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Home Squadron

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WASHINGTON: 1971

U.S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Harbor of Havana. March 21, 1857

I have the honor to inform the Department that, the "Saranac", arrived at this port on the 19th instant.

I, yesterday, had an interview with the Captain General, who informed me that an expedition for the invasion of this Island, was certainly fitting out near New Orleans, under the command of General Lopez.

I told him, I thought he was misinformed, as I had late advices from my Government, and no mention was made of such an expedition.

He replied, that he was aware that the Government at Washington, knew nothing about the matter but nevertheless, he seemed to think that it was true, and that the force to be employed, would be two thousand men.

It has caused no excitement here.

Whilst at Port au Prince, we had several cases of fever among the officers and crew, but, I am happy to state, that all are now convalescing.

Captain Sattelle has been afflicted with Rheumatism during the greater part of our cruise, caused, I fear, by being compelled to sleep in a room under the wheel house, which is always damp at sea.

We shall leave here in a few days for Pensacola.

Yours,

William A. Graham

Secretary of the Navy.

Washington DC.

Pensacola for the purpose of coaling and provisioning the ship, but on our way, will run into the Harbor of Portugal to exercise the Crew at Target firing etc, not having had an opportunity of doing so, since we left the United States.

I will thank the Department to inform me what vessels, belonging to the Home Squadron have sailed since I left the United States, and whether they are acting under the instructions sent to the Commanders through the Navy Department.

I will dispatch one of the vessels the Aqueduct to Venezuela, as soon as they can be spared from more important service.

I have not fallen in with "Water Witch", and, if she goes direct to Port au Prince, it will be some time before we shall.

The "Vixen" would be very serviceable on the Coast of Great Britain and Mexico, and, I hope the Department will send her out as soon as possible.

The only vessels of war here, (besides Spanish) is the French Steam Mogadore, of Sixteen Guns.

I propose (with the sanction of the Department) to go north during the Summer months.

It is not prudent to cruise the West Indies in the Hurricane Months, and the health of the Crews will be better preserved by cruising on the Atlantic Coast, than lying at Pensacola.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your Obedt. Servant

Foskell A. Fairbanks
Commanding Home Squadron

No. 4.

U. S. Flag Ship Saratoga.
Saratoga, Sept 6. 1857.

Sir.

In obedience to your orders of 5th June last, I beg leave to make the following report, as containing my views in regard to the effect produced on the Naval Service, by the abolishment of flogging.

To the 1st question propounded in your communication, I answer, that not being in the vicinity of recruiting stations, I cannot state with certainty what has been the effect on the recruiting service, but, judging from the difficulty of obtaining men, and those obtained being of a very inferior class, I am induced to believe that the abolishment of flogging in the Navy has had an injurious effect on the recruiting service.

To the 2^d question, I answer, that the effect upon the discipline and subordination of the Ship's Company, has been, in my opinion, of the most injurious character; so much so, as to destroy everything like proper discipline, for it has sometimes occurred on board this ship, that men have refused to perform duty on the most frivolous pretences.

To the 3^d question, I answer, that the effect upon the discipline of vessels of the Navy, has been, in my opinion, of the most injurious character; so much so, as to destroy everything like proper discipline, for it has sometimes occurred on board this ship, that men have refused to perform duty on the most frivolous pretences.

The Hon.

William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy.
Washington D.C.

and that the orders from officers are less promptly obeyed.

In the 4th question, I answer, that I know of no effectual means (under existing laws and regulations of the Navy) by which the badly disposed persons, on board ship, can be restrained.

And to the 5th, and last, question propounded, I declare that the rebels of the Navy, so far as come within my observation, are far less efficient than before the abolishment of flogging.

I have thus given my candid opinion as to effect the abolishment of punishment has had on the discipline and efficiency of the Navy, but will state that I know of no officer who would not gladly see it abolished, provided some law was passed to insure discipline and prompt obedience to all lawful orders.

Sincerely hope that Congress may be induced to pass such a law at the next Session.

A law authorizing men to be confined on bread and water, stoppage of pay &c., by what is called Iron head, or other Court Martial, might, and I believe would, have a good effect; but, in all cases, punishment should follow crime as soon as possible.

[REDACTED] officers, Seamen and [REDACTED] in stating [REDACTED] made of them for want of proper conduct and obedience to orders but it is the Landmen, and dissolute Youth who are picked up in our large Cities, that create most of the difficulties which occur on board our Ships of War, many of whom, no doubt, having been inmates of State prisons and

Penitentiaries.

Whilst on this subject, I will state to the Department that the late law forbidding the commutation of rations has given much dissatisfaction among the Crews of our Vessels.

Formerly, each man was allowed to stop one or two rations for which they were paid in money, and thereby obtained fruits, vegetables &c. to carry to sea, which not only added to their comfort, but especially to their health.

Besides, in time of war, or a long cruise, this law could not be carried out, for it might happen that the whole ship's company would be put on short allowance from necessity.

I feel convinced that the Department, after looking into this matter, will be induced to recommend to Congress, the repeal of the law alluded to.

I have the honor, to be

Very respectfully

Saml. O. Serrant

Foxhall A. Parker
Commanding Squadron

No. 12.

U.S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Harbor of Havana. March 31. 1857.

Sir.

Upon the arrival of the Mail Steamer from New York, expected tomorrow, I have the honor to inform the Department, that we shall sail for Pensacola direct.

I have determined now not to stop at the Tortugas, in consequence of the increase of sickness among the Firemen and Coalheavers, making it necessary to send them to the Hospital.

The cases, I am happy to state, however are none of them serious.

Since the receipt of Commander Platte's report from Chapres, which was forwarded through the Department, I have heard nothing of the "Albany".

He will probably touch here in the course of ten days on her way to Pensacola for supplies of the "Water Witch". I have no intelli-

gence -

I have the honor to be Sir
Yours very Obed. Servant

Respectfully,

William A. Graham

Secretary of the Navy.

Washington

D.C.

Foschall A. Paigee
Commanding Home Squadron

U. S. Steam Frigate "Pompadour"
Havana 10th April 1851.

Sir,

Shortly after I was ordered to the command of this ship, and after my return in her from Cuba, Commodore Porter, the Chief of the Bureau of Construction, Equipment and Repairs, remarked to me that it had been contemplated to increase the crew to 300 men. To this I objected, on the ground, that she could not accommodate a larger crew, and that she had enough for her guns. The Platform Deck put on her at Norfolk, has removed the first ground of objection, and further experience has convinced me that I was in error in regard to the second. We have not men enough, even with an ordinary Sick List, to man the guns properly, and instead of manning all of them fully, so as to fight them on one side, we are obliged to ^{resort to} ~~have recourse to~~ shifting men. I therefore recommend that the complement be increased to 280 men, in the following proportions: fifteen Seamen, fifteen ordinary Seamen, and ten Landmen or Marines. I should prefer the latter.

Having applied to be detached from
the ship, I make this suggestion for the
benefit of my successor, the *Yonah* not
being as efficient as I could wish in her
present condition. I would propose to
have three additional men be shipped at
New Orleans.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Yours Off &c
Isiah Tatoral
Captain

Comms. Foxhall A. Parker
Comdg. U. S. Home Squadron
U. S. Steamer *Yonah*
Annapolis

Forwarded.

Foxhall A. Parker

Commanding Home Squadron

No. 19.

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Off Navy Yard Pensacola.
April 17, 1851

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegraphic despatch of the 13th Instant, and in obedience thereto, have ordered the "Saranac" to be immediately prepared for sea.

The despatch was only received this morning.

I have heard no news in regard to the Expedition mentioned in your despatch, but should I do so, shall immediately sail to prevent the landing of the same on the Island of Cuba.

I have written to the District Attorneys at New Orleans and Mobile, requesting them to inform me immediately, should they hear anything of the Expedition.

I have the honor Sir,
to be, Your Obedt. Servant,

Foxhall A. Porter
Commanding Home Squadron

The Hon.

William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy
Washington D.C.

Ms. 20.

U. S. Flag Ship *Tarantula*,
Off Navy Yard, Pensacola
April 17, 1851

Sir,

I have the honor to request
that the department will, when the U.S.
steamer *Vixen* is ready for sea, order her
to Havana, there to await instructions
from me.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obedt. Servant

Frederick A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

The Hon,

William A. Graham

Secretary of the Navy,

Washington D.C.

No. 21.

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac
Off Navy Yard Pensacola.

April 19. 1851

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith
a copy of a communication which I have just
received from the U. S. attorney at Mobile.

From other sources, I have
obtained similar information, and regret much
that the "Vixen" is not ready for sea.

I shall keep in readiness
to depart at a moment's warning in the
"Saranac".

I am daily expecting the "Albatross" at this port.

I have the honor to be
Your obed. Servant.

Isaac N. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

Respectfully,

William A. Graham
Secy of the Navy,
Washington D.C.

Copy.

Office. U.S. Atto.

Mobile April 18. 1859

I am just in receipt of yours of 17th Inst. On yesterday I was informed by the Spanish Consul for this port that there was in Pascagoula, and in the neighborhood, a number of men amounting to 150 or thereabouts - whether they have arms or not he is not advised. I also had information on which he could place reliance, that a similar number of men were on their way from South Carolina & Georgia to this part of the Gulf Coast. He also informs me that the men at Pascagoula are regularly fed by provisions from New Orleans. I this morning saw a Gentleman from Pascagoula who informs me that there is about the Bay & mouth of that river, a number of strangers of apparently irregular life. that these men have come to that point recently. I have no regular employment, & generally appear to be of suspicious character.

This is all the information in my possession, but it seems to me to be worthy of attention.

A small vessel on the Coast might be of service. The Collector of this port has been telegraphed from Washington, that information of an expedition to Cuba, has been given to the Government.

Very respectfully

(Signed) J. Hamilton,
U.S. Atto.

To Genl. F. C. Parker,

U.S.A.

U. S. Steam Frigate Saranac.
Flag Ship of the Home Squadron
Pensacola Bay, April 16. 1851.

Sir

I have received your order to Captain
Tattnell detaching him from the "Saranac", but shall
not deliver it until the ship is prepared for sea in
every respect, and until I learn whether the Dept:
intends bringing Lieut: May and Passd: Midw: Hall
to trial by Court Martial.

I respectfully request that Commander
George V. Hollins be ordered to the "Saranac". It may
become necessary for me to hoist my Pendant on
board some other ship of the Squadron, and it would
in that event be very desirable to have an experi-
enced officer on board the "Saranac".

Commander Hollins resides in Pensaco-
la, and wishes to join the ship.

I am in communication with persons
residing in New Orleans, Mobile, and Savannah, and
will be kept advised of any expedition, intended
for the invasion of Cuba.

The "Albany" arrived here yesterday,
last from Havana - I forward the Report of her Com-
mander, by which you will perceive she has been
actively, and I hope usefully employed.

I regret that it was found necessary
to detach two of her Lieutenants on sick ticket, and

hope the Department will speedily order others,
to fill the vacancies -

I shall keep the ships ready for sea,
but will not sail until I learn something defi-
nite in relation to the Cuban expedition, or re-
ceive orders from the Department -

Should the Department have any
communications to make to me, which require
expedition, it had better make them by Telegraph.

We arrived here on the 6th instant, and the
Northern mail has failed two times, since our
arrival -

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt.

~~The Honble~~ Foxhall & Sachs
Commandg: U. S. Home Squadron.

Wm A. Graham

Secretary of the Navy

Washington.

Mr. 28.

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Off Navy Yard, Pensacola.
May 10. 1857

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th Ult., enclosing duplicates of a letter and enclosures, addressed by the Department to Commander Randolph, and to inform the Department that the Court convened on the 8th Instant.

I have also the honor to inform you that, in obedience to your orders, on the 28th Ult., your letter dated 19th April, was read on board the "Saranac", in the presence of the officers.

On the 1st Instant, I despatched the Surgeon and Chief Engineer to New Orleans to ship men for the "Saranac" - they have succeeded in getting the men and intend to leave New Orleans today for this place.

From the best information I can get, it appears that there is no Expedition fitting out on the Gulf Coast for the invasion of Cuba, but the Atlantic Coast of Florida seems to be the most likely place of rendezvous.

As soon as the recruits arrive, I shall sail for Key West and Saranac.

I shall despatch the "Albatross" the same time, or possibly before.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your most Obedt. Servant,

To Hon.

Mr. A. Graham
Secy of the Navy.

J. S. Phelps
Commanding Home Squadron.

31

U. S. Flag Ship Albatross.
Off Navy Yard, Pensacola.
May 13, 1851

15

I have the honor to acknowledge the
recd of your letter of the 3rd instant.

I despatched the U. S. Ship Albany,
this day, for Cedar Key, Key West and Havana;
having learned that there is, probably, no
intention of host for the invasion of Cuba west
this port, I shall sail myself in a few days
for Key West and Havana, and for disburse of
vessels under my command as to arrest, if
possible, any expedition leaving our shores
the invasion of the territory of any
friendly power.

The Albany draws too much water to
approach Cedar Key very near, and I
fear that the "Vixen" is not now in the
Gulf.

Communications to Havana will reach me
without hurrying the length of time that I
shall be absent, it may be advisable to
direct duplicates to this place.

I shall cruise near Havana, until I
hear some positive news concerning the expe-
dition.

