

Interesting Correspondence Between General  
Cazneau and Senor Ferrer.

The History of Walker's Expedition—  
Execution of Salazar.

NEW-YORK, Saturday, Nov. 29, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR: Permit me to call your attention to the anonymous statements which the enemies of Nicaragua are circulating to prejudice our citizens against its policy and Government, and to discourage emigrants from seeking homes on its beautiful and productive public domain.

I know, from personal observation, that the leading statements of these irresponsible writers are unjust perversions of the true history and condition of Nicaragua. Those who are at all conversant with its affairs are satisfied that the policy of the actual Government is eminently progressive and broadly American, but, under such efforts to mislead public sentiment, these points may not be fully understood by some of our people.

From the high and honorable part you have taken in the public affairs of your country, no person here can be so competent as yourself to place the cause of Nicaragua in its true light, and certainly no gentleman is entitled to higher consideration as reliable authority.

I have the honor to be very sincerely yours,  
WILLIAM L. CAZNEAU.

His Excellency Don FERMIN FERRER.

DON FERMIN FERRER'S REPLY.

NEW-YORK, Saturday, Nov. 29, 1856.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I fully respond to the ideas expressed in your note of this morning, respecting certain anonymous individuals whose crimes and misconduct in Nicaragua had rendered it impossible for them to remain in that country, and who are now vindictively using the freedom of the American Press, to present the policy and condition of my Government in the most false and odious colors. Justice to my country constrains me to correct these calumnies by a simple statement of facts.

When Nicaragua separated from Spain in 1821 to form an integral portion of the Central American confederation, she, like her sister States, had the misfortune to fall into a continuous chain of civil wars. For thirty-four years these struggles were incessantly maintained by domestic factions, whose private interests and ambitions made them deaf to reason and blind to duty.

The country was distracted by the desperate conflict of rival cliques and sections, and where, as too often happened, the occupant of the Chair of State was illegally displaced by his opponents, there was no limit to the proscription and extortion inflicted on the fallen party by the victors. Nicaragua had suffered from these causes to the last point of endurance. They had destroyed her wealth, ruined her resources, demoralized her industry, and produced such a chaos of conflicting rulers that no party remained within her limits capable of consolidating the peace of the country on a stable and permanent basis.

The tyrannical administration of President CHAMORRO had aroused a general movement of resistance under the able leadership of Don FRANCISCO CASTILLON. These Democrats boldly proclaimed their plan of regeneration based on the rights of the people to domestic peace and personal security; and so well was it responded to by the masses, that in a very short time they had possession of the whole country, with the single exception of the city of Granada and its precincts. This city, however, was an important exception, from its fine position on Lake Nicaragua, and its power to act upon the inter-ocean transit, as well as the navigable communications with the interior.

While CHAMORRO and his army were confined to Granada, CASTILLON occupied Leon as the seat of the Provisional Government; but the bleeding country remained as before, in a melancholy state of suffering and disorganization.

At this crisis the Democrats resolved to invite the sons of the great Republic of the North to aid them in subduing their discords, and to create the nucleus of a complete system of regeneration. However reluctantly admitted, and however it may surprise those who are ignorant of the ruinous confusion produced by a long period of civil dissensions, every enlightened patriot will confess it had become necessary to adopt very decided measures to arrest the rapid decline of our unhappy country.

Moved by these exigencies President CASTILLON, supported by the advice and cooperation of Don MARIANO SALAZAR, General JEREZ, General JOSE GUERRERO, and others of his old friends and counselors, made propositions to General WILLIAM WALKER to adopt Nicaragua as his country and come to her at the head of a phalanx of brave Americans to assist in reducing to order the factious disturbers of her peace. A handsome premium of land, in addition to the stated pay, was proposed to those volunteers who, on the conclusion of peace, should desire to remain as cultivators of the soil.

The Democrats accepted them as brothers, the children of a common mother—Republican America—and were ready to share with them the rich abundance of their unoccupied Territory, if in the same loyal spirit they would bring the enterprise—the capital, the inventive genius and the practical experience of the North, to develop the latent resources of Nicaragua.

DON TRINIDAD CABANOS—then President of Honduras and the friend of Nicaragua—fully participated in these views at that time, although he has since changed his policy.

In obedience to his engagements, Gen. WALKER attended by fifty-six brave companions landed at Brito, in July, 1855; and in union with a small body of native troops, encountered at Rivas on the 29th of the same month a force from Granada of three times their number. After a desperate engagement, in which the enemy suffered a heavy loss, Gen. WALKER marched to Leon, there to concert with President CASTILLON their future line of operation. At this critical moment Don MARIANO SALAZAR abandoned his country and her cause and retired to Costa Rica with his whole family.

The other Democratic leaders manifested more confidence in the future of Nicaragua, and Gen. JOSE MARIA VALLE with his command accompanied Gen. WALKER on his return to the Department of Rivas in August. Gen. SANTO GUARDIOLA, an exile from Honduras and the enemy of the Democrats, had taken possession of Rivas, and threatened the freedom of the inter-ocean transit. Gen. WALKER marched, threw himself upon the important post of La Virgin, where he had an engagement with GUARDIOLA, which, notwithstanding the superior force of the latter, ended in his total rout, with the loss of two hundred men. After this victory Gen. WALKER crossed to San Juan del Sur, where the enemy never dared renew the attack.

General WALKER decided the drama by one bold movement. Passing suddenly to La Virgin, he embarked his forces on board one of the Transit steamers on the 12th of October, and at daybreak on the 13th he had carried the Plaza of Granada by assault.

General CORRAL fell back on Masaya, and at the instance of the citizens of Granada, the chiefs of the two parties concluded a treaty of peace on the 23d of the same month, October.

