

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY REFERENCES
TO THE
TRANS-ATLANTIC HUMAN TRADE
IN
HUMACAO, PUERTO RICO**

SELECTED SECONDARY SOURCES:

China, Jorge. "Slavery and Child Trafficking in Puerto Rico at the Closing of the African Slave Trade: The Young Captives of the Slaver Majesty, 1859-1865.

Dorsey, Joseph C., *Slave Trade in the Age of Abolition: Puerto Rico, West Africa and the Non-Hispanic Caribbean, 1815-1859* (Gainesville, 2003). **See pages 136-146.**

- Note, an earlier vessel the "Triumfo" detained in 1845 appears to have the same captain "Juan Carreras" as the later vessel Majesty
- Dorsey indicates 2/5/1859 as the date the Majesty was "detained/captured" in Puerto Rico and the nationality as United States (p. 136)
- Dorsey also indicates the Majesty is a "barkentine with 35 crew members of Spanish nationality (p. 137)
- On p. 138 Dorsey lists the Majesty's captain as "Rafel Aguillar" of "Spanish" nationality (although SlaveVoyages and other sources list the captain as Juan Carreras)
- On p. 141, Dorsey indicates the Majesty was fitted in New York and Supplied in New Orleans.
- Dorsey also indicates on p. 142 that Ambriz was the vessel's African port of call.
- P. 143 indicates that enslaved people on the Majesty predominantly came from the Congo and that there were approximately 1,050 enslaved people on board the vessel, 214 of whom did not survive the passage.
- P. 144 Dorsey indicates San Juan as the liberation site with enslaved people representing Congo/Angola regions; also claims the vessel was bound for Puerto Rico alone.
- P. 145 Dorsey asserts the Majesty was the "Largest expedition in the history of the Puerto Rican slave trade."

Flores, Luis Buset. *Los africanos emancipados del Majesty, 1859.*

[https://www.academia.edu/19843321/Los_africanos_emancipados_del_Majesty_1859.](https://www.academia.edu/19843321/Los_africanos_emancipados_del_Majesty_1859)

Flores, Luis Buset. *Los africanos emancipados del Majesty: el contrabando de esclavos frente a la prohibición de la Trata en Puerto Rico, 1859.*

https://www.academia.edu/23827134/Los_africanos_emancipados_del_Majesty_el_contrabando_de_esclavos_frente_a_la_prohibici%C3%B3n_de_la_Trata_en_Puerto_Rico_1859.

Howard, Warren S., *American Slaves and Federal Law, 1837-1862* (Berkeley, CA, 1963): 214-262.

- Appendix H “Some American Slavers from Cuban Ports, 1857-1860” p. 247 references “J.W. Reed – bark (350). Cleared 7-19-58 from Santiago; reported to have escaped from Africa with slaves.”
- Appendix J “Slavers Purchased at New Orleans, 1856-1860” p. 254 references “J. W. Reed – bark (350). Purchased 5-5-58 by Frederick B. Sladden (M); outfitted at Santiago.”
- Appendix M “Baltimore-Built Slavers of the 1840s and the 1850s” p. 261 states “Damariscotta, ME.: J.W. Reed, 1857 (1858)”

SELECTED PRIMARY SOURCES:

U.S. Congressional Documents and British Parliamentary Papers

United States Congress, House Executive Document, 36-2, 7:253.

- Section on the “African Slave Trade” on p. 253 references “Bark “J.W. Reid,” of 350 tons, sailed 19th July, 1858, from St. Iago de Cuba; is said to have gone to Africa.”

Note: It is not clear to me how the SlaveVoyages database draws the connection between J.W. Reid and Majesty.

Correspondence with British Coms. At Sierra Leone, Havana, Cape of Good Hope, and Loanda; and reports from British Vice-Admiralty Courts, and from British naval officers, relating to the slave trade from April 1, 1859, to March 31, 1860. Accessed through HeinOnline Database.

- 1859-3-12 correspondence from her Majesty’s Commissary Judge to the Earl of Malmesbury
 - References “an American barque” that “sailed from St. Jago de Cuba, on her return from the coast of Africa” having “been wrecked at Puerto Rico, and that her cargo of negroes (some 800) have been seized by the Spanish local authorities, and declared emancipados.”

