

like tocsin. A prisoner, taken subsequently, says that Walker's name paralyzed resistance, and the Costa Ricans commenced an indiscriminate retreat down the south side of the hill and away on the road to San Jose. In the meantime the Ogden, to avoid the fire from the guns of the fort, steamed up stream and anchored about one mile and a half above Castillo. All day the Costa Ricans retreated from the fort, protected in their flight by the hill on which the castle is built. In the morning, Col. Anderson sent Sergeant Brady, with a flag of truce up to the fort, but the sergeant found no one to parley with as the enemy had fled and the fortifications were undefended. Possession was immediately taken, and on the 3d of December the Nicaraguan flag was hoisted on the formidable battlements of Fort Castillo, never before in fight except by the celebrated Lord Nelson.—Capt. West, of the commissary, was the first to plant the banner of the Nicaraguans on the fortress. This was the place where the valiant Titus was first made drunk by Cauty and afterwards most ingloriously whipped by twenty sick men while he had two hundred and fifty men in charge. Anderson and his command redeemed the glory of the American arms on the same spot, by taking the place from twice his number of men, and he had nothing in the shape of artillery to assist him to victory.

The hospital attached to the fort, situated at the foot of the hill, under the guns of the castle was also taken, and in it were twelve men—three sick and nine well ones. Fred Romer was immediately despatched as a courier to General Walker, with news of the important success.

The same day, while the Ogden was lying above the fort, a bungo came down the river, commanded by eight men. There were seven men on the Ogden, all of whom immediately concealed themselves behind the bulwarks of the boat until the bungo came within range, when suddenly raising to their feet, the Costa Ricans were astonished to find themselves in the presence of the filibuster riflemen. Like Captain Scott's coon, they volunteered to come down without a shot, and Col. Anderson then found himself in possession of one lieutenant and eight privates, fresh from the steamer Virgin. On being questioned the prisoners informed the Colonel that the lake steamer Virgin was lying above the Toro rapids, in charge of a few men. Lieut. Belcher, with ten men, was immediately sent forward on the steamer Ogden to capture the Virgin, which he did without firing a gun, taking prisoners two captains, one lieutenant and twenty privates. It appears the party on the barges had been sent down to ascertain the cause of the firing at the castle.—Lieut. Belcher was put in charge of the Virgin, with fifteen men, and the balance of the command returned to the fort. Thirty-two prisoners were put on to the steamer Morgan, her fires were lighted, and she was despatched down the river to General Walker at Punta Arenas.—Captain Buttrick and Mr. Charles Brogan were the only white men on the Morgan. She came down very well until within twelve miles of Punta Arenas, when she grounded, and Brogan started to obtain assistance from the camp.—Lieutenant Waters, in charge of eight men, was sent up to assist Captain Buttrick in moving the boat, which was effected on the 6th, and on the morning of the 7th she came into Punta Arenas just in time to see the Nicaraguan flag, flushed with victory, ingloriously stricken before the United States forces. This was the end, for a man-of-war boat pulled alongside, and the Morgan was again in the hands of the enemies of Walker and Nicaraguan freedom. Herewith receive Col. Anderson's modest recital of the eventful expedition, together with a full list of the articles captured. As the matter stood when your correspondent left Punta Arenas, Col. Anderson, with 35 men, was stationed at Castillo, and Lieut. Belcher, with 15 men, was in command of the steamer Virgin, at Toro Rapids.

What his course will be when he hears of the arrest of Gen. Walker, and the consequent breaking up of the expedition, I cannot say; but my opinion is that he will maintain his position, in hopes of reinforcements from the United States.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE CAPTURE OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER, PORT CASTILLO, AND THE BOATS.

FORT CASTILLO VIEJO, Dec. 5, 1857.

GEN. WM. WALKER:—Sir—According to instructions I left Leaf's Island on the morning of the 29th of November, with my command, and landed on the night of the 3rd of December one mile below the fort, rested my men, and then took up my line of march along the river, until I neared the fort, at one o'clock in the morning of the 4th December. I divided my forces into two parties, one under Capt. D. McMichael, of ten, took possession of Nelson's Hill, with orders to hold it until otherwise directed. The other, under my command, advanced up under the fort, as far as the steamer Bulwer, which was cut loose by Captain Buttrick and four men. They boarded her and drifted down the river, how far I do not know. I advanced then with the rest of my command to the steamers above the Falls, where myself and Lieutenant Belcher cut loose the steamer Morgan and let her drift down. I then took all the provisions goods, medicine, &c., and three or four men that were in the Hospital, placed them on board the steamer Ogden, got up steam, and placed her under charge of Fred Remer, intending to take her over the rapids; but on leaving the wharf she was fired into twice from the fort, one shot taking effect, but doing no serious damage. The engine did not work well, however, and she was taken up the river out of range of the guns of the fort, and there tied up, it being then nearly daylight.—While waiting above she intercepted a Bungo with ten men in it. The Bungo came down from the steamer Virgin, and only left some ten or twelve men on board. After the steamer Ogden went up the river, I joined Captain McMichael on Nelson's Hill, and held it until 4 o'clock P. M. I then sent in a flag of truce, demanding the surrender of the fort, and found it vacated. I then took possession of it with all its munitions and provisions, a list of which I send you, with all the letters and papers found on the premises, from which you may gain some information.

