

## CUBAN SLAVES IN ENGLAND<sup>1</sup>

*The Anti-Slavery Reporter*

On the 1st of July ultimo the *African Steam Navigation Company's* new ship, the *Candace*, sailed from Plymouth for the west coast of Africa. Amongst her passengers were twenty-three self-emancipated slaves, namely, eleven men, eight women, and four children, who had been brought from Havannah to Southampton, on the 7th of June, by the West-India Mail Steamer, the *Avon*. In consequence of private information we had received from Havannah, we were on the look-out for these unfortunates, who, on their arrival at Southampton, were kindly received by our excellent friend, Mr. Joseph Clark, and through his humane exertions at once provided for. They were in a most pitiable condition, being very scantily attired, and had suffered much from cold and wet, having been compelled to lie on the (leek during the voyage, though they had paid for steerage berths. Their allowance of food was also very short, and they were indebted, several times during the voyage, to the humanity of the passengers for the means of appeasing the cravings of nature. Some difficulty was at first experienced in procuring suitable lodgings for so large a number of destitute persons, but their deplorable condition having excited the sympathy of Mr. and Madame Silva, the proprietors of *Silva's Family Hotel*, Queen's Terrace, they kindly received them, and appropriated four attics to their use. Mr. and Madame Silva having resided some years at Havannah, were therefore able to communicate freely with them. Mr. Silva subsequently recognised one of the party as having been employed on the railway works on which Mr. Silva himself was engaged in the capacity of civil engineer.

The narrative of these parties will be found extremely interesting. It throws considerable light on the condition of the slave population in Cuba, and exhibits the operation of the Spanish slave-law, which is altogether more humane than that of the United States. It will be seen, that under it the slaves have certain rights, which they can assert, and that their individuality as human beings is not obliterated, as in America, by their being also regarded as chattels. Their right to demand a change of masters, to manumit themselves on payment of a certain sum, fixed by the Government, to pay that amount either down or by instalments, and the privileges which they are entitled to in the latter case, appear to us to be worthy of notice, and go to shew, that if the slave population were not constantly recruited by new importations, and by the natural increase of the slave population, Slavery in Cuba must die out within a given time, dependent upon the extent to which the slaves availed themselves of their rights, and upon their ability to do so. The narratives we are about to submit will, we think, establish this fact, and probably throw a new light on one of the principal causes of the continuance of the slave-trade.

None of these self-manumitted negroes could speak English, but all of them conversed fluently in Spanish. They appeared to have little idea of religion, though they had all been baptized in the Roman-Catholic faith, as the Spanish law prescribes. The husbands and wives had never been married according to any Christian rite, but had chosen one another in Slavery, and seemed to regard their voluntary union as binding. None of them can read or write. That they should be able to do so was not, of course, to be expected.

They preferred going to Lagos rather than to Liberia or Sierra Leone, and were very fearful lest the ship in which they were going out to Africa should be captured, and they be forced again into Slavery. The women are very modest, and the men well-behaved. Most of them, when not animated by talking, have that woe-begone look which nothing but the suffering and degradation of Slavery can cause.

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## DEPOSITIONS OF THE CUBAN SLAVES.