Correspondence with British ministers and Agents in Foreign Countries, and with Foreign Ministers in England, on Slave Trade, April 1856-March 1857 (Class B); 1857 Session 2, Command Papers, No. 2282, Volume Page XLIV.115, Volume 44. Accessed through HeinOnline Database.

- 1859-4-7 correspondence from Mr. Buchanan to the Earl of Malmesbury
 - P. 111 references “a vessel stranded at Puerto Rico with slaves on Board”
- 1859-4-9 correspondence from Mr. Buchanan to the Earl of Malmesbury

- P. 111 urges “the Spanish Government to institute a stringent inquiry into the case of the slaver “Magestad;” which was lately stranded on the island of Puerto Rico with a cargo of slaves on board, and which is alleged to have been fitted out at Cadiz.
- 1859-4-9 correspondence from Mr. Buchanan to Senor Collantes
 - P. 111 calls attention to “the “Majeste,” a large vessel alleged to have been fitted out at Cadiz, had been stranded at the port of Humacao, on the east end of Puerto Rico, with 850 slaves on board, the survivors of a cargo of 1050, with which she had left the coast of Africa. It does not appear certain whether the vessel had actually intended to land these slaves at Puerto Rico, or to carry them on to Cuba, but your Excellency will learn from the report of Her Majesty’s Consul at St. Thomas, that he had not only been assured that this cargo of negroes was intended for the former island, but that a small cargo had been safely landed some time previously on the southern coast.”
- 1859-4-25 correspondence from Mr. Buchanan to Earl of Malmesbury
 - P. 113-114 “M. Collantes considers the name of the vessel to have been “Majesty,” which he says leads to the presumption of her having been English or Anglo-American, and he represents her Commander, who had died on the passage, to have been an Englishman. Although upwards of 1,000 slaves were embarked on board this vessel, the Puerto Rican authorities report only 653 to have been landed.”
- 1859-04-12 Senor Collantes to Mr. Buchanan
 - P. 114 explains “From the documents which exist in this office it appears that truly in the night of the 5th of February last a ship of large dimensions, and apparently laden with a considerable number of African negroes, was discovered stranded on the beach of Candeleró, and at the port called the “Frenchman’s,” belonging to the jurisdiction of Humacao. [...] it is known that the ship is truly one of those employed in the illicit Negro Traffic; that it comes from Santiago de Cuba, from whence it sailed more than six months ago, apparently for New Orleans; that out at sea, it changed its course, going to the Coast of Africa, where it took on board from 1,000 to 1,200 negroes, of whom a large number perished during the passage, the Captain, who it seems was an English man, having died also; that whilst sailing in the direction of Cuba it accidentally stranded where it was found; that it had on board 653 negroes and a crew of 30 men; that the former have been taken possession of in virtue of Government regulations; and will be conveyed to the capital of the island in the steam-boat “Ferdinand Cortes,” together with the ship, which was already afloat again, thanks to the measures taken by the said steam-boat; and the latter, that is to say, the crew, were incarcerated in the prison of Humacao, and are at the disposal of the Tribunals, and, finally that the ship has upon it,

although somewhat effaced, the name of “Majesty,” which leads to the presumption of her being English or Anglo American.”

- 1859-05-13 correspondence from the Earl of Malmesbury to Mr. Buchanan
 - P. 115 reports “that out of the cargo of slaves recently disembarked at Humacao in that island from the stranded vessel “Majestic” or “Majesty” and which was reported to consist of 850 negroes, only 512 remained ultimately accounted for by the Spanish authorities, the rest having been stolen with the connivance of the authorities, and reduced to slavery. ... the note from Senhor Calderon Collantes ... that the number of negroes stated by the Spanish Minister to have been found on board the stranded vessel, and to have been taken possession of by the authorities, amounted to 653, but whether the number given by Her Majesty’s Consul, or by the Spanish Minister, is correct, it is evident in either case that a large proportion of the unfortunate human beings, whose liberty ought to have been assured to them when once under the protection of the Spanish authorities, have been again kidnapped into slavery through the remissness or connivance of those authorities.”
- 1859-05-21 Mr. Buchanan to Senor Collantes
 - P. 117-118 reports “that out of the cargo of that vessel disembarked at Humacao, which was reported to consist of 850 negroes, only 512 were ultimately accounted for by the Spanish authorities to be apprenticed as emancipados, the rest having been stolen with the connivance of the authorities and reduced to slavery. Mr. Consul Hunt reports ... that the stolen negroes were the strongest and healthiest of the cargo, while the weakly and sickly were left in possession of the authorities; and he also mentions that the Military Commandant of Humacao, who was the principal delinquent in their abduction, had been removed from his command, and was awaiting his trial by a court-martial at Puerto Rico. ... a note to General Cotoner on the 22nd of February, requesting that one of the emancipados might be assigned to the estate-holders of the Department in which the Africans had been landed, in order that it might be more easy to identify the numbers who were known to be secreted there ... on the 23rd of march last there was hardly an estate in the district (although no emancipado had been assigned to them) on which some negroes from the cargo of the “Majestic” were not to be found. Indeed, at that time, only five of the missing negroes had been captured by the police... your Excellency’s note above referred to represents the number of negroes found on board the stranded vessel, and taken possession of by the authorities, as having only amounted to 650...”
- 1859-5-21 Mr. Buchanan to Senor Collantes
 - P. 121 “... Her Majesty’s Government have received information that fifteen other vessels have either sailed, or are about to sail from American and Cuban ports, destined to be employed in that Traffic. Amongst other