I have the honor to be
Your Obedt. Servant.

J. M. A. V. Allen

A. Graham
of the Navy.
Washington D. C.

Commanding Home Squadron

U. S. Flag ship Saramae.
Off Navy Yard, Pensacola.
May 16, 1851

17
I have the honor to acknowledge the
receipt of your communication of the 6th Instant,
stating that Commander Pendergast had been ordered
report to me for the command of this vessel.

Your despatch of the 1st Instant
had also been received, stating that the "Vixen"
would be ready for sea on the 12th Instant, and
I presume from the request contained in my letter
of the 14 April, that her Commander has
been instructed to join me at Havana.

Commander Platt reported to me by
the pilot, that, owing to the strong tide prevailing
when he crossed the Bar here, the ship touched
lightly, but soon swung clear and proceeded on her
course.

Owing to the scarcity of officers on board the "Albany",
I ordered Lieutenant Muger (my Flag Lieut.) temporarily
to her.

The Commandant of the Yard here having informed me
that the Master (Mr. Pearson) could be spared for
short time, I ordered him on board the "Albany"
to act as pilot among the Keys and Reefs of Florida.

I also ordered Midshipman
John A. Ramey to the "Albany", and Midshipman
James

Wm.

William A. Graham.

Secretary of the Navy.
Washington D.C.

James Foster from her to this vessel.

I delivered Captain Lettrall's detachment to
yesterday.

I shall keep me of the Vessels under my
constantly at Havana, and probably me here,
that the Department may be able to comm
at any time with the Squadron.

Captain Shuttleworth of the Marine Corps, has
to me as Commanding Marine Officer of the
but, as his relief had not arrived here,
there are no accommodations on board the
"Saratoga" for him, I have directed him to
here and hold himself in readiness to join the
"Albany" upon her return.

I shall sail tomorrow for Key West
and Havana, the recruits having arrived at
New Orleans.

I hope my proceedings, so far as contained
this letter, may meet the approbation of
Department.

~~I have the honor to be~~
With great respect,
Your Obedt. Servant.

Frederick A. P.
Commanding Home Squadron

No. 34

U. S. Flag Ship *Saranac*.
Key West. May 22^d 1851

Sir

I have the honor to inform the Department of the arrival this morning of the "*Saranac*" at this port.

We left Pensacola on the 18th Instant, and arrived off Havana yesterday morning.

As I was about sending in a boat, for information in regard to the state of affairs there, the *U.S. Fish Hawk* was in sight, and I stood out for her.

She was just out from Havana, and as her Commander informed me that all was quiet there, I shaped a course for this place.

The "*Recluse*" will probably arrive here today, and I look for the "*Albatross*" off here soon for instructions, unless her Commander is detained at or near Cedar Keys.

Should I hear nothing in regard to the Expedition, as to be fitting out for the invasion of Cuba, I will sail in a short time for Pensacola, to take on board the Commander, and to be near our supplies.

Upon my arrival there, I hope to meet any instructions which the Department may think proper to make to me.

The day before leaving Pensacola, I
Left

Yours,

William A. Graham

Secretary of the Navy.

Washington D.C.

Left on shore John Hart and Christopher
Donnelly, the two men recently tried by Court
Martial, for confinement until their sentence
and the pleasure of the Department was known.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obed. Servant.

Frederick A. Walker
Commanding U.S. Army

py.

U.S. Ship Albany
Key West May 29th 1851

Commo Foxhall & Parker
Comd^g Home Squadron.

Sir,

I have the honor to report
to you my arrival here this day, last from Tampa
Bay, from which place I sailed on the 23rd Instant.

In obedience to your instructions of the
1st Instant, I sailed from Pensacola in this ship
under my command on the 13th, and proceeded to Cedar
Key, at which place I arrived, and anchored off
in the afternoon of the 14th, when I immediately
went on shore at Depot Key the residence of
the District Collector, J. G. Putnam Esq.

Mr. Putnam and also Judge Steele
the former Collector, and at present Judge of Probate,
informed me, that there had been no gathering
of persons, either there or anywhere in that
neighborhood, for the purpose of forming an expedition
against the Island of Cuba, nor had there been
any stores or munitions of war collected there
for such purpose.

The Collector mentioned that he had heard some time
previous, that the Marshall from Savannah had
brought a Schooner at Jacksonville, where it was
said, there had been some two or three hundred
men collected, whose avowed purpose was that
of forming an invading expedition against Cuba,
in which vessel it was supposed was connected
with them, but on examination of her and her
papers, everything was found to be correct and
she

she was released, and all the men there
had dispersed.

I herewith transmit a letter from Mr. Putnam
in answer to my inquiries on this subject.

On Sunday the 15th the schooner "Mary Anne"
of New York, Capt. Andrews arrived from St. J.

Captain Andrews reported that
at St. Marks - was quiet; that there had
no knowledge of, or was there anything
in expedition.

On Sunday the 14th I returned to the ship, and
immediately got underway and proceeded to
Tampa Bay, where I arrived on the evening
21st - Early on the morning of the 22^d, I
despatched a boat in charge of Lieut. Hugg
there to the Lighthouse on Egmont Key, to
obtain what information he could in relation to any
gathering of persons on that part of the Coast.

Mr. Hager returned the same day
and reported that he had been informed by the
Keeper of the Lighthouse (who is the only
of the Key, but in frequent communication
the main land) that there was no knowledge
any strangers being in that neighborhood.

From the report of Mr. Hager
and knowing that there were U.S. Proops, stationed
within a short distance of Tampa, I did not
it advisable to proceed further up the River.

Having no further necessity for the services of
Sailing Master Pearson, as pilot, and a
opportunity offering for his return to New York
in the Steamer Fashion, I ordered him to
to that place, and on his arrival to report
to Commr. Newton, Commanding that

Sk

I have the honor to be Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your Obed. Servant,

Signed,

Charles D. Platt,

Commander -

Commiss The Albany.

36.

U. S. Flag Ship *Saranac*.
Havana. June 5. 1851

Sir.

I have the honor to inform the Department that the "*Saranac*" left Key West on the morning of the 1st Instant, and arrived at this port the evening of the same day.

The "*Decatur*" left Key West (where he arrived on the 23^d Ult.) in company with us, and arrived here the morning of the 3^d Inst.

The "*Albany*" arrived at Key West on the 29th Ult. from Tampa Bay.

Enclose, herewith, a copy of the report of her Commander, from which it will be seen that no collection of men, nor suspicious vessels, were found in the Western Coast of Florida.

The "*Albany*" left Key West on the 3^d, and arrived here yesterday morning.

The "*Vien*" arrived here on the 3^d Instant 8 days from Norfolk.

Since leaving Pensacola I have received no communications from the Department, all is quiet here, and from all I have heard since leaving Pensacola, there seems to be no doubt, but that the plans of the expedition fitting out for the invasion of Cuba have been frustrated, at least for the present

Yours
Hon.

William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy.
Washington D.C.

present.

I shall sail today for Pensacola, the "Albany" following in the morning for the place, where I hope to find two ^{ships} to fill the vacancies now existing on her.

The "Meatur" will sail in the morning for Caribbean Sea, to carry out the views of Department as expressed in your letter of 7th February last, and, on her way to, will touch at ports in Yucatan and Mexico.

The "Vixen" I have ordered to cruise off this place for a short time, to go to Pensacola. -

The Spanish Squadron, together with the Steamer "Mogador" and English Steamer "Isis" are lying at anchor in this harbor.

The "Meatur" having five Midshipmen and the "Albany" only two, I have ordered shipmen Sparks and Dogier to join the vessel.

Midshipman Macaluso has also been sent from the "Vixen" to this vessel.

Acting Master Austin of the "Vixen" has been surveyed, and recommended to be sent to Hospital at Pensacola - and I have ordered him to take passage in the "Albany".

I have directed Commander Platt on his way to Pensacola to touch a few days at Matanzas.

The Sickly Season is now commencing, and (should I receive no orders to the contrary) so soon as I receive Commanders Peirce on board and take in a supply of Coal.

Pine

85

Pensacola, I propose to depart, and cruise
our northern Coast.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your Obed. Servant.

Foxhall J. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Pensacola. June 13. 1857

I have the honor to enclose, herewith,
pairs of Letters, which I have this day
received from the U. S. Attorneys at New Orleans
at Mobile, and from Brevet Major Brown,
U. S. Army, in relation to the rumor mentioned
in your telegraphic communication of the 3^d
instant.

From these despatches, and from all the information
received from other sources, I am convinced that
there is no truth in the rumor; I shall, therefore,
pursuant to my General Instructions, sail for the
North (probably for Philadelphia) so soon as
the crew shall have recovered sufficiently from
the fever, (which is now raging among them), to
perform duty - not deeming the services of the
Ship at all necessary in the Gulf at this time.

I enclose, herewith, today's Sick
Report, which you will perceive is very large.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your Obedt Servant.

Joshua A. Miller
Commanding Home Squadron

Wm:
William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy.
Washington, D.C.

72.

Copy.

Office - U.S. Attorney,
New Orleans - June 11, 1857

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 9th instant, and hasten to reply that I heard some days since the rumor to which you refer, in relation to an Expedition against Cuba shortly to leave this port, but after very searching enquiries, I am without any fact tending to confirm it. We perceive here no indications of such a movement.

I am very respectfully
Yr. obedt servant.
(Signed) Logan Austin.
U.S. Attorney.

Samuel H. A. Parker,
Commanding Home Squadron
Pensacola.

Copy.

U.S. Dist. Att'y Office.

So. Dist. of Ala.

Mobile - June 10. 1851

Commodore Tohale A. Parker.

Comdg. U.S. Home Squadron
Pensacola - Florida

Sir. -

Your favor of the 9th

Letter addressed to my Brother (U.S. Dist. Att'y) reached
to-day in his absence. -

I have made enquiry, both at the Custom House and Port Off
in this City, & learn that no information has been
received at either of those places relative to any
movement from New Orleans upon Cuba -

No information of the sort has been received in this Off
except what is contained in your note now before me -

Very respectfully

Yours obed. Servt. &c.

Signed, T. A. Hamilton.

Att'y for P. Hamilton - U.S. Dist. Att'y
in his absence.

Head Quarters, Western Division. -
New Orleans - La.
June 11, 1857

In answer to your communication of the 4th
sent to Gen. Twiggs (who has gone north) I have
now to inform you that nothing is known of
movements of the rumored expedition against Cuba.

Should I gain any information
of the absence of Genl. Twiggs I shall make
my duty to communicate it to you. -

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servant,

(Signed, W. T. H. Prosser.

A.D.C. 1st Lt Major.

Wm. Parker.

Genl. Home

to be.

No. 44

U. S. Flag Ship Taranac.
Pensacola. June 28, 1857

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that this vessel is now underway, bound to Philadelphia, agreeably to your order of the 10th Instant.

The "Vixen" arrived the morning of the 24th Instant, in 3¹/₂ days from Havana, at which port everything was quiet when she left.

She had been cruising off Cape Antonio since my departure from Havana, and during the cruise nothing suspicious was discovered.

I have also the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 17th Instant, enclosing an order for the "Decatur" to proceed to Brazil, and join Commodore Mather's Squadron.

The "Decatur" having been sent to windward, as indicated in my letter of the 5th Instant, I have left the orders here, under cover to her Commander.

James Hattenhove has reported for the "Albatross".

That vessel is now lying off the town, for the purpose of giving the men liberty.

I have directed her Commander to await further orders here, unless he finds it sickly, or hears

Yours truly

William A. Graham

Secretary of the Navy.

Washington D.C.

hears of the departure of any expedition
from our Country against Cuba.

The "Vixen's" engine is somewhat out of
order, but a few days work will repair
it. I have ordered her Commander to await
here until further orders.

Herewith, enclose the report of her Engineer
in regard to the Engine.

It seems that the "Vixen", from her Commander
report, sails very badly, and consequently is
not adapted for cruising any length of time.

I am happy to state that
the health of the crew of this vessel, is
now much better.

Your communication of the 7th Instant was
only received today, concerning the Examine
of Charles McIntosh as to his qualifications
for an appointment as Boatswain in the
Navy.

In my way north I shall order the Board
in obedience to your orders.

I have ordered Passed Midn. Spicer to the
"Vixen" as Master, in consequence of the
illness of Mr. Austin, who is at the
Hospital.

I hope the appointment may receive the
approval of the Department.

I have the honor to be,
Your very Obed. Servant

Foxhall A. Paylee
Commanding Home Squadron

USS Starnes Vicks
Off Pensacola Navy Yard
June 2nd 1887

I have examined the Engine & Boilers of this vessel since her arrival at this port & have to report as follows —

The injection, feed & hot-pipes have given way & will probably require to be replaced as they have been in the vessel for a long time & were only partially renewed, while the vessel was undergoing repair at the Navy Yard in Washington.

The outboard delivery valve does not seat properly & will have to be refitted. The Steam Exhaust Valve is leaking & will have to be reground. The joints to the port Valve chamber are defective & will have to be made anew.

There are many other little repairs required but they are such as all the engines are subject to.

The Boilers are in good shape but will be extremely difficult to repair, particularly when the tubes give way, on account of their construction.

