

THE SLAVE TRADE—The slave trader takes care to cross the ocean without a national flag or papers of any kind. The reason for this is, that if captured, no court can condemn them for piracy. The vessel may be condemned and the negroes liberated by the captor, but the crew can be punished only by the nation under whose flag the offence was committed. The vessel having no flag, the crew escapes.

The course of the slave trade, as now carried on, is very simple. The trader takes with him to the coast about seven or eight thousand dollars in Spanish ounces. With these he buys of the British trading vessels there—who make up their cargoes for the market—the assortment of goods necessary for his barter and work. These consist of Birmingham muskets and shackles, Manchester madapollams and handkerchiefs, a little rum, powder, and a few knickknacks. From the native traders he buys rice to feed the slaves. The original sum of seven or eight thousand dollars will give him a stock that in barter will probably buy fifteen hundred assorted negroes. To take these from the factory he requires three vessels. Having availed himself of the English flag for the first part of the business—which is getting the goods to the coast for the barter—he now does the same with the American flag to get the vessels there. Three American vessels are purchased, and some reckless adventurer is found who will deliver them on the coast. When they get there, the flag and papers are sent ashore, and the negroes come on board. A new crew, in part or all, comes with them, who understand taking care of the slaves. And now for the run to Cuba. Every place below is filled; the crew remain always on deck, rain or shine, and a lookout is kept at the masthead all the time. If a sail is descried upon the horizon, the course of the vessel is changed so as to avoid it. They wish to meet neither friend nor foe. If the cargo is landed in Cuba, the vessel, having no papers, is an incumbrance. Sometimes she is burnt, sometimes set adrift at sea, as was the Grey Eagle, off Bahia Honda; sometimes she is run to some small Mexican port, where she gets Mexican papers, and sometimes she is given to the mate, as in the case of the Haidee.—*N. Y. Herald.*