vessels, also, which have this year arrived in the West Indies with slaves on board, the “Majestic,” lately stranded on the coast of Puerto Rico, must be mentioned; and there is the best authority for stating that this vessel, which is capable of carrying upwards of 1,000 negroes, had previously landed several cargoes on the Cuban coast.”

- 1859-6-3 Mr. Buchanan to Senor Collantes
 - P. 123 “Mr Hunt states to Her Majesty’s Government, in forwarding the inclosures, that the abduction and dispersion of a large body of negroes, where the cargo of the “Majestic” was landy, would have been impossible without the knowledge and connivance of the authorities; and it may be inferred that the Captain-General entertains a similar opinion, from his Excellency, after receiving Mr. Hunt’s note, having placed the Captain of the port and the Alcalde of Humacao under arrest, to take their trial at the capital of the colony for complicity in the abduction and disposal of the missing negroes. His excellency appears also have assured Mr. Hunt that he would cause any estates to be searched on which there was reasonable ground for suspecting that negroes were concealed.
- 1859-7-31 Lord J. Russel to Mr. Buchanan
 - P. 130 “there can be little doubt but that 76 of the negroes who were recently landed at Humacao from the slaver “Majestic” have been embarked at that port for Cuba on board the Spanish schooner “Terrible.”
- 1859 Memorandum
 - P. 135 “Mr. Crawford also states that the “Terrible,” which sailed from Puerto Rico with seventy-six negroes in June last, succeeded in landing them upon the coast of Cuba, but no information has reached the Captain-General on the subject, another proof of the powerful means employed by the slave traders to insure the silence of the local authorities.”
- 1859-06-29 Acting Coast-General Crawford to Earl of Malmesbury
 - P. 157-158 “Mr. Hunt ... having informed me that a Spanish schooner, the “Terrible,” had been despatched from the port of Humacao, in ballast, for the Island of St. Thomas, on the 27th of May last, but that instead of going there she had proceeded to this island with a cargo consisting of seventy-six Africans who had formed part of the cargo which was landed at Humacao from the barque “Majestic,” in February last,” [...] “As the voyage from Puerto Rico to Cuba is very short, I have not the least doubt but that the schooner “Terrible” accomplished her adventure in safety early this month and it is not remarkable that no intelligence of the landing should have reached the Captain-General, inasmuch as the operations of the slave-traders are carried on in such a manner as to frustrate the orders of the Government and to insure silence on the part of those whose duty it is to oppose any attempt at the infraction of the Treaty between Great Britain and Spain for the abolition of the Slave Trade.”
- 1859-6-13 Acting Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba

