

JAMAICA.

The Steamer Mount Vernon—Loss of British Bark William Wheatly—Searching of a British Schooner by a Spanish Cruiser—The Perit Expedition.

KINGSTON, June 5, 1869.

The disclosures of the *HERALD* regarding the sale of the American steamer Mount Vernon, now the British steamer Clara Helena, has created quite a sensation in this city, and the Commodore, in a letter to her new owners, with some significance, gives them "to understand that when they require aid in fitting out steamers for revolutionary undertakings they must apply elsewhere than to him. It seems that when being fitted out no machine oil could be found for the vessel, and application was made to the Commodore for a temporary supply, which he readily granted, supposing she was to be used as an island coaster. Nor was he undeceived until the real facts appeared in the *HERALD* and had come back here.

The Spanish steamer Triunfo, which arrived here yesterday from Havana via Santiago de Cuba, had on board Captain Murdoch and the crew of the British bark William Wheatly, of Marysport, which, in her voyage between St. Thomas and Santiago de Cuba in ballast, was wrecked off the southeast coast, about eight o'clock in the evening of the 7th of May. The vessel, missing stays, struck upon a rock and became a total wreck. No lives lost. She was the property of Messrs. Hobson & Co. The crew were sent on to this island by Mr. F. W. Ramsden, her Majesty's Consul at Santiago, and proceed to England on Wednesday by the steamer Neva.

Great efforts are being made by the Spanish authorities to induce the captain and crew of the British schooner Helen to modify their declaration concerning the recent outrage on that vessel while carrying a mail from Kingston for the British Post Office at Santiago de Cuba. It would appear that while some miles off the Cuban coast the Helen was sighted by the Spanish steamer Barcelona and ordered to "he to." While a boat was lowered and eight Spanish officers, armed with revolvers, boarded her, and one in advance, presenting his pistol, directed the captain to produce his papers and show what he had on board. The other officers scoured the ship's hold. The affair having been represented to the British Consul General at Havana and to the Commodore at Port Royal, action is being taken in the matter and explanations have been demanded of General Dulce. Thus far the efforts of Captain Cacho, of the Barcelona, who is now here have been unsuccessful, as the crew are highly incensed at the manner in which they were treated, and refuse to make any declaration other than the truthful one.

The United States steamer Perit, which arrived here the other day on a mysterious mission from New York via some port in Cuba, landed a body of filibusters on a peninsula formed by the bay of Nipe and Barres, on the north coast; but while landing a large quantity of arms she sighted a Spanish gunboat, discontinued discharging and proceeded on to Jamaica, where she took in cargo and passengers for New York, for which port she cleared, but again called at Nipe and concluded the discharge, and then continued on her way. It is now known that these filibusters encamped at the entrance of the Bay of Nipe, and on the 15th of May, while the Spanish steamer Guantanamo was entering Mayori with supplies, they fired upon her with cannon; but she escaped and gave information to the garrison, where a detachment of troops and volunteers left to attack them. They were surprised, and several pieces of their artillery captured, but they afterwards rallied, retook what they had lost and whipped the Spaniards badly. The only Spanish officer left when the encounter was over, being wounded, hurried back to the garrison to give information that the troops were coming. The latter lost over half their number in the encounter. A stronger party was then sent out, and on approaching the filibusters was met by a discharge of canister and grape, when the volunteers in part composing it took to their heels, leaving the troops to themselves, and they, too, soon after retreated. A third attempt was made, with a still larger force, under General Buceta, the San Domingo Ayena, but too late, as the expeditionists had gone to the interior.