

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microcopy No. 179

**MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Roll 322

April 1-13, 1870



**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

Washington: 1964

New York. Apr. 5. 70.

Martin Mueser.
Memorial.

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872.

Rec'd by mail ^{Apr 5 1862} ~~Wm. H. Smith~~
To the Honorable Hamilton Fish
Secy of State

As one of the American
Citizens residing in the place I take the liberty
to inform you as one of the chief officers of
the U.S. Government, that the Captain General
that represents the branch of the Spanish Government
is entirely formal. The volunteers have entire
control and command as many outrages as they choose
But yesterday 4 American employed in the
Lantern Office established - were quietly
walking in the street on their way to a photographic
gallery were most brutally assaulted by some
malcontents without any provocation whatever - one
was killed outright & two heavily wounded. The
third escaped unhurt. It is the boast of the
volunteers that they are more than the Captain
General - no man's life is safe - for the poorest
peasant the murderer whenever they please - and escape
free - Will the American Government allow such
events to pass unpunished in the name of
any American here at present

Truly
Yours
Wm. H. Fish
I refer to the Haller firing, telling of
my own Department
my name in no manner to be
made public; if it was known that
I had written this my life would not be safe - changed
but true

New York Apr. 8. 1870.

Sancti Mora.

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1870.

Apr. 15: 77 Enquiry of journal ~~about~~ the particular or other
assassinations referred to by Mr. Smith
Havana

At a special Communication of Eureka Lodge No. 67 A. G. & A. M. held at Freemasons Hall, Camden Mills, Ill. on Friday evening April 1st A. L. 5870 a committee was appointed to report such action as they deemed expedient in view of the recent assassinations of American Free Mason in Cuba whose report is herewith appended -

To The Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Eureka Lodge No. 67 A. G. & A. M.

Your Committee would by leave to offer the following ~~Report~~.

Resolved that the following memorial be forwarded to the President of the United States.

To his Excellency ^{State} U. S. Grant President of the United States

Dear Sir -

The members of Eureka Lodge No. 67 A. G. & A. M. in Camden Mills, Ill., would respectfully but earnestly call your attention to the recent assassinations of Members of the Masonic Fraternity in Cuba, under the instructions of the Spanish Government influenced under and by the dictation of a Catholic Priest.

The offence of these poor Men was that they met in a Masonic Lodge.

It appears that a number of those unfortunate men who were assassinated were American Citizens. Therefore we as American Citizens, as well as members of the Masonic Fraternity memorialize your Excellency to hold the Spanish Government responsible for the blood of our Brethren, and to demand from the Government of Spain strict and full Satisfaction for this grave offence against our

Countrymen and to meet out to the Government
of Spain Speedy judgement as the blood of our
Brethren calls to us from the ground to avenge their
death-

This we respectfully submit to your Excellency
praying that this our memorial may meet
with your favorable consideration.

We are very Respectfully and Gratefully.

Your Obediant Servants-

R. S. Cantine
John Dickson } Committee
N. D. Bradley }

Which report was accepted and Unanimously
by adopted-

R. Haysford W. Mc.
Frank. H. Hains etc.

Executive.

Apr. 7 1870.

Case of Lodge et al. by A. J. and
A. M. Camden Mills Ill.

Resolutions of said Lodge
in view of the recent assassination
of American Free Agents in
Cuba.

Respectfully referred to the Hon.
the Secretary of State

By order of the President,

W. M. Bates

Secretary.



395

New York. Mch. 12. 70.

Jose Govea y Panto

Cuban Commission

Jan'y. 1872.

3
Philadelphia, Apl. 13. 70.

J. F. Potlondo (J. H. Aehlecläger)

Cytau Commission

Jan 1872

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microcopy No. 179

**MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Roll 323

April 14-30, 1870



**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

Washington: 1964



John ...

don apt. 19 1870

Wm. Smith

Navy Department

Washington April 16 1870

Trinidad de Cuba
Mr:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th inst and its enclosure from the U.S. Consul at Trinidad de Cuba; and to inform you that Rear Admiral Chas. S. Peck, Commanding the North Atlantic Fleet has been instructed to send a vessel of war to Trinidad de Cuba and Cienfuegos as early as practicable.

