

The Cuban Herald, 4/26/1888: Good Decision

For some time, we have been aware of the frequent arrival in Key West of criminals, bandits, and people of bad behavior, coming from the Island of Cuba.

To a discerning eye, it is clear that the sending of such emigrants to Key West is part of a malevolent scheme to discredit before the American people the healthy, honest, and worthy Cuban elements who have made the already historic place a center of first-rate industry. By dispersing these villains there, they will carry out their misdeeds and the kidnappings and murders that will be committed would deter immigration, and before the American government and people, they would appear unworthy of civilization. Fortunately, the infamy attempted has been understood in time, and on the 20th of this month, a very important meeting of merchants and citizens, Cuban-Americans, was held in that place, in which resolutions were taken that will prevent those who are not vouchsafed by their capital, their work, their honesty, or their dignity from remaining in the population.

The colonial government of Cuba has always offered to transport at its own expense to Key West any bandit or villain, regardless of race or nationality. Intentions of this nature should not be given any qualification, but presented in all their horrifying nakedness.