

WASHINGTON.

The Destination of the Quaker City Said to be Hayti.

Secretary Fish Declines to In- terfere in Her Case.

PLAIN TALK TO THE SPANISH MINISTER.

Strong Sympathy of the Ad- ministration for Cuba.

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WASHINGTON, May 27, 1869.

The Quaker City Affair—The Vessel Destined for Hayti—Neutrality Laws to be Strictly Enforced—Spicy Letter from Secretary Fish on Cuban Matters.

The despatch which I sent you last night concerning the demand made by Minister Thornton for the release of the Quaker City, on the ground that it is the property of a British subject and not intended for filibustering purposes, proves to be strictly correct. Mr. Thornton had an interview on Tuesday last with Secretary Fish, during which he assured the latter that he had information from the British Consul in New York city that satisfied him the Quaker City was really the property of a British subject; that it was engaged in legitimate commercial business, carried no contraband goods, and was destined for Kingston, Jamaica. Mr. Fish told Mr. Thornton that he had no official jurisdiction over the vessel, as it was in the custody of Collector Grinnell, an officer of the United States Treasury; but that nevertheless he would write to Secretary Boutwell and recommend that the vessel be allowed to depart on giving bonds that she was engaged in legitimate business. This promise was fulfilled by Mr. Fish; and, in fact, Secretary Boutwell had prepared instructions for Collector Grinnell, directing the latter to allow the vessel to depart upon giving the necessary bonds, but was prevented from sending these instructions by the receipt of a letter from Secretary Fish announcing that the Quaker City had been libelled on the complaint of the Spanish Consul, and recommending that under the circumstances it would be better now to leave the settlement of the whole subject to the courts. In this connection it may be stated that there is very good reason to believe that the representations of Minister Thornton, to the effect that the Quaker City is not intended for Cuba, are strictly true. I have it from good authority, that the real destination of the vessel is Hayti, where it is to be used in some way either for or against Salvaje. People here who are well posted as to Cuban movements, declare that the Spanish authorities are on the wrong track altogether, as regards the Quaker City, and state that the Cuban agents in this country know nothing whatever about the vessel. Under the circumstances, therefore, the law will be allowed to take its course as regards the vessel. The Government is inclined to the belief that Mr. Thornton's representations are trustworthy, but doubts its authority to interfere in the matter, now that it has come under the jurisdiction of the District Court. Even were it certain of its absolute right to order a suspension of all further proceedings, it would not feel disposed to exercise that authority now. Such an act might be construed into a refusal to allow the neutrality laws to be enforced, and our government desires to take no step that would expose it with good grounds to such a charge. Through Secretary Fish, President Grant has not hesitated to inform the Spanish Minister that while our government and people sympathize with the Cubans and would rejoice to see them achieve their independence, still while the neutrality laws remain unrepealed they will do no act in violation thereof. I am informed that some time ago Señor Roberts requested Secretary Fish to take some stand that would indicate more publicly that the United States government did not favor the Cuban revolution. Secretary Fish said he could not do anything of the kind; that he intended to do what might be fairly asked in execution of our neutrality laws, but that at the same time he wanted it to be understood that he himself, the President and the American people not only strongly sympathized with the Cubans and would behold their triumph with favor, but that they also hoped to see the day when every inch of the American continent would enjoy the blessings of republican government. These sentiments, I have reason to know, were subsequently communicated to Señor Roberts in writing, and in language quite as emphatic as that used in conversation. When the whole correspondence on this subject comes to be published, I believe it will show that Mr. Fish's real views have been misrepresented, and that so far from being anti-American, they have been slightly ahead of the Monroe doctrine.

Despatches from Admiral Hoff.

The Navy Department is to-day in receipt of despatches from Admiral Hoff to the 18th inst. They give no intelligence whatever concerning the progress of the insurrection in Cuba, and merely relate to matters of ordinary official routine.