

**Excitement Over the Mary Lowell Affair—
Capture of the Schooner Jeff Davis—The
Feeling Against Spaniards—Comments of
the Press.**

HAVANA, March 30, 1889.

We have advices from Nassau to the 28th. Your correspondent at that point writes as follows:—

"The excitement here in reference to the Mary Lowell affair continues unabated. The Governor is very angry at the conduct of the Spanish officers in the matter, and the press is very energetic in its denunciations of the high-handed outrage. The sympathy with the Cubans is universal. A Spanish officer recently entered the American House and called for supper, when the landlady informed him that she had nothing for him, that what she had was for the Cubans. There are still thirty refugees at Ragged Island and about 100 here; the latter are living together in their houses, for the sake of economy. It is barely possible if the Spanish man-of-war *Guardiana* remains about here long something may happen to her. A negro pilot who had been aboard of her for some time recently left, fearing, as he says, that she would be attacked and sunk by the monitor sooner or later. Some time during this week a vessel will leave this harbor with coal for the monitor now at Ragged Island. The two officers belonging to her are still here. They are courteous and polite to all, but reticent in regard to the vessel. Nor can any one learn from them where she is bound to. I have just heard that some schooners, searching for sponges, have been seized by a Spanish man-of-war, which will still further incense the people here."

The Nassau *Herald* published an extra, on the 2d, with flaming headings, from which I extract as follows:—

The British schooner *Briannia*, Captain Thompson, arrived in this port on Tuesday morning last. She brings intelligence of further gross outrages committed by Spanish vessels of war in the vicinity of the Cuban coast, all of which are in direct violation of all recognized international laws. Captain Thompson reports as follows:—"On the morning of the 18th instant, while on a sponging voyage, I was boarded by a boat belonging to a Spanish war vessel. The officers in command searched my vessel and demanded my papers. I was after this taken alongside the Spanish steamer, and, after a considerable lapse of time and interference, was permitted to continue my voyage, receiving this caution on parting—that I was never again to be seen on the coast of Cuba. I remonstrated against this insulting and outrageous treatment, and told the commander of the gunboat that as a British subject I considered that he had violated my rights and insulted the flag which protected me and under which I sailed. To all of which I received no other reply than permission to depart and continue my voyage." Captain Thompson further reports that on Monday last he saw the sloop *Jeff Davis*, of this port, in tow of a Spanish man-of-war. The *Jeff Davis* had just completed her sponging voyage and was returning home to Nassau when she was captured.

The same paper also has the following:—

There is a report current this morning in town that the Spanish gunboat *Guardiana*, which is just about to leave our harbor, is doing so for the purpose of committing another outrage, and that is nothing less than with the illegal intention of capturing the British schooner *Alice Flora*, loaded with coal. Can there be anything more monstrous than such a threat, even if it is not carried into immediate execution? of which, however, there is every probability. There is another report in circulation of a very singular nature, and that is that some persons have been expressing views repugnant to the supremacy of the British crown in this portion of her Majesty's dominions and in other ways insulting her Majesty's subjects. It is high time that our government should take immediate and prompt measures to prevent matters assuming an attitude which is not only likely to embarrass it, but also to lessen the estimation in which the flag of old England has always been regarded by foreign powers. Forbearance is a good thing in its way, but it may be carried to an extent that savors of weakness, which would not only be unworthy of us, but, considering our resources, positively ridiculous. Therefore it is incumbent on our government to vindicate the honor and integrity of the British flag and the sway which her Majesty exercises over her dominions, and to teach all foreigners that when they infringe in the slightest way the honor of England they do so at their peril.

The *Herald* of the 16th contains a communication from John Maura, Spanish Consul, contradicting the statement that outrages had been perpetrated by the commander of a Spanish gunboat at Ragged Island; to which that journal responds by referring to the statement of Mr. Wilson and the seizure of the *Mary Lowell*. The British gunboat *Philomel*, commander Coxan, arrived at Nassau on the morning of the 2d. The British brig *Alice Flora* left day before yesterday, with coal, for the Monitor at Ragged Island. The *Guardiana* has been out for several days. The only war vessel now here is the British corvette *Philomel*.