

Is the Slave Trade Reopened?

IS THE YACHT WANDERER A SLAVER?—CURIOUS CONFLICTING REPORTS CONCERNING THE WANDERER—RUMORED LANDING OF A CARGO OF SLAVES NEAR BRUNSWICK, GA.—PARTICULARS OF HER ARRIVAL AT NEW YORK IN JUNE LAST—PROPHECY BY A HERALD REPORTER—MARSHAL RYNDERS OUTDONE—WHAT THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY THINKS OF THE SLAVE TRADE ON THE COAST.

The yacht *Wanderer*, whose detention at this port in June last, on suspicion of being a slaver, occasioned some excitement at the time, has turned up somewhere near Brunswick, Georgia. She left here having on board her owner, Capt. W. C. Corrie, who had the sympathy of a great many sympathetic people, as having been much abused in having his pleasure party spoiled. The following item in the *Charleston News*, of the 9th inst., appeared to show that Mr. Corrie was enjoying himself:—

THE YACHT WANDERER.

Some of the officers and crew of this now famous vessel have arrived at Charleston. She is now off our Southern coast, and may be expected here in a few days. She is reported to have been left at Brunswick, Georgia, in charge of Capt. W. C. Corrie, who had obtained a clearance at that port. She had previously landed further South, after a dashing frolic on the broad Atlantic, and doing, no doubt, some naughty things. She will, however, receive a cheerful and forgiving welcome. She had had a narrow escape before landing, from a gala.

This seemed all right, though the "naughty things" alluded to were a little mysterious to any who read the paragraph with attention. Yesterday a little more light, and considerably more mystery, was thrown about the subject by the reception of the following telegraphic despatch:—

SAVANNAH, Dec. 11, 1853.

The *Republican* of this morning learns, on good authority, that the yacht *Wanderer* succeeded in evading the vigilance of the cruisers, and landed a cargo of slaves in the neighborhood of St. Andrew's Sound, near Brunswick, Georgia, and that part of her cargo was subsequently sent up Satilla river on board of a steamer.

If this be true, it will hardly reflect much credit on our officials here, who in June last had possession of the *Wanderer* on suspicion of being engaged in the slave trade. It will be recollected that the complaint was made by the Surveyor of Port Jefferson, Mr. S. S. Norton, who stated that his suspicions were excited by seeing the vessel undergoing repairs, new water tanks of unusual size, foreign sailors, and, above all, her clearing for Charleston from Port Jefferson, and paying for bringing of provisions in a lighter from New York, when her quickest way would be to stop at New York on her way and save the lighters. All these facts tended to make Mr. Norton's suspicions very strong, and he immediately came down to New York and made arrangements for the seizure of the vessel, which was effected on the 9th of June by Capt. Lane, in the Revenue cutter *Harriet Lane*. There were on board at the time, a crew of three Americans and eight foreigners, with a pretty good stock of provisions in the lighter—such as beans, ham, onions, rice, pork—in quantities suitable to last a cargo of darkies long enough to get them from Cuba to some convenient American port. The District Attorney and United States Marshals Rynders and O'Keefe, visited the vessel, and expressed themselves as particularly satisfied with the innocent purpose of the voyage, and quite indignant that a gentleman just about to start on a pleasure trip should be so wantonly disturbed.

The story of Capt. Corrie was, that he was going on a pleasure trip to the West Indies; that he preferred to go round Montauk Point to going through Hell Gate, and did not care for the expense of lighters; that the *Wanderer* had delicacies in her stores which, with the costliness of her outfit, would show that she was not destined for the slave trade; that she could not carry ten niggers, and that the water tanks were intended for ballast, and the coarse provisions for the crew. After a very cursory examination by the United States District Attorney, the vessel was allowed to depart, the Surveyor of Port Jefferson having been kept on and off, waiting for some definite proceedings, until he finally went home in disgust. The affidavit which he made at the time was withheld from the reporters, and, we believe, never published. The following conversation between one of the *Herald* reporters and the Marshal will show how widely two persons might differ on the subject. The reporter met Captain Rynders and Mr. O'Keefe on board the *Harriet Lane*, on the night of the arrival of the *Wanderer* at New York, when the following conversation ensued:—

REPORTER—Captain Rynders, I should like to go on board the *Wanderer* with you, if there are no objections.

MR. O'KEEFE—Yes, there are decided objections; we don't allow any one on board.

REPORTER—But reporters are exceptions to all general rules.

MR. O'KEEFE—Well, we don't want any reporters on board.

REPORTER—Why not?

MR. O'KEEFE—Oh, the idea of her being a slaver is ridiculous. She is so costly.

REPORTER—Why, my dear sir, don't you know that they could afford to throw away a vessel of that kind every trip, if she ran in a good cargo of niggers?

MR. O'KEEFE—Oh no; she is too small; and her cabins are fitted up beautifully.

REPORTER—Why, a carpenter could clean her out below in a few hours, and then she would be a little more roomy.

OUR NAVY AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

Apropos to the above, the following paragraph from the recent report of the Secretary of the Navy may be of interest:—

As there was reason to suspect, from information communicated to Lieut. Maffit, that other American vessels were engaged in the slave trade, and would shortly arrive on the north coast of Cuba, the United States steamer *Despatch*, under the command of Lieut. Parrott, was sent to that vicinity to intercept them. She had been cruising for several months in the Gulf of Mexico for a similar purpose, in consequence of rumors that attempts would be there made to land cargoes of slaves within the limits of the United States. But the cruise of the *Despatch* has proved that these rumors were unfounded.

Now, if the *Wanderer* has landed her cargo; if there was any foundation for the Pearl river story, or for the various rumors which have been circulated concerning the landing of slaves at the South, our coasting steamer *Despatch* ought to have known something about them. If slavers can so readily avoid detection and land cargoes, it is high time for us to ask, "Is the slave trade reopened?"