Very respectfully
Wm. S. Washburn

Secretary of the Navy

Wm. Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State

Washington. Feb. 18. 70.

Henry J. Street (Sen. Sawyer)

Cuba Commissions

Jan. 1872.

New York Ill. 20. 70.

Mrs. Polkams (W. G. Kendall)

Cuban Commission

Jan. 72.

Copy to Mr. Roberts 29 off Copy to Mr. Palmer Mr. Chiltons



Treasury Department,

April 22^d, 1870.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th Ult. transmitting the translation of a note addressed to your Dept. by Mr. Roberts, the Minister of Spain, relative to an alleged unduly large taxation of Tonnage tax at New Orleans from the Master of the Spanish Steamer "Maria", and asking for such information as I may be able to communicate.

Yours

Hamilton Fish.

Secretary of State

In reply, I have to inform you that the case having been submitted to the Collector at New Orleans, he reports that the records of his Office show that this vessel entered that port from Savannah on the 30th November 1868. and that the Master and the Agent requested, in the abatementment of the Steamer for the purpose of ascertaining the Tonnage tax to be paid by her, that a deduction might be made for the spaces occupied by the machinery, Coal, bunkers, and Cabin rooms, alleging that the same privilege was granted to American Steamers entering the ports of the Island of Cuba. This request the

Collector declined, and the spaces were included under the instructions of the Department of the 27 Sep. 1867, holding that the law concerning tonnage duty on Spanish vessels relates to the rates to be exacted and not to the mode of admeasurement, which is prescribed by the Act of the 6th Mar 1864. It appears also that the Agent of this vessel appealed to the Department on the 8th December 1868, when the action of the Collector was sustained.

The simple question involved in the case is this:—By our laws certain spaces are required to be admeasured, which are alleged not

to be required at the port of Cuba
in the admeasurement of American Steamers.

But as the law is imperative the tax must
be paid on the American admeasurement of
Spanish Steamers.

With great respect,

Geo. Bennett

Secretary



ack
April 27/70
ack.

Mr. Simon

Navy Department.

Washington, 23 APR 1870

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose
herewith a copy of a telegram this
day received from Genl. Wm. G.
Smith, President I. O. Tel. Co.
in reference to a recent order of
the Captain General of Cuba
prohibiting the sending to Havana
of telegraphic messages in cypher.

Very respectfully
from, *Robert M.*

Secretary of the Navy

Honorable

Hamilton Fish

Secretary of State



~~Navy Department.~~

~~Washington~~ 18

A, Telegraph from New York April 23 1870

To Secretary Reberon

Official information has been received at this office that the Captain General of Cuba, has prohibited the sending to Havana of telegraphic messages in cypher. This information is furnished you that no mistakes may arise if you have to send telegraphic orders to vessels in Havana

Wm F. Smith

Pres't. of A. T. Co.

2
Mr. J. Smith.
Washington April 23. 1870

State Dept. Office.

We have been officially notified that, the Captain General of Cuba prohibits all private ciphers or code messages being sent to or from Havana. Please conform with the order accordingly.

C. A. Tinker.

M^r Linn

Office of the International Ocean Telegraph Company.

No. 88 Liberty Street.

New York, *Apr 23 1890*



ack. & thank

Hon. Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State
Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have to inform you that official information has been received at this office to the effect that the Captain General of the Island of Cuba has prohibited the passage (over the lines of the International Ocean Telegraph Company) of any dispatches in Code or Cypher.

This information is furnished to the State Department so that there shall be no misunderstanding in case you have to communicate with your agents in Cuba.

Very Respectfully
Yours O. S. I.
J. J. Smith
President

Chap 74 Laws 1865



21 Mrs & Son of 40th Street
request for balance requested
450

file in appropriate
properly.

Wm. Jefferson

New York, April 27, 1870
Hon. Hamilton Fish

Secy of State

Sir I have the honor to report that on the 26th of February last Senor Balbino Cortez the Spanish Consul at this Port, called at my office (then Marshal for the Southern District of New York,) and informed me that he had reliable information that an unlawful expedition of Cubans would attempt to leave this city the same evening. He left with me a memorandum of the Steamers in which the Expedition would leave (as he supposed) with the number of Cubans that would take passage in said Steamers. I immediately called upon Mr.