- P. 159 “...the Spanish schooner “terrible” was despatched from the port of Humacao, Puerto Rico, apparently in ballast for the Island of St. Thomas, on Friday the 29th ultimo, but instead of going there she has proceeded to this island with seventy-six Bozal negroes, who formed part of the cargo of the “Majestic,” which vessel landed about 850 Africans near Humacao, in February last. These Bozals were from the estates of Ramon Pon, Don Jose Maria Rios, and others; a person called Don Salvador Cordova having left Humacao for Cuba for the purpose of selling the negroes in this island.”
- 1859-9-5 Acting Consul-General Crawford to Lord J. Russell
 - P. 163 “The “Terrible,” which was reported in my dispatch of the 29th June last, succeeded in running the seventy-six negroes she brought from Puerto Rico, but where has not been made public, and the authorities of the district in which these slaves were landed have not reported the circumstances to the Captain-General.”
- 1859-03-28 Consul Hunt to the Earl of Malmesbury
 - P. 185 “that the barque “Majestic,” with about 850 negroes on board, had been captured by the authorities at Humacao; I now beg to state, for the information ... that out of this number only 512 remained ultimately at the disposal of the Government to be apprenticed as emancipados, the rest having been stolen with the connivance of the Military Commandant of the Department, and are now on various estates at the east end of the island, where they have been made slaves. ... a note to General Cotoner on the 22nd ultimo, requesting that none of the emancipados might be assigned to the estate-holders of the Department in which the Africans had been landed, in order that, as it was known that numbers were secreted there, it might be more easy to discover their whereabouts whenever a search might be made; and this suggestion was ultimately carried out. ... that no emancipados have been assigned to that district with whom the stolen Africans might otherwise be confounded, there not an estate there, with one or two exceptions, upon which some are not to be found. ... so much time had elapsed, and that five negroes only, in the possession of a planter named Paniagua, had been captured by the police, and these only because the assumed proprietor, who was moving them at night himself from one department to another, refused to bribe the policeman who made the capture, I addressed myself officially to the Acting Governor (General Cotoner himself being absent upon an official tour), naming several estates upon which these negroes were to be found, and calling upon his Excellency to take steps to liberate them.”
- 1859-3-23 Consul Hunt to General Medinilla
 - P. 185-186 “having referenced to the negroes recently disembarked at Humacao under the superintendence of the authorities at that place. The number, according to the statements of persons likely to be informed upon

the subject, did not fall below 850, but these only 494 have been actually retained in the custody of the Government, plus a further number of 18, which his Excellency General Cotoner informed the Undersigned were still in Humacao, leaving at the very lowest calculation, 338 to be otherwise accounted for. These Bozals, who have been thus kidnapped into slavery after they had been in the possession of the authorities, were the strongest and the hardest who had most resisted the effects of the voyage, while those who ultimately remained at the disposal of the Government were, from their youth and from the emaciated condition in which they had arrived, unfit for immediate employment. In the department of Humacao, with two or three exceptions, every estate holder is in possession of some of these negroes, and the Undersigned is informed that the planters are now stealing them from each other. On the estates in the department of Hayomulas, belonging to Messrs. Esquiaga and Co., Messrs. Elzuburn and Co., M. Machiacate, M. Vinas, and M. Vizcarrondo, there are numbers, varying respectively from ten to twenty-five of these twice-stolen Africans. Up to this date, although the negroes have been so widely dispersed and moved into various departments, only five have hitherto been seized by the police, and it is the duty of the Undersigned to call upon his Excellency to take the necessary steps to secure to these persons who are free by right the same advantages as are enjoyed by the emancipados and at the same time to enforce the law against the individuals in whose possession it is notorious that they now are.”

- 1858-4-18 Consul Hunt to Earl of Malmesbury
 - P. 187 “the correctness of my statements was proved by the number of negroes remaining in the hands of the authorities, compared with that actually disembarked at Humacao; [...] shortly after the receipt of my note, the Captain of the port and the Alcalde of Humacao were placed under arrest, and sent to the capital to take their trial for complicity in the disposal of the missing negroes.”
- 1859-3-29 General Cotoner to Consul Hunt
 - P. 187 “with reference to the negroes from the coast of Africa disembarked in the jurisdiction of Humacao, and concerning whom your honour states that the Government was only informed of 494, together with 18 others, so that as there were 850, the number withdrawn and converted from emancipados into slaves amounts to 338, who have been, in the judgement of your Honour, distributed among various planters whose names are specified, and who have committed the double crime of stealing these negroes from each other.”
- 1859-4-2 Consul Hunt to General Cotoner
 - P. 188 “All the reports [...] agree as to the proximate number of negroes landed, which has never been set down at less than 850, and the same

agreement prevails as to the estates upon which the 338 missing negroes have been distributed [...] begs [...] that these negroes, having been actually in the possession of the authorities when they were illegally removed, are in a legal position different to that in which they would have been placed had they proceeded to the various estates direct from the vessel in which they were imported without having fallen into the hands of the authorities ... trusts that it may not be found to be impracticable to place these Africans upon the same footing as the emancipados, not only in their interest, but with a view to the great discouragement which would thus be given to renewed attempts to revive the Slave Trade in this island.”

