are rapidly becoming domesticated in Kingston, and seem to breathe more freely than they did under the strong government of General Lerundi. There have been several evening parties given in honor of our exiled friends, and at these little festive boards political sentiments have been expressed with great freedom. At one of these Mr. Consul Gregg (United States) made a long speech in favor of Cuban annexation; he represented Cuba as a child of Spain, but having grown to manhood was anxious to be married and to shake off that parental restraint which all men at some period of their existence were bound to do, in forsaking father and mother when the years of discretion had overtaken them. (Tremendous cheers, and shouts of "*Cuba Libre!*") He said "Uncle Sam" was always ready to assist the young idea and to promote the cause of liberty when appealed to by the weak—(cheers)—that if the majority of Cuba was of the same mind as those who sat with him at that table annexation to the United States might be said to be an accomplished fact. (Loud and prolonged applause.) He assured them that for a long time "Uncle Sam" had taken a warm interest in all that concerned Cuba, and that he had always an impression that Cuba would one day be affiliated.

These little demonstrations in favor of the Cuban insurrection produced quite a little sensation next day, for it elicited that there were three Spanish spies among the Cuban refugees in the city, and that these had been employed to discover the sentiments and plans of visitors for the information of the government of Spain. They had been insidiously worming themselves into conversation with others and had become possessed of information and a state of feeling that would have been better had it not been expressed. Accordingly, at another evening party many excuses were tendered because parties did not wish to connect themselves with or be a party to any political demonstration. There was a small panic among the ladies, and when revolutionary toasts were again proposed the host promptly put an end to them and all shouting of *Cubano libre!*

As I have alluded to "three spies" being in the city, it may not be uninteresting to know something of their movements here. One was a Spanish priest, well known to the people of Santiago de Cuba as a man capable of performing any such service, and by no means respected either for his Christianity or sense of honor. He arrived in the Barcelona on the 16th of December; moved about among the Cubans, speaking in favor of the insurrection to some and in favor of the government of Spain to others; and, having obtained what information he could, left again in the Barcelona on the 31st December on the pretext that Jamaica water did not agree with him, and that for the sake of health he was constrained to return to Cuba. The fact was, however, that an advertisement in one of the Kingston papers, threatening to expose him if he continued to fraternize with Cuban families, had alarmed him, and he thought it best to leave Kingston as quickly as possible. The second was a professor of languages, who arrived in the same steamer as Father —, and he disappeared as rapidly on the pretext of having left his luggage behind and going to look after it. The third is a Cuban musician; but as his movements have not attracted much attention I need not allude to him any further.

The Cuban servants are quite a contrast to our lazy, dirty, half-clad and half-fed native servants. The former, all freed slaves, are clean, active and industrious people, well fed and well cared for, respectful and obliging when spoken to. Our Jamaica servants can in no respect "hold a candle to them," either in intelligence, behavior or appearance, and Cuban families do not fail to draw comparisons between Jamaica negroes and Cuban slaves; the training is decidedly in favor of Cuba.

Application has been made to the government of this island by the North American Steamship Company to subsidize a line of steamers which they contemplate running between New York, Jamaica and Graytown, with passengers *en route* for California and again on their way back to New York. The proposal meets with approbation at King's House and the matter is now in the hands of the Custos of Kingston.