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LEGO and sugar  
cane.  
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## MUSEUM, YES PLEASE. BUT WHICH KIND?

A hefty debate is presently ongoing in Denmark over how to commemorate some of our historic past, or to be more precise – the colonial past of Denmark. The Danish minister of Culture has set up a committee (the “Committee”), that has been assigned to come up with a proposal for erecting a museum for the colonial past, whether it covers the period until 1814, when it was the Kingdom of Denmark-Norway or the remaining period until 1917, when it was the Kingdom of Denmark.

But what will be the ideological rationale behind such a museum; where in Denmark is it going to be located; and what sort of artefacts and historical view will be on exhibition. There are all sorts of views on this.

On the background, that Danish direct colonial history ended more than 100 years ago, it should be possible to describe this history and exhibit it in light of thoroughness, insight, consideration and the often conciliatory and deliberative character, that comes with time and patience.

Even if history has to teach us, it seldomly serves this teaching, if history is presented with an excessive air of caution, one-sided moral denouncement, self-flagellation and one-tracked views. Matters have to be presented as they are, and then it is up to each individual to form his or her own opinion.

Right now the main focus seems to be on criticizing the constitution of the Committee and criteria for electing members. The Committee shall eventually give the Minister of Culture and Parliament (Folketinget) advice in the process of deciding the establishment of a museum. Particularly it has been alleged, that the Committee has no sufficient scientific skills, and that

activist forces have managed to be placed too centrally in the Committee.

This might contain a risk, that a museum to a far too high degree will be influenced by a woke agenda, and thus focuses far too much on a present day debate over racism and guilt, and therefore the museum will rather become a pillar of shame (in German: a Mahnmal) for the relatively seen limited colonialism, that was carried out by Denmark compared with other countries, than a serious presentation of a time, where Denmark-Norway and Danes and Norwegians tried to eat cherries with the big ones, including – but not only – jointly with others took part in abuses; but also a lot of other things.

In Danish West Indian Society (the “Society”) we have for more than a century dealt with colonialism in the form, it had in The Danish West Indies, but absolutely also with the present day islands, as a partly autonomous Territory within the American Union.

The approach by Danish West Indian Society, such as also worded in the constitution of the Society, is based on affiliation and interest as well as creation of friendly relations in the



*Are we building a colonial history museum in Denmark, or a slavery museum like the one in Liverpool?*

islands. And the joint history between the islands and Denmark is an important focal point for the Society.

Hence, the Society in October 2021 has written to the Danish Minister of Culture and expressed support to the museum project and at the same time offered contribution from the Society in the present task being undertaken; that f.inst. could be participation in the efforts carried out by the Committee or at least the opportunity to comment on the report, that supposedly will be issued by the Committee at some point of time.

It is the opinion of the Society, that we can contribute positively, because the Society has in-depth knowledge of the history of the islands, their present day situation, and the opinion among many West Indians about their history; as well as the Society from time to time receives artefacts, which are related to the colonial history, which artefacts are used by the Society to convey this history. And the Society has links to the relevant research environment as well in Denmark as in the USVI/USA.

The Society is concerned that the project may be politicized or be shanghaied by groups, who may have a different agenda, that is not complying with the objectivity, that may be required by a publicly funded museum. Objectivity and a balanced conveyance of history.

Now we are awaiting a hopefully positive answer from the Minister of Culture.



Michael Keldsen  
*Editor*

**Merry  
Christmas and  
a Happy New  
Year**

## A ROYAL VISIT

**Carl Emil Hedemann had many tasks as Governor over The Danish West Indies from 1893 to 1903. In his extensive correspondence with his mother in Copenhagen, which has been handed over to Danish West Indian Society by his family, he told tales of everyday life for him as the supreme representative in the islands of the Kingdom of Denmark. Among his duties were a lot of wining and dining for particularly foreign naval visitors. One of the – in his view – more important events was the visit by the cruiser FYEN of the Royal Danish Navy in the Caribbean in 1895-96, with its stationing in DWI from 22nd December 1895 to 2nd February 1896. What made this visit special was, that Prince Carl – the later King Haakon VII of Norway – was a member of the crew. the M/S Museum for Shipping in Elsinore, Denmark, exhibitions are under revision, i.e. the section that is called "The tea party – the first globalization". It is the impression that this section objectifies e.g. the slave trade.**

