

## AFFAIRS IN NICARAGUA.

### A Hopeful View of Gen. Walker's Position and Prospects.

To the Editor of the New-York Daily Times:

Permit one who has shared largely in the events now distracting