

English demagogues enable them to become a nation with a manifest destiny, as an exposition of policy; during the war of 1754-64, Havana, its chief town, was captured after forty-four days of open trenches by an English armament on the 14th of August, 1762, with a large provincial contingent serving with the regular troops. It was restored to Spain, it is said, without orders and certainly without stipulation or compensation in 1763, a circumstance which excited great dissatisfaction in the then British Provinces.

The island was discovered by Columbus on the 28th of October, 1492. It is, in shape a long, irregular crescent with the convex side to the north; its length is 790 miles, and its greatest breadth 107 miles; its area is 31,468 square miles, and its population 1,250,000. For its position and fertility it is justly styled the Queen of the Antilles. Held by Spain with a firm hand as the last portion of her great American Empire. Its acquisition by the United States during peace would be impossible, and in the event of war problematical, but the statesmen of that country are wise in their day and generation, and if they cannot take the Queen manage to checkmate her as the next best thing.

With this object in view before the Cuban rebellion collapsed the Washington Government was in treaty with the Dominican Republic for a lease of the Bay of Samana on the north-east coast of the Island of St. Domingo, or Hayti, professedly as a coaling and refitting station for their naval armaments. As long as the embers of the Cuban insurrection could be kept alive and give a pretence for interference on the part of the United States, the farce of a treaty or negotiation for leasing the Bay and a small territory surrounding it was carried on, but the moment the Cuban *fiasco* had exploded the announcement that the President of the San Dominican Republic was anxious for annexation was at once made with the usual flourish of American sentiment, and the anxiety of the people to take shelter under the Stars and Stripes.

The significance of this announcement is the more apparent when it is known that Cape St. Nicholas, in the Island of Hayti, is only 50 miles to the eastward of Cape Mayai, the eastern point of Cuba, and in point of size it ranks next to the Queen of the Antilles. Its length from east to west is 390 miles, and breadth from 60 to 150 miles. It was discovered by Columbus during his first voyage. At an early period it became divided between the Spaniards, who retained the eastern and much larger portion, and the French, who occupied the western or smaller division opposite Cuba. One hundred and twenty miles south of Cape Tiburon, the most westerly point of Hayti and two hundred miles south of Cape Mayai, is the English island of Jamaica, the third in size of the group. To the North of these islands are

the Bahamas which belong to Great Britain, while to the eastward of Hayti is the Spanish island of Porto Rico, and to the south-east the Leeward Islands, owned by France and Great Britain in nearly equal proportions, with the exception of the Virgin Islands to the north-east of Porto Rico.

During the confusion, consequent on the French revolution in 1789, a rebellion broke out in the French portion of Hayti, in which the planters were murdered by the Negro slaves, who thereupon erected an independent government for themselves, known since alternately as the Republic and Empire of Hayti.

The population of both parts of the island is about 900,000, of which Hayti proper is reckoned at 700,000; the Spanish portion, which is so anxious for annexation, numbering 200,000.

There can be little doubt if the United States is allowed to get possession that she will polish off the Negroes in short order, and as they do nothing but fight it would perhaps be as well to allow them to fall within reach of the rod of the Republic. But there are other interests at stake, and the question resolves itself into this—will the United States be allowed to acquire by fraud, for it amounts to that, a position where she can menace the peace of the world, by exciting the fears of England, France, and Spain for their West Indian possessions?

The acquisition of Cuba would make the United States masters of the Gulf of Mexico arbiters of the trade and destinies of South America. If such a course would militate against England's commercial greatness, it will be opposed; and in any case a treaty with one-fourth of the people of Hayti for the transfer of that island to the States, will hardly be ratified by the European powers most interested.

The Registrar General of the Province of Ontario has forwarded a circular to the editors of all the newspapers in Ontario, with a copy of the Act respecting "Registration of Births, Marriage, and Deaths," with the amendments passed in the recent session of the Legislature, and also a copy of the circular sent to the 600 Registrars in the Province with the forms necessary to complete the registration of those events.

It appears the Registrar General wishes to have the attention of the public drawn to the operation of the Act for the following reasons:—

In countries where such machinery has been long in force, the following maxims seem to have regulated the conduct of the Government:

1st.—Popularize the Act, by freely circulating in newspapers and handbills a statement of its objects, provisions and advantages.

2nd.—Through the District and Division Registrars, endeavour to secure the voluntary co-operation of Clergymen and Medical men.

3rd.—Apply a little judicious prosecution to defaulters: 1. Parents. 2. Clergymen. 3. Medical men.

4th.—Freely supply Blank Forms to all the parties who have returns to make.

And to impress on the minds of people the necessity of being careful in the fulfilment of the provisions of the law for their own sakes especially, the Blank Forms are supplied gratis by the Registrars.

Rear Admiral C. H. Poor informs the Navy Department, under date of December 26, off Key West, that the *Severn*, his flag ship, in company with the monitor *Dictator*, left Tybee roads on Monday, December 20, for Key West. At first they had clear weather and smooth water, the *Dictator*, under the favourable circumstances, steaming seven knots easily. The men were able to be about deck without any inconvenience. The next day the wind blew strong from the south east, freshening gradually until a heavy sea commenced, which made constant breaches over the decks of the monitor, the spray flying as high as the turret gallery. The men were unable to show themselves. The monitor was apparently making about four knots an hour. The *Severn* was not able to keep up more than steerage way, and when she pitched, it brought the propellers out of the water. The engines raced to such an extent, and the propellers struck the water so forcibly that there was great danger of giving way, and the ship was hauled to under canvass. The monitor was enabled to hold her position during the night, the *Severn* being at least twelve miles to leeward of her at daylight. During the gale and most of the passage it would have been impossible to communicate with or render any assistance to the monitor, as a boat could not possibly have approached her, nor any one, with safety, have stood on her deck. As we approached Cape Carnaveral the weather moderated, and we availed ourselves of the opportunity of taking the *Dictator* in tow, sending her a fifteen-inch hawser, to which she attached her towing tackle. We were enabled to tow six knots, with sail and steam on the *Severn*, and steam on the *Dictator*, eight knots could not be obtained. Much bad weather was encountered going and coming—a heavy norther on the way up and a southerly gale returning, with heavy sea. More than half the time, if any accident had happened to the monitor, we could have done nothing only lay by her until the weather moderated. My experience is that monitors should not be sent to sea, unless moderate winds and pleasant weather could be relied on. When in the neighbourhood of Sombrero, the hawser was cast off and the monitor came in unaided, arriving a few hours after the *Severn*.—*U. S. Army and Navy Journal*.

The above article goes far to establish the fact that Monitors are not sea-going vessels in any sense of the term. Four knots in a sea way would leave the *Dictator* a poor chance with any of the English iron-clads at 13 knots. It follows that the days of the line of battle ships and fast frigates have not yet passed away.

These Monitors have also an ugly fashion of pitching and rolling above anything known in wooden vessels; with the centres of gravity so far below the water line this performance is something wonderful and would not add to the efficiency of the vessel in action with a heavy sea on; on the whole as efficient warlike machinery they may be classed as a failure.