

SEIZURE OF AN AMERICAN STEAMER AT CUBA.

The importance attached in some quarters to the recent act of the Cuban authorities in seizing the American steamer "Black Warrior," at Havana, where she regularly stopped to land and receive passengers on her trips between New York and Mobile, has induced us to transfer to our columns the subjoined communication from Messrs. Charles Tyng & Co., the agents at Havana of the steamer, relating the circumstances attending her confiscation. We select this statement because it may be presumed to contain the most authentic information yet received of the transaction—a satisfactory judgment upon which cannot, of course, be formed until the other side shall have been heard.

If it shall become evident that the authorities of Cuba have willfully invaded the rights of American citizens, we shall certainly have nothing to say in extenuation of their act. In the mean time, perhaps, it may not be improper to suggest to some of our contemporaries, and especially to those who display an indolent haste in expressing their indignation at what has been done, the possibility that this alleged invasion of commercial privileges may turn out, after all, to be the simple enforcement by Cuba of her port regulations and revenue laws. We profess to know nothing of the matter beyond what is published here. But, on the perusal of that statement, coming from the agents of the "Black Warrior," our memory reverted to several events of a similar character that have occurred in our own ports, some of them within a few weeks, and others not extending back more than one or two years. We allude to recent seizures and confiscations of goods illicitly brought to New York and Boston on British steamers, and the seizure of those steamers also for infractions of our revenue laws. On two occasions, within the time named, have British steamers of the Cunard line from Liverpool been seized and forfeited in ports of the United States. They were afterwards released on heavy bonds, (three hundred thousand dollars in each case,) and the bonds subsequently cancelled and heavy fines inflicted on the owners of the vessels. It may turn out, we repeat, that the Cuban Government is in like manner enforcing its revenue laws, and hence we find some difficulty in discriminating between the cases, unless the "usage" referred to as having heretofore prevailed in reference to American steamers touching at Havana shall place the affair in a different light.

Explanation of the Agents of the Black Warrior.

HAVANA, March 11, 1854.

The Black Warrior entered this port yesterday morning (28th February) at about 7 o'clock. Capt. Belling reported to the commanding officer who had entered, giving his name, as usual, in which it was stated, as in all cases, that she enters in ballast. As we were expecting the steamer on Sunday, the 26th ultimo, we, as we have always done, is done with the other steamers which come here, entered and discharged her before she arrived, making the clearance and clearance on Saturday, the 25th ultimo. When our clerk went to the custom-house yesterday morning to get the necessary papers to the Captain of the Port, in order to allow the ship to pass the Moro, it was refused, and he was informed that there was an infirmity in the entry, and the ship could not leave.

Mr. Tyng was in the office at the time our clerk came back to inform us of the state of affairs, and the writer immediately went to the custom-house to see the chief officer. He informed us that the boarding officer had attached a note to the manifest of the captain, saying, "The ship has entered in ballast, and carries four hundred bales of cotton for New York." The Collector of Customs said to us, "The captain should have entered in ballast, and not have entered in ballast." We replied that, as far as regards Havana, she is in ballast; she neither brings cargo to Havana nor takes it away. It matters not whether her ballast is ballast of cotton or stone. We claim that the entry is correct as made; but whether correct or not, if you say it is not correct we claim to take advantage of the twelve hours allowed by law to make corrections and additions to the manifest. He told us he had already written a note to the Intendant about the affair, and expected an answer at once, but advised us to see the Intendant.

We visited the Intendant, and found that the Intendant was at home. We went to his house; found there a young man, who told us he had brought a note from the Intendant to the Intendant, and was waiting an answer. A servant came in, bringing a note for the young man. We asked the servant if we could see the Intendant. He said we could not, that he was sick in bed. We accompanied the young man to the Intendant, and saw the note handed to the Intendant. We left our clerk at the Intendant's, with orders to wait until the note should be sent to the custom-house. The Intendant's note, stating that the note of the Intendant had been sent to the custom-house.

The writer and ourselves went at once to the custom-house. We found the collector reading the note. He handed it to the Deputy Collector, (Mr. Adams,) and the deputy read it to us. The letter of the Intendant was, that the entry was not a true one, that the ship was responsible according to the law; that the goods on board should be confiscated, and a fine equal to the value of the goods imposed.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON THE LATE AFFAIR AT CUBA.

The following is a copy of the Message transmitted to Congress yesterday by the President in regard to the confiscation of the American steamer "Black Warrior" by the authorities of Cuba:—

WASHINGTON, March 13, 1854.

To the House of Representatives:—In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 10th instant, I herewith transmit a report of the Secretary of State, containing all the information received at the Department in relation to the seizure of the Black Warrior at Havana on the 28th ultimo.

There have been, in the course of a few years past, many other instances of aggression upon our commerce, violations of the rights of American citizens, and injury of the national flag; and the Spanish authorities in Cuba, and all attempts to obtain redress have led to protracted and yet fruitless negotiations. The documents in these cases are voluminous, and when prepared will be sent to Congress.

Those now transmitted relate exclusively to the seizure of the "Black Warrior," and present so clear a case of wrong that it would be reasonable to expect full indemnity therefor as soon as the unjustifiable and offensive conduct shall be made known to her Catholic Majesty's Government; but similar expectations, in other cases, have not been realized.

The offending party is at our doors, with large powers for aggression, but none, it is alleged, for reparation. The source of redress is in our own hemisphere, and the answers to our just complaints made to the Home Government are but the repetition of excuses rendered by inferior officials to their superiors in reply to representations of misconduct. The peculiar situation of the parties has undoubtedly much aggravated the annoyances and injuries which our citizens have suffered from the Cuban authorities, and Spain does not seem to appreciate its full extent her responsibility for the conduct of these authorities. In giving very extraordinary powers to them she enters it to justice and to her friendly relations with this Government to guard with great vigilance against the exorbitant exercise of these powers, and in case of injuries to provide for prompt redress.

I have already taken measures to present to the Government of Spain the wrong injury of the Cuban authorities in the detention and seizure of the "Black Warrior," and to demand immediate indemnity for the injury which has thereby resulted to our citizens.

In view of the position of the Island of Cuba, its proximity to our coast, the relations which must exist between the two countries, and the fact that it is not to be expected that a series of unfriendly acts inflicting on our commerce rights and the adoption of a policy threatening the honor and security of these States can long continue with peaceful relations.

Carolina Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C. THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 23, 1854.

C. C. McCORMICK is authorized to collect subscriptions and other claims due this Office.

We are authorized to announce Major JOHN THOMAS as a candidate for the office of High Sheriff for the County of Rowan.

We are authorized to announce CALES KLETT as a candidate for reelection for the office of High Sheriff of Rowan County.

We are authorized to announce MARTIN JOSEY as a true Republican candidate for the office of High Sheriff, for the County of Rowan.

THOMAS A. KEAR announced himself a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Iredell County, at the ensuing August election.

FOR GOVERNOR, GEN. ALFRED DOCKERY, OF RICHMOND COUNTY.

General Dockery.—If we read the signs of the times correctly, there has not been a Whig candidate in the field for years, whom the Democratic editors fear as much as they do the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this paragraph. They pounced upon him as soon as he was announced as the choice of the Whig party, and before he had signified his acceptance of the nomination; and with ridicule and malicious dread, belabored him. With impudent sneers, and self-secure airs; with boasts and signs of contempt, they pretended to laugh at General Dockery, as if he were a doll or a niny.

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