

**THE QUEEN OF
ISLANDS, AND THE
KING OF RIVERS**

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The Queen of Islands, and the King of Rivers by Cora Montgomery

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QUEEN OF ISLANDS,
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KING OF RIVERS.

BY CORA MONTGOMERY.

[These Chapters of a forthcoming work, entitled "Our Mother Land," are published in advance, with the consent of the Author, by the friends of Cuba and the Union.]

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1850.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and government operations. The text notes that without reliable records, it becomes difficult to track the flow of funds, assess performance, and identify areas for improvement.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used for record-keeping. It mentions the use of traditional paper-based systems as well as modern digital technologies such as databases, spreadsheets, and cloud storage solutions. The text highlights the benefits of digital records, including ease of access, searchability, and the ability to share information securely across different departments and agencies.

3. The third part of the document addresses the challenges associated with record-keeping. It identifies common issues such as data redundancy, inconsistent formatting, and the risk of data loss or corruption. The text suggests several strategies to overcome these challenges, including implementing standardized protocols, conducting regular data audits, and investing in robust backup and disaster recovery systems.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the legal and regulatory requirements for record-keeping. It notes that various laws and regulations govern the retention, access, and disposal of records, particularly in the public sector. The text emphasizes the importance of staying up-to-date with these requirements to ensure compliance and avoid potential legal consequences.

5. The fifth part of the document explores the role of record-keeping in decision-making and strategic planning. It argues that high-quality records provide valuable insights into organizational trends, performance metrics, and resource allocation. By analyzing this data, leaders can make more informed decisions, identify opportunities for growth, and develop effective strategies to address future challenges.

6. The sixth part of the document discusses the importance of record-keeping in crisis management and disaster recovery. It notes that accurate records are crucial for quickly assessing the impact of an incident, identifying the root cause, and implementing effective recovery plans. The text suggests that organizations should have a clear plan in place for how to handle and preserve records in the event of a disaster.

7. The seventh part of the document discusses the role of record-keeping in public transparency and accountability. It notes that accessible records allow citizens to monitor government activities, understand how public funds are spent, and hold officials accountable for their actions. The text suggests that organizations should strive to make their records as accessible and user-friendly as possible to foster trust and transparency.

8. The eighth part of the document discusses the role of record-keeping in historical preservation and research. It notes that records provide a valuable window into the past, allowing historians and researchers to study the evolution of organizations, societies, and cultures over time. The text suggests that organizations should take steps to ensure that their records are properly preserved and accessible to future generations.

9. The ninth part of the document discusses the role of record-keeping in environmental management and sustainability. It notes that records are essential for tracking environmental impacts, monitoring resource usage, and identifying areas for improvement. The text suggests that organizations should integrate record-keeping into their sustainability efforts to support their commitment to responsible and sustainable practices.

10. The tenth part of the document discusses the role of record-keeping in human resources management. It notes that records are essential for tracking employee performance, managing payroll, and ensuring compliance with labor laws. The text suggests that organizations should use records to identify high-performing employees, address performance issues, and make data-driven decisions about hiring, training, and compensation.

and theme of many secret meetings and midnight prayers. Exile, imprisonment, ruin and death, await the hardy apostles of freedom; but still they offer themselves freely to the work, and their number, courage, influence and combination disturbs the rest of the governors of Cuba, who in vain seek to stifle them with new oppressions. On one occasion a party of these determined revolutionists conveyed to the woods a small printing press, such a one as Franklin used and "Common Sense" was printed on, and there in silence of night they worked off their revolutionary appeals. This and every other effort was pressed too close by the military and police, and some friends of Cuba, connected with the New-York press, encouraged the idea of establishing an Anglo-Spanish paper at a convenient point beyond the reach of the Governor-General, from whence the truth and light could be cast into Cuba, and her popular thought moulded into some form of general organization. *La Verdad* (The Truth) was thus called into existence, and its plan may be useful to other revolutionists who cannot print the truth at home. The paper is—and has been two years—issued at New-York, and circulated gratuitously in the Island of Cuba and Porto Rico, and all along the margin of the Mexican Gulf, from whence the aroma of its sentiments penetrates to its destined mark. The talent and money of the Cubans support it so ably and liberally that the leading personages of the Spanish government are bounteously supplied with valuable information concerning their own conduct and affairs through this medium, and not less have the American journals found in its columns their most copious and reliable accounts of the situation of Cuba. The Island press is not allowed to speak of public affairs except in such terms as the royal censors direct; and the world at large mainly learns through it and by fragments from private letters—also written under dread of a strict post-office

inquisition—what Cuba thinks and suffers. Under the counsels of “Verdad” committee of exiles, and in union with her phalanx of resolute sons at home, Cuba is organizing for revolt; and perhaps even as I write the sword is flashing from the scabbard: but whether the effort of to-day is successful, or temporarily quenched in blood, the seed is sown and the harvest near. Spain may not be richer for the fruits of Cuban industry in 1850; and what American would put forth his hand to aid in riveting the fetters of a people who bravely strike at kingly oppressions, and risk all for the enfranchisement of their country and children?

