

The Suspicious Circumstances of her Return —Doubts about the Slave-Trade.

From the Albany Statesman.

No little excitement prevails at the South, as well as in the Northern States at the present time, on the subject of the reported practical reopening of the Slave-trade, by the supposed successful landing of a cargo of Africans, fresh from their native coast, by the yacht *Wanderer*. The rumors respecting the affair are as numerous as they are varied. According to some accounts, as many as four hundred of the captured negroes were set safely ashore somewhere in Florida or Georgia. Others place the number at three hundred and fifty; others again at three hundred or two hundred and fifty; but all agree in the assertion that a profitable cargo was brought into port of strong, youthful, vigorous chattels, for the benefit of the rice, cotton and tobacco growers of the South. On a return trip from Charleston last Saturday, we were in company with some who had been voyagers on the *Wanderer* during her late excursion.

Without either denying the correctness of the groundwork of these reports, or vouching for its accuracy, we may be permitted to venture the suggestion that *they are in the main greatly exaggerated*. The *Wanderer*, as every one knows, is a handsome and very fast sailing yacht. She sailed in July last for the Congo River, and passed some time very pleasantly on the coast, if we may rely upon the history of the expedition given to us by a gallant officer who accompanied Capt. CORNIE on the voyage, and whose name is identified with many deeds of daring and adventure. We allude to Capt. FARNHAM, the renowned "overland" rider, whose brilliant career in Texas, California and Nicaragua is familiar to so many of his fellow countrymen. Certainly if a contraband trade was intended, in the original instance, by the company on the *Wanderer*, they played their cards well, and managed to draw one species of "wool" over the eyes of the gallant Britishers on the coast, before consummating their speculation in another specie.

The British frigate *Medusa* was on the coast at the time of the visit of the *Wanderer*, and numerous were the friendly visits, and gratifying were the convivialities that passed between the officers of the two nations. The *Wanderer's* people were entertained and *fêted* by the Britishers, and the Britishers in their turn were entertained and *fêted* by those on board the American yacht. So entire was the confidence felt in the latter, and so assured were the gallant John Bulls that their Yankee friends were bent only on a pleasure and information-seeking trip, that the idea of examining the *Wanderer*, to see if she could possibly be fitted for a slaver, was laughed at when proposed by Capt. FARNHAM, as "a very good joke." Probably it was only a joke. Certainly we are not going to designate it as anything else.

The *Wanderer* remained some time on the coast. Her people landed at various points of interest, and viewed African nature in all its originality and beauty. They visited native Princes in their palaces, and the description given of the habits and appearance of the people by Captain FARNHAM will one day doubtless excite interest in thousands of readers. While there they ran a race with a British yacht which boasted of unusual speed, and beat her as easily as a race-horse would beat a common roadster. After remaining on the coast a sufficient time, the Americans one night stood out to sea, and turned their eyes homeward. *Those who were on board declare that she returned as she went*; but if she did stow away a trifle of wool between her decks, certainly none but those who were on board appear to have any definite and conclusive knowledge on the subject. And it is not likely that such knowledge would be readily communicated to outsiders.

We should rather incline to the opinion, however, that if any Africans really tried the "middle passage" on board the fast sailing yacht, they were not so numerous as common report would indicate. *Some eighty negroes landed on the shore of Florida or Georgia, and sold at seven hundred dollars a head, would have realized to the speculators \$56,000*—a tolerably handsome hit, when the lightning speed and excellent, untarnished character of the *Wanderer* made suspicion and capture so improbable. One thing is certain; the American yacht was sailed by as bold, as fearless, and as adventurous a company as ever trod the decks of a ship; and if she *did* make a successful trade in African wool, she must have the credit of coming the Yankee over certain naval officers in the service of Her British Majesty, with a shrewdness and tact unsurpassed in the history of New-England Ingenuity. And we fancy the officers of Uncle Sam, at this end of the route, will be as unsuccessful in fixing upon her the offence—if she really committed any breach of our laws—as were the English officers in appreciating her true mission to the African Coast.

The Facts of the Case.

From the Savannah (Ga.) Republican, Dec. 13.

