

THE QUAKER CITY.

Alleged Legitimacy of Cargo and Intended Voyage of the Steamer—Why the Ship Has Been Detained—The Owner's Side of the Case—Spanish Gold and Nepotism Combined.

The steamer Quaker City, about which within the past few days so much has been surmised and said and written, still remains here an object in the minds of many of earnest speculative inquiry. All that has been written concerning her, however, fails to evolve the mysterious cause of her detention by the United-States authorities. As is well known, the alleged principal and in fact sole reason of keeping her here is to defeat the supposed purpose of her going to Cuba as the bearer of men and arms to aid the Cuban revolutionists. The following statement of facts, as coming from responsible and well informed parties, will serve to show how wide of the mark all these revolutionary surmises are, and also develop the wheels within wheels of the seeming complications in which the case is at present involved.

The Quaker City was bought on English account, and was fitted and took in cargo to go to Kingston, Jamaica. The goods to be shipped had been ordered, and the cargo and her intended voyage were very way legitimate. Every facility was offered to the United States Marshal to examine all her cargo, as also to the United States revenue officers, and the offer to examine everything was made before any of the cargo was taken on board. Thus far all was satisfactory. On the 17th instant her clearance papers were to be made out at the Custom House. Here obstacles were at once thrown in the way of her sailing. It was stated that there were certain suspicious circumstances that must be satisfactorily cleared up before she could be allowed to proceed on her voyage; but what these suspicious circumstances were neither the Collector of the Port nor any of his subordinates would deign to explain. After dancing at endance at the Custom House a couple of days it was finally stated that orders had been received from Washington directing her to be detained. Mr. Grinnell added that if no further orders were received by three P. M. the next day she would be given her clearance papers, and promised to have the office kept open till this hour, so in case no further orders came she would not be subjected to longer delay. At the specified time the owner called at the Custom House, when he was told by Mr. Grinnell that the United States District Attorney had prepared certain papers against her, and that he (Mr. Grinnell) would not in consequence let her clear.

And thus, as stated above, this steamer, notwithstanding the alleged regularity of her cargo and legitimacy of her intended voyage, has been kept here with no sort of indication of her being released from her present durance for an indefinite time to come. Our informant gives as the reason of her detention that a certain legal firm in this city—a member of which is a son-in-law of Secretary Fish—have been paid \$10,000 in gold as a retaining fee for taking the necessary legal steps to insure her detention. This is alleged to be the key to the entire mystery—the wheels within wheels of the case. It is stated further, that since this difficulty in connection with the Quaker City orders for the proposed purchase of four steamers here have been countermanded and the same orders sent to England.

The Vessel Seized by the Marshal.

Yesterday afternoon the counsel for the Spanish government in this city filed a libel in the United States District Court against the steamer Quaker City, now called the Columbia, on the ground that she was intended to violate the neutrality laws by giving aid to the insurgents of Cuba.

Judge Blatchford granted the necessary order in the case, and, armed with this authority, General Barlow sent a number of deputy marshals to seize the steamer. The officers are now on board.