LORENZO CLARKE: age from 35 to 38. Has been about twenty-two years in Cuba. Tacon was Captain-General. Is a native of Lagos, and was made prisoner in a war between the native chiefs. Was brought from Lagos in the brig *Negríto*, with 560 more, of whom many were women. The latter were separated from the men. There was much sickness on board, and twenty-two died. They were very much crowded between decks, and had scarcely room to lie, sit, or stand. During the voyage the lads and women were allowed to come on deck, but the adult males were kept in close confinement below. About a fortnight before they got to Cuba, an English man of war pursued and captured the *Negríto*. There was firing for quite an hour and a half before the capture was effected. As soon as the cruiser hove in sight, the lads that were on deck were driven below, and the hatches were battened down. One lad resisted, and tried to get up the hatch, but one of the crew chopped his hand off above the wrist with a hatchet, as he grasped the side of the hatchway. As soon as the *Negríto* was taken, her captain and crew were shifted on board the man of war, and a portion of the crew of the latter took charge of the prize: On the arrival of the vessel at Havannah; the slaves were taken to the government barracoons on the Alameda, near the *Morro*. Here they remained twenty-two days, until their strength was recruited. They were then divided into two lots, one half being conducted to the *Consulado del Cerro*, the other to the *Consulado del Lucillo*. Deponent was taken to the former. Their names were entered in a book, and deponent was set to work on the public roads for the local Government. Was told that at the end of ten years he would be entitled to his freedom as an *Emancipado*<sup>2</sup>. He worked on these roads, and then on the Havannah and Gueines railway for twelve years. There was an American employed on these same works, in the capacity of assistant engineer. His name was Clarke. Deponent became his servant, and therefore adopted his name. He saved a little money and put it into the lottery. He drew a prize of three hundred dollars, which sum he handed over to Clarke to save for him. Learnt, some time after, that Clarke was preparing to return to America. Asked him for the three hundred dollars. Clarke refused to give them up. Deponent then made a complaint to Don Antonio Escovedo, Secretary of the Railway Company, who advised him to tell the Captain-General. Deponent did so, and was referred by the Captain-General to the Syndic. The latter took his case in hand, compelled Clarke to give up the money, which was at once transferred to deponent. The Syndic questioned deponent, informed him that he was entitled to his freedom as an *Emancipado*, and his free papers were given to him. Deponent then went to work on his own account, as a porter, on the wharfs and quays. Has a wife and three children, two boys and a girl. The boys are named José and Roche, the girl Isabel. They have all come over with him. He paid four hundred and twenty-five dollars for their passage and his own. Paid the money to the British Consul, and told him he wanted to go back to Lagos. Was informed he must first go to London, and that he would be sent on from there. Has some money left now, but not much. Was earning a good living in Cuba, but did not want to stay. Wished to return to Africa to his relations. Knows he shall find some there, because he has heard of them quite recently through some new slaves, who have been brought from the same place.

MARIA ROSALIA GARCIA, wife of LORENZO CLARKE: is about 30 years of age. Native of Lagos, and was taken from there on board the *Negríto*, when about eight years old. Was sold from the government barracoons to one Dolorez Garcia, whose name she took. This person was an embroideress. Government, however, demanded back deponent, and placed her at the *Beneficienza*, where she remained eight or nine days. Was taken from there by one Don Francisco la Moneda, a shoemaker, who hired her out to work, she paying him two dollars and a quarter a week. Deponent

<sup>2</sup> *Emancipado*: so was called the slaves found in the slaves-ships, at the beginnings of the restrictions to the slave trade (Treatises between England and Spain in 1818 and 1835). When the slaves ships was captured, the slaves of the ship pass to the control of the government who made the capture. In Cuba, the destiny of this emancipados was the same of all the slaves. There were concentrate in the barracoons of Regla (Havana) with the maroons slaves recaptured, before pass to the hands of slaves holders and be assigned to rural or urban works. [NdE]

used to work as a laundress. At the end of four years she paid him sixty-eight dollars for her liberty, and procured her papers as an *Emancipado*. Has been face about ten or eleven years. Is not married to Clarke as white people are, but he is her husband.

MIGUEL MARINO. Is a native of Lagos, and is about 60 years off age. Has known almost all the others a very long time. Has been twenty-four years at Havannah. Was taken from Lagos on board a Spanish vessel with some 300 others, of whom thirty-two died during the voyage. It was a very long one. They were three months getting to Cuba, having been closely pursued by a cruiser, and compelled to put back several times, after being some days at sea. They were landed at a coffee-estate on the Cuban coast, at last, and taken thence to the barracoons at the Havannah, called Castilio Principe. Deponent was bought from there by Don Juan de Cruz, a baker, with whom lie remained two years, and who then sold him to Miguel Marino, also a baker, who baptized him by his name. This all masters are compelled by law to do. Remained with Marino eight years, when lie died. Deponent was then sold again to another baker, named Don Pancho Aguiar, with whom lie remained a year and a half. Saved sonic money, and put it into the lottery, and drew a prize of a thousand dollars. Bought himself for live hundred dollars, and his wife for three hundred dollars. On gaining his freedom, lie began to work as a porter. Has a wife, Margarita Cabrera. The little girl, Matea Marino, is his child, but not Margarita's. He paid two hundred dollars for his passage and that of his wife.

