

The Return of the Salvador—Her Seizure— The Landing of the Expedition—Enthusiasm of the Cubans—Fighting in Cuba—Move- ments of the British Fleet.

NASSAU, May 22, 1903.

On the 8th inst., at five o'clock P. M., the Cuban blockade runner Salvador, Captain James Carlin, bearing the English flag, anchored inside of the bay in the same place she had left eight days before. The news of the unexpected arrival and safe return of the Salvador from the coast of Cuba soon spread over the town, and the wharves were crowded with curious spectators anxious to hear something about her trip. No sooner had the steamer anchored than J. D. Dumaresq, Receiver General, jumped into a boat, made to the vessel, and, without minding the consequences, seized the steamer. By doing this he violated the quarantine regulations in boarding the steamer before the health officer. He thought, undoubtedly, the steamer might fly from her anchorage, as she had done before. Soon after the steamer was boarded by two boats from the English iron-clad Favorite, then lying at her anchorage outside the bar. One of the said boats had on board the captain of the Favorite and the other one several armed marines, under command of an officer of the same man-of-war. The vessel was held by a body of marines as if they had fallen upon a legal prize. Two sentries were placed on the foredeck, two stern and two on each side on the gangway. Several boats filled up with visitors were near the steamer, but none were allowed to come too close, nor were any of the crew permitted to talk with those in the boats.

I have heard that the captain and officers of the Favorite treated the captain and officers of the Salvador in a most polite manner, and regretted to have seen the steamer come into this port. Not so the Receiver General, who behaved towards the captain and officers when he boarded the vessel as if they were men to be hung. This seizure has caused no little excitement among all classes of people here, and a feeling of general indignation is publicly shown against the Receiver General. It has been rumored that the Salvador shipped a large number of Cubans at this place, but this is only a vague report, and I doubt if there will be sufficient proof to condemn the steamer. I have heard, too, that three or four ill-intentioned persons have denounced and sworn to the police the fact of having witnessed eighty persons going on board the vessel just before her departure. Nobody believes the court here will find sufficient evidence to condemn the Salvador, and all expect she will soon be cleared, and Mr. Dumaresq's prize will slip out of his hands. The affair is now in the hands of good lawyers and a strong defence will be made.

A few hours after the steamer was seized her captain and crew were released by order of the Attorney General. The government has demanded from the captain £4,000 for the supposed eighty excess passengers she carried over what the law allows for each ton; so the demand is fifty pounds for each passenger over the lawful number. The Nassau people are full of delight, and feel most happy for the successful trip and safe return of the Salvador, notwithstanding the forty-one Spanish cruisers said to be on the lookout for the little Cuban blockade runner. According to all I have been able to hear the Salvador left this place on the evening of the 11th inst. and arrived at a certain place on the north coast of Cuba on the morning of the 14th, spent all day discharging her cargo and men, and everything was carried out in a proper manner, not an accident having occurred; the Cuban boys manœuvred like regular soldiers; the ten-pounder gun was soon mounted in its carriage and ready to fight, the Cuban flag was unfurled to the breeze amid the cheers of those brave Cubans who will soon show its colors to the enemy.

The enthusiasm was great, and the repeated cheers and hurrahs echoed in the heart of the far distant mountains. The success of the enterprise reflects credit on James Carlin, commander of the steamer, and it would not surprise us if before a long time we hear that he is in command of a Cuban man-of-war, and then he will have occasion to chase the Spaniards instead of being chased by them, as might happen with such vessel like the Salvador. The Spanish Consul and his few Nassau friends who side with the Spanish government, are quite low-spirited from their disappointment; some of them made bets that the steamer would be caught.

The Salvador left the Cuban coast on the night of the 14th, but ran aground soon after, and did not get off till the morning of the 16th. While lying aground a Spanish man-of-war passed about 1,200 yards from her, very likely without noticing her. In going and coming back the Salvador saw six Spanish men-of-war. She has returned with a boiler out of order, and all the way back did not make more than five or six knots an hour. The bottom of one of her boilers has given out, and after she gets cleared by the court it will take perhaps two weeks to repair the damage and fit her for sea.

The crew of the Salvador were discharged yesterday, and every man was satisfactorily paid. They left this island for some port of the United States. There is still a guard of armed marines on board.

Three writs have been served by Captain Carlin, two on the Receiver General yesterday, and another to-day on Captain McGray of her Majesty's ship Favorite. A writ was issued against Captain Carlin day before yesterday, but he is not found, and he is supposed to be out of this island.

The news brought by the Salvador is quite favorable to the Cubans. There is fighting every day at different points around Puerto Principe. Quesada has over 1,000 prisoners. The patriots, commanded by Chicho Valdes, whipped the Spaniards in a battle that took place, on the 5th or 6th inst., at a place called Alta Gracia. In killed, wounded and prisoners the Spaniards lost over 500. It is said the Spanish recruits and volunteers are quite low spirited, and after the first shots throw away their guns and fly. The losses of the Spanish army now operating in that part of the country are immense, and the soldiers are quite demoralized.

The Cherub arrived from Havana on the 7th inst. and left next day for the same place. There is an unceasing movement of British men-of-war going and coming from Havana. What will this big smoke amount to? This is a general question, and many think that England is making preparations against the United States. There is evidently something brewing, but everything is done so secretly that sometimes it is rather hard to discover that an old gun has been replaced by a new one. The iron-clad Favorite is the only man-of-war in this port.