

An Ex-Rebel Ram for Cuba.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

About the 5th of May the rebel ironclad ram Atlanta was sold at private sale by the government authorities at League Island. This fact, together with a description of the vessel and her movements, was published a few days thereafter in the *Inquirer*. Additional facts have since transpired which we now give our readers. Shortly after the removal of the vessel to the shipyard of Nease & Levy the rumor prevailed over town that the sale had been made to the Cuban Committee of this city for \$29,000, which was \$20,000 lower than her appraised value. Further, it was said that the purchase was made *sub rosa*, and that ten days thereafter, as a matter of form, she was advertised to be knocked down to the highest bidder. Who the purchaser was, or rather who her owners now are, is not actually known. Samuel Ward, of New York, figured in it, and New York journals have published the fact that she was to be stripped of her armor and used as a merchant steamer by the above named gentleman. Facts, however, contradict this.

A few days ago the ship was placed in a dry dock and her hull inspected, and she is now again at Nease & Levy's yard undergoing repairs, which it is said will take two weeks longer to finish, and then the mystery surrounding her will be solved. That she is for Cuba none who know anything of her doubt, and that she will make sad havoc when she gets there is equally plain. Her armament, a formidable battery of English guns, was purchased with her, and it is expected that the next steamer from Fortress Monroe will bring her stores and ammunition. On Tuesday steam was raised in her boilers, and the tubes found to be in a leaky condition. Yesterday these were repaired, and to-day the steam will again be raised and the engines tried. It is said on good authority that the Atlanta is really a Cuban craft, and the following is given as the manner in which the affair will be done:—Steam up and everything in readiness she will cast off and go down the river ostensibly to take a short sea test trip. Outside the river, the Mexican flag will be hoisted and a course for Mexico shaped. On the second day at sea, however, the Mexican flag will be lowered, the Cuban colors hoisted, and a straight course taken for Cuba. This accomplished, her actions will make her sufficiently celebrated.

The several rumors that have been bandied about concerning her intended use as a merchantman are best set aside by the statement of the fact that the pivot frames for her heavy guns are now being arranged and repaired in readiness for the battery.

It is scarcely possible that Sainave has purchased her; and, although it has also been said that the Spanish government has made the purchase, there is nothing on which to base the assertion.

As we have said before, it is more than likely that Cuba is her destination, and that her presence will, in a short while, be creating consternation among the Spanish vessels in Cuban waters.

Neither does there seem to be any fear of interference by the United States authorities, who take no cognizance of "newspaper talk." The Delaware will, perhaps, soon figure as the Clyde of America, and the Atlanta as the champion of a better cause than she represented in Warsaw Sound.

It is possible, though improbable, that some obstruction may be thrown in the way of her escape, although the parties interested in her doubt the intentions of the United States officials interfering with their arrangements.

They express great confidence in their ability to clear the vessel without trouble, and it is probable that they have good reason for so speaking and feeling.

Although the people at the shipyard state that the work upon the vessel will take at least two weeks more, no one would be surprised to find her berth at the dock vacant within a few days. The little publicity already given to the matter has caused much attention to be paid to the Atlanta, and the friends of Cuba will, undoubtedly, when she does sail, be immensely pleased to hear of her departure.