*By Michael Keldsen*

King Christian IX – whose statue has now peculiarly been removed from Emancipation Park in Charlotte Amalie – had a grandchild, Prince Carl, born 1872 as son of Crown Prince Frederik – the later King Frederik VIII of Denmark – and Crown Princess Lovisa (later Queen Louise). He was a younger brother of Prince Christian (later King Christian X of Denmark), and educated as naval officer in the Royal Danish Navy. As such he was enrolled in the Navy and on duty since 1893.

One of the largest vessels of the Royal Danish Navy was the cruiser FYEN. And as mentioned this vessel was due to go to the Danish West Indies as part of the routine patrolling in and around the islands. Carl Emil Hedemann had already a year in advance been alerted about this, but in a letter of 23. November 1895 to his mother he makes it clear, that now FYEN and Prince Carl will arrive for sure in the middle of December. Thus, he ponders how he shall



*The 3 Nordic Kings: Haakon, Gustav and Christian*

handle this visit, particularly of the Prince. The Governor decides to arrange as many audiences as possible immediately on the arrival,

**"because then he is over and done with once and for all. We do have an endless number of SNOBS and intrusive persons out here, that the Vessel would not have a moments ease; neither would the rest of us, since nine-tenth of the population are consuls, who all consider it their diplomatic duty to bother the Prince, and – receive salutation."**

And FYEN arrived on December 22, 1895 in St. Thomas – during the busy period up to and before Christmas. But the Governor has to grant as many of the locals as possible the opportunity to meet the Prince, and therefore he invites the Prince and the ship commander, captain G. A. Caroc etc. to Government House, and the following happened:

**"All Danish families were now notified and at 8 P.M. a rush in started of everything that was Danish speaking, and even some, who did not speak Danish. They were introduced to each other, we saluted with a glass of wine, and then I urged everybody to dance, what they did to my great**



*The cruiser Fyen*

**satisfaction and with substantial transpiration (sweating). At 11.30 P.M. everybody parted after a very amusing evening.”**

Prince Carl was apparently a very talented and dedicated dancer – maybe, an integrated part of being a naval officer. At least he is mentioned as a debonair gentleman and dancing partner for several of the local ladies at the many balls, which were held on the initiative of the Governor during the stay of FYEN for 1½ months. However, things were almost going wrong at one of the balls – the biggest in St. Croix ever. Prince Carl had the first and the second dance with Ellen and Henny, who were visiting members of his family. This was not in accordance with PROTOCOL; and that led to anger among “many Ladies, particularly Mrs. Kalmer obviously was furious.” Mrs Kalmer was married to the Physician, Mr. Kalmer, but Carl Emil Hedemann had held a distance to her and her husband; and there was an explanation to that, which he ventures in a letter to his mother as his answer to her question, why he broke PROTOCOL for the order in princely dances:

“but I can` t let the Prince dance with a former Cabaret singer (Kneipesangerinde).”

Hedemann got on the edge with Mr. Kalmer, when in October 1894 he rejected an invitation to the wedding between the Physician and his future wife. The background for this rejection, which made the Physician very angry, turns up in a later letter – on May 26, 1895 – where the Governor reflects over the consequences of the late arrival in the islands of his niece, Henny. He may well have had good use of Henny as hostess at the many social events he arranged:

“In St. Thomas we have a good representation by Danish ladies; in St. Croix on the contrary, things are more complicated, since the highest ranking Lady is Mrs. Kalmer, of whose “history”, I am sure you have heard; in any case, I am sure, that Karl (Riise – the Governors brother-in-law in Denmark) can disclose the “history” of that Lady to you. Had Henny been here, I could have constituted her as hostess, and I would not have to face the difficulties I have now.”

However, Prince Carl had a good time in the Islands, and apparently he was a popular person –according to the Governor as popular as the

Prince`s Uncle, Prince Valdemar, who some years earlier had – as the first royal person ever – visited the Islands being on board a naval vessel, where he served as an officer.

