

not at the time she was taken. And what became of them after they left the vessel? Why they sought refuge among the negroes and in the forest. How different was the conduct of the Portuguese, who shipped at Prince's Island, and had no concern with the robbery. One of them went on board the Panda immediately after the English had taken possession of her, and the other sought a passage home in a vessel lying very near the Panda. From the instructions of the captain of the Panda, I believe the whole affair was a regular piratical and slaving speculation, on the part of certain individuals in the Havana, for the Panda had not a sufficient cargo to purchase the number of slaves (450) she was going for, and the wages of the crew also were \$1000 per month. Mr. Peyton informed the court that slaves on the coast of Africa could be purchased for \$12 each.

I shall now advert to the alleged contradictions in the evidence of Perez. The statement of this witness, "that he had not been drunk, and had not had rum given him," was not contradicted by the statement he made in gaol to Mr. Badlam. He told Mr. Badlam that on that occasion he had had wine given to him; but never acknowledged that he received rum, or that he had been drunk. The witness' state of mind, too, when he said this should be taken into consideration. He believed he had been dealt faithlessly with by the government, and under this impression made use of words attributed to him. At the conclusion of the interview, however, he stated that "when before the judge he would tell the truth," thus clearly intimating that his previous statement about the wine was a falsehood. In relation to Perez's declaration, that he could not read or write, he had used the words in their common acceptation and meant to say that he could not read as others did, with any degree of fluency.

If Perez had declared he could read and had given no better specimen than he did in the court (reading or rather spelling two lines in five minutes) the counsel for the prisoners could have accused him of laying claim to a qualification which he did not possess. But, even admitting that Perez had