~~I am of opinion that the grates are unsuitable for consuming bituminous coal.~~

I will thank the Department to give no
views in relation to the disposition of
Vessels of the Home Squadron, as soon as possible
that I may issue orders accordingly.

I hope the vessel, intended
to supply the place of the "Acceptor" will
get in readiness with despatch.

I am Sir, with great respect
Your Obedt. Servant.

Foxhall A. Paul
Commanding Home Squadron

U. S. Flag Ship Sarrano.
Pensacola. June 28, 1857

You will please to await at this port
the U. S. Ship Albany, under your command,
till further orders - Unless you should hear
any Expedition fitting out, and likely to depart
on our Southern Coast for the invasion of
her, when you will endeavor by all the
means under your command to suppress, and
prevent the landing of the same.

Your reports to me will be directed to
Philadelphia, and you will be pleased to
keep your vessel ready to sail at a moment's
notice.

Should you find it sickly at this port, you
will be pleased to cruise off, touching &
coming about in here frequently for news.

I am very respectfully,
Yr. Obed. Servant.

(Signed) Foxhall A. Parker.
Commy. Home Squadron

nailed
Charles T. Platt.
Commy. U. S. Ship Albany.
Pensacola.

Hairfield, Connecticut
July 23, 1857

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for the action of the Department, several papers this day received from Commander Platten. I think that acting Master William Sparks, should not have been suspended from duty, after his appearance to his Commander, that the Gunner had said nothing disrespectful against any officer.

In the newspapers of yesterday I observed that a revolution had broken out in the Island of Cuba, and immediately ordered Commander Platten in the Albany to look at the port of Havana on his way north for the purpose of giving protection to our Citizens should they require any.

I fear however the ship will have left Pensacola before my letter reaches there.

I have also directed the Vixen to proceed to Havana for the same purpose and hope that measure will be approved by the Department.

I am very respectfully
Your obt. Servant
Frederick A. Pickens
Colonel U. S. Army
Wilmington
N. C.

Wm. A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy

U. S. Flag Ship Sargass.
Philad^a Aug. 12. 1867

I have the honor to inform you that a letter from Commander Platt under date August 1st, he stated that, in obedience in order from me, he should sail immediately for Havana, to afford protection in Commerce and Citizens.

I have since then seen in the papers that the "Albany" and "Vixen" sailed the 3^d for Cuba.

Midshipman Codrington has been condemned by a Medical Army.
Midshipman Livingston is also in bad health, and will probably be also condemned if he requires a Army.
This will leave us short of Storage officers.

I should like to have one passed Midshipman, ordered to this ship, at Norfolk, for a watch officer in case of any of the Lieutenants being sick.

I am very respectfully
Yr. Obedt. Servant.

Forshaw & Payson
Commanding Ames Squadron.
A. Graham
of the Navy.
Washington DC.

Dear Charles and
John with love from
the family.

Love & Gratitude
Martin ordered
18 Aug 1857.

P G Aug 18

W. G. Ship Albany
Havana Aug 17. 1851.
Immediat
Enhall N. Tucker
Commanding Home Squadron

Sir I have the honor to forward
a copy of a letter addressed by myself
on yesterday to the Captain General of
Cuba, with this reply thereto.

This correspondence explains itself
so fully as to require no additional com-
ment on my part.

I have the honor to remain

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt Servant

Charles J. Platt

Comd the U. S. Ship Albany

P.S. I also enclose a copy of the Havana
Bulletin (being the official paper) of this date,
and beg leave respectfully to refer you to the
official reports contained therein, from which
it will appear that Lopez and his followers
have been completely routed. I believe from
the best and most reliable information that
has reached me, that the reports are quite
correct. It is believed that about one hundred
or fifty are still at large, divided in small

squads

Squalls, and that within a few days they will be compelled to surrender.

It is said by some, that an offer has been made to pardon all that are still at large, provided they will deliver up Lopez. On the other hand a different version is given to the story, to the effect that the offer to deliver them up emanates from the invaders themselves, on condition of obtaining pardon. How much credit is to be given to either of these reports I do not pretend to say.

All are well in board. I have been lying in bed, in order to quiet the alarms of our Citizens; but now that their apprehensions are in some measure allayed, I intend going out tomorrow, with the view of cruising off and on, the better to secure the health of my crew.

I ~~include~~ ^{enclose} this communication undated, to the Dept, lest you should have sailed before it can reach you, believing that this course will meet your approbation.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servant
Charles J. Hall
Comd the Albatross

Translation.

132, n.

Charles T. Platt Esq.
Commander of the U.S. Ship Albany,
and senior officer of the naval station in
these waters.

Havana August 16, 1851

Sir,

I have just received the letter
which you addressed to me under this date,
in relation to the degree of truth in reports
which are in circulation respecting an al-
leged connivance on the part of the U.S.
Sloop of War Albany and Steamer Vixen,
with the piratical bands which have re-
cently landed on this Island.

I have to state to you, that up
to this time no imputation whatever, of the
nature referred to, has come to my know-
ledge, nor do I believe, if such rumors
are in existence, that they would be credited,

considered worthy of any attention, by persons of intelligence and judgment in this country. For my own part, I place no credit in such imputations, rendering proper justice, as I do, to the noble frankness and elevated sentiment which, as an officer of the navy of the U. States, you have evinced on repeated occasions.

I am with the greatest consideration
your obedient &c. &c.
Jose de la Concha.

Copy of U. S. Ship Attorney

Havana August 16 1857

Excellency
 Sr. Dn. José de la Cienega
 Governor Capt General of the
 Island of Cuba
 de de de

Excellent Sir, Understanding that reports
 are in circulation, charging the U. S. Sloop of
 the Albany & the U. S. Steamer Viper, the former
 under my command and the latter under command
 of Lieut. Comdr. Smith, with collusion with the
 Cuban Separatist bands that have recently
 effected a hostile landing in the Island of
 Cuba, and feeling very deeply such an imputation
 upon the honor of the American Flag,
 respectfully desire to ask of your Excellency,
 whether any such imputation has obtained
 credence in any quarter entitled to respect.
 By giving any information in reply to this
 question, that may be in your possession with
 your Excellency's acknowledged candor and
 magnanimity, you will confer a very great
 favor upon your Excellency's

Very humble

I shall remain

Charles J. Hall

Comdr. U. S. S. Albany Senior Officer
 of U. S. Squadron Pacific

1. (Duplicate)

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac.
At Sea. Aug. 28. 1857

W.

I have the honor to inform the Department that this vessel is now at sea, bound for Havana, in obedience to your orders of the 23^d Instant.

Your telegraphic despatch of yesterday's date to Captain Stringham, directing me to proceed to sea without Mr. Litcher, was received at 11th past P.M. last evening, and at 5 this morning we were underweigh.

I yesterday ordered 2^d Asst. Engineer Nathaniel P. Patterson, to this vessel, to supply the place of Mr. Wheeler, who was unable to perform duty.

I ordered him to report to Captain Stringham.

I hope the department will approve my course in so doing.

I am, Sir, with great respect,
Your Obedt. Servant.

Foshue A. Vesper
Commanding American Squadron

W. H. A.

William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington D.C.

U. S. Ship Albany
Havana Sept. 1st, 1857.

Horatio A. Parker,
Commanding U. S. Home Squadron.

Sir

I have the honor to report, that, as announced in my letter of the 17th Ult. I weighed anchor & went to sea from this port on the morning of the 18th, with the view of cruising outside for a few days. The next day, I stood in near the coast, for the purpose of sending a boat in to the crews; but the weather having assumed a threatening aspect, I abandoned this intention and stood to the North-west, in order to obtain sea-room, in case of a gale. I also had in view the probability of meeting with vessels containing parties on their way to unite themselves with his followers, and of deterring or dissuading from the further prosecution of that desperate & unlawful enterprise. Having proceeded near a hundred miles in the aforesaid direction, I then stood down towards Cape St. Antonio, with the view of there making the land and cruising the coast on my return to Havana. Meanwhile, the weather had been very rough, and the barometer had continued to fall, during the 18th, 19th, & 20th, so that prudence required me to avoid approaching too near to the coast of Cuba. The wind during these three days had varied through nearly three quarters of the compass (from S.E. to N.W.), and on the morning of the 21st increased to a heavy gale, which

continued to blow with great violence until morning of the 23^d. Such was its severity, that I was obliged to send down stop-gallant masts and to have the hatches battened down. No age or life, however, was incurred, either by the ship or crew. On the 23^d, the weather having moderated, I made sail for this port, and came to anchor here on the 25th, about one o'clock P.M.

Since my arrival here a number of ships have arrived, or been brought into port by the aid of others, in a crippled condition - some of them with the top of a part of their cargoes - from the effects of the storm.

The followers of Lopez having been entirely dispersed, and a number of prisoners reported brought in to this place, on the 27th ult. I addressed a letter to the Captain General (of which is herewith enclosed), requesting permission to hold an interview with any Americans, who might be among them. Permission was readily accorded in a reply which is also enclosed. The interview was postponed until the morning of the 30th, the prisoners having in the meantime been transferred to the Castle of the "Punta", and some precautions having been made to their view. The Commandant of the Castle informed me that the whole number of prisoners was fifty, of whom about thirty or thirty-five were Americans, as we learned from themselves. The Chief was present throughout the interview, and other gentlemen, who was introduced as Inspector of Prisons, came in during its continuance.

ained until its close. The prisoners were
ly ironed, were clad in a prison uni-
i, and had their hair closely cut. They
confined in an arched gallery, to which
was had through two grated doors - the
one being entirely of iron. In the
ante-room, between the two doors, lay
garments worn by the prisoners at the
of their confinement.

On our entrance, the Americans were ordered
vance to the front, and all foreigners were
to the other end of the cell. Inquiry being
for the officers, the following presented
selves, viz.

Jas. A. Kelly, of New Orleans, formerly of Bayou
who held the rank of Captain in the ex-
pedition.

Robert M. Gider, of New Orleans, a native of
Ireland - a lieutenant in the same.

J. D. Baker, of ———, also a lieutenant.

No other officer of the expedition presented him-

They were informed that I had obtained per-
mission to visit them, and that my object was to
obtain from them any information they might
be able to give, which would be forwarded to the
Government of the United States, and perhaps
be the means of deterring others of our coun-
try from placing themselves in the same de-
plorable situation. They were told distinctly, that
they were in the power of the Spanish Govern-
ment; and that nothing could be done for them
by the United States, inasmuch as the President's pro-
clamation had declared that any persons joining

an invading force would thereby forfeit the protection of the Government of the U. States. This was said to prevent their forming any hopes from my visit.

The information obtained was given, in presence of the entire party, by the aforesaid officers, and being uncontradicted by any of them, may be regarded as the testimony of the whole.

They stated that the expedition sailed from New Orleans in the steamer "Pampero". They were not sure of the exact number composing it, but thought it was 287 - that it certainly did not amount to 500. Before landing in Cuba they anchored near Key West, where they remained several hours, and were visited by some citizens of that place. They landed in Cuba about two o'clock of the morning of the 12th August. The first fight took place on the 13th. From that time they had lost all recollection of dates. They had five engagements, but could not tell how many of their number had been killed. They ~~came with~~ ~~condemned~~ ~~muskets~~ - had no rifles, but many individuals had revolvers & knives. They brought with them 80,000 cartridges, and turned many more after landing. They had artillery. Soon after landing they found they had been deceived, and became anxious to return. They had been informed, before sailing, that the towns were in possession of the "patriots" (in their own language), and that the whole island was in a state of revolution. They ^{now} find that the fifty men captured with the

men were endeavouring to make their escape. It is so infer, from the fact that they were all distressed by the reception they met with, and distressed, as they said, with the "lies & deceptions" practised towards them. The country people generally fled at their approach, and none joined them. Exhausted with hunger & fatigue, the men composed this body threw away their arms a week or days previously — they could not distinctly remember when. They had not, at that time, knowledge of the offer of life to such as would give themselves up, but their intention was to throw themselves upon the mercy of the Spanish Government. They did not come in all together, but in small parties and at different times. They subsisted chiefly upon fruit, and the last food that some of them had eaten was a portion of their General's horse. There was no lack of ammunition, when they threw away their arms, though much of what they brought had been damaged by rain. Lieut. Snyder stated that he carried a musket, though an officer, and that he had 28 rounds of cartridges in his pocket when he threw it away.

Capt. Kelly stated that the editor of the New York Delta, Mr. Sigur, was instrumental in inducing him to join the expedition, having addressed him personally upon the subject: he has no doubt to believe that he persuaded many others also. The whole party manifested much indignation towards Gen. Lopez & Mr. Sigur, and many of them expressed their opinion that it would be worse for the latter, if he should live to return home. One being told

that Gen. Lopez was taken prisoner, a cry of
and exultation ran through the crowd.

They stated that Lopez was Chief of the
pedition.

Colonel Downman was second in command
and was killed on the 13th.

Colonel Wm. Scott Haynes, of Tennessee, was
another leader: according to their best belief
he was still in the mountains.

Colonel Crittenden had been an officer of
the U. S. army during the war with Mexico.

An Hungarian, named Progar, who acted
Adjutant General, was mortally wounded on
the 13th.

It is matter of regret, that so imperfect
narrative has been obtained from these impris-
onated men. In the excitement of the moment
many would speak at once, and to some
times it was difficult to get a satisfactory
answer, on account of the eagerness of all to
it.