Carl Emil Hedemann carries on telling his mother the following:

“For the benefit of the populace the Prince and I had agreed, that he should officially get ashore (from FYEN), and at 3 o`clock the Yard (Værftet – the embarkation point in St. Thomas Harbour) was lined up with a Guard of Honour, as well as all dignitaries, the salutation battery was ready, and then I came driving by – in full Galla. Few minutes later, the Captain`s landing vessel approached, and in the boat was the Prince, in Galla with the Blue Band – (the Order of the Elephant) as well as Commander Caroc. The salutation guns fired, soldiers presented their rifles, and the Band played the Salute March (Honnørmarchen).

Thereafter all dignitaries were presented. The Prince inspected the Guard of Honour, which thereafter paraded, and followed by constant Hurrays we mounted my carriage and drove up to Government House. Here we enjoyed a drink, and the Prince turned up a couple of times on the balcony to receive the joyous cheers from the people. Thereafter we took off our triangular hats and our swords and drove through town and a short trip into the countryside – still during the cheers from the people.”

Prince Carl stayed in Government House, but still took part in his duties as an officer; f.inst. he was commandeered to be fire watch on the night (December 28, 1896), where Riise`s Apothecary burned. But he spent quite a lot of time with the Governor, with Henny and her two daughters, Ellen and Olga, as well as going riding and enjoy evenings with the Governor, in which also the ship`s captain (Caroc) participated. During the time of the presence in the Islands of FYEN and Prince Carl the Governor was very busy. After their departure he concluded:

“It has been a severe heart blow (their departure), as we, I am sure I can say, have enjoyed the company of each other. That it has been a tough time, I cannot deny, since I have been almost alone when it came to entertaining..... As a consequence the 6 weeks,

that FYEN was here, were strenuous .... Prince Carl, the Ship`s Captain and Hans entered Government House – such as my invitation had been – early and late at their pleasure, and if Ellen and Olga do not come home (to Denmark) with princess whims, then you can`t blame Prince Carl. It was very close that they titled each other with Du instead of with De, and the girls called him Prince Carl forgetting “Your Royal Highness”, and he “Miss Ellen” and “Miss Olga”.

Prince Carl came back to Denmark, married the British Princess Maud, still served in the Royal Danish Navy until 1905, where he moved to Norway and under the name Haakon VII was exclaimed as king over the now independent country, Norway (that had relinquished its ties with Sweden). He was king until his death in 1957. Most of us remember him as a very tall man – well known is the photograph of him, his brother King Christian X of Denmark and the Swedish King Gustav 5 during WW1. But the physical presence of the Prince brought the following remark from Governor Hedemann on December 22 1895:

“The Prince is very decent and not as tall as I had expected.”

However, tall enough to give some credence to Danish authority and the Governor viz-a-viz the local population in the islands. And another almost 2 years lapsed, until a Danish naval vessel again entered Caribbean waters and the Islands – but this time without royalty on board.

## THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE SAVAGE

**Johan Rosdahl, Danish lecturer, reviews Ole Høiris` new book "The savage in European history of ideas" ("Den vilde" i europæisk idéhistorie"). The book is not based particularly on any specific geographical location, but deals with the European concept of identity in relation to people from alien cultures – a discussion that is right now in the focus of identity politics. The book is only available in the Danish language.**

*By Johan Rosdahl*

It is absolutely a meritorious task Ole Høiris has undertaken: What is the background for our notion of strangers or aliens, that come from places far away from our own civilization? It takes a lot of research and historical knowledge to give an answer to that question; because our imagination of the stranger/alien has not derived from newly acquired knowledge and scientific insight, but is cemented in a long history, that goes back at least to the Middle Ages. And it is this history that is the centre for Ole Høiris` book, which focuses on explorers` journeys, which constantly add new insight and recognition to established knowledge. This knowledge is founded on conservative ways to look upon the world, which have influenced various periods.

It starts with perceptions from the Antique period, which later were replaced by a Christian understanding, which goes through variations as need be; and through umpteen maneuvers (also lingual) were integrated into scientific approaches.