MARGARITA CABRERA. Is a Caravali<sup>3</sup>, a cannibal tribe in the interior of Africa, on the west coast. Was kidnapped when about 23 or 24 years of age. Is now about 60. Does not know the name of the place oil the coast from which she was brought, nor how many slaves were on board, but a great many: quite full. They were landed at Havannah at La Punto. Deponent was sold to Cabrera, a merchant, with whom she remained fifteen years. She worked on his plantations, cultivating sugar-cane and coffee. The slaves used to work from three in the morning till noon, when they used to breakfast. They fared very badly, and were severely tasked and flogged. After breakfast they returned to their work, and went on till sunset, and often later. After serving her first master for fifteen years, deponent was sold to Don Scipiano Aguiar, a saddler and harness-maker. She used to do the washing. Remained nine years with him, when she was bought by a black woman, also a Caravali, who had been brought to Cuba as a slave, but had ransomed herself, and was now following the occupation of a laundress. This woman's name was Manuella Munoz. With her deponent remained a year and a half, when her husband bought her off for three hundred dollars. In her country they make slaves in war. The white men buy all their slaves, and the chief's then "make more war for more slaves". Does not think it is se bad for black men to have slaves as it is for white men. "Black men no Jesu: white men all religion".

MATTEA MARINO. A little girl about 5 years old. Her mother is a black Creole, and is at the Havannah. Her father is Miguel Marino.

This is a beautiful little creature, a perfect model of form, and singularly intelligent. She is as black as Indian ink. Her face is round, like a cherub's, and the facial angle is quite after the Caucasian type. But for her woolly hair and flat nose, her negro origin might be doubted. She expresses willingness to remain in England, and an offer was made to her father and Margarita to bring her up in this country. They declined, however, especially Margarita, who said, "We have only that one, Señor".

IGNATIO MONI: is about 41 years of age. Was brought direct from Lagos and landed at Havannah, at Castilio Principe, in Tacon's time. There were 350 more slaves, men and women, on board, of whom six died during the passage. The cargo was taken to the barracoons of lion Manuel

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<sup>3</sup> *Carabali*: name gave by the Spanish merchants to the slaves coming from Old and New Calabar (south of the Slave Coast, north of Cameroon, in the delta of the Cross River. The name *Carabali* involve people of the *efik*, *efor*, and *ekpe* [NdE]

Barriero, a negro-trader, since dead. Deponent was sold to a builder named Don Antonio Mayo, who re-sold him, two months after, to a farrier, one Don Pedro Moni, whose name deponent took. Remained with him until within the last nine years. Deponent had taken a wife, also a slave, and both set to work to buy themselves off. Deponent purchased her first. Paid five hundred dollars for her. Her mistress wanted seven hundred, but deponent appealed to the Syndic, who compelled her owner to take the five hundred dollars. Bought himself for a similar sum. After this, worked as a porter on the wharfs and quays. Saved enough to pay the passage of himself and wife, which cost him two hundred dollars. Expects to find his mother and brother at Lagos. Has heard of them within the last eight or nine months from new slaves landed at Havannah.

CATARINA BOSC, wife of the above deponent. Is about 40 years of age, and has been about twenty years in Havannah. Was taken from Lagos by a Spanish slaver, with some 600 more. Only two died on the passage, that she knew of. Shortly after her arrival, was sold to a merchant named Bosc, in whose service she remained, as cook and laundress, for four years and a half. Bosc then sold her to a negress named Rosalia Aguirre, a seller of provisions in the streets, and who kept an eating-house. Rosalia was a Caravali. Deponent remained with her five years and a half, when her husband, Ignatio Moni, bought her for five hundred dollars.

We would call attention to the circumstance of Ignatius Moni's having compelled his wife's owner to receive five hundred dollars for her ransom. This, it appears, is the highest sum-as fixed by the Government -that any owner can demand as the price of his slave, when the latter is in a position to offer this sum down for his freedom. Should he refuse, or demand more, the slave has the right of appealing to a local functionary called a Syndic, who can compel the owner to accept the sum proffered, and forthwith free the slave.

