



# **Fighting Slavery in the Caribbean: Life and Times of a British Family in Nineteenth Century Havana (Latin American Realities)**

*Luis Martinez-Fernandez*

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*Fighting Slavery in the Caribbean* is a social history of life in mid-19th-century Cuba as experienced by George Backhouse (and his wife, Grace), who served on the British Havana Mixed Commission for the Suppression of the Slave Trade. Documented with extracts from the Backhouse's correspondence, diaries and other contemporary documents, Luis Martinez-Fernandez paints a detailed picture of the Cuban slave trade, its role in the sugar industry, and the interrelated contradictions within Cuba's economy, society and politics. The Backhouse story provides additional insights into important aspects of life in the "male" city of Havana, social antagonisms between Britons and North Americans, interactions with European social circles, religious tension, and the reality of tropical disease.

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