For Høiris it is the mentality and not the development founded on historic development that is important – "his book is ideological, not historic". And with the limited space available to him it makes sense, but also because it is absolutely of more relevance for a modern day reader, who wants to navigate in various perceptions of identity – not to mention identity politics. Very befitting, the book is furnished with the subtitle "Limits for humanity".



*Johan Rosendahl*

A decisive way to view our understanding of "the alien" is that we ourselves mirror us in pictures of the alien. That means, that the European picture of the savage underlines or even exhibits the Eurocentric idea of what is to be regarded as "human". When we, aided by explorers and by scientific expeditions, conclude, which often is a confirmation of our beliefs, that "natives" in the colonies and other foreign countries are far away from our own way of life - primitive and now and then even monstrous – it is an opportunity for us to construe a formula, that, quite simply expressed, says: the further away from Europe, the less human are the human beings.

The uncivilized is simply said savage and only through ideological somersaults can we name the savage as "noble", namely when the savage – in spite of the distance from the true human civilization – either shows assumed European behavior through his or her assumption of ideas f.inst from European Ethics, or lives in his own right so close to nature, that he can represent an utopia of freedom.

The perception of “the noble savage” is known since 1300, and is a very viable character. In the 24 novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) we meet Tarzan’s noble, native, African friends, who, jointly with the monkeys – whose ruler Tarzan is – support his struggle for justice in the jungle; and also the not-noble, evil savages among Tarzan’s enemies. And we mustn’t forget, that Tarzan is a white, English nobleman.

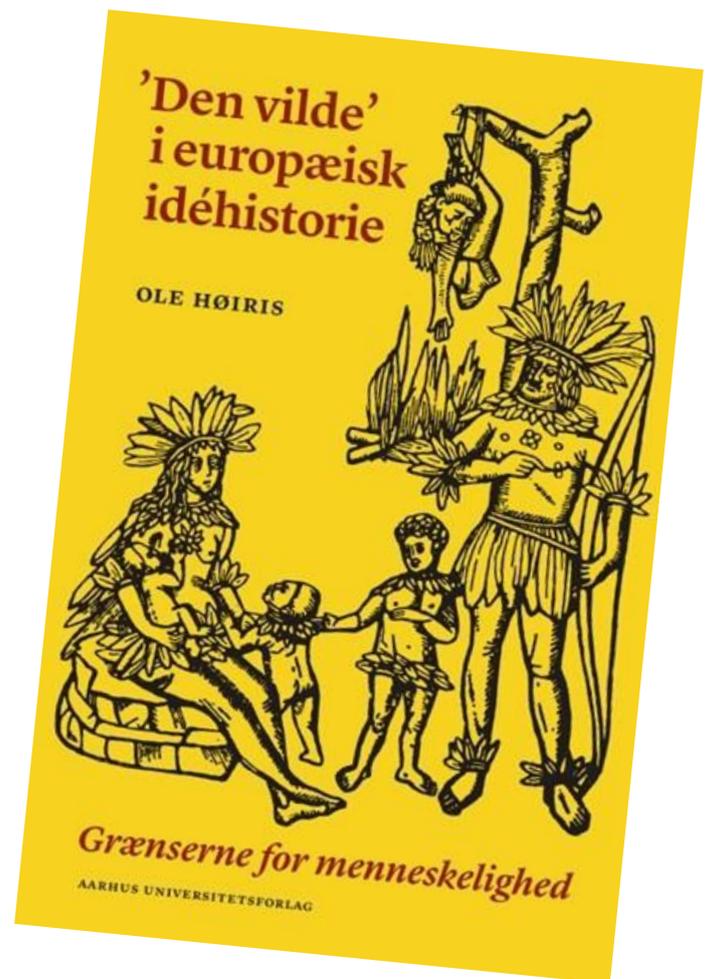
By dividing the material into groups, Ole Høiris gives a geographical location to as well divine as monstrous savages. There exists the savage male, the barbarian and the savage female as well as the noble savage, and we are being advised about the origin of concepts, we know today, such as “the true naturalness”, “the genuine existence” etc.

