

KEY WEST.

Warm Weather Over—The "Norther Season"—Ingress of Cuban Refugees—The Monitor Saugus Still in Port—Appearance of a Meteor.

KEY WEST, Sept. 17, 1869.

The warm season may be said to be fairly over at this place, and, except several very hot days in the early part of the month, the weather has been delightful. The health of the island and city have never been better than at present. There have been no cases of yellow fever since the departure of the greater part of the garrison for Indian river, about six weeks ago. Those too ill to go, and hence left behind, have recovered. Notwithstanding the many assertions of the unhealthiness of this place it can be proven that the majority of the fever cases occurring here are caused by importations from other places, and especially from Cuba. Persons coming from the North can, with proper care, become so acclimated in one season that they need have no special fear in subsequent ones.

The "norther season," once inaugurated, is considered a sure preventive of any appearance of "Yellow Jack." These "northerers" are a godsend to the inhabitants of all the West Indies and their adjacent coasts.

For several days past the wind has been from the northward, accompanied with frequent falls of rain. These are sure indications that the "season" has in reality begun. The effect of these "northerers" is to moderate greatly the excessive heat. They rarely come with great violence to this place; but in portions of Cuba and along the Spanish Main and coasts of Mexico they frequently commit great damages.

The ingress of Cubans, principally from Havana, continues unabated. The last steamer from that port brought over about 150; the cry is, "still they come." It is said there are at least 2,000 now in Havana awaiting opportunity to leave their native isle. The principal object in coming here appears to be to escape conscription into the armies of De Rodas. Whether the authorities of Cuba will permit the exit of large numbers of the producing classes at this juncture of affairs is doubtful. The arrival of so many has caused no little grumbling and dissatisfaction on the part of certain of our citizens. The formation of a vigilance or supervising committee is spoken of, its object being to guard property and add to personal safety in case of any irregularities on the part of the strangers. A fear is entertained that so many may come as to make it impossible for all to gain work, and, being poor already, that they may be led into thieving, &c. This fear, to your writer, appears to be groundless. They (the Cubans) have an association here, which no doubt will take care of all who may be destitute. The truth is that those who come are very industrious; they are producers as well as consumers. They are peaceably disposed, easily satisfied and, in time, would make good citizens. If these descendants of the Latin race "crowd out" the Anglo Saxon it will be a new thing in history.

One effect of this immigration has been to increase the rent paid for houses. Those which rented for twenty dollars a month six months ago now bring thirty-five dollars. Every house is occupied; many are crowded. A dozen Cubans can live in a place not large enough for six Americans. The refugees are chiefly employed at cigar making. One large factory is in operation, but your writer thinks there is room for more.

The steamer Saugus remains here, ready at the clicking of the wires from Washington to go where ordered. No cases of fever have occurred on board during her stay here, and at present all are well. This augurs well for the sanitary arrangements taken by her worthy commander. I am told the Saugus has recovered equanimity after the ordeal of names through which she has passed, having been first Saugus, then Centaur, then Saugus. In three hours after the arrival of a telegraphic message from Washington the Saugus, it is said, could leave the harbor ready to meet any vessel likely to oppose her in the West Indies.

Last evening about half-past nine a brilliant meteor was observed. It first appeared in the north, at an elevation of about thirty degrees above the sea level and shot in a downward direction towards the eastward, disappearing in the northeast at an elevation of seven degrees. This meteor, like a huge globe of fire, left a very beautiful greenish-tinted trail. Its duration of flight was about seven seconds of time and fifty degrees of arc.