GABRIEL CRUSATI. Does not know his age, but thinks about 40. Has been twelve years in Havannah. Was taken from Lagos by a Spanish slaver, with some 200 more, of whom many were women. Four slaves died on the passage. They were landed on the Cuban coast, in a wood; and thence taken to the barracoons. Deponent was purchased from the barracoons by Don Luis Droseo, a merchant, and was employed by him on the wharf. Remained with him seven months, when he was sold to another merchant, Joaquim Lupicio, who employed him in a similar manner. This man was a relative of Crusati's, whose name was given to deponent. Remained with him six years. Had a little money when sold to Lupicio; and at the end of seven years had saved enough to buy himself off for five hundred dollars. Has a wife, Luisa Macorra, who is with, him now. After lie became free, deponent worked on the, wharfs and quays. He and his wife paid each a hundred dollars for their passage.

MARIA LUISA MACORRA, wife of the above. Is about 28, and has been seventeen years in Havannah. Is a Lucomi<sup>4</sup>, and came from Lagos. There were 420 more slaves on board the vessel: One of them jumped overboard, but was picked up, and severely punished by flogging. He died in consequence. The men were then all put in irons. The cargo was taken to Castilio Principe. Deponent was bought by Don José Macorra, who kept a lottery-office. Served in the capacity of a house domestic. Remained with him seven years, but lie was a very bad master, and therefore deponent exercised her right to demand that lie should sell her. Deponent had met with a relation, named now Brigilia Pina, whom she prevailed upon to buy her. Brigilia sold provisions. She died a year after she had purchased deponent. Her heirs left her "cuartada"<sup>5</sup> in three hundred dollars, and

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<sup>4</sup> *Lucomi* (lucumi): name gave to the slaves bringing from the Yoruba land, in Slave Coast (Nigeria). In Brazil, the same *lucumi* people was called *nago* [NdE]

<sup>5</sup> *Coartada*: the *coartacion* consist in the right acquire by the slave that giving some money to his master, of been sold only at one fixed price, of which he discount the sum pay by the slave, and this one could liberate him giving the master the difference of money between the coartada and the fixed price. About this concept, Fernando Ortiz wrote: "La coartación limitaba, restringía, coartaba la potestad dominica del amo, por lo cual era ciertamente impropio llamar

sold her for this sum to another relation named Mauricio Rodriguez, a bricklayer. Deponent used to pay him nine dollars a month. Remained three years with him, when she became "cuartada" in one hundred dollars to Don Alejandro Minez. After one year's service she completed the purchase of herself for this sum. Has been: about four years free, and got her living by cooking. Paid her own passage, one hundred dollars.

The foregoing case is extremely interesting, as illustrating two other humane features in the Spanish slave-law. The first is, that the slave, if dissatisfied with his master, may insist upon the latter's selling him to another. In such case, the slave must seek a new owner himself within three days, who purchases him at the price originally paid for him, or at a fair deduction for depreciation in value from hard service or other sufficient cause.

The second point in the Spanish law favourable to the slave is, that if he desire to manumit himself, and has not the sum of five hundred dollars to pay down to his master, but only a portion thereof, small or large, he can become what is called "cuartada". He agrees with his master that the price of his freedom shall be fixed at a given sum, on which he pays an instalment. His master then gives him a licence to hire himself out, and to work on his own account, the slave being bound to pay, to the master at the rate of one; shilling per day on, every hundred dollars of the balance left unpaid of the amount agreed upon as his purchase-money. This is being "en cuartado". But the law goes yet further, for the- slave thus situated cannot be re-enslaved, entirely. If his master dies, the slave becomes only the "cuartada" of the their, (as is exemplified in the case of *Macorra* given above,) who, should he sell him, cannot do so for more than the sum remaining unpaid. *Macorra*, it will be observed, was first sold for three hundred dollars, being then "cuartada" to Pina's heirs to this amount, and afterwards for only one hundred dollars, she having reduced by two-thirds the sum she owed for herself.

DOLORÉ RÉAL. Is about 40 years of age, and has been thirty years in Havannah. Is a native of Lagos, of the Lucomi tribe, and was taken thence by a Spanish slaver, a large vessel, with many- more slaves, but does not know how many. They were landed near Cardenas, and taken to the barracoons in Havannah, where they remained a month. Deponent was bought by Carmen Real, a free negro woman, also a native of Lagos. Real was a laundress, and had eight or nine other female slaves. Remained with her six years, when she was sold to Padre Léon, a priest, as servant. At the end of seven years deponent bought herself for four hundred and fifty dollars. On regaining her freedom she resumed her occupation as a laundress, earning about fifteen dollars a month. Deponent paid one hundred and four dollars for her passage back to Lagos, where she is now going.

