

The Escape of Cuban Prisoners.

Among the prominent arrivals by the steamer Java, from Liverpool, were three of those wealthy Cuban planters who in March last were banished to the island of Fernando Po, off the west coast of Africa. As this island lies almost on the equatorial line, and has the character of being, at certain seasons, exceedingly unhealthy, it is hardly the sort of place one would choose as a "summer resort." To escape from it our Cubans ventured their lives in a small canoe, without provisions or water, compass or chart. They had the good fortune to be picked up by an English sloop, which conveyed them to Calabar, on the neighboring coast of Guinea. Here the negro King received them hospitably, and even summoned his fighting men around him to defend the fugitives, if necessary, from Spanish pursuit; and when the Spanish war steamer soon after came into the harbor and demanded their surrender he spiritedly refused to give them up. In this course he was supported by the English residents there and by the captain and crew of the English mail steamer, and the Spaniards wisely determined to retire without proceeding to hostilities. The Cuban fugitives embarked on the English mail steamer and reached Liverpool in due course, and on the following day the three gentlemen we allude to sailed by the Java for New York, the others, sixteen in number, intending to follow soon after.

This escape of these brave Cubans is a matter of congratulation on more than one account. For their own sake we rejoice at it, as their treatment by the Spaniards was unnecessarily harsh, and we know there is many a true patriot in Cuba to whom the news of this escape of their friends will be like tidings of a fresh victory. We also rejoice at it for the sake of Cuba, as these gentlemen are among the wealthiest of her sons, possessing, it is said, on an average over one million of dollars each, and the severities they experienced must have increased their antipathy to the oppressors of their native island. We feel confident they will soon give the Spanish dons a good account of their whereabouts. Meanwhile we heartily welcome them to this country.