The rumor which we announced in the *Republican* of Saturday, relative to the landing of a cargo of Africans on the coast or islands near Brunswick, we regret to learn is borne out by many circumstances, which, though not strictly legal proof, are sufficient to carry conviction to any mind, that this unlawful deed has been perpetrated. The landing of the Africans was the absorbing subject of conversation on Saturday, the paragraph in the *Republican* being the first intimation that our citizens had of the occurrence; and all sorts of rumors were afloat, as to who were interested, how it was done, what were the profits, and a hundred other things, which nothing but rumor could originate. The report of the landing having come to the ears of JOSEPH GANAHL, Esq., District-Attorney, who being already cognizant of the fact that there were some suspicious characters in town, made further investigation, and found that three persons had arrived in the Florida boat on Wednesday last, in an apparently destitute condition, and had stopped at the City Hotel, where they had kept quiet, under a plea of being indisposed, until Saturday, when to prepare, it is supposed, for leaving in the New-York steamship, they visited the clothing establishment of Mr. WM. O'PRICE, and spent some \$200 for clothing. This fact directed the suspicions of District-Attorney GANAHL towards them, and he felt warranted in going before Judge NICHOLS, of the United States District Court, and taking the necessary oath for their arrest. Their names, as registered at the City Hotel, are JUAN BR. RAJESTA, N. A. BROWN and MIGUEL AQUIRY, all hailing from New-Orleans. The last name was first registered MIGUEL RAJES, but RAJES was afterwards scratched out by running a pen through it, and AQUIRY written after it. Upon their arrest, Mr. BROWN, an American, appeared as spokesman; the other two apparently were Spaniards, and could neither speak nor understand English. Mr. BROWN, upon being addressed as Captain, replied that he was not a Captain, was in a strange place, where so far from having friends he really had no acquaintances. As soon as it was reported around that the arrest had been made, Mr. GANAHL was approached to know what bail was necessary, to which he replied that it was not a bailable case, as the arrest was for piracy. They were put in jail, and we understand are provided with everything of the best. Mr. GANAHL, assisted by U. S. Marshal D. H. STEWART, is using every exertion to obtain all the evidence bearing on the case, and for this purpose has sent to Brunswick to elicit information current about the transaction in time for examination, which will probably be on Thursday next. We feel assured that Mr. GANAHL will do all in his power to have justice meted out; and if upon trial they are found guilty, such an example will be made of them as will put a stop to the Slave-trade, at least in his district.

A tug was dispatched to Brunswick, to tow the *Wanderer* to Savannah, but we learn that the shipmaster, who had been left alone on board, and in charge, refused to give her up—acting, it is supposed, under the advice of the citizens of that place. We hear that the Collector of the port of Darien, who has been on board the *Wanderer*, says that *she has no appearance of ever having had slaves in her*.

What was done with the negroes seems to be as important a question as any of the foregoing, and rumor has been quite as busy with it. They were landed, we hear, on Jekyll Island, for which privilege it is said the negro traders paid \$15,000, and that a steamboat from this city went down and brought 150 of them past Savannah and up the river to a plantation, from whence they were scattered over the country. It is said the cargo consisted of 350, but it is difficult to believe so small a vessel could hold so many.

It will be recollected that this Yacht was arrested last summer near New-York on suspicion of being fitted out for the Slave trade; but there was not sufficient evidence to convict her, and she was released. Capt. CORNIE, of South-Carolina, was then in command, as he is now, and stated that he had bought her for a pleasure yacht, which was borne out by her elegant appointments and small tonnage.

After being released at New-York, she cleared for Trinidad, and thence to St. Helena, from whence she now sails, and accounts for being without regular papers now, by stating that this Government had no Consul there, and she could not obtain any. Capt. CORNIE has papers purporting to be from the native officials at St. Helena, but they lack the necessary seals.

A gentleman in this city, who knows the builder of the *Wanderer*, informs us that *the latter was confident she would never be engaged in carrying slaves herself*, but would accompany a slaver, and when a cruiser appeared, make all sail, and her rakish appearance would direct the attention of the cruiser towards her, when she would lead the cruiser away, and after getting herself to be overhauled, and upon being found without slaves would then part from the cruiser and seek the slaver.

It is with much regret that we are compelled to believe that this act has been perpetrated, on Georgia soil. It has been our pride to know that while the fanatics at the North were violent in their denunciations of our "peculiar institutions," and our sister States of the South were trying to lead us into favoring the extreme issues of the day, that Georgia stood firm in her conservative principles; but we cannot now call upon other States to do as we do, for we have broken the laws of our own land and the laws of nations. We do not utter these sentiments in the expectation that anybody's mind will be changed by them, because no one has ever entered the Slave-trade to establish a principle, but purely for the money that can be made at it. The deed has been committed, and while but few are interested, the community will be visited by the odium that such a transaction will be sure to create.