Our (= the Europeans) concept of the savages is – as mentioned – a result of a long history and as noted not random attitudes cropped up in the wake of random events or situations. The explorers bring evidence of the nature of the savages in their travelogues or scientific reports. They are partly genuine anthropological studies and partly action filled stories, often close to fiction.

But all of it as mentioned with the same premise: it is us (=the Europeans), that is the desirable humanity. The savages are left to - in certain situations - to realize the superiority of the Europeans and assume the “correct” standards.

Ole Høiris discloses in a vivid and committed way the development, that is the foundation for present days partly unrecognized, unconscious attitudes to the alien. Even if we regard ourselves as enlightened, yes, even woke, I believe that we cannot help admitting that we still possess the idea of the white European as being superior to other races. But through his establishing a connection and context Ole Høiris brings us closer to a justified and balanced understanding, that can contribute to avoid “the decline of humanity” which – as a motto for the book – is feared by Hannah Arendt as a result of racism.

*The book is recommended.*



## LEGO AND SUGAR CANE

**The climate change agenda opens up for revitalization of sugar cane production. Maybe the global demand for LEGO bricks is larger than the need for sugar?**

*By Michael Kjeldsen*

In the September 2020 issue of Magasinet the revitalization of Estate Prosperity near Frederikssted was mentioned. The New York businessman Robert Apfel has through Raising Cane LLC invested in production of sugar cane; an ancient, also West Indian product, almost not present in St. Croix for more than half a century, but – with new and modern production- and harvesting methods reintroduced by Raising Cane LLC.

Allegedly Raising Cane LLC plans to reach a level of output, so the rum industry in USVI, such as perhaps Cruzan Rum, can be supplied. But there is a new agenda, which involves everybody in a global perspective. Climate change and the need for a sustainable use of the globe is urgent. And everywhere. Also among manufacturers of toys. It is obvious, that in a Danish publication we interest ourselves for how one of the large players, the Danish corporation LEGO, is handling this challenge.

For LEGO, since the first casting machine was employed at the end of the 1940`ies, it has all been about PLASTIC. On a yearly basis LEGO casts bricks manufactured on the basis of plastic at a worth of USD 16 Billion. Huge amounts – by a product, which is oilbased, and in effect one of the largest violaters of the global climate.

And, certainly LEGO has also during the last number of years taken action. And this is where sugar cane comes in. It is the goal for LEGO, that before 2030 all bricks shall be manufactured based on biomaterials, such as sugar cane and recycled plastic. Today, only a few per cent are manufactured on the basis of biomaterials, but things are moving

fast now. F. inst. all LEGO trees and plants or as they are called, "all botanical elements" are manufactured by sugar cane.

And the illustration on this page shows the so called LEGO Ideas Tree House, which is built from 3036 bricks, of which 185 are sustainable.

LEGO has defined substantial requirements for the production; and the philosophy behind choosing sugar cane instead of other biomaterials, is that sugar cane can be produced in "just in time" line; that is, it can be cultivated, harvested and transported in a sustainable way in accordance with principles laid down by WWF, and food safety is not compromised.

The future of this, can hopefully at a point of time contribute to USVI, and particularly St. Croix, again become an area with an industry, that positively contributes to the economy of the Territory, and can secure employment – in an orderly and decent manner.



# FESTIVAL 2022

Dear friends

We are busy arranging the Festival 2022 in Denmark and pleased to hear the positive responses from Friends of Denmark to our invitation.

We look forward to see you, and will do everything in our power to give you two super weeks here.

Look after yourselves until we meet.

Kind regards

*The Festival Committee*

## COVID-19

It is noted, that since November 8, 2021 Europeans can once more travel to USA and USVI.

Although there has lately been an upsurge in all Europe in numbers of Covid-19 infected persons, the situation is not as bad as it was at the same time last year.

This is due to the number of people having been vaccinated. Denmark is one of the countries with the highest degree of vaccinated persons (appr. 80 per cent), and infections seem to hit mostly among children, whom we have not been able to vaccinate yet, and non-vaccinated grown-ups.

Now appr. 90 per cent of hospitalized individuals are non-vaccinated grown-ups! Measures have again been taken to contain the virus, but limited compared to last year and 1st half of 2021; now a corona passport (evidencing vaccination or recent non-positive test) is required in many places, and employers are authorized to ban the presence of non-vaccinated employees from their work place.

