

Capt.-Gen. Dulce has the reputation of being a prudent, judicious officer; but he is cursed with subordinates who are as fit to be trusted with power in this crisis as a monkey would be with a lighted candle in a powder magazine. If he have any control whatever over the Spanish naval officers in the West India squadron, he cannot safely lose one hour in using it. We have hardly had time to receive the particulars of the late outrage on an American vessel, till *The Nassau Herald* comes with details of a yet more wanton and foolhardy performance. Not satisfied with their excellent prospect of embroiling their Government in its time

of distress with the United States, they have now contrived to offer an equal or greater indignity to Great Britain. Pursuing a vessel into a British harbor, they first insisted on their right to search it, and then absolutely landed a detachment of marines, and scoured the island for the crew of a Cuban privateer that had, the day before, been driven upon the reef. The Nassau paper speaks under a pardonable excitement in pronouncing this "nothing short of a declaration of war against Great Britain," and assuming that "it seals the fate of Cuba;" but certainly no more marvelous example of audacious folly has marked the annals of the Spanish Navy in Western waters. The violation of International Law is so palpable that it cannot be regarded as other than intentional and deliberate. "There is," says Wheaton, summing up the consenting opinions of all writers on the subject, "there is no exception to the rule that every voluntary entrance into neutral territory with hostile purposes is absolutely unlawful." The Spanish Government is not likely to want much more of this sort of service from its navy.

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