- 1859-6-26 Consul Hunt to the Earl of Malmesbury
 - P. 188 “... that 76 of the negroes recently introduced here in the barque “Majestic” were shipped on board of the Spanish schooner “Terrible” at the port of Humacao, on the 27th ultimo, and that the vessel ostensibly cleared for St. Thomas, but that she has actually proceeded to Cuba. [...] the circumstances attending the departure of the “Terrible” not having proceeded to the ostensible port of destination, distant only sixty miles, would necessarily be conclusive as to the illegal character of the voyage in which she was engaged [...] a copy of his reply stating that the “Terrible” had not been there for some months past [...] expressed my apprehension that the facility with which this operation had been carried out in the presence of the local authorities, would operate as an incentive to renewed attempts to revive this Traffic in the island. [...] The embarkation of 76 negroes, at a point in a thickly populated district, is a very significant fact [...]”
- 1859-5-31 “Consul Hunt to General Cotoner
 - P. 189 “information upon good authority that the Spanish schooner “Terrible,” was despatched from the port of Humacao ostensibly in ballast for the Island of St. Thomas on the 27th instant, and that she took on board at Humaca, 76 of the Africans, recently landed there from the barque “Majestic.” These 76 negroes are stated to have proceeded from the estates of Messrs. Ramon Pon, Jose Maria Rios,--Guzman, and Jose Miguel. It is also affirmed that a person named Salvador Cordova, who took out his passport at Humacao for the United States is implicated in this business, and that he has proceeded to Cuba in order to sell these negroes.”
- 1859-6-17 Consul Lamb to Consul Hunt
 - P. 189 from St. Thomas “the Spanish schooner “Terrible” arrived here on the 28th February last from Humacao, and left on the 5th March for Naguabo, with dry goods, since which time she has not returned here.”
- 1859-6-1 General Cotoner to Consul Hunt
 - P. 189 “the departure from Cuba of 76 African negroes, forming part of those landed at Humacao, conducted from said port by the schooner “Terrible,” cleared in ballast for St. Thomas on the 27th of May; as also of

the complicity which may have in it a certain Salvador Cordova, who proceeds to Cuba in charge of the said negroes with a passport for the United States.”

- 1859-8-10 Consul Hunt to Lord J. Russell
 - P. 190 “that 76 of the negroes landed at Humacao from the barque “Majestic” had been embarked on board of the Spanish schooner “Terrible” for conveyance to Cuba, with the object of selling them into slavery. [...] confirmed by the non-arrival of the “terrible” at St. Thomas, the ostensible port of destination, caused the persons indicated in my noted as the promoters of the scheme to be apprehended and proceedings to be taken against them for the alleged offence. [...] caused a considerable sensation here, as the principal individual concerned, Don Ramon Pon, is a man of some note in the island. He was at first permitted to remain at large within the walls of the city, under the surveillance of the police, on the authority of a medical certificate; but he is now confined in the Fort, together with Salvador Cordova, Juan Carmona, Pedro Rios, and Casimiro Perez, who are assumed to be his accomplices in the transaction. The suit instituted against these persons, be its result what it may, is a great blow to the designs of the slave-traders here. It is a check applied in the proper quarter, and cannot fail to have the effect of completely discouraging the project which appears to have been entertained, of reviving the Slave Trade in Puerto Rico. There are many men here who would not object to embark their money in these enterprises, but who would hesitate to engage in schemes which might have the effect, if unsuccessful, of endangering their personal liberty.”
- 1859-8-11 Consul Hunt to Lord J. Russell
 - P. 190 “that the Master of the Spanish schooner “Terrible” succeeded in making his way to Cuba, and there disposing of his living freight. I have hitherto been unable to learn the precise place at which these negroes were disembarked and no intelligence upon this point appears to have reached the British Acting Consul-General in Havana [...] that the “Terrible” having been brought back to this island, was seized at Guanica, a small port for coasting vessels on the southern coast, and the whole of the crew were made prisoners and committed for trial. [...] The Master of “Terrible” it is reported, remained in Cuba [...]
- 1859-8-13 Consul Hunt to Lord J. Russell
 - P. 191 “the names of the owners of those estates upon which the negroes are secreted that were landed from “Majestic,” and were seized by the authorities at Humacao, out of whose possession they were kidnapped by their present holders. Although a search was at first instituted in a part of the country where there were few or none of the missing negroes, the principal offenders pointed out by me have not been molested hitherto in the possession of these slaves [...]