“Cuba has the power, as well as the will and wisdom, to be free. She cannot be kept forever in bonds, endowed as she is with a population of 1,200,000; with a revenue of twenty millions; with the intercourse and light attending sixty millions of outward and inward trade; with a territory equal to some of our noblest States; with a soil teeming with the choicest productions; with her forests of the most precious woods; with her magnificent and commanding harbors; with her unmatched position as the warder of the Mexican Gulf, and the guardian of the communication with the Pacific. Cuba the peerless—Cuba the desired—Cuba the Queen of the American Islands—will not consent to remain always a manacled slave at our threshold; and when her chains do break, the echo will vibrate, whether we choose or not, strongly on our interests. The United States can no more say, “Cuba is nought to us,” than Cuba can detach herself from her anchorage in the portals of our American sea, or her sentinelship over against the entrance of the thousand armed Mississippi.

When the inevitable day arrives in which the key of the Gulf falls from the hand of its European master, it must take one of these three positions; and either of them will involve grave considerations for this republic:—

1. Cuba, by itself or with Porto Rico, may sustain an independent attitude.

2. United to St. Domingo and other islands under the protection of England, she may head a "Republic of Antilla," subject to a preponderant negro population, and obedient to the British policy of creating a colored empire in the lap of the twin continent of America.

3. Cuba annexed to this Confederation may make another pillar in our temple of Union, and another balance-wheel to the Confederation.

The fate of Cuba, with her million souls and boundless hereafter, may be submitted to the verdict of our people before 1850 has run its last sands, and a just, wise and magnanimous nation would not willingly meet unprepared this momentous question.

Calmly, soberly, and dispassionately, like true and loving children of the Union, reverencing and guarding in filial love our mighty nursing mother; like republicans and like Christians, ready to admit and perform our whole duty to man, let us candidly examine our future relations with Cuba.

It is more than idle to build upon the conservation of the *statu quo*, for even those who affect to preach it must see that it cannot be maintained amid the reeling powers and crushing thrones of Europe with which it is entangled, and whenever or however the change comes, it must result in *Cuba annexed*, or *Cuba independent*.

The comparative value to the Union, of Cuba as a part of ourselves, or Cuba subject to foreign, if not hostile influences, has a threefold bearing on our interests. It affects us as citizens of individual States—as a nation in the face of other nations—and as a race in relation with the other races of the earth. In weighing, as we ought, each separate consideration by its own merits, it is desirable to avoid per-

plexing theories, and bring each phase in succession to the test of solid facts and indisputable arithmetic.

**WILL THE ANNEXATION OF CUBA BENEFIT THE
DOMESTIC INTERESTS OF THE UNION ?**

Cuba seems placed, by the finger of a kindly Providence, between the Atlantic and the Mexican seas, at the crossing point of all the great lines of our immense coasting trade, to serve as the centre of exchange for a domestic commerce as extensive as our territory, and as free as our institutions. It is only after a careful study of the incredible extent and variety of the products of our thirty States, with all their grades of climate, and in the whole circumference of their natural and manufactured wealth, and then only with the map of North America distinctly before the eye, that the importance of Cuba, as a point of reception and distribution, can be fairly understood. If her matchless harbors were not locked up by foreign jealousies, and our ships could but find themselves always at home for shelter, water, and refreshment, at this commodious halting place, it would be worth a round purchase sum to our traders, independent of the safe keeping of the Gulf, and the command of her precious staples.

From her central throne she sees our long line of coast break away in numerous links of diverse interests and productions, which must yet intercommunicate past her doors to come to market and value. To the northward she glances along the two thousand miles of seaboard and deep harbors of the "Old Thirteen," all turned toward her to receive her sugar and coffee, and supply her with bread and clothing, even though under the limits and disadvantages of the restrictions of her Spanish masters.