Deponent knows she shall find her mother and her three brothers when she gets back. Has heard of them within the last four months, through some Bozals, newly-imported from Lagos. These people, who had not then been made slaves; had conversed with some self-manumitted negroes who, had gone back to Lagos from Havannah some time ago. This circumstance is not at all uncommon. The slaves in Havannah often hear of their relatives through the newly-imported Bozals. Self-manumitted slaves are also constantly going back home. Some years ago a large number of them freighted a Spanish vessel direct from Havannah to Lagos, entirely at their own cost. Through them many slaves sent news home to their friends.

This touching incident in slave life as it is in Cuba, will, we feel sure, not pass unnoticed by our relaters. The circumstance of so many of this unfortunate class toiling to save money to return home is extremely interest, illustrating the strength of their natural affections, which Slavery so rudely and want only outrages, and their industrious habits left to labour for themselves.

MARIANA MERCEDES PILOTO. Has been twenty-two, years in Havannah. Does not know age, but her free-papers state her to be 35, she believes is nearly correct. Is a Lucomi, from Lagos,

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coartado al esclavo, cuando en rigor el coartado era el señor" *Los negros esclavos*, 1975 (1916), La Habana: Ciencias Sociales, p. 286 [NdE]

whence she was shipped on a Spanish vessel, with many others, and landed up a creek on the coast, near Havannah. Was at once taken to her master, who had a share in the venture. His name was Don Antonio la Fé. He kept a grocer's store. Deponent was hired out to a laundress, and soon after sold; but does not remember the name of the party who purchased her. He sold her again to a Monsieur Thibault, a Frenchman, who died soon after. Deponent remained with Madame Thibault. The latter was a dress-maker. Deponent saved money, and ultimately bought herself for the legal sum of five hundred dollars paid down. Has been free four years, and paid one hundred dollars for her passage.

They were all very badly used coming from Havannah. They had not enough food, and the crew threw water over them when they were lying about sick on the deck. They came from Havannah *via* St. Thomas, and were twenty-five days on the passage from the latter place.

LUCA MARTINO: is about 45, and has been thirty-one years in Havannah. Is brother to Miguel Marino. Was brought from Lagos on board a Spanish vessel, which, almost immediately after it had sailed, was captured by a British cruiser. The slaves were landed at Casa Blanca, opposite Havannah, and placed in the government barracoons. Deponent remained here three months. Was then hired out from the barracoons to Don Manuel Martino, who, on condition of receiving from deponent three dollars a week, allowed him to work as a water-carrier. When Martino hired him, no entry of deponent's name was made in any register. Eight years after, deponent accidentally met his brother in the public streets. He was very glad. They embraced each other and cried. Deponent remained with Martino till Martino died, when he became the property of his son, of whom he ultimately bought himself for four hundred dollars. Deponent has a wife and five children in Havannah. She was a free-born Creole. Deponent had not money enough to pay for their passage, so it was agreed he should go to Africa and work there till he had earned sufficient to send for them. Deponent has brothers and sisters at Lagos, and is anxious to see them. They will lend him money to send for his wife and family. Has been free since, 1840, but though an *emancipado*, he has not his papers as one. Those he has shew he has freed himself. Many more *emancipados* are similarly circumstanced. Does not know, but thinks Martino paid the Government a sum of money for him. Deponent means that Government sold him as though he had been a slave. If this had not been so, does not know why the son of Martino should have made deponent pay four hundred dollars for his liberty.

The reader will understand that the above-named deponent, having been captured by a British cruiser, became entitled, as an *emancipado*, to his freedom, on the expiration of his apprenticeship, or term of servitude, which should not have exceeded five years from the time of his being indented. Instead of this, he was virtually sold, inasmuch as the local Government would appear to have exacted a certain bonus from the party who purchased his services, which sum became a permanent debt upon himself until he was able to discharge it, and thus purchase his own freedom.

This is an illustration of one of the many abuses which have sprung out of a system devised on the false supposition that "the slave requires to be prepared for freedom".