- 1859-12-23 Consul Hunt to Lord J. Russell
 - P. 191 “that thirty individuals of the crews of the slave-ships “Majestic” and “Terrible” have been condemned, under a sentence of the Supreme Court, to penal servitude for four years in the chain-gang employed at the Arsenal here, and that this punishment has already commenced to take effect. [...] These persons, namely, Ramon Pon, Salvador Cordova, Huan Carmona, Pedro Rios, and Casimiro Perez, after having been imprisoned for some time, were liberated, on giving security to the amount of 10,000 dollars in each case that they will be forthcoming whenever the sentence of the court may be promulgated.”

Correspondence with British Ministers and Agents in Foreign Countries, and with Foreign Ministers in England, on Slave Trade, April 1860-March 1861 (Class B); 1861; Command Papers, Paper number 2823-I, Volume Page LXIV.89, Volume 64. Accessed through HeinOnline Database.

- 1860-6-5 Senor Collantes to Mr. Edwardes
 - P. 86 “various documents relative to the disembarkment on the shore of Humacao (Puerto Rico) of a certain number of Bozal negroes proceeding from the bark “Majesty” to which the notes from your Legation, dated the 21st of May, the 3rd of June, and the 7th of August last referred. In the first instance, the result of the measures taken by order of the Government was that the captain-General of the island of Puerto Rico discharged from their respective posts the Provisional Commandant of the department, the Magistrate in commission, and the officer of the custom-house, owing to some indication which, besides their not being able to justify themselves, made them appear little zealous in the discharge of their duty. The matter having been afterwards submitted to the decision of the tribunals, the definitive sentence, of which I have the honour to transmit to you a copy herewith, was the result, from which it appears that thirty-two of the crew or the sailors have been condemned to four years’ imprisonment, which they are now undergoing, except six, who by their death have avoided the sentence; and with respect to the two who called themselves captains or officers, they have been condemned by default to six years of the same punishment, in accordance with the law. The sale of the effects found on board, and of the ship itself, was likewise agreed upon, and the emancipation of the 628 negroes disembarked from the said brig was declared.”

Newspapers

1859-3-4

- “Jamaica,” *The Morning Post* (London, England), March 4, 1859, 6. Newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/396188754/?terms=humacao&match=1>.
 - States: “The news from Porto Rico states that a slaver had run ashore on the neighbourhood of Humacao, but there had been no loss of life, although she was on some dangerous rocks. The vessel is said to be American built, and the number of Africans on board is estimated from 600 to 1,100.”

1859-3-15

- “Porto Rico,” *New York Times*, March 15, 1859, 5. Newspaper Archive, <https://access-newspaperarchive-com.proxy.library.emory.edu/us/new-york/new-york/new-york-times/1859/03-15/page-5/>.
 - States: “In regard to the slaver, name unknown, wrecked upon the shore of Humacao, Feb. 4, a correspondent writes “On the 4th inst, at 10 o’clock, P.M., a schooner approached Point Candelero, making signals of distress. The vessel was discovered to be sinking at a distance of 50 yards from the shore. Aid was at once procured, and the entire crew and cargo rescued. The crew was at once imprisoned. They stated that the captain, mate and several seamen had died on the voyage. The steamer Hernan Cortes took off the negroes, number 670 in all, who were to be carried to the capital. At present they are housed in a barracoon at Catanos. They, of course, will be disposed of as emancipados.

1859-3-21

- “Capture of a Slave Ship,” *The Morning Chronicle* (London, England), March 21, 1859, 3. Newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/392484475/?terms=humacao&match=1>.
 - States: “The steamer Toro, which arrived on the 25th from Porto Rico via Barbados, brings intelligence of the capture of a slaver off the coast of Porto Rico, on the 5th of February. It appears that the barque Majestic left the River Congo with 1,080 young Africans on board, and it is supposed was bound for Cuba. It is said that she got aground off the coast of Porto Rico. The American Captain made his escape in a British schooner, and the Spanish captain and owner escaped to St. Thomas. The vessel was visited by the authorities of Porto Rico, and 982 of the slaves were landed at Humacao. Of the rest some were taken on board a Spanish man-of-war, which was in the neighbourhood, and the remainder who were too sick to be removed were left on board the slaver, in charge of the authorities in the neighbourhood. The whole affair seems clothed with suspicion. The abandonment of the vessel, the flight of the captain and the owner and the taking of the young slaves into Porto Rico have much the appearance of collusion. We think the British Government ought to make some enquiry

about them, and ascertain whether Spain is acting in good faith in the matter or not.”

