

**Transit Property—Who Owns Punta Arenas
—The Coffee Crop—The Saranac at San
Juan del Sur—Incidents.**

From the correspondence of the *Panama Star*, we obtain some particulars of affairs in Nicaragua.

About the middle of the month the Costa Rica government sent a force to Greytown to take possession of Scott's property there and to claim the right to Punta Castilla or Punta Arenas; but the Commander of the British ship of war *Leopard* refused to allow Col. GAUTY, the Costa Rica representative, to interfere with what was claimed to be the property of an American Company, and Mr. GREEN, the British Consul, contested Col. GAUTY's right or that of Costa Rica to claim Punta Arenas, insisting that it belonged to the Mosquito Territory. The whole affair called forth quite a correspondence, the result of which was that the Commander of the *Leopard* and Mr. GREEN both sustained their position for the present, and the Costa Ricans had to withdraw their pretensions to the claims advanced.

It is not improbable, however, now that no vessel of war is in Greytown, that the claims will be again renewed. Both Costa Rica and Nicaragua take the ground that, as the filibusters were permitted to occupy Punta Castilla without any opposition on the part of the King of the Mosquitoes or his allies, he can now lay no just claim to it; or at any rate that they have as good a right to it as the Mosquitoes have, and a better one than the filibusters. Nicaragua, we understand, talks of buying out the Mosquito King, and will in all probability offer him a pension of \$50 a month to lay down his crown and turn his possessions over to them. Doubtless the pension would be more acceptable to him, if he dare accept it, than the pittance he at present receives; but as he is a mere tool, it is not likely he could enter into such an arrangement without the consent of the British authorities. However, the idea of buying out a king, crown and all, for \$50 a month, is by no means a bad joke; it shows how low down royalty can descend, and what a farce the title of "King of the Mosquitoes" is.

Business was very dull at Greytown, and people leaving. Report says the place is at present miserably poor.

During the stay of the British ship of war *Leopard* there, her crew, like those of the United States sloop *Jamestown*, contracted a good deal of sickness, and she was obliged to go down to Aspinwall to recruit their health.

The Costa Rica Coffee crop will, it is expected, exceed 100,000 qcls. the coming season, and the sugar crop 40,000 qcls.

The crops in Nicaragua are expected to be more productive this year than for some time.

SAN JUAN DEL SUR, Friday Aug. 20, 1858.

(Correspondence of *Panama Star*.)

Since the arrival here of the United States frigate *Saranac* on the 23rd of July, things have taken more of a business aspect.

On her arrival, various rumors were afloat as to the object of her visit; as yet nothing certain is known, save that she came to look out for American interests, and to anticipate the opening of the transit. That she will anticipate it by a long time, is the belief of your correspondent; for after waiting fifteen months we can see but little advancement during that time. As for steamers, only one, the *Virgin*, is on the lake, and that can accommodate but poorly 300 passengers. The river boats are also too few, and there is no coal there, nor, as far as I can learn, none on the way. The transit road is in traveling condition, but the men employed in repairing it are getting tired of working "on tick." As they were employed by the STEBBINS & WHITE Co.'s Agent, they have to await his return from New York with funds.

Captain KELLY, of the *Saranac*, has been lying idle, save on the 9th instant, when he ordered his armed launches ashore, to release two Americans that were falsely imprisoned; but, luckily for the natives, they released them before the launches reached the landing. This, however, caused a right of inquiry from the Government-in-Chief of this Department, who had only the sorrowful satisfaction of being told by Captain KELLY that he came here to protect Americans, and should fulfill his mission, but that the men were ready for trial, and it should be a fair one. Nothing has been done, however, to the men being at liberty.

The Consul, when he visited the ship, took with him the noted "BOB GRAY" as interpreter, and the Commander of this port, GUTIERRES, the identical individual who robbed the mail on the arrival here of CARRY JONES, (Sept. 23, 1857.) much to the detriment of the latter gentleman's interest, and for which he (JONES) could never get justification. The letters and money extracted were directed to the care of the American Consul. In justice to Captain KELLY, we would say, that on the 9th inst. he sent an officer asking Consul PRIEST not to name his protégé GRAY on board as interpreter. Priest persisted, stalling that there was no other in town, and false by the way, as there were several, and were all at home, and all old residents.

General LAMAR has asked the Commander of the *Saranac* to convey him to Costa Rica, but as Captain KELLY's orders are peremptory to remain, he could not comply.

An amusing incident (disputed in its proper place) occurred on the morning after the arrival of the *Saranac*. An American wished to board her on business, relating to supplies for beef, &c., but as PRIEST had stated that morning that he intended to get the contract for GRAY, he, of course, wished to get the first hearing, he could only do so by preventing any one from boarding her before him; consequently, when said American wished to shove off, an order came from the Commandante not to let any person visit the ship until the Consul returned, or until he had paid the ship a visit, a thing unheard of before. The Commandante had issued the order at the instance of GRAY. As a matter of course, every American was indignant, and they collected around a neighboring flag-staff, and hoisted the Stars and Stripes Union down. Just at that moment a boat

was leaving the ship, and the citizens met the officers near the landing, and stated their grievance, much to the chagrin of PRIEST and GRAY, who were deprived of any participation in the commissary line.

The Commandante also the day previous, at the instance of GRAY, prevented a boat leaving the harbor to look for the vessel. This order was of some detriment to the *Saranac*, as she had difficulty in finding the harbor.
