

***Tampa Journal* (January 26, 1887): “Trouble at Ybor City”**

Elsewhere in our columns will be found a full account of the strike and trouble among the employees of Ybor City. The situation is a terrible one and just what the outcome will be no one can foretell. At the current writing all is quiet and peaceable, but so little do we know of the characters participating in the difficulties it is hard to say how long it will remain so. As to the cause of the deplorable condition of affairs there seems to be but one version and that is that the enmity existing between the Cubans and the Spaniards is at the bottom of it all. We are authoritatively informed that the strike among the Knights of Labor hinged on the discharge of a Spaniard from the cigar factory, and that it would have been settled by the Arbitration Committee appointed by the factions for that purpose on the night that the fatal shooting occurred, but for the foreman of the factory declining to sign a paper binding him to treat all nationalities alike. It is fortunate for the Knights of Labor that not even their worst enemies in any way, throw the responsibility for the murder and crime upon them. Thus far their course has been marked by a strong law-abiding spirit.

However, there is one important fact that we desire to forcibly impress upon the minds of the Ybor City people, whether they are Cubans or Spaniards, and that is the folly and crime of their nurturing hatred towards each other, and bringing up old issues, prejudices and wrongs, tormenting themselves, disgracing their reputations and stirring up contention and strife. The American people welcome these nationalities to our country and section, but they are expected to comport themselves in accordance with the laws of the country and enjoy only the freedom of right. We believe that a majority of these people to be respectable and honorable, who come here seeking prosperity and the enjoyment of privileges denied them in their native homes, and we believe further, that the entire trouble of these people in Ybor City is the result of designs of evil men, agitators, revolutionists, and excited patriots, who gratify their morbid ideas of distinction, heroism and fame, by imposing upon the ignorant prejudices of the masses. That very great and cowardly crimes were committed last week in Ybor City is patent to all. For the reputation of the people generally, both Cubans and Spaniards, the instigators and perpetrators of these crimes should be detected and punished, and it is clearly the duty of all good people, of whatever nationality, to lend every assistance possible towards such purpose. The Journal does not know nor pretend to say who the villains are, but it does say, “let no guilty man escape.” And we further urge upon the Cubans and Spaniards to stop their foolishness and curb their

prejudices, shun the advice of all men who desire to promote further antagonism and strife, stop all agitation of political questions and engage only in your legitimate avocations. Do this and you will prosper. Continue in your present excited state, and you will only succeed in heaping trouble and sorrow upon your families and the indignation of all good people upon yourselves.