Mr. Owen, the U. S. Consul, had desired
to inform these prisoners, that if they wished
see him, he would ask permission to visit
although he could do nothing for them in
official capacity. They said they wished to
him, and especially desired leave to write to
friends. They were told that their requests
go through the Consul, with more propriety
through myself, and that the former would
lose no time in asking for the requisite per-
mission. I will add, that he has been duly in-
formed of their wishes.

At the request of the Commandant of the
 the, the prisoners were asked if they had had
 benefit of medical attendance, since their
 imprisonment. They replied that they had. They
 also asked if they had been provided with
 meals a day, and whether they had bread
 & coffee for breakfast. Some said that they
 had, but others replied that they had no coffee.
 Commandant immediately inquired the reasons,
 his subordinate, who stated that those who had
 been confined there on the previous evening, came
 late to be provided for on that morning, but
 they would have their allowance of coffee at
 noon. He stated that the others had been provided
 according to the order.

It may be proper to add, that the prisoners
 seemed to be in good health, and by no means
 much reduced, as their exposure & hardships would
 be to warrant. They even appeared to be cheerful,
 which may have been the effect of their relief
 from a condition of far greater anxiety and suffering,
 experienced during their wanderings upon the island.

I should have stated that my First Lieutenant,
 Mr. Taylor, was with me during this interview.

The whole number of prisoners, including
 not yet brought to Havana, is officially
 stated to be about one hundred & thirty.

I have just learned that Lopez, who was
 turned on Friday last (Aug. 29th), was brought
 last night, and publicly garotted at seven
 o'clock, this morning.

I have the honor to remain

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servant
 Charles J. Rhea
 Commanding The A.

Charles F. Hall, Esq

Commanding U. S. Corps of War Army,
and Senior officer of the naval forces
of the U. States in this port.

Havana August 27, 1837

Sir,

I have received the letter
which you addressed to me this ^{day} soliciting
my permission to hold an interview with
the prisoners who have been brought to
this port, and who formed a part of the
sailing expedition which attacked this
Island.

I inform you, in reply, that
I order the Commander of Her Majesty's
frigate "Esperanza", on board of which the
prisoners are, to admit you, at any hour
which you may present yourself, to hold
the desired interview, with permission to re-
main

main with the prisoners so long as you may
find it convenient; and I avail myself
of this occasion to assure you of the esteem
which ~~your~~ noble conduct and frank and
honorable character excite you to from me

I am, therefore, with all respect,

your obt. st. &c.

Jose de la Concha

Señor Mayor J. Platt, Comand^{te} de la fragata
E. U. Albany y oficial mas antiguo de
guerra naval de los Estados Unidos en este
puerto -

Habana 24 de Agosto de 1894

Mi Señor mio,

He recibido la carta que
me ha dirigido, hoy solicitando mi permiso
para tener una entrevista con los prisioneros que
han sido conducidos a este puerto y que forman parte
de la expedición invasora que ha atacado esta
Isla.

En contestación, digo a V. S., que por la orden
del Señor Comandante de la fragata E. U.
"Albany", donde se hallan los presos, para que
admita a V. S. a cualquier hora que se presente.

queda tener la civildad que desea, permitiendo con ellos todo el tiempo que en
conveniente, -aprovechando yo por mi
esta ocasion, demanifestarle el aprecio
que merece su noble proceder y la fran-
queza de su caracter.

Vos, en este motivo, y con toda
consideracion, su ayo J. J. J.

2. J. M. B. D.

Me se la cuenta

(Copy)

U. S. Ship Albany.

Havana: Aug. 27th, 1851.

Excellency,

Sr. D. José de la Cocha,

Governor & Captain General
of the Island of Cuba.

Excellent Sir:

Understanding that some of
invaders of this Island have availed them-
selves of Your Excellency's recent proclamation,
granting pardon to such as would surrender them-
selves within a certain time, and have been brought
to this place; and being desirous of obtaining, for
information of the Government of the Uni-
ted States, all possible information with regard
to those persons, formerly citizens of that Govern-
ment, who have outlawed themselves and for-
feited its protection, by engaging in so unlaw-
ful & criminal an enterprise; - I desire to say
to Your Excellency, that I would be very glad to
have a personal interview with the aforesaid
persons (or any of them who may have come
to the United States), at such time and under
such circumstances, as Your Excellency may be
pleased to designate.

I would add, that this request is made
with a due sense of its delicacy, and that it
is far from my design to intrude in any
manner upon affairs pertaining to Your
Excellency's administration; and in case that

be the slightest reason to render such an interview improper or inconvenient, I hope Your Excellency will not hesitate to decline according to this request.

I have the honor to be,
with the highest consideration

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant

(Signed) Charles T. Platt

Com'dg the U. S. Ship Albatross
& Senior Officer of the U. S. Naval Forces present.

Copy

146

W. S. Ship Albany
Panama Aug. 16th 1857

~~Private~~

Forbes & Parker

Camaguey Squadron

Sir

I have the honor to report that
my letter of this date was closed and
dispatched to the steamer Cherokee I have
certained that fifty men belonging
to the expedition of Lopez & Captured
yesterday or last night by a Spanish
steamer, were shot to day at the Castle
of Alcares.

Believing that this item
will be of interest I write this letter
to be sent by the same mail

I shall do all in my power to
protect the interests of our citizens
and to keep you informed of the
progress of events by every opportunity

I have the honor to be
very respectfully

Yours Obedt Servant
(signature) Charles T. Platt
Comdr the Albany
a senior officer
present

N.S. Steamer *Vigil*.

Panama, August 7, 1857

I arrived here yesterday and have con-
sulted with our Consul. Some ten to fifteen
since in consequence of the difficulties
other parts of the Island, and suspicious
outbreak here, the Consul entertained con-
siderable fears for the safety of our Country-
and wrote to Pinarola requesting
a vessel might be sent here.
As there, all the Revolutionists have been
driven except probably five hundred
who have gone to the Mountains in the
vicinity of Principe where they are
surrounded by the Government troops, and
without aid, and of that there seems
little prospect, he compelled to surround
a short time.

As there seems to be little danger now of
~~insurrectionary movements at this~~
time. Still the Consul thinks that
there are not so secure but that the
reco of a vessel here will be bene-
ficial, at least for a few days, and I
am determined to remain for the present.

The Cholera and Yellow fever
are still in the air, but not to any great extent, I
am far off the Harbor, coming in occa-
sionally, to watch the course of events, until
precautions may no longer be deemed neces-
sary. I have the honor to be, Very respectfully,

Yr. Obed. Servant.

J. A. Parker. } (Signed) W. Smith.

Home Land. } Lieut. Commr.

Copy.

U. S. Ship Albany.
Havana. Aug. 15. 1857

Immodone

For Hall a Parker.

Comdr. Home Squadron

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, as
stated in my letter of the 1st Inst., I sailed from Pensacola
to Laig of the 3rd in company with the "Hips".
Owing to contrary winds during the
the passage, it was not until the morning
of the 9th Inst. that we made the entrance of
harbor of Havana.

Upon leaving the ship outside of the harbor, I imme-
diately went in, in my boat, and proceeded, in
obedience with your instructions, to communi-
cate with the U. S. Consul, and ascertain the
situation of affairs in the Island, with spe-
cial reference to the interest of our own
countrymen resident there.

From him I learned that everything was quiet
with the exception of some unimportant dis-
turbances existing in remote parts of the
Island, and that the only apprehension en-
tertained with regard to the safety of our
citizens was in case of the landing in Cuba
of any hostile expedition organized in the
United States.

In order to satisfy myself more fully on this
subject, I determined to have a personal
interview with the Captain General of the
Island. The next day being Sunday, this inter-
view was deferred until Monday, the 11th.

Inst. when I again went on shore, and in
with Mr. Owen, Mr. Gaul, proceeded to call
the Captain General. After a full and free
-versation with that high functionary, I
that his views with respect to the political
condition of the Islands, were substantially
same with those previously expressed by him,
and moreover that he had no apprehensions and
no apprehension of any immediate invasion
armed expeditions from the United States.
Under these circumstances, I deemed it inad-
-vent, on account of the health of the crew
this ship should not enter the harbor, until
more urgent necessity should arise for such
step.

In the morning of the 13th, however, while en
at some distance to the North Eastward, I
with the "Viper", and was informed by Mr. Comdr.
Lieut. Smith, that a landing had been effected
on near, Maricao, by a large party under the com-
of Gen. Lopez, and that much excitement was
prevailing in Havana; I immediately
for this port, on the receipt of this intelligence
and arrived here yesterday (14th) about 1 o'clock
p.m. - I found much excitement prevailing.
Innumerable conflicting rumors are in circulation,
nothing definite seems to be known, as to the
position of affairs. It appears however that
Spanish (said to be under the command of Gen.
effecting a landing on the morning of the 12th
at a place called Playetas, about four miles
of Bahia Honda - that they proceeded into the
as far as the town, or village, of Pinar, where
are now beset by the Spanish troops.

said, that two actions have been fought, but
the one so variously reported, that it is im-
possible to form any reliable opinion. Since my arrival
of troops have left, and are continuing to
be in place. In consequence of the serious
disease prevailing in the Island, I regard it my
duty to remain here. Aug. 16th

Several sick men among my crew, and also
valids, who were placed on board at Pensacola
for purpose of obtaining a passage to the States,
but it was deemed advisable to dispatch the "Vixen"
to Pensacola. She accordingly sailed this morning,
to return immediately.

As to the four prisoners Johnson, Thompson,
and Simmons, their mutinous deportment,
threats against the lives of officers, and the
bad influence of their example, had become
so dangerous to the peace and safety of the
Island that I deemed it absolutely necessary to be-
lieve them by some means; and as there seemed
no probability that any other would offer itself,
I determined to have them discharged here, and sent to
the States by the "Vixen", believing that this
would meet your approval.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servant.

Signed, Charles L. Platt.

Comd'g U.S. Ship Albany.

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac.
At Sea. August 28. 1857.

I have the honor to inform the Depart-
ment that this vessel is now at sea,
and to Havana in obedience to your orders
the 23^d Instant.

A telegraphic despatch of yesterday's date
from Captain Pringham, directing me to proceed to
without Mr. Litcher was received at 12 past
last Evening, and at 5 this morning we were
underweigh.

Yesterday ordered 2^d Asst Engineer Nathaniel
Patterson to this vessel to supply the place
of Mr. Wheeler who was unable to perform
duty. I ordered him to report to Captain Pringham
duty.

I hope the Department will approve my course
in doing.

I am, Sir, with great respect
Yr. Obed. Servant.

Foxhall A. Potter
Commanding Home Squadron.

Hon:
William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D.C.

U.S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Savannah. Sep. 4. 1851

I have the honor to inform the Department
the "Saranac" anchored in this port today,
arrived off the "Moro" early last evening,
little over six days from Norfolk.

We came through the Providence Channel
and passed the "hole in the wall" on the
morning of the 1st instant.

At daylight this morning we discovered the "Albatross"
the "N?", she having gone out of the harbor
yesterday bound to Key West. Commander Platt
has heard a rumor that two steamers with
men on board, were at that place,
prepared for the invasion of Cuba.

After learning from Commander Platt all the
which he possessed in relation to the state
of affairs at this port, I directed him to
~~go to Key West~~ to Key West, and enquire into the truth
of the rumor, and to act accordingly.

I am in possession of no news as yet, but
the Department has been made acquaint-
ed with by Commander Platt's despatch of the
1st inst. to me, which was forwarded through
the Department.

Immediately upon anchoring I addressed a note
to the Captain General requesting an audience
at his earliest convenience, which will probably
be

Wm. A. Graham }
of the Navy }
Washington D.C. }

be tomorrow.

The "Alcator" and "View" have not arrived here, nor have I heard anything of the leaving Norfolk.

I sent this by a vessel about to leave Charleston S.C., as it will be some time before a Mail Steamer will leave the United States.

I am Sir, with great
Yrs. Obed. Servant

Foxhall A.
Commanding Hon.

P.S. I have this moment received an answer to my note to the Captain General appointing me to this evening for an interview.

Respectfully,
Foxhall A.

U. S. Flag Ship Saranae.
Marana. Sep. 5. 1851

In my communication of yesterday's date, I stated to state that the Captain General had met before my arrival here, Colonel Scott Haynes (of Tennessee) one of the men of the Expedition, and Captain James Kelly, a Captain in the same.

I also understood that he provided each with a suit of clothes and money to defray their expenses home.

From the best information I can gain, there is no doubt, but that the whole invading force have been shot or taken prisoner; the latter are confined here, to the number about 150 men.

At the request of Commander Platt, a young man from Albany N.Y., was liberated, and now on board the "Albany".

Lives of those here are secure, but they probably be sent to Spain for the execution of the Queen.

Well, as soon as possible, make a report full to the department, of all the particulars pertaining to my mission here.

At a long and free interview with the Captain General last evening, a full report of which I will make to the State Department, as soon as possible. I have the honor to be

Yr. very Obed. Servant.

Foxhall A. Puffer
Commanding Home Squadron
of the Navy.
Washington D.C.

No. 4. (duplicate)

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Savannah, Sep. 5. 1857

Sir?

