

## NASSAU.

**Nassau a Place of Refuge for Patriot Cubans—The Salvador Case—Probable Adverse Decision—Business Dull—Death of Commander Harvey, British Navy—Blockade Running Don't Pay.**

NASSAU, N. P., July 26, 1862.

Nature seems to have located Nassau with a special view to the emergencies of the people on the adjacent coast. During our civil war her harbor was crowded with shipping and her wharves laden with goods destined for illicit intercourse with our blockaded ports. The patriots of Cuba, driven from their homes by the vandals striving to repress the upheaval of the people in pursuit of liberty, here find a refuge for their families and a sort of base of operations for supplies of men and material for their struggling compatriots.

The patriot government has here established an agent, and the free flag of Cuba finds its place among the emblems of nationality. There are a large number of Cubans here—probably several hundred—who have been exiled and were fortunate enough to escape the barbarity which usually characterizes the acts of the Spaniards. A number of young men who were thus banished have returned to their island and taken sides with the patriots and are fighting for their liberty. Those still here exhibit a great deal of ardor and are full of bitterness against their oppressors. Many wear a linen cap with a single star in front as a symbol of their sympathies. A song which must be familiar to every loyal man in the United States as one of the musical effusions of the war, "Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom," is quite common among the Cubans. They sing it at all times and appear to have adopted it as their own.

The government of Spain has sent here a new Consul, a Mr. Costar, his predecessor having been removed, it would appear, from no other reason than that the patriots are making too much headway.

The steamer *Salvador*, seized here a short time since for a violation of the British Foreign Enlistment act, meets with considerable comment, and universal sympathy is expressed on the side of the owners. The *Salvador* is a fine little vessel, of Scotch build, and calculated to run up to a high rate of speed. She carries two funnels, has powerful engines, is sharp in construction and sits low in the water. It would require more naval dexterity than the Spanish possess in order to take her. She several times left this port, clearing legitimately, and it was alleged that she had carried men enlisted in the Cuban cause somewhere on the coast where they could reach their friends. Upon this supposition the authorities here seized her upon her return from her last trip, and also arrested her crew.

The case was tried, and a decision is to be given on Friday next, July 30. From the evidence and other means of arriving at the result it is understood that the decision will be adverse to the authorities who meddled in the affair. The owners declare that as soon as the case is disposed of a suit of false imprisonment of the crew will be commenced. This state of the game is anything but agreeable to those who have become involved as the prosecutors, and it is rumored by some knowing ones that if the case is settled adversely that certain instigators and principals in the matter will take French leave.

Notwithstanding the Cuban excitement everything is very dull here. Business is flat and few ships in the harbor. A large lot of pineapples sent to London and a smaller lot to the United States would almost make up the business for some days. One large dealing in sponges was transacted a few days since for shipment to Europe.

The health of this place, although set down as bad beyond all precedent, is just the reverse in fact. The weather has been excessively hot and there have been a few fevers, but nothing of a character to be called an epidemic. There have been some cases of sickness on board vessels, said to have been yellow fever, but this is upon no other authority than town talk. The physicians say that no yellow fever has as yet broken out.

On the afternoon of July 19 Commander Harvey, of the British ship-of-war *Eclipse*, died, after a few days' illness. There is a report on shore that four of the crew have also died and fourteen are sick. The steamer put to sea on the 20th inst.

This community seems to be in a state of unusual perplexity on the financial question. The illegal gains acquired during our war gave such an impetus to all sorts of wild schemes that the comparatively insignificant debt of six years ago has swelled to the enormous amount of a half a million. This fearful weight of responsibility upon the shoulders of 45,000 inhabitants, the entire population of the Bahama Islands, is looked upon with great terror. The treasury is empty, and the colonial employes are outrageously hard-up, and have been hypothecating pay rolls for several months past in order to keep the pot boiling. The royal servants are paid from the royal treasury, and manage to draw their stipend regularly. Through this medium some funds are dropped in the community sufficient to keep local business going.

I learn that some Cubans are about to commence the experiment of raising sugar cane on the Bahamas on a large scale. The experiments have proved very successful. Although the soil is light, with the proper attention it can be worked up to the proper degree of fertility. The growth of pineapples has increased considerably within the past two years. Formerly the island of Eleuthera was most celebrated; now San Salvador seems to be taking the lead, for as many as 45,000 dozen were shipped from this island alone last year.

Sensible merchants say that instead of blockade running having been a source of profit it was a great curse; while it benefited one or two the class was no better off in the end, and the business community was utterly demoralized by it. The merchants now think legitimate business is the best after all, and to its revival they are now directing their efforts.