The biggest challenge now in avoiding close-downs or other harsh measures like last year, is to get the remaining non-vaccinated persons vaccinated, and to roll out a vaccination programme for children.



## JAMES PARTONS VIEW ON HIS OWN GOVERNMENT, 1860`ies.

**The Gyllich family has played a role in the Danish West Indies back in the 19th century. The most notorious being Major Jacob H. Gyllich, aide to Peter von Scholten in 1848. One of his descendants, Mrs Anna Hollamby in Malta, has donated a book collection from her great grandfather Gustav O. Gyllich, who was born in St. Croix and lived there as well as in Martinique for many years. The books all have a link to the Carribean.**

*By Michael Keldsen*

### THE STORY ABOUT THE NON-RATIFIED SALES TREATY WITH USA.

One of the books is a Danish translation from May 1869 of a book by the American journalist and historian James Parton, who is very critical of the Administration in Washington, particularly the US Secretary of State at the time WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD, and of the Congress. He was genuinely OUTRAGED that his country had humiliated and treated badly the Kingdom of Denmark, by not ratifying the Treaty of October 24, 1867 under which USA bought from Denmark for the sum of USD 7,5 mio. the islands of St. Thomas and St. John (but not St. Croix – however, the Treaty gave USA an option for a later acquisition). His indignation was particularly nourished by the fact that Denmark had complied in full with its obligations under the Treaty, such as holding a referendum in the islands, signing all instruments necessary and ratifying in accordance with the terms of the Treaty.

James Parton describes in the book the “story of the first sale of the islands”, under the books title “The Danish-West Indian Islands – does the honour of the American Nation requests, that we pay them?”

It started with a dinner party on January 7, 1865 at the French Embassy in Washington, where the Danish Ambassador, general Raasløff had ½ an hour with Seward, who is quoted as having said the following to Raasløff: “The United States

wishes to acquire the islands in the Caribbean belonging to Denmark, provided naturally that the Danish Government is willing to discard those islands.”

The reason for the American wish was, as expressed by Seward: “The War (translator: the American Civil War) had forced us to become a strong sea power, and therefore the possession of a port and a depot in the West Indies was of great importance for the United States, let alone a necessity.”

Seward had for many years had those thoughts, but his explanation for not approaching Denmark earlier was the ongoing struggle between Denmark and Prussia/Austria-Hungary; however, that had come to an end in the summer 1864– albeit with a catastrophic result for Denmark – but USA felt that now it could expect and hope for responsiveness from the Danish Government for the wishes of USA. USA respected the Danish sovereignty over the islands, but was concerned that the islands could fall into the hands of another power. And in this respect he did not only consider Germany (Prussia), that was in the process of developing into a superpower, but also England, that had betrayed the United States by recognizing the Confederate States, and even assisted them during the Civil War.

Seward assumed, that England, France and Spain would oppose a US acquisition of the islands; and Seward hesitated not in informing Raasløff, that in such an event USA would not be able to assist Denmark – it would be Denmark`s own problem.

Raasløff presented Seward`s proposal to the Government in Copenhagen, which announced, that there was no wish to discard the islands. Nonetheless contacts were resumed in January 1866, after a new government had been appointed in Denmark; and Raasløff was of the opinion that a sale was realistic, if USA was willing to offer “a substantial amount”. An amount in the size of 20-25 mio USD was mentioned. A substantial price was important for Denmark, as it would serve to “.... Remedy the

damage, that the disposal of the islands surely will incur on us – loss of sovereignty, loss of income, weakening of the ties, that link us to two mighty powers?” Here no doubt is thought of England and France.

While in Copenhagen thoughts were focused on getting as much money out of a deal as possible, at the same time considerations were made over what reason for the surrender of Danish territory could be presented; a sore point shortly after one third of the land had been conquered by the Germans. Raasløff and the new foreign minister, Count Frijs, convinced themselves – “after thorough thought” – that a sale would make sense, because the only sensible politics, that Denmark should follow, was surrendering such possessions, which in case of war always would place Denmark`s neutrality at danger and without at the same time securing equivalent advantages.”