In obedience to your order, of 5th Inst. last, I beg leave to make the following report, as containing my views in regard to the effect produced on the Naval Service by the abolishment of punishment.

To the 1st question propounded in your communication I answer, that not being in the vicinity of recruiting stations, I cannot state, with certainty, what has been the effect on the recruiting service; but, judging from the difficulty of obtaining men, and those obtained being of a very inferior class, I am induced to believe that the abolishment of flogging in the Navy has had an injurious effect on the recruiting service.

To the 2^d question, I answer, that the effect upon the discipline and subordination of the Ship's company, has been, in my opinion, of the most injurious character, so much so as to destroy everything like proper discipline, for it has sometimes occurred on board this ship that men have refused to perform duty on the most frivolous pretences.

To the 3^d question, I state, that the crews of vessels (comprising the Home Squadron) evince less alacrity and cheerfulness than formerly, and that the orders from officers are less promptly obeyed.

Yr

Wm. A. Graham

Secretary of the Navy.
Washington D.C.

To the 4th question, I answer, that I know of no eff-
-ual means (under the existing laws and regulations of the
navy) by which the badly disposed persons on board
ships can be restrained.

And, to the 5th, and last, question proposed, I die
that ^{the} vessels of the navy, so far as has come within
my observation, are far less efficient than before
the abolishment of flogging.

I have thus given my candid opinion as to the effect
the abolishment of punishment has had on the dis-
-cipline and efficiency of the navy, but will state that I
of an officer who would not gladly see it abolished
provided some law was passed to ensure discipline
and prompt obedience to all lawful orders.

I earnestly hope that Congress may be induced to
pass a law at the next session

or law authorizing men to be confined in bread and
stoppage of pay, &c., by what is called drum head, or
Court martial, might, and I believe would, have a
effect; but, in all cases, punishment should be
crude as soon as possible.

In justice to the Petty Officers, Seamen and
Seamen, I take pleasure in stating that very little
complaint is made of them for want of proper care
and obedience to orders; but it is the Landmen &
disolute youths who are picked up in our large
cities, that create most of the difficulties which
occur on board our ships at sea, many of whom
no doubt, having been inmates in State prisons
and Penitentiaries.

Whilst on this subject, I will state to the dep-
-ment, that the late law, forbidding the commu-
-terations, has given much dissatisfaction among
the crews of our vessels.

Formerly, each man was permitted one tier

which they were paid in money, and thereby
 of fruits, vegetables &c. to carry to sea,
 but not only added to their comfort, but essentially
 to health; besides in time of war, or on long
 , this law could not be carried out, for, it
 happen that the whole ship's company would
 be on short allowance from necessity.

I feel convinced that the department, after
 going into this matter will be induced to recommend
 press, the repeal of the law alluded to.

I have the honor, to be
 Very respectfully
 Fr. Old. Serrant.

Joshua A. Parker
 Commanding Home Squadron

Reported to the Chief
the Bureau of Provisions
Nothing so far as relates
the Commutation of Rations.
my Depl
Sept 29. 57.

Refer to the Chief
of Provisions & Bldg.

The Bureau will be
of the general carrying
will with pleasure be
made on its provisions
to make it more useful
should any alteration be
necessary for operation & to
maps of 12, should be filed
be left to the discretion

Should the maps
be left to a whole ship
on short allowance, will
under the direction of the
the maps & plans. By
Bureau of Provisions & Bldg.
Sept. 30. 1857.

File

100

U. S. Flag Ship Saratoga.
Havana. Sept 6. 1851

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, for information of the Department, a copy of report, to The Hon. Secretary of State, upon subjects of his instructions to me, of the 2^d ultimo.

I also enclose a copy of my note to the Captain General, together with his reply, from which it will be seen that he received me as Commander in Chief of the Squadron only.

Though the Captain General did not accede to request to see the Prisoners confined here, as he saw by the letter enclosed to The Hon. Secretary of State on the subject, still in my interview with him today, he stated that if there were any among them whom I knew, and I would give their names, he would have them separated from the rest of the prisoners, and be rendered more comfortable on their passage to Spain.

~~I did select none, as I did not know any of them nor did I know who were the most worthy.~~

I am understood that the rumor of two Steamers at Key West, with armed men on board, was true, and expect the "Albany" here shortly. So soon as one of the vessels of the Squadron arrive, I shall get underway and cruise round the Islands and endeavor to intercept the Steamers.

Yrs.
William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy.
Washington D.C.

Steamers, reported to be on their way from
- Orleans, returning here in a few days.
I hear nothing of them.

In consequence of the excitement here, it
is necessary to keep one of the Vessels of
Squadron in the harbor.

I shall keep the Department regularly
informed of all my movements and the
- position of the Squadron.

Yours Sir, with great
- - -
Tr. Obed. Servant

Foxhall & V. L.
Commanding Home

(Copy)

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Havana. Sep. 6. 1857

Sir.

I have the honor to report, that, in obedience to the
instructions from the President, contained in your letter of the 23rd.
I got underway from Norfolk, and arrived at this port on
morning of the 4th Instant. I immediately addressed a note to the
General requesting an interview with him at his earliest conven-
ience; to which he promptly replied, and fixed the hour for the
interview at half past seven on that Evening.

Met on him at that hour, and the following is a synopsis of
information which I obtained from him in relation to the various
subjects alluded to in your instructions.

Regretted the necessity of executing the prisoners captured in
boats on the Bay, of the Island, but deemed it an act of
great severity in the circumstances, and he felt it to be his
to make an example of them, in order to deter others
from making a similar attempt. He stated that he considered
aspirants, and that they had been so deemed in the
declaration of the President of the United States. That they
were tried in a summary manner, and "full proof made of
guilt", and of their participation in the invasion of the
and by Lopez. He did not consider himself at liberty to
rush me with the proceedings in the trial, but would send
to his own Government, and the Spanish Ministers at
London, who would do whatever was right in the matter
to call of the Government of the United States.

Execution was delayed from half past 4 o'clock A.M.
Eleven, in order to give the prisoners an opportunity of
saying to their friends, during which period they made the
declaration

Yours,

Samuel Webster.

Sec. of State.

Washington D.C.

declaration that they constituted "part of the force of the
These particulars, he stated, were given for my personal satis-
-faction, inasmuch as he was not invested with diplomatic powers,
but referred our Government to the Spanish Minister at Wash-
-ington, in whom diplomatic powers were vested by the King's
Government.

As to Citizenship, he said that a majority of them claim
to be Citizens of the United States, but they were from various
Countries, and that it was of no consequence to what nation
they had belonged, as they were captured in the waters of Cuba,
with arms in their hands, endeavoring to escape in boats from
an expedition in which they had engaged against the Island of Cuba.
In relation to such persons as may be hereafter captured,
who are not embraced in his recent proclamation giving
of life to such as delivered themselves up to the authorities,
the Captain General declares, that he will be compelled, however
reluctantly, to deal with them in accordance with his in-
-structions, which are in accordance with the laws of his own
-and other Countries, in relation to Pirates.

As to the matter of the Steamer Talem, he would repeat
he had said to the American Consul (who was then present)
in the present condition of the Island, a Spanish Cruiser
a right to ascertain the character of Merchant Vessels
the Waters of Spain; that one expedition had already lost
a Steamer, and that reinforcements were daily expected.
That the Spanish Cruiser had fired 3 musketted guns to
to show the friendly character of the vessel of war, of
no notice was taken by the Talem, and that the fire
of the musketted guns was rendered necessary by the course
pursued by the Talem. The General of Marina was
and it was to be presumed that the shot was fired
order. He declared, that he had requested Mr. Rodriguez
Commander of the Talem to call on him, and give him
correct statement of this affair, but ~~that~~ he had
done so. He expressed some surprise that Lieut. Rod

not come to at once, as the char of war was only doing
let by the laws of Nations, she clearly had a right to do.
On the day succeeding this interview, I addressed a note to
the Captain General requesting permission to visit the
prisoners now confined by the Spanish Authorities; in answer
which I received a communication, which, with my letter,
herewith, enclose. From the best information I am obtain-
boats containing the fifty men who were executed, were on
to Cayes, very near the shore of the Main last.
appears to have been the purpose of this detachment, in
desperate condition to which they were reduced, to put to sea
the hope of being picked up by some friendly vessel.
the morning of the 4th Inst., I communicated off the Muro
with the 'Albany', Commander Platt, and ascertained
from him that the Capt. General had released Col. Am.
Haynes (of Louisville) one of the Leaders of the Expedition;
James C. Kelly of New Orleans, formerly of Bayou Sara,
captain in the same. They were also provided with a suit
clothes and \$60 each in money. They are now on
the American ship 'Norma' in the harbor to sail
tomorrow for New York. At the solicitation of Commander
Platt a young man (whose name I did not learn) from
Albany N. Y., was released, and is now on board the 'Albany'.
Yesterday, a young man named Henry Sanford or Summers,
formerly, I hear, Captain of one of the Steamboats on the
river, was liberated, and sailed today for New Orleans.
I have not, as yet, been able to obtain the names of those
fired here, or of those shot, but shall use every exertion
possible, as soon as possible.
I was informed ^{this morning} by the Capt. General this morning that all
the party have been captured - he also informed me
that those confined here would embark on Monday next
for Spain. Last evening I received a communication from
the Captain General, stating, that from the passengers of
a Schooner just arrived from New Orleans, he had learned

that the Steamer 'Alabama' has been purchased for \$400,000
in New Orleans, and was to leave with 500 armed men, and
that the 'Pompeo' has left with 200.

There is much excitement here, particularly among
Catalan population, in consequence of a number of
Spaniards having been driven from New Orleans by the
club, but I hope it may pass off without any
results. This morning news arrived, of the ill treatment
of Spaniards at Key West, which has increased the excitement.

Any further information which I may be
to gain here, will immediately be sent to the Department.

I have the honor to be Sir
With great respect,
Yr Obedt. Servant.

(Signed) Foxhall A. Parker,
Comdg Home Squadron

U.S. Steam Frigate Saratoga.

Flag Ship - U.S. Home Squadron.

Havana. Sep. 4, 1857

Excellency

Don Rec. de la Concha.

Gov. of the

Island of Cuba &c. &c.

Excellent Sir.

I have the honor to acquaint your Excellency that I have been appointed by the President of the United States, a special mission, in addition to my duties as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Squadron on this Station, to confer with you in relation to matters, and to ascertain certain facts, arising out of the Capture, and Execution on the morning of the 16 Ultimo, by order of the Authorities of the Island of Cuba, of about fifty men, captured in battle, some of whom, it is supposed, were Citizens of the United States.

With your Excellency be pleased to give me audience at your earliest convenience.

I have the honor to be,

With high consideration,

Yr. Excellency's most Obedt. Servant.

(Signed) Foxhall A. Parker.

Commander in Chief of the
U.S. Naval Forces in
the West Indies.

Mr. Foxhall A. Parker.

Comandante en Jefe de las Fuerzas Navales
Estados Unidos, en las Indias Occidentales,

Habana 4. de Set. de 1897

Mi Señor mío.

He recibido la cédula
de V.S. de este día, en la que me anuncia
la honra especial que le ha conferido el Seno
de la República de los Estados Unidos
al designarlo de Comandante en Jefe de la
Fuerza Naval en esta citación, y me suplico
una hora para recibirle.

No habiéndome participado el
no de S. M., que V.S. iba a presentarse a
la ciudad, revestido del carácter de Comandante
del Seno Presidente de la República,
el objeto que expresa, solo con el de
Comandante en Jefe de las fuerzas navales

delos Estados Unidos en esta Estacion
la satisfaccion de recibirlo y conferir
V.S. alas siete y media de la noche
en mi Palacio.

Los de V.S. con toda afor
do titente J. J. L. S.

Jose de la C.

Abraham A. Parker Esq.

Commander in chief of the naval forces
of the United States in the West Indies

Havana, Sept^r. 11, 1851

111

I have received your communication of this day, in which you inform me of the special commission with which you have been invested by the President ^{of the Republic} of the United States, in addition to your charge as Commander in chief of the naval Squadron on Station, and request me to give an answer receiving you.

Not having been apprised by Her Majesty's Government, that you were about to present yourself in this city, invested with the character of special Commissioner from the President of your Republic, for the purpose stated, I shall have the satisfaction of receiving and conferring

confering with you, only in the character of Com-
mander in chief of the naval forces of the
United States on this station, at half past
6 o'clock this evening, at my palace.

I am, Sir, with all consideration

your obedt. servt. &c

José de la Concha

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Havana. Sep. 10. 1857.

I regret to announce to the Department the
of James Barron (V. Sec.) and Henry Grover
on board this ship, of dysentery, the former
on the 6th and the latter on the 7th Instant.
He was from New York, and Barron from
Massachusetts.

With the exception of one French Brig of war,
there are no foreign men of war in the harbor
and of the Spanish Squadron are cruising
in the Island, having the "Esperanza" Frigate;
Brig and Steamer "Pizarro" in this harbor.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully,
Yr. Obed. Servant.

Foxhall A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron.

William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy.
Washington.
D.C.

No. 7.

U. S. Flag Ship Saramac.
Off Havana. Sep. 12. 1857

Sir

Several violent and sudden cases of dysentery having broken out among the crew of this ship on the 10th, determined me to put to sea yesterday, and cruise off this harbor, in the hope that the disease would be checked by the sea air.