1859-3-24

- *Stirling Observer*, March 24, 1859, 4.
 - States: “A slaver was captured off Porto Rico on the 5th February, with 180 young Africans on board, and it is supposed they were bound for Cuba.”

1859-3-27

- *New York (NY) Daily Herald*, March 27, 1859, 1.
 - States: “The following particulars relative to the slaver lost on the coast of Porto Rico is all the information we can glean relative to that vessel beyond what we have already published:--The name of the vessel is unknown, bark rigged, and said to be American built, is new, but her commander and crew are composed entirely of Spaniards, who have been placed in prison by the immediate instructions of the Captain General, as soon as the news reached the capital. It is said that the slaver was destined for Cuba, and after being some months on that coast, unable to enter, had resolved to try Porto Rico, and not sufficiently understanding the East Coast, had blundered on the rocks during the night. It is, on the other hand, asserted that she was originally destined for Porto Rico, and that those interested in the landing of her cargo had watched for four or five days from the heights for her coming, and that they had then despaired of her arrival, and as soon as they ceased watching she hove in sight; but failing to receive the signals from the shore necessary to guide the commander’s movements, he concluded it best to run her aground, and that on the landing of the Africans they would be placed out of the reach of the government as far as possible. The number of Africans is variously computed; we have heard it said 600, and we have also heard it extended to one thousand. We understand that the British Consul General at the capital, independent of the active search the Spanish government is instituting to collect every African landed insists on their having been a larger number in the ship than has as yet been brought together. The Captain General, we are told, has determined on declaring the whole of them free.”

1859-3-31

- *Charleston (SC) Daily Courier*, March 31, 1859, 4.
 - States: “The slaves captured at Humacao were declared *emancipados*”.

1859-4-5

- La Epoca Newspaper Archives, April 5, 1859, 4, <https://access-newspaperarchive-com.proxy.library.emory.edu/es/madrid/madrid/la-epoca/1859/04-05/page-4/>.

1859-5-11

- “The Slave Trade in Porto Rico,” *Summit County Beacon*, May 11, 1859, 1.
 - States: “Editor Beacon:--About one month ago, a fine looking barque arrived off the Island of Porto Rico with a cargo of ‘dark objects’ on board to the number of about one thousand. These valuable productions were taken from the coast of Africa and transported hither for the sole purpose of enriching the numerous sugar and coffee estates of the Island. The vessel stood in shore for a small cove where she expected to land her cargo, or at least a portion of them, where they would be worth about \$700 per skull. Unfortunately for her officers and crew, she ran on a reef and was made a prize of, in the name of her Most Catholic Majesty, Queen Isabella of Spain. After the stealing of numerous articles of private property from the officers of the slaver, discharging her cargo and lightening her up, she was got off and she is now safely moored in this harbor. She will be sold by the Spanish Government at auction, and the slaves (of whom about four hundred are quartered across the bay from this city) will be sold for the sum of \$25 each, to serve an apprenticeship of six years. It is doubtful in my mind whether they will be released from bondage on the expiration of that term. The crew consisting of twenty-five or thirty and the first and second mates, (who reported themselves as passengers,) are confined in the very comfortable and spacious calaboose of this city, where they will remain a few days more and then be liberated without further punishment. The Captain made his escape through the prompt and energetic aid of his friends and I now contemplating another voyage to the coast of Africa. The barque left Africa with *over eleven hundred slaves*. Of these about one hundred and fifty died on the passage. None of them exceed twenty-five years of age except a few old women. The youngest that I saw in the encampment was about four years old. They are provided with codfish, peas, potatoes and some bread. Many of them are reduced to perfect skeletons, and as they beseech you for something to eat, you can readily imagine the horrors of the traffic. I had a long talk with the first mate of the slaver, who is a young man, not more than thirty years of age. He stated to me that there are at present time, more vessels being fitted out as slavers than at any former period. Two more vessels are expected to arrive here soon, with stock enough for ten large sugar plantations.”