Problem solved! But a couple of months passed; and then – in June 1866 – things started moving with an offer from the Americans of 5 mill. USD in gold. However, the Danish Government did not respond until almost a year later by presenting a counter offer for 15 mill. USD, and with an alternative of 10 mill. USD for two islands (St.Thomas and St.John). The US view on price was most likely influenced by the recent acquisition of Alaska from the Russians for 7,2 mill. USD. An acquisition which broadly in the States was nicknamed Seward`s Folly or Seward`s Icebox.

And the new counter offer from the Americans was in that same level – 7½ mio USD. This was also turned down in Copenhagen with a counter offer of 7½ mio. USD for two islands. And as a new requirement, that a referendum should be held in the islands. For Denmark this was important bearing in mind, that during negotiations with Prussia over the future of North Schleswig after the 1864 war, a clause had been inserted in the Prager Treaty (the peace treaty between Prussia and Austria-Hungary after their 1866 war), entitling the population in North Schleswig at a point of time to have a referendum (plebiscite) over the future of the territory. The Americans were against giving such a right for the people in the islands. And besides, were annoyed at the Danish foot dragging, which annoyance was worded in the following way: “It is impossible to

bring matters of any kind to a quick conclusion in Denmark. Whether it is a tramp or the King, the Danes - no matter the question, that requires an answer - are the slowest and most contemplating people in the world.”

But nevertheless, on October 24, 1867 a Treaty about the sale of St. Thomas and St. John for 7½ mio. USD in gold was signed; in spite of serious objections from France, which, however, had no formal rights concerning those two islands. Which they had concerning St.Croix, after Denmark had acquired this island in 1733, on terms, that France had a first right of refusal in case of a Danish wish at a later stage to sell this island.

Now Denmark started preparing for closing the sale under the Treaty with USA; at first King Christian IX on October 2, 1867 made a proclamation in which he said goodbye to his loyal subjects in the two islands at the same time promising them to have a say in the transfer of the islands in the form of a referendum. This was held on January 9, 1868 – after having been postponed due to a hurricane and a tsunami in November 1867. The result was 1039 for and 22 against a sale in St. Thomas and 205 for and none against in St. John. Any allegation, that the West Indians clung to the Motherland, had no bearing!

As a consequence of the result of the referendum the Danish Parliament – Rigsdagen – on June 30, 1868 ratified the Treaty. The King signed it and it was delivered to the American Government for that to have the remaining procedure executed – the ratification of the Treaty by Congress (and appropriation of the purchase sum).

And then nothing more happened. And this is where the indignation of James Paron and many more occurs. Congress, which had been notified on February 2, 1869 of the Danish ratification, had been adjourned sine die, and as such did not have the opportunity to consider the ratification, as the ratification according to the Treaty should have taken place no later than February 24, 1868. However, the Danish Government had accepted a prolongation of the ratification period until October 15, 1869 with the following words: “The loss and the difficulties, which the delay in the ratification had caused and would further cause..... The

prolongation of this state of uncertainty influenced the interests of the islands to a severe degree and placed His Majesty's Government in an embarrassing and unpredictable position."

## THE CURSE

And here Mr. Partons statement ends – with a curse over his own government and its unreasonable and humiliating treatment of Denmark and the Danes. Quote: "It was not Denmark, that had approached the Americans about purchase of the islands; it was the Americans, who wanted to buy. And – maybe in a spell of foresight – he characterizes the American behavior in the following way: "Time will tell, whether the politics of our Government - when it comes to commitments – treats a mighty power differently from a weak power, and whether we should be ashamed before the whole world as those, who wag the tail in front of the giant, while we scornfully trample on a defenceless child!"

And as we know, there was no sale at this occasion. There was neither in the US Government nor in Congress appetite for further acquisitions. Neither did the parties succeed in 1902, but finally in 1917 it happened! The US wish to acquire was then to the outmost degree motivated by exactly the same as Seward had expressed to Raasløff in 1865 – it was imperative for USA to become a strong naval power. And to meet this requirement it was i.a. necessary to possess strategic positions, also in the Caribbean.