All was quiet when we left port, but I shall communicate with our Consul, every day or two, and return into port on the 15th or 16th instant, to meet the Mails.

The "Albany" returned from Key West yesterday. Commander Platt reports all quiet in that quarter - He learned that the Steamer "Pampero" was in the St. John's river (Florida) blockaded by Revenue Cutters. If I had a vessel of easy draft, I would send her to ascertain the truth of this report.

It would appear from a New Orleans paper of the 6th Inst., that the Steamer "Alabama" is still running on her regular trips between Saramac and New York, so the information received by the Captain General in relation to these vessels was incorrect.

Sincerely hope you will see proper to increase the Naval force in this Station, as soon as practicable.

Even if no attempt of invasion should be made, the Squadron is too small for the protection of our Commerce and Citizens in the West Indies.

It cannot be disguised that the inhabitants of

Havana

Wreston.

William A. Graham

Secretary of the Navy.

Washington.

DC.

Havana, are ill disposed towards the people of the United States, on account of the recent invasion, and it is reasonable to suppose, that the same feelings exist in other parts of this Island and Porto Rico.

It would, therefore, be prudent to send one of the Squadron occasionally to visit the different ports.

Besides, our Commerce wants looking after in other parts of the West Indies, as well as on the Coast of Venezuela, Nicaragua &c.

The "Albany" is now cruising in company, and has a good many of both the officers and crew sick.

I shall be compelled to send her in a week or two to Pensacola, for provisions.

I have heard nothing from the "Decatur" since Commander Green reported to the department, that he should sail from Pensacola, for Havana, on the 21st Ulterior.

I shall send orders by the next steamer to Commander Green, to proceed to Havana immediately, to relieve the "Albany", unless he is under orders from the department.

Commander Platt sent the "Vixen" from this place to Pensacola on the 16th Ulterior, with orders to return immediately. Nothing has been heard of her since except that she had arrived; after a fair passage to Pensacola. I fear some of her Machinery has again departed.

The non-appearance of the "Decatur" I cannot account for, therefore, left with but two vessels ("Saranac" & "Albany"), and I deem it prudent that both should the present, remain near Havana.

Plato under great disadvantages, whenever they converse with the Captain General, for the want of interpreters. None of the officers speaks Spanish, and interpreters employed from the Shore, are not always depended on.

35 of the Prisoners sailed on the 8th for Spain in a
conveyed by a Sloop of war, and Steamer.

that 25 were left in the Hospital, and that about
in in prison, there not having been room in the
for them all.

Before the prisoners sailed, a collection was made
of comforts for them on the passage to Spain.

When, an American gentleman, said it was necessary
permission to put them on board the transport,
readily obtained, on application to the Captain.

Before the prisoners sailed, I requested our Consul
to visit them (being prevented from doing so
which he did, and found they were cheerful, well
clean, and that the wounded had proper medical

mission to the Captain General, was known here
days before we arrived, and I have reason for
that the council intended to be pursued towards
aided on. Personally, the Captain General's conduct
me, has always been courteous, and I am convinced
the reason for his refusing to let me visit
was, after Commander Platt, our Consul, and several
Americans had been permitted to do so.

It was to avoid correspondence in regard to

not been able to find a single American who
the execution of the prisoners on the 16th

Several foreigners did, and I shall send
statements to the State department.

I have reasons for believing that the Charles
Island are not prepared to throw off the
Yoke, however much they may wish it, and
bring force, no matter from whence it may
come;

come, will not meet with the least aid from the
unless the force should be overwhelming; and
there would be some doubt about it.

We shall be compelled to leave a good
the Lick from the different vessels of the
at the Hospital, Pensacola; and I ask
from the department to send officers to
Mobile &c., for the purpose of shipping men
their places.

Mr. Van Vleet, the young man who was
at the request of Commander Platt, was
board the Steamer "Winfield Scott", bound to
on the 8th Inst.

Act'd Sept. 29. I have the honor, to be
Very respectfully
Yours &c.

readily granted. To
recruit men to supply
deficiency is proposed.

W. A. S.

Done
W

Foxhall A. S.
Commanding Honors

(Duplicate.)

U.S. Flag Ship. Saranac.
Off Havana. Sep. 12. 1857

In our treaty with Spain, Article 18, it is stated
vessels of war of either party, meeting with merchant
on the high seas or along the coasts, for the avoidance
of any disorder, shall keep out of cannon shot,
boats on board, and may enter her to the number
two or three men only &c.

It thus means that the vessel of war shall not ap-
proach within cannon shot of the merchant vessel
(may be suspected of unlawful traffic) and while so
near? In that case, a merchant vessel wishing
to avoid any vessel of war, could not be brought to
character ascertained. It, does it mean that
having been brought to, and while the exam-
ination is going on, that the vessel of war shall
keep out of cannon shot?

In the present state of our affairs with Spain, it is
probable that this article of the Treaty should be rightly
understood, and I respectfully ask the department
for information, for I am unable to understand

I have the honor to be
Respectfully, Yr. obed. Servant.

Foxhall A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

ans A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington D.C.

7

U. S. Flag Ship *Saranac*
Havana. Sep. 17, 1857

I have the honor to inform the Department
the "*Saranac*" and "*Albany*" came in, and anchored
this port yesterday.

The steamer from New Orleans, received a des-
patch of the survey held upon the "*Decatur*", in
it is recommended that she be ordered
sailing her to the Coast of Brazil.

As I stated in my despatch No. 7, I have
Commander Allen to this port, unless he is
ordered from the Department.

Enclose, herewith, a copy of a letter from
Major Platt to the Captain General, with the
theater, for the information of the Depart-
ment.

A New York steamer has not yet arrived, and
heard nothing, since leaving Norfolk, from
the Department.

I am happy to state that the sick of the
"*Albany*" are better; however, Lieut. Frenchard
is confined to his room, and, from all seam-
en, Lieut. Cook & Thompson of the "*Decatur*",
are also unfit for further duty in the Squadron.
I therefore, respectfully request the Department
order others to supply their places.

I have

Wm. A. Graham

Secretary of the Navy.

Washington D.C.

I have made, and am still making, every
to obtain the release of the prisoners who
still confined here, and from the recent
the United States, stating that all was
there, I am in hopes the Captain
be induced to release some of them, at

I am very respectfully
Your Obed. Servant

Foxhall A. S.
Commanding Honey

Copy!

U.S. Ship Albany.

Savannah, Sep. 2, 1857.

His Excellency

Sr Don Jose de la Concha.

Governor, Cap't General of the Island of Cuba.

re re re.

Excellent Sir.

Without

assuming to interfere with affairs exclusively belonging to your Excellency's jurisdiction, I take the liberty of pressing this note, for the purpose of expressing the anxiety that I feel respecting the decision of your Excellency with regard to the prisoners recently belonging to the band, which so lawlessly invaded this Island.

Now that the forces at your Excellency's disposal have signally succeeded in crushing that attempt, permit me to beg that at least you will take into consideration the expediency of releasing these miserably deluded & misguided men, and sending them to their homes, to bear testimony to the generosity as well as to the stability of your Excellency's government.

I trust that your Excellency will understand, without further demands upon your patience, the motives and feelings that prompt me to make this request, and have the honor to remain

Yours Excellency's

(most respectful & obed. servant.

(Signed) Charles F. Platt.

Commanding the "Albany" & Senior
Officer of the U.S. Navy present.

Copy!

Matana. 3 de Sept. de 1857.

Señor D. Carlos T. Platts.

Comte de la Corbeta de los Estados Unidos 'Albany' y
Oficial mas antiguo de las fuerzas navales de los
E.U. en este puerto.

Muy Señor mío.

Comprendo muy bien la rectitud de
causas y sentimientos que le han impelido a dirigirme
petición que hace V.S. en su carta de ayer, sobre
conveniencia de poner en libertad y enviar a sus casas
los presos que han formado parte de la expedición
y que tan alevosamente ha invadido esta Isla.

Me es muy sensible, sin embargo, no poder acceder
a la solicitud de V.S., pues al dar cuenta al Gobierno
E.U. de los sucesos ocurridos en esta Isla, le notify
que remitiera aquellos presos a España, poniéndolos
en disposición para su superior determinación. Sin
embargo, en mi deseo de dar a V.S. una prueba

Consideración por la conducta franca y leal que ha
señado en estas circunstancias, como bajo responsabilidad
a gracia algun individuo de los mencionados presos
que V.S. tenga a bien señalarme; cuyos antecedentes
de cometer tan grave atentado, con respecto en parte a
excepción de lei, permitiéndole regresar libremente a su
pais. De todas maneras, para tranquilizar la conciencia
de V.S., en cuanto a la suerte de estos presos, pues
asegurarte que sus vidas están completamente pro-
tegidas en el indulto acordado por mi circular de
12 de Agosto proximo pasado.

De V.S. con toda consideración, D. Platts

L. A. M. B.

(Signed) José de la Cueva

Havana September 11 de 1851.

ing been requested by a very large portion of the prisoners of the late Cuban Expedition to write to their friends of their situation and good health, I have thought it, best to throw my observations, which may be general in their principal features, into the form of a Circular, and I have now the honor to address at the request of

prisoners were brought to this city in different lots, and as fast as they arrived were shaved of their hair, together, and placed all in one long saloon in the prison.—During the first few days it was exceedingly hot to obtain permission to visit them.—The British Consul, Joseph T. Crawford Esq. did so on the first day, accompanied by his secretary Mr. W. Sidney Smith, who has never ceased in his exertions in their behalf, the first cheering words. On the next day Mr. Allen F. Owen, the American Consul, asked for and obtained permission, and, as I was subsequently informed by the prisoners, told them that "the President had promised without the pale of the law and he could do nothing for them."—During several days our only means of amelioration of their condition was through Mr. Smith who continued to visit them twice daily, and speaking in their behalf, by which means he improved in a very great degree their small comforts and took up a subscription among the English residents for the purpose of providing extra clothing for the British subjects, and the secretary of the German Society, in consequence of receiving a letter from them, went to see them and subsequently provided for the Germans in the same manner that the English provided for his countrymen.

not able to obtain permission to see them until Friday 5th instant at noon, when I found that twenty-two of them had been sent to the hospital, and that some few of the others had had their chains taken off, which I could not learn.—The Americans and some others I found very much dispirited in consequence of the change Mr. Owen had held to them, and from seeing others so much better cared for, and I did what I could for them, assuring them I would do my utmost to have them as well provided for as their more fortunate ones had been.

During the prison I spoke to several of my friends about raising funds for the prisoners, and so great was the interest shown in their behalf that our efforts were crowned with the utmost success. I have due tribute to those Cuban gentlemen who so generously provided me with funds, without which our efforts would have been barren, and also to many American friends who contributed not only money but personal services. I would gladly mention names, but the impossibility of naming all would render the particularising presently invidious and I will therefore cite but two, who are connected with the press; these are Mr. N. Y. Courier & Enquirer and Mr. Callahan, of the N. O. Picayune; to these gentlemen in common with others much praise is due.

Today the prisoners received several visits and a sum of money wherewith to purchase bread.—Mr. Smith, Mr. Callahan and myself visited them before day, and I was enabled to send them their extra clothing. They were in excellent spirits and as many of the countrymen had now obtained permission to visit them, and they found they were not abandoned by their friends, they were quite gay.—Writing materials were today allowed them at the request of Mr. Smith and they wrote to their homes. They all received a small sum of money to purchase such trifles as they might require. They received information that Commodore Parker was not allowed to see them which they regretted. During the afternoon they had a short visit from Mr. Owen.

Today morning as they were to embark early, Mr. Smith, Mr. Callahan and myself visited them before day, and bread before going onboard. Besides what they received from the government each man had a woolen shirt, a pair of pants, a pair of stockings and a tin pot; and onboard ship were placed for their use, 2 boxes tobacco, 2 barrels vinegar and some small stores, and the sum of \$735 was placed in the hands of Capt. Ortiz of the Primera de Guatemala for general distribution on arrival at the port of destination. The German Society gave Capt. Ortiz \$136 for the Germans and several persons left sums for individuals. They embarked in high spirits and excellent health, all desiring a most affectionate farewell to be sent to their friends and relatives of their high hopes for a speedy release. Those who remain here awaiting ship will leave in a few days.

Those who are in the hospital are all doing well and are very well cared for by every one around them. They are allowed writing materials and their friends will probably receive letters from them as early as they can. The Captain General has been very considerate and kind in his orders relative both to sick and well, and the jailers have treated them with much consideration.

In view of the exertions for their liberation I would suggest to you some prompt effort in their behalf, through the Minister at Madrid, for the reason that the proximate accouchement of the Queen will afford a most favorable opportunity to grant them all a free pardon, and the liberation of these here would induce us to suppose that the same might be obtained for all.

I have the honor to be respectfully,

Your very obt. Servt.

J. S. THRASHER.

brought to Havana from the late Cuban Expedition under the Command of
 also Lopez, and final disposition of them as far as known.

Sent to Spain by steamer Isabel la Católica.

A. Downer.	Mobile.	J. D. Hughes.	New-Orleans.
Lery.	Quebec.	F. D. Hough.	New Albany Ind.

Sent to Spain by ship Venus.