TELAFORO SAVEDRA: is about 48 years of age, a native of Lagos, and has been in Havannah twenty-nine years. Was brought away by a Spanish vessel, with some 300 more, men and women. Seven were punished during the voyage, of whom six died in consequence. Five others also died from natural causes. When they were about four days sail from Havannah they were captured by an English cruiser. The slaves were taken to the Government barracoons, where they remained fifteen days. At the end of this time, deponent was hired out, under the Consulate surveillance, to a chocolate manufacturer and confectioner named Savedra, with whom he remained ten years: this man flogged him very badly sometimes. Was then hired by a Monsieur Greffé, in the same trade, who paid Government ten doubloons (about 32*l.* sterling) for his term. Deponent remained with Greffé twelve years, by which time he had saved up the ten doubloons Greffé had paid for him. Took this sum to the Consulate, and paid it back. On this his free papers were handed to him. Before he got them, however, he had to pay the Commissary of Police a fee of two dollars and a

quarter. Has now been free seven years, during which time lie has worked at his trade. Paid one hundred dollars for his passage.

This case, like the foregoing, would go to prove, that the local authorities derive considerable fees from hiring out the slaves who come under the category of *emancipados*. No wonder the official returns present such a bare account of their numbers. It will be seen that they are virtually held in servitude.

AUGUSTIN ACOSTA: is about 40. Has been twenty-four years in Havannah. Was taken from Lagos by a Spanish slaver. There were 400 or more other negroes on board, men and women. They were pretty well treated during the voyage. None died, though the small-pox broke out amongst them. The cargo was landed in a bye-place on the coast near Havannah. The slaves were taken thence to a barracoon. Deponent was sold with forty others to one Trebucio Yané, a dealer, who lured him out as a labourer on different sugar and coffee-estates in the interior, some distance apart. Deponent worked in the field and in the sugar-house. The hours of labour were from daylight, or about four in the morning, to midnight, one hour being allowed in the middle of the day for meals. The daily allowance was a bit of dried salt beef, about as large as your three fingers. They had no bread, but yams and plantains. They went very short of food, but had plenty of sugar and water to drink. Lived under Yané twelve years. Yané always hired deponent out on condition that he should not be flogged, but the others used to be very severely whipped. Yané sold him to one Lopez Diez, who lived in one of the provinces, and with whom lie remained two years, as a house servant. Deponent was then sold to Don Manuel Acosta, a planter, who had coffee and sugar-estates. With him deponent remained nine years, when lie became able to buy himself off for fifty dollars. Paid one hundred dollars for his passage from Havannah to England, and expects to be sent free of cost to Lagos.

JOAQUIM PEREZ: is between 50 and 60 years of age, and has been from twenty-nine to thirty, years in Havannah. Is a native of Lagos. Was brought from thence in a Spanish vessel with 300, men and women. The small-pox broke out during the voyage, and they lost four, by this disease. They were landed under the hills on the coast, in open day, and were taken to the barracoons of Castilio Principe. This place has been converted into an estate. Deponent remained in the barracoons three days. Was fetched away by his master, who had a share in the venture. His name was Perez, and deponent remained with him twelve years. He was a merchant; and deponent worked on the quay, with a gang of other slaves. Perez then sold him to Joaquim Lupicio, whom he served for fifteen years. Deponent had been able to save, and was at length enabled to buy himself off, which lie did for five hundred and fifty dollars. It took him a long time to save so much. Has a wife, Martina Segui, and a son. They have accompanied him. The son is eighteen. Deponent has paid three hundred dollars for their passage.

MARTINA SEGUI: wife of the above deponent. Is about 42 to 45 years old, as near as she can guess. Was quite a girl when she came to Havannah, and has been there thirty-one or thirty-, two years. Is a native of Lagos, whence she was brought to Havannah, with upwards of 500 more. Twenty negroes died during the passage. They were landed between two woods, at a retired place on the coast, and distributed as they were landed. They were expected. Deponent was sold to one Don José Morales, a planter, who sent her out to vend provisions. Was with him a year, and then sold to Segui, a Mandingo, now, free, and who was foreman on the quay. She pursued her former occupation, under him, and became his "cuartada". She was valued at four, hundred dollars, and gave him two hundred down, agreeing to bring him three dollars a week. Altogether, was with him twenty years. Was then sold for two hundred dollars to one Joaquim Mendiola, and after she had been in his service three years, was able to free herself. In the mean time she had bought off her son for one hundred and fifty dollars. Has been free seven years. Her son's name is CRESENCIO SEGUI. He is a cigar-maker by trade, and is now eighteen years old.