The opposing leaders, CHAMORRO and CASTILLON had both died during this protracted struggle, and this facilitated the formation of a new Government, composed of men taken from all parties, with the moderate Don PATRICIO RIVAS at its head.

General WALKER was unanimously confirmed by both parties Commander-in-Chief of the entire military force of Nicaragua, with contingent Executive powers in the event of any interruption in the Provisional Government. He had accepted rank and responsibility as the adopted son of Nicaragua, and had fully identified himself with her interests. He has proved himself brave, discreet, and capable of command. The confidence reposed in him by Nicaragua should not surprise Americans, with the brilliant names of their own MONTGOMERY, STEUBEN, and a host of other adopted sons of the Union, who stand so fresh in their recollection, by the side of the illustrious Sillibuster, LALAYETTE.

Gen. CORRAL was named Minister of War under the new Government, but a few days after he was convicted of high treason, on his own correspondence and confession, and was executed according to military law.

DON MARIANO SALAZAR heard, in his retreat at Punta Arenas, in the State of Costa Rica, of the triumph of Gen. WALKER, and he repaired without delay to Nicaragua, where he was well received, and appointed Governor of the Western Department with the rank of Brigadier-General.

SALAZAR then presented his claims for goods and money which he had advanced to the [Castillon] Government sixteen months before Gen. WALKER came to the country, which, with the additional of his ex-

orbitant charges of interest, amounted to \$18,000. This sum he exacted from the impoverished treasury of Nicaragua in the moments of her greatest distress.

These transactions passed under my own observation in my capacity, and the fable of Don MARIANO SALAZAR'S pecuniary sacrifices in favor of Gen. WALKER and the cause, is a pure invention, like many other statements which the enemies of my country are endeavoring to impose upon the American people.

With the cessation of these internal discords, peace was restored to Nicaragua, but the other Governments of Central America saw, with jealousy and dismay, that the new and vigorous elements which had produced it would remain, to consolidate and sustain the public prosperity. The demagogues who, in contempt of popular rights, had ruled the country as if it were their own private patrimony, feared the example would spread to the other States, and cost them the loss of their power. To avoid this, they leagued together in a savage war on Nicaragua and her adopted citizens.

The troops of Costa Rica, under President MOZA, were the first to invade our territory. They seized the Isthmus transit, and entrenching themselves in the neighboring city of Rivas, committed every enormity of murder, rapine and conflagration on the defenceless inhabitants, not even sparing the persons and property of neutral foreigners.

History will declare how bravely the Costa Ricans were repulsed by General WALKER, and how ingloriously President MOZA retreated from Rivas, leaving his dead unburied, and his wounded at the mercy of our soldiers.

It is also a matter of history that he wantonly sacrificed at La Vigen the property and lives of an American citizen, although they were under the protection of the flag of the United States.

When San Salvador and Guatemala conspired to assail the peace and independence of Nicaragua, SALAZAR had the military command of Leon, and, then, for the second time, he deserted the cause of his country at the hour of her greatest danger. Don PATRICIO RIVAS became involved in this treason by an unworthy sentiment of disappointed ambition. He had observed the growing disposition of the intelligent citizens of Nicaragua to call General WALKER to the supreme executive power, as the man most competent to direct the ship of State through the stormy crisis of regeneration. To prevent this he united with SALAZAR and other factionists in placing the capital city of Leon in the power of the hostile army which they had invited within their limits to devour the resources of the country and dictate laws to the people of Nicaragua.

By a most singular interposition of Providence, SALAZAR was arrested in the Bay of Fonseca, while on his way to San Salvador to obtain reinforcements for the invading army. Documents that fully proved his treason were captured with him, and he suffered in Granada the just penalty of his crime.

Let those who condemn the present Government of Nicaragua decide which have the best claim on public confidence: those who have faithfully labored to secure her domestic tranquillity and development, and who have valiantly defended her soil and sovereignty from foreign invaders—or those who have instigated her enemies to attack these precious rights with fire and sword.

Nicaragua has triumphantly resisted the tyrannical pretensions of the other Isthmus States, and is prepared to sustain the most friendly relations with all other nations, and particularly with those great commercial powers who are so deeply interested in the security and independence of her invaluable inter-oceanic highway. Already a treaty has been celebrated with the United States, which, in assuring to your citizens the most absolute freedom and security of person and property, freely opens to their enterprise all the magnificent natural resources of our country, and an unbounded field of wealth yet to be developed for the advantage of both Republics.

The masses of Nicaragua, wearied with the losses and exhaustion of a third of a century of civil wars, accept with satisfaction the policy of the Government which their suffrages have placed in power. They perceive in it the elements of stability and advancement which they so much desire, and for which most of their neighbors sigh in vain. The industrial classes begin to breathe freely, under a system which relieves them from forced military service, and gives them space and liberty to cultivate their fertile soil, work their rich mines, and take a more active part in the trade and navigation that naturally belong to their favorable position. A liberal plan of colonization has been adopted, and emigration is turning towards the fertile and healthy region bordering on our beautiful lakes. Within a year many hundred (perhaps it will be more correct to say many thousand) families will settle upon the public domain, and their skill, capital, and industry, will give new life and impulse to the productive energies of the country.

Nicaragua has established her policy on the great principles of American progress, and those only are enemies who either cannot comprehend them, or have views in opposition to those interests.

If she has calumniators on both sides of the Atlantic, she is only in the same condition with the States of the North and their revolutionary founders, and like them, she must await with patience the more impartial verdict of the future.

With distinguished marks of consideration and respect, I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,  
FERMIN FERRER.

To Hon. WILLIAM L. CAZNEAU.