Schlessinger.	Hungary.	D. E. De Wolf.	Mobile.
H. Mc. Donald.	Mobile.	H. J. Thomason.	Mobile.
Norris.	Mobile.	A. R. Wier.	Mobile.

Sent to Spain by ship Primera de Guatemala.

Casapova.	New-Orleans.	George Holdship.	St. Louis.
H. Mc. Kinsey.	Bardstown Ky.	James H. Hearsby.	New-Orleans.
Seay.	New-Orleans.	Luke Scully.	New-Orleans.
Baker.	New-Orleans.	William Wilson.	New-Orleans.
Bader.	Germany.	Thos. Daily.	New-Orleans.
F. Hanna.	Baltimore.	James M. Wilson.	New-Orleans.
Dwin.	New-Orleans.	Henry Saile.	Liverpool.
Roussseau.	New-Orleans.	William K. Hurd.	New-Orleans.
L. Craft.	Memphis Tenn.	G. Bontila.	Hungary.
Bash.	New-Orleans.	Slezinger.	do.
Simpson.	Philadelphia.	Radnitz.	do.
Inslee.	New-Orleans.	Curneli.	do.
Pruitt.	Alabama.	Petrie.	do.
Hilton.	Washington D.C.	Kercker.	do.
Wilkinson.	Mobile.	Vioag.	do.
Uen.	St. Louis.	Ngikos.	do.
Ute.	New-Orleans.	Aidalar.	do.
Coleman.	New-Orleans.	Michael Biro.	Austria.
Belron.	New-Orleans.	David Winborn.	Missouri.
dy.	New-Orleans.	Thomas Hudnall.	New-Orleans.
Schmidt.	Galena Ill.	H. Von Schlicht.	Berlin.
Forster.	New-Orleans.	J. B. Gunst.	New-Orleans.
oman.	Charleston.	Timothy K. Henry.	Natchez.
	Alabama.	Howard Purnell.	
Hart.	Berlin.	John Mc. Kinnis.	
ust.	Petersburg Va.	E. Q. Bell.	New-Orleans.
Mc. Grath.	St. Louis.	John Carter.	
Daily.	New-Orleans.	Bernard Mc. Cabe.	Ireland.
uxell.	New-Orleans.	John Murphy.	Ireland.
ailor.	New-Orleans.	Hiram West.	Spring Valley Ohio.
anton.	Berlin.	C. Sebring.	
Murray.	New-Orleans.	Jas. Halpin.	
Hernandez.	Baltimore.	Benj. Gilman.	Cin. Ohio.
Ota.	Havana.	Edward Crissy.	
Allen.	Depotville N. York.	Jas. Smith.	
magne.	St. Louis.	Hudson Nelson.	
Lea.	Havana.	A. R. Ludwig.	New-Orleans.
Ketcaif.	New-Orleans.	Charles Harrison.	do.
Ketcaif.	Ireland.	Victor Duprat.	do.
Orider.	Ireland.	Henry Stanmyre.	do.
Wilson.	New-Orleans.	George Quick.	Philadelphia.
Vaughan.	Kentucky.	Henry Mc. Henry.	New-Orleans.
Cameron.	Philadelphia.	Jas. D. Donnelly.	Pottsville Pa.
Yalla.	Kentucky.	Charles Giblin.	Cin. Ohio.
Yalla.	Jeff. County Va.	John Murtigh.	Philadelphia.
Yalla.	Ireland.	Thos. Mc. Clelland.	Ireland.
Yalla.	New-York.	John Mc. Kneiss.	Pittsburg.
Yalla.	New-York.	Pedro M. Lopez.	Venezuela.
Yalla.	Miss.	Pedro Velazco.	Cuba, servant of Lopez
Yalla.	Germany.	Manuel Fleury.	Cuba.
Yalla.	Prussia.	Jacob Harbele.	Germany.
Yalla.	Baden.	Louis Haekel.	Swiss.

Manuel Martinez.	Havana.	H. Schmidt.	Saxony.
F. A. Lainé.	Cuba.	Conrad Bechtold.	Prussia.
F. C. Mahan.	Danville Ky.	Jas. Ogilvie.	New-Orleans.
John Boswell.	Baltimore.	Harvey Williams.	New-Orleans.
W. L. Conatantine.	Canada.	John Cooper.	
Wm. Cousens.	Lincoln Eng.	Jas. B. Fagin.	Ohio.

Waiting Ship at Havana,

C. J. Duffyn.	New-Orleans.	Asher J. Phillips.	New-Orleans.
Thos. Little.	Mobile.	Jacob J. essert.	
Michael Geiger.	New-Orleans.	Thos. Bryan.	
John D. Brown.		John Bachilder.	New-Orleans.
George S. Berry.	Cin. Ohio.	John Brown.	

IN THE HOSPITAL. ALL DOING WELL.

A. L. Alfonso.	Cuba. arm.	M. J. Keenan.	Mobile. finger slight.
Manuel Aragon.	leg.	John Tatbot.	N. Orleans hand slight.
J. B. Ruvira.	Galicia. leg.	Jose Donvren.	Cuba. side slight.
Preston Essex.	St. Louis. leg slight.	Wilson A. Rietes.	Miss. leg slight.
Robt. H. Ellis.	Washington D. C. left hand.	William Losner.	Saxony. finger.
John Glue.	N. Orleans. thigh slight.	Thos. Mac Neil.	Lumpkin Co. G.
N. Port.	Prussia. finger slight.	Henry Jasper.	Saxony. foot.
John N. Davis.	N. Orleans shoulder slight.	L. Palanka.	Hungary. arm.
James Fiddes.	Malta. both legs.	Wm. Miller.	Northampton Eng.
J. G. Porter.	Dublin. breast & arm slight.	J. B. Weymouth.	Nashville. Tenn.
G. Richardson.	N. Orleans. arm slight.	John Robinson.	England. side slight.
F. Curvia.	Havana. arm.	George Edgerton.	Natchez. sick.

N. Lopez.	Executed.	Capitan Lopez.	In prison.
P. S. Van Vechten.	Delivered to Capt. Platte.	Julio Herren.	Detained.
Andrae Gonzalez.	In prison.	J. A. Kelly.	} Liberated.
Somers.	New-Orleans. Pardon.	H. S. Haynes.	

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Saranac. Sep. 25, 1857

Commander Platt reported to me that
was a great deal of insubordination on
the "Albany", and requested that I should order
a Martial in t'n of the crew.
therefore, ordered a Court to convene on the 19th
inst, for the trial of these men, and two belong-
ing to the "Saranac". There are several others
board the "Saranac", who have been reported
bad conduct by Commander Pendergast, but
cannot be brought to trial, as the offences
committed in the United States, previous to
leaving Norfolk.
proceedings of the Court Martial, sent by
mail.

The "Alcator" arrived here on the 24th, after
her passage from Pensacola. She was
sent to Key West, in compliance with the
order of the Department, but here to, off this
port, and just about on board this ship,
I ordered her to come in, as many of the
Officers and crew were sick, and there was
necessity for her going to Key West, as
the "Albany" had recently visited that port.
The Commander of the "Alcator" reported
that the leak in the bottom of the ship
had increased since leaving Pensacola, and

Wm.
William A. Graham.
Sec. of the Navy.
Washington D.C.

I ordered a board of officers to examine
also ordered a board of Medical Officers
critically, the state of the sick, and en-
deavor to find out the cause or causes of such.

Reports of both Boards are herewith.

I intend going to sea in the morning
run into the harbor of Matanzas to look
over our interests there.

I shall leave the "Albany" here for a few
days, both the medical officers of the "Deceitful"
and it is necessary that the Surgeon of the
should attend to the sick on board the "Deceitful".

I intend returning here in a few days to meet
a party from the United States, and hope to
Officers and crew of both ships improve
health. If the cases in the "Deceitful" continue
to increase, and I find her unfit

I shall send her to Norfolk for repair.
The "Albany", as I informed you in a previous
will be sent to Pensacola for provisions.
Ship will soon have to follow for the
purpose, although I hope to visit some
ports on the South Side of Cuba, before
leaving.

Everything here is perfectly quiet, and
said about another invasion.

Enclose a list of the American prisoners
here since the 16th ultimo, which was sent
Captain General at my request, and which
is correct.

I also enclose a copy of my letter to the
General, in relation to the liberation of the
with his answer -

His Excellency, Mr. Litcher arrived here
20th, and left yesterday.

an interview with the Captain General, and
relation with him relative to the release of
ours, the substance of which, I have related
State Department; at Mr. Litcher's suggestion.
It is reported today that Captain Robert Ellis
Washington City had been released, but I have
no confirmation of it, from our Consul, who has
left me.

We received no communications from the
State Department, since 23^d ultimo.

I regret to inform the Department
of the death of George Mullaw, Coal Heaver,
14th Instant, of dysentery. He was an Irish.

Yours very respectfully
J. A. Parker

Joshua A. Parker
Commanding Army Squadron.

It will be perceived by the reports of
C. Conroy Smith, sent from Paracota,
del. through the Navy Department, that the
is unable to proceed to sea.

Respectfully Inobedient.

J. A. Parker

U.S. Flag Ship Saranac.

Havana. Sep. 25. 1857

My, Sr Don Jose de la Concha.
or Capt Genl of the B. of Cuba se.

Excellent Sir.

From

you received this day from New Orleans and other parts
the States, I observe with pleasure, that all the
news for the marauding invasion of the Island,
dispersed, and that the President of the United States
has issued strict orders to both Civil and Military officers
very exertion to prevent, in future, any marauding
expedition, or the embarkation of such men on any pre-
text, from any part of the United States.

that all appears tranquil, would it be asking
of your Excellency to take into consideration
the humanity of releasing the prisoners, now
in your Excellency's disposition, particularly such as
are sick and die.

me, I am sure, would be the means of tranquilizing
the people of the United States, and be most
valuable to my Government.

be you will appreciate the motives I have for
requesting this favor at your Excellency's hands, and
be to be. With high considerations of respect,

Yr. Obed. Servant.

(Signed) Zachariah A. Parker.

Commander in Chief of the
U.S. Naval forces in the West
Indies.

Presidio Departamental de La Habana

Relacion nominal de los 92 Prisioneros Piratas
americanos que han ingresado y estubo a parte en
el deposito

Nombre	Edad	Patria	Oficio	Padre	Madre
Por la Fragata Guatemala					
Ante	29	Legion	Farmer	Alon S	Mary
Lee	19	New London	Clerk	Wooden L	Elizabeth Thompson
W. Carey	21	South Carolina	Engineer	Conroy D	Isabel Leado
Williams	48	Connecticut	Farmer	Elias W	Betsy Williams
David	22	Pennsylvania	Farmer	Saml H	Mary Jones
Wilson	22	Indiana	Clerk	David W	Ophelia Noel
L. Kefauver	21	New York	Steward	Richard H	Ellen Sora
Fagen	19	Ohio	Boatman	Lewis J	Ruthy Morgan
Williamson	25	Mobile	Engineer	James H W	Mary Bostwood
Mullin	20	Maine	Look	James	Lucy Alord
Purnell	20	Mississippi	Printer	Geo M P	Rebecca Howell
Murray	21	Maryland	Printer	John	Breget Farley
Whitship	20	Pennsylvania	Boatman	George	Elizabeth Hook
Wat	22	ditto	Carpenter	John	Martha Moudal
Reine	18	Kentucky	Bricklayer	James	Polly Ferrills
R. Scott	20	ditto	Carpenter	John	Jane McMillen
Engelman	40	Kentucky	Clerk	James	Mary Bap
Hero	16	Georgia	Clerk	John	Maria Christoph
Cratt	23	Virginia	Seaman	William	Maria Pierce
Bush	24	ditto	Boatman	George	Mary Elisk
Wilson	22	New York	Clerk	Samuel	P. Parker
etc	21	New Orleans	Driver	John	Mary
Ballu	25	Indiana	Clerk	J. M.	Sarah Carter
mas	32	New Orleans	Clerk	Francis	Cath: Acosta
Hilton	26	Washington	Printer	John H	Susan Oparon
Helson	18	Kentucky	Boatman	William	Ellen Ray
more	20	Alabama	Blacksmith	Dustan	Mary McCarty

