

CUBA'S CLAIMS TO THE ISLE OF PINES.

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IN the September issue of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW and under the title "Have We mislaid a valuable Possession?" the Hon. Senator M. E. Clapp attempts to revive popular interest in a question which is a closed chapter, as far as the American Executive and the American people are concerned: the alleged title of the United States to the Isle of Pines.

Nevertheless, and as there is pending before the Senate a treaty in which the matter is finally settled, it is well that Cuba's side be presented before the public and the facts rehearsed on which Cuba has always based her title to this part of her territory and on which the Supreme Court, the highest tribunal in this country and one whose impartiality cannot be questioned, opined that the Isle of Pines is Cuba's.

Considering the question from its geographical, historical, political, administrative and international point of view, the Isle of Pines has always belonged to Cuba.

The geographical term Cuba, since the first maps were made, from 1492 to 1502, to date, has included the hundreds of surrounding islets, keys and archipelagoes, such as the Canarreos in which the Isle of Pines figures, and in no case the Isle of Pines has been considered other than a part of Cuba as much as Staten Island or Long Island is a part of New York State; the keys to the southwest of Florida, extensions of the mainland; Nantucket a portion of Massachusetts, and the Isle of Wight a part of England.

This assertion can be substantiated by the examination of all the maps of all epochs since its discovery, prepared by cartographers of all nationalities. Every text-book of geography