This morning I sent Lieutenant Belcher with the steamer Ogden and fifteen men to attack and take possession of the steamer Virgin and hold her until further orders; all of which he did, taking fifteen more prisoners, all of whom I send you to dispose of as you think proper.

I send you the steamer Morgan under charge of Capt. De Brissott. He will give you information concerning the other steamers.

My men are in general good health and spirits, but needing some shoes and clothing.

Having to place a guard upon the steamer Virgin, nine miles up the river, on the Ogden, and at the fort, my command is not sufficiently large.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without recommending to your personal notice all the men under my command. All of which I respectfully submit to your Excellency.

E. P. ANDERSON, Col. Com'g.
GEN. WM. WALKER, President of Nicaragua.

LIST OF STORES FOUND IN THE ORDNANCE AT FORT CASTILLO.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 long 18 lb. cannon. | 1 iron 6 lb cannon. |
| 1 brass 6 lb. cannon. | 1 brass 4 lb. cannon. |
| 1 brass 12 lb. cannon. | 468 flint-lock muskets. |
| 113 minnie muskets. | 93 bayonets, old. |

Expedition up the River San Juan. Brilliant Campaign of Twenty Days by Col. Frank Anderson, with forty-five soldiers—Capture of Fort Castillo and four Steamers.

PUNTA ARENAS, Nicaragua, Dec. 9, 1857.

As you were informed in a former correspondence of the landing of Col. Frank P. Anderson's command of forty-five men at the mouth of the Colorado river, it is useless to refer to the initiatory step of one of the most successful and certainly the quickest campaigns, of which our history gives any report. From the day the steamers on the San Juan river, with the forts of San Carlos and Castillo were taken, last January, it has been the study and the dread of Gen Walker's friends and followers whether it would be possible, without a wearisome struggle and much sacrifice of life and money, to recapture them. I may say that the General himself thought it a great work, unless the capture could be achieved by some strategy, or by one of those quickly-executed movements which have always paralyzed the studied tactics of the drilled officer and set at defiance the defences and attacks of the routine commander. It is useless to say that in these movements, combining celerity with precision and secrecy, Gen. Walker has already manifested a talent of no ordinary character, as his capture of Granada, his first attack on Massaya, his first battle of Rivas, and his midnight attack on San George fully attest.

In pursuance of his favorite idea, the command of Col. Anderson was landed at the mouth of the Colorado and ordered to proceed immediately up the river, cutting off all communication with the interior, and thereby preventing information of his landing from reaching the Costa Ricans in garrison at Castillo.

Col. Anderson's command left the steamer Fashion at 4 P. M., on the 24th of November, and after pulling 24 hours, in a constant rain, and against a four knot current, landed at Leaf's Island, one hundred yards above the junction of the Colorado and San Juan rivers. Here a halt of two days and three nights took place, while a courier was sent down to Gen. Walker, at Punta Arenas; Leaf's Island commands the San Juan river, and Col. Anderson thus held all communication with the interior in his control. No boat could pass without his sentinel observing it, and the marshy character of the river banks prevented pedestrianism.

On the 27th of November an order was issued to Col. Anderson to proceed up the river and capture the river boats lying at fort Castillo. In obedience, the command started on the 28th, and made the mouth of the Serapique at dark, where a camp was struck for the night. The weather all this time was most disagreeable, and the troops were exposed to all its force in open yawl boats.

On the 29th the command started at daylight and camped again at 10 o'clock at night at Mackneu Rapid, in the rancho of a man named Kelly. Starting at daylight on the 30th, Anderson camped at night six miles below Fort Castillo, from which place he started next morning, leaving five men to guard the boats. He had previously a party of three men, under Lieut. Belcher, to reconnoitre the position of the enemy. During the reconnoissance the command moved up and camped within two miles of the fort, when the soldiers rested two hours on their arms. At 3 A. M. the men were set to work with hatchets to cut their way through the interminable undergrowth, briars and dead timber, up to the fort. In this way, working in the dark, the little division came to two streams, which the men had to swim, carrying their guns, ammunition, and one day's provisions. Five men had been left in charge of the yawls, which reduced the party to forty men. Still they worked, swore and swam, until just as the faint gleam of daylight broke they were within half a mile of the fort. Without stopping to rest, or parleying to count the chances, the men were formed, and stooping down half double, they commenced advancing towards the fort. Within 50 yards of the foot of the hill on which the castle is built Col. Anderson captured the steamer Morgan, moored at the wharf, and cutting her loose, left her drift down with five more men on board, thus again reducing his command to thirty-five men.

Here Captain Dudley McMichael, of Company A, was detailed to proceed with ten men to take possession of Nelson's Hill, on the opposite side of the fort from where Col. Anderson held position. This movement being executed, Anderson, with twenty-three men advanced around the base of the hill, by the railroad, taking the Water Battery, which was deserted, and continued his march to a point five hundred yards above the fort, where the steamer Bulwer and Ogden were moored. He raised steam on the Ogden immediately, and made an attempt to run her over the rapids, but she worked badly, and thus the engineer consumed considerable time in manœuvring her. The soldiers in the fort, were alarmed by this time (the Nicaraguans had been on the ground near an hour and a half), and the Ogden swung out in the river, a cannon was fired from the fort, the ball striking the water a few yards from the bow of the boat. Colonel Anderson immediately ordered the men to fire, and with a shout, "Hurrah for Gen. Walker!" the Nicaraguans commenced the attack. Captain McMichael's command now in possession of Nelson's Hill, heard the shouting and firing, and immediately echoed the war-