

## Obstruge on the American Flag in Cuba.

MATANZAS, (Cuba,) Dec. 16, 1846.

To the Editor of The Tribune :

Can you tell me, friend Tribune, where to look for an honest politician, of whom I can ask a few questions? I know some of the species, but none worth catching—that is, none of whom we could expect a true answer or a disinterested action. (\*) Are you more fortunate? If you are, and will give the whereabouts of the Phoenix, I will make a pilgrimage to his dwelling-place, and in humble reverence inquire why it is that no President since the days of Jackson has been willing to protect our citizens abroad? Why are concessions made to the Consuls and citizens of England and other powers, which are refused—refused with contempt and indignity—to those of the United States? Is our Eagle, after all, nothing but a vulture in borrowed plumage—a vile bird of prey, rending from the dove and flying before braver birds? Here, in this city of Matanzas, in Havana, in every city where a strong royal influence is felt, the American Consuls dare not—(tell the people of our Republic this truth in plain words)—the representatives of the United States dare not protect our citizens as those of England are protected. If our Consul were to stand up for Americans as the English Consul does for Englishmen, he would be hissed at by the authorities here or perhaps thrown into prison for his presumption, so happened to Mr. Cross, our Vice Consul here, in the day of the illustrious Tyler. Mr. Tyler was too busy thinking of his reflection, and the Senate with the "succession," and the other House of Congress with voting itself books and perquisites in general, to attend to such a trifle as the dishonor of our flag and the insecurity in person and property of our citizens abroad.

If the English Vice Consul had been arrested for guarding the property of a dying countryman, a ship-of-war would have been sent to see to it, and Spain compelled to dismiss her usurping officer and make restitution to the insulted Consul. Our Government, to the surprise and openly expressed contempt of the people here, did nothing; at least nothing with Spain, but then, to balance accounts somewhere, our President sent a frigate to insult the friendly and unoffending Emperor of Morocco.

That heroic achievement, and occasionally hanging a few men to soothe the nervous tremors of a too susceptible officer, is all our Navy has done yet—or had done when I left home. It may have won some distinction since, but the last I heard of it, the most active vessel was the one detailed to carry about Mr. Siddell Mackenzie on little pleasure excursions. The Cabinet spare no money or pains in nursing up his nerves, which were shockingly unstrung by those 'suspicions' on the Somers. Six dollars a day extra, and expenses, is a trifle for such an object. The other officers, who had but one man hung, and that in quiet, Court-Martial order, don't deserve quite so much attention; but he will have a neat, pleasant craft given him, of course, and a hundred men or so put on board for him to whip for his amusement. Flogging men is the most approved stimulus for the drooping energies of an officer who has sat too long at his wine the day before. Ask any one who wears epaulettes if this is not true. It is the regular panacea for officer-blues, and daily applied in our Navy.

The Press seems by its silence to approve this active remedy, and for the same reason, I am led to believe, it allows the small despots of other nations *carte blanche* to treat for their amusement such of our citizens as may happen to fall in their power. The Press, I say, may think the horrid cruelties practised on Americans during the pretended conspiracy for a negro insurrection, a justifiable official enjoyment. When the mass, however, comes to really understand these atrocities, and the profound indifference with which Messrs. Van Buren, Tyler and Polk regard the safety of our citizens, (when they are out of the way of voting,) it will force Congress and Cabinet to put on at least a decent show of patriotism, and then we shall receive suitable protection when we chance to go abroad. MONTGOMERY.

\* Our correspondent has consorted all his life with Loco-Focos, and been one of them. He has never looked in the right quarter for honest politicians; and why should he grumble? He might as well bury his head in the ashes and complain that he could n't see.

[Ed.]

† We beg you will not mention it.

[Ed.]