MANUEL VIDAU: is about 42 years old. Was taken prisoner at Lagos in a war, and thence shipped to Havannah, in 1834, on board a Spanish vessel. Was landed near Matanzas. Three hundred more were brought by the same vessel, from the same place, but two died during the passage. There was a great number of women. Deponent was, sold from the barracoons to one Don Manuel Vidau, who kept a general shop, and, was a cigar-maker. Remained with him eleven years. Used to make 400 cigars a day, which is considered an average good day's work. When he did not work well, and make his quantity, he used to be stripped, tied down, and flogged with the cow-hide. Has been very badly flogged. Vidau, his late master, has now sold his slaves, and returned to Spain with a large fortune. He sold deponent to one Don Pedro Carrera, a coffee and sugar-broker. This party has also retired from business, and returned to Spain, but his sons remain at Havannah. Carrera licensed deponent to hire himself out to work. Used to earn six and seven dollars a week making cigars, and paid his master four dollars and a half. Saved money and joined thirty-nine others in a lottery-ticket. They drew a prize of sixteen thousand dollars, which they divided equally, deponent getting four hundred. Bought himself for five hundred and eighty-nine dollars. Has now been free from seven to eight years, and earned a living making cigars. Earned sufficient to keep himself, wife, and an adopted child, and saved enough to pay their passage to London. It cost him two hundred and twenty-five dollars. Could get a very good livelihood in Havannah, but wished to return to Lagos, to his relatives.

This deponent is a remarkably handsome and well-formed negro. He is the leader of the party, who obey him implicitly. They call him *capitán* or captain. He is also the most intelligent of the number.

MARIA LUISA PICARD, wife of Vidau. Is about 32, and has been in Havannah twenty-one years. Is also a native of Lagos. Was brought from thence in a Spanish vessel, with a large number of other slaves, male and female. They were landed on the coast, near Havannah, and taken to the barracoons. About one-third of the number were ill. Deponent was sold to Don Jose Maria Picard, a broker, and served in his family as nurse and cook. Was with him four years. Was then sold to Don Pedro Maximo Valdez, a gentleman, as a house-servant. After being with him two years, she became his "cuartada" for two hundred dollars, having paid him two hundred and fifty dollars on account. Was in Valdez' family eight years. Has been free about seven years. About that time, Manuel Vidau took her as his wife. They have no children of their own, hut Manuel Aye, who is with them, is their child by adoption. He is about four, years and a half old. Both his parents are dead: they died of cholera in 1852. They were blood relations of her husband's. Manuel Aye is their nephew. They have brought him up by hand since he was four months' old. His parents could not take care of him. They had bad masters, and bad no time to attend to the child.

Although the foregoing narratives may exhibit Slavery in Cuba under some of its more favourable aspects, as compared with Slavery in the Southern States of the American Union, it must be borne in mind, that, with the exception of two of the deponents, all of them were *urban* slaves. Now, although the Spanish slave-law possesses many humane features, and the rights of the slaves under it are guaranteed by a public opinion greatly in advance of any that ever prevailed in our own colonies, or that now exists in America, yet in the provinces it is by no means easy for the slaves employed on estates to assert their rights and claim their privileges, owing to their being so remote from any local authority. Thus the humane provisions of the law are rendered almost inoperative. The cases of Margarita Cabrera and Augustin Acosta, however, go to shew, that even when employed on the plantations, instances do occur of slaves being able to emancipate themselves.

Nearly the whole of the deponents are of the Lucomi tribe, from the vicinity of Lagos. They are said to be the most docile and industrious of all the negroes that are imported, and the majority of those who manumit themselves by purchase are of this tribe. We are informed that as many as eighty-three more were preparing to leave Havannah. If this, be so, they are likely, to prove a heavy charge upon private benevolence, or upon the Government.

It may not be out of place to mention here that the decree recently promulgated from Madrid, “providing for the restriction of slave-labour to agricultural purposes”, &c. will, by converting the urban slaves into field labourers, to a great extent render self emancipation more difficult in future. As the slaves will be removed to remote districts, they will not only not have ready access to the authorities, but will be deprived altogether of the opportunity of being employed in remunerative, if not even lucrative occupations.