Nombres	Edad.	Patria	Oficio	Padre	Madre
John Denton	28	New York	Clerk	Richard	Patience
Thomas Denton	32	ditto	Carpenter	ditto	ditto
John Boswell	25	Maryland	Mason	John B	Elizabeth
J Hearsey	25	New Orleans	Clerk	Thos H	Mrs Willm
James Brady	36	Ill. Wright	Labourer	Peter	Mary Pot
Wm Cameron	45	Virginia	Carpenter	Daniel	Catharine
David O-Russell	24	Kentucky	Bricklayer	David	S Clinton
Patrice ettae Gath	28	Illinois	Labourer	John	William
George W Foster	17	New York	ditto	John	Ann
Cornelius Cook	21	Alabama	Printer	Edw H	Sarah R
John R Peritt	24	ditto	ditto	John P	Rhody
J O Simpson	23	Penn ^a	Butcher	J A	Briggs
George Hudson	21	ditto	Farmer	J W H	-----
Elijah Jollis	22	N York	Boatman	Levi	Claraph
George E Mulcahy	22	Ohio	Druggist	Isa B	Barbara
Henry Mulcahy	19	Mississippi	ditto	ditto	ditto
Cornelius Leving	25	N York	Labourer	Cornelius	Mary
Robert H Grier	34	Kentucky	Merchant	Martin	Sarah
Charles Gebbin	23	Pennsylvania	Boat ^m	Charles	Cecilia
J C Maham	23	Kentucky	Farmer	Francois	Mercy
A West	26	Ohio	Saddler	Charles	Elizabeth
James Chapman	19	South Caro	Carpenter	Amos	Emeline
Edwin I Bell	20	do	Clerk	Charles H	Elizabeth
David Whitman	37	do	Bricklayer	Elson	Catharine
John Carter	26	Illinois	Carpenter	Henry	Elizabeth
John Cooper	19	Virginia	Clerk	Charles	Mary P
L Stanmias	26	Pennsylvania		William	Sarah
Ansell R Ludwig	28	Marine	Seaman	John	Sophronia
Richard Nelson	39	Copake	do	Reuben	Elmina
Charles Harrison	21	New Orleans	Printer	William	Sarah
Aug ^e Salmae	19	Ohio	Bricklayer	James	Estlin
James Albing	21	N York	Boatman	James	Mrs Ann
Victor Duprat	19	New Orleans	Engineer	Juston	Elizabeth
Fr J Constantin	22	Canada West	Printer	Lewis	Maria
Thomas Russell	35	Virginia	Farmer	Thomas	Ann

152

Madri

Vapor Labella Catolica

Puestos en Libertad

And Belcher,

C. L.

Went for 12 hours

Castillo de la Punta

17 Boston Clerk Michael Mayant Doyle

25 R. Coleman. Ariz. Inv. Co. Louisa Newman

22 Washington Clark Robert May Brook

25 Nathaniel Bratman William Susan Barker
30 Edith C. Barker Ad. Barker

25 Philadel^a Carpenter John Mary Foy

26 R Lark Conkright William May

35- Newborough Merchant S.I. S. 1st 1/2

21. Berryville, Ky. do. William C. Harrison

Hospital Militar May Brook

35- Mapato Clark Robert Maria Foster

4. Attie Carpenter Owen Mary: McLesky

8 Ohio Helen Jacob Rosa Fickens
3 McPratt Chas L

2 A. H. B. Brestman William R. St. L.

Georgia Driver Joseph B. Brown & Co.

1. *Pungwa* Coatum Henry *ascovido*

6. Phil & Laborn, not known, not known

a 23^d Sept 1851

Manuel de Castazar

Inspector of Præsideo

plate 3

U. S. Decatur
Havre, Sept 25th 51.

Agreeably to your order of
date we have visited the U.
S. Decatur, and have examined
thoroughly into the state of the health
of the officers and crew.

We have to report that we have
positively discovered many local
places that can have produced the
kinds prevailing on board, although
apparently foul condition of
hold, and tanks, as well as the
space on the berth deck oc-
cupied by the unnecessary quantity
of stores, may have aggravated

Since the arrival of the
U. S. Decatur, the number of the sick has
decreased, but the cases recently
arriving are less grave in their
nature, and it is therefore
our opinion advisable for
them to remain for the present
on board, instead of disembarking.

Chas. A. Parker
H. S. Spindler

Very respectfully your obedient
servant
J. H. Hildreth
Surgeon of the Fleet
J. H. Hildreth
J. H. Hildreth
J. H. Hildreth

al/

Havana 18th Sept. 1857.

Dear Sir.

I have received the communication that Your Lordship has addressed me under date the 16th Inst. informing me that you have observed the newspapers of New Orleans, and in those published in other parts of the United States that all the men that were assembled to carry to effect the illegal invasion of this island have been dispersed, and that the President of the United States had reiterated the most severe orders to the civil employees and military officers to prevent in future all illegal assembling of this class of men, and not to permit them to embark in the ports of the United States. As Your Lordship concludes stating that now that every thing appears quiet, I ought to take into consideration the convenience of setting at liberty the prisoners who are still here, particularly those that are sick and wounded, as that this act, Your Lordship feels sure, will contribute to allay the excitement of the people of the United States, and will be agreeable to Your Government.

In answer I will say to Your Lordship that it is not in my power to accede to your request, as I have already communicated

to H. M.'s Government the events that have
recently occurred in this island, and that
I was about to send to Spain for their
superior determination, all the pirates
whom life was granted by the pardon
for the sake of humanity I conceded in
my proclamation of the 24th of Aug. last
I am with all consideration

Yours Lordship's
attentive & obt. servt.
(Signed) José de la Concha

Foxhall A. Parker Esq.
Commander in Chief of
the U. S. Naval forces
in the West Indies.

No 14.

U.S. Flag Ship Saranac.
Havana, Dec. 6, 1851

Sir.

Hearing that the Cholera is raging on the South Side of this Island, the ports of which I had proposed to visit, has determined me to proceed at once, to Pensacola, as we have but little provisions on board, and the health of the crew not very good.

We sail today, and I shall await the orders of the Department at Pensacola.

The "Albany" sailed yesterday for Pensacola, with orders to prepare the ship for sea, and await further orders.

The "Sloat" sailed today for St. John's (Pto Rico), and with orders to touch at other ports in that Island, if necessary, and some of the ports on the East and West side of the Island of St. Domingo.

On her way returning to this port, (where she is directed to await orders) She will visit St. Jago de Cuba, Trinidad, and perhaps, other places on the South side of Cuba, provided the ports are then healthy.

Everything continues perfectly quiet here, but I have requested our Consul to keep me informed of anything which may occur, that would be of importance for me to know.

The Hon:

William A. Graham

Secretary of the Navy.

Washington D.C.

I have not received a line from the Department since leaving Norfolk, except the Telegraph despatches of the 3^d Ultimo, sent to Captain Stringham, and forwarded by The Hon. Mr. Seward.

I learn, however, there are several public despatches for me at Pensacola.

The "John Monro" sailed on the 3^d Instant for New York.

On my arrival here from Matanzas, I heard of two men, Robert H. Breckenridge and Randall Beach, both of Kentucky, had been captured on the high seas by a Spanish merchant vessel, brought to this place, and imprisoned.

I had an interview with the Captain General, ascertained from him, that they had belonged to the Lopez Expedition, and made their escape in a small boat, (which they had taken from a vessel anchored near the shore), after being about twenty days on the Island, and were captured on the high seas, thirty six hours after leaving the shore.

He also stated, that the men confessed to belonging to the invading force, and, although they were captured on the high seas, ~~they had~~ ^{they had} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~tried~~ ^{tried} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~piracy~~ ^{piracy}, under the general operations, but that they would be dealt leniently, and their lives not endangered.

On my expressing a wish that the men should have a speedy trial, should it be necessary after their examination, he said that they should have, and that it would be taken place before, but for the sickness of Breckenridge, who was then in the hospital.

He also observed, that he was desirous

me personally, to the extent of his power.
I have reason to hope these men will
be liberated.

There are fifteen prisoners still here, thirteen
in the hospitals, and two in prison.

I have the honor, to be
Very respectfully
Yr. Obed Servant.

Foxhall A. Parks
Commanding Home Guard.

U. S. Flag Ship Saranac
off Navy Yard, P. M. 1851
(October 27th 1851)

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter
dated the 17th inst: in which you inform me that the President of
the U. States has directed that I should be vigilant and active in
cooperation with Brig: Maj: Genl Livings of the (U. S. Army) in prevent-
ing any expedition or enterprise being carried on from the U.
States against the territory of Mexico -

The department may rest assured that I shall be vigilant
and active, and use every exertion (in cooperation with Brig: Maj:
Livings) to carry out the wishes of the President of the U. States.

I have this day written to the General for information,
and to ask how I can best cooperate with him -

I fear that the Court Martial, which is ordered to con-
vene here on the 3^d November next, may cramp my movements,
should it become absolutely necessary for the ships to put
to sea, I shall not hesitate to dissolve the Court.

There are several other men who ought to be tried by
Court Martial for very serious offences, but it takes so long a time
to take the charges to Washington and back again here that I have
thought it best not to send them for the present, lest the Squadron
should be kept in Port the greater part of the winter - If I could
have to prefer charges in the name of the Dept. (in this Port) it
would be a great saving of time & trouble -

J. Graham
Comd'g the Navy
Washington

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully Your Obedt. Servt:
Foxhall A. Parker
Commdy: U. S. Home Squadron.

41
2
New Orleans Nov. 18. 1857.

I anchored in the river on Sunday forenoon (16th)
reached here this morning on the Packet direct from
Brazos - I have seen Genl: Twiggs, the Collector and
District Attorney - The General received despatches by
packet, And also papers from Brownsville, informing him
of the retreat from Matamoros of Carrajal, and the dispersal
of his forces: On the retreat Col^o Wheat threw their
piece of Artillery, a six pounder into the river -
Carrajal has retired towards Reynosa for the avowed purpose
of organizing his forces, but it is thought he will not
fight - It is believed that the whole movement has been
for smuggling purposes, and that Carrajal having accom-
plished his object will not renew the contest - The Gov-
ernment party had been re-inforced, and other troops
daily expected -

The Collector and District Attorney inform
me that they do not hear of any expedition being gotten
up to aid Carrajal, and even if there are any persons
disposed to engage in such an affair, they will not
abandon it, so soon as they hear the news brought
to morning's packet -

General Twiggs, thinks it entirely
unnecessary for me to go to the Rio Grande, and advises me
to give you the above information, and await your
orders, which I will do as they may reach
me on Saturday next -

I have the honor to be, Sir,

over

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt.

(Signed) Wm. Smith

Lieut. Commandg. U. S. Steamer

Comms.

Isaac A. Parker

Commandg. Home Squadron

Pensacola. Fla.

U. S. Flag Ship "Sarauac"
Off Navy Yard Pensacola
November 20.th 1857

Sir

I have the honor to enclose you
herewith, the copy of a letter of date 18th inst.
received this day from Lieut: Commdr: M^r Smith
of the "Vixen", being a report of his actions
under my orders, and containing information
of importance relative to the existing diffi-
culties in the Republic of Mexico.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obr: Servt.

Foxhall A. Parker
Commandg. U. S. Home Squadron

William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy
Washington.

No 58.

U.S. Flag Ship Serrano.
St. Lago de Cuba.

March 24. 1852

I have the honor to inform the Department
that the "Serrano" arrived at this port, on
the 20th instant, one day from Samed-
Since our arrival we have been treated
with marked attention and civility by the
authorities.

The morning after our arrival the Lieutenant
Governor and suite called on board.

We shall sail in the morning for
Havana, and as I intend to try the vessel
under sail alone, we will probably be
several days making the passage -

Should I receive no orders to the
contrary, we will remain but a few days
at Havana; I shall then proceed to Pensacola,
fill up with supplies, and await further
instructions from the Department -

The "Elyne" has not yet arrived.

I am, Sir, with great respect,
Your Obedt. Servant.

Foshae A. Parker.
Commanding Armed Squadron

Hon.
William A. Graham.
Secretary of the Navy.
Washington, D.C.

659

U.S. Flag Ship Saranac.
at Sea. March 29, 1862

Sir,

In my letter No. 50 to the Department, in relation to Lieut. May, I mentioned that the "Saranac" was not tried under sail alone whilst lying off and Havana in September last for reasons mentioned in a letter addressed to me by Commander Sondergrast. In looking over that letter I find he does not mention the reasons, and I will now inform the Department why she was not so tried.

You will recollect that at the time referred to we were momentarily expecting another invasion of Cuba, and as it takes four hours to get the paddles off of the wheels, and six to put her on again, it would not have been very wise or prudent in me to have placed myself in a position which would have prevented my pursuing a pursuing force (had one appeared) for at least four hours: nor would it have been proper to have experimented with the ship under sail alone in the vicinity of land.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Obedt. Servant.

Frederick A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

Wm. A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy.
Washington D.C.

No. 65

✓
U.S. Flag Ship *Jarvis*.
Pensacola. April 7. 1862.

11.

We arrived at this port today, and found
the "Albatross" at anchor.

The "Tulcan" sailed last evening.

At Havana we received every civility and attention
from the Captain General and all the authorities.

The health of the crew is
tolerably good.

I take this opportunity of stating to the
Department that Lieut. Cuming Smith of the "Viper"
is an officer of high professional character,
and one in whom the Department can place the
utmost confidence.

I am, Sir, with great respect
Your very obedt. Servant.

Foschall A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

Hon.
William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy.
Washington.
W.A.

Copy-

U. S. Steamer Fulton
Harry Ward, Pensacola.

May 6. 1852

Sir,

In obedience to an order from Captain
Tattnall to proceed to Vera Cruz with this
ship to convey Mr. William M. Russell
Commissioner from the State Department, to
remain there twenty days for him, and
return with him, and land him at Mobile
and return with the ship to this port;

That duty I have performed.

I also, by request of Gov. Letcher, the
American Minister at Mexico, brought from
Vera Cruz to Mobile three Gentlemen as
~~Witnesses in the Garon case~~ - Also the
Bishop of Iowa.

Yours, Sir,

Very Respectfully

J. G. Benham

(Signed) J. G. Benham
Commander.

Commodore F. A. Parker.

Comdr in Chief.

Amesbury