Davis of Pinkerton's Detective Agency, and also employed two of my most expert Deputies to investigate the matter, and if possible to thwart the schemes of the fillibusters.

Mr. Davis and his Detectives, as also my Deputies labored vigorously to discover such an expedition, but after a watch of three or four days found that the Spanish Consul had either been mistaken, or our watchfulness had become known to the fillibusters, who abandoned their intended expedition.

I enclose bill of Allan Pinkerton for services, \$40⁰⁰, also bill of my two Deputies, in the matter; also bill for telegrams relative to fillibustering matters during my administration as Marshal, and respectfully ask that a check be sent me for the whole amount.

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedt. Serv't.

D. R. Haelson
(Late) U. S. Marshal

Recapitulation.

Purkinton's Bill	\$40.28 X
S R Hailor, Tel. Bill	5.74
Deputy Meigs	25.50
Deputy Christie	26.55
	<hr/>
	\$98.07



New York
April 29th 1870

Mr Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir.

Myin
We received this morning from Capt Charles McCarty, of Steamer "Lloyd Aspinwall", a telegram, dated 25th inst at Havana, as follows:

"The Authorities have released the 'Aspinwall'. I have refused to accept her. The Consul has accepted. Send me instructions."

We had our instructions, under date of March 9th, as follows, "you will refuse to accept Aspinwall, until settlement of indemnity, unless we order you to do otherwise".

The object of this communication is to obtain from our Government directions as to the course we should pursue. We shall not give any orders to the Captain, until we receive your reply hereto.

In the treaty the Captains claims for
damages on account of the vessel,
three hundred (\$300) dollars per day.
There are other claims, namely, for
the detention of dispatch to Kellurray
from Sant au Prince, for false
imprisonment of Capt and crew, damage
to Steamer hull, owing to the neglect
of the Spanish Officers to take proper
care of her. - Capt McCarty under
date of 26th, said, "They will
not wet her down outside, or do not
and will not let my crew step over
the side to do it."

It is known by all merchants who have
had experience with vessels in the
Tropics, and by all shipbuilders at
this port, that such want of care
rapidly ruins vessels. The effects of
the dampness at night and the excessive,
dry and penetrating heat of the day
is to produce the dry rot, and that
destroys the whole upper works in a
short twelve months. All her upper
timber may have to be changed before
she will be as good as when she was
launched.

We have never been informed, officially

or otherwise, of the reason or excuse
 giving for the seizure and detention.
 The obligation of indemnity to the owners
 and to the crew is a matter of great
 importance to them, and we think
 the Spanish Government should hasten
 to settle, the consideration is certainly
 a small matter for them.

The spiciouness of the imprisonment
 of the Capt and crew we trust will
 excite your earnest consideration.
 At the time of the last mail advices
 none of the crew had been allowed
 to go ashore, except one taken to the
 Hospital, and you will please
 remember that the Capt was twenty
 four days a prisoner before he was
 allowed to see the Consul.

We are
 With the greatest respect
 Yours truly
 L. M. Aguado

Washington, D.C.
April 23/50.

Hon. Hamilton Fish

Dear Sir:

I am
in receipt of a telegram from
J. M. Reynolds, owners of
the "Aspinwall," saying that they
have ordered the Captain to
accept the vessel and that
they will write me fully by mail.
If you should therefore give
orders I have her turned
over I have no doubt she
will be accepted, though I beg
to suggest, that in consequence
of the condition of affairs
in Havana, that you request
the Consul to extend every
possible protection to her.

while the necessary remains
in port.

I am with great respect

Your obedt servant

R. L. House,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U. S. A.
TELEGRAM.

Dated

New York April 30, 1890.

Time received,

3 50 P.M. " " "

To

Hon. Hamilton Fish.

Secretary

Understanding its
your wish; have directed
Captain accept Aspinwall.

J. M. Peque & Co,

New York. M. 30. 70.

M. C. Rodriguez & Co

Cuban Commission

Jan. 1872