

C U B A .

Capture of the Privateer Lillian by an English Gunboat and Her Subsequent Release at Nassau.

The steamship Eagle, Captain Greene, from Havana the 16th, via Nassau the 19th, arrived at this port yesterday. The purser will receive thanks for favors received.

The Cuban Privateer Lillian Captured by an English Gunboat—How the Capture Was Brought About.

NASSAU, Oct. 18, 1899.

We have had an act perpetrated here by her Majesty's gunboat Lapwing which is universally condemned and looked upon as an unnecessary interference with Cuba and her course. The facts of the case are simply these:—On the 16th instant the sidewheel steamer Lillian, supposed to be either a blockade runner or a privateer, engaged in the Cuban cause, was in the act of approaching the island of New Providence for the purpose of obtaining coal, when she was overhauled and captured by the gunboat above mentioned and brought into this harbor, where she now lies. I give you the facts, pure and simple, without making any comments, inasmuch as the excitement existing here renders it difficult to form an unbiased opinion. I may, however, mention that a schooner was loaded with coal privately and would have gone to sea with it had it not been for the interference of a Mr. Diego Loinaz, who is a native of Cuba. This person quarrelled about the price, wanting something more than that paid, and the consequence was that the schooner was detained and the steamer Lillian captured.

As far as the state of the colony is concerned, I have to report that there is not a dollar in the treasury, and that the Bahamas are in a positive state of bankruptcy, the officials of all grades are three months in arrears as to pay and with no prospect of obtaining any, and, as some time ago I told you, there is nothing for it but a crown colony. Yellow fever has been prevalent and a number of deaths have taken place, of course among the whites exclusively. You must excuse this scrap, as I write it under difficulties.

Release of the Lillian by the British Authorities.

The purser of the steamship Eagle furnishes the following regarding the release of the Cuban privateer Lillian:—

The Cuban steamer Lillian (flying the Cuban flag), seized by her Majesty's ship Lapwing and carried into Nassau on Saturday last, has been released by the British authorities, the Attorney General having decided that the government could not legally hold the vessel. As we passed the harbor of Nassau the Lillian was getting under weigh and would be at sea in a couple of hours.

The above was received as we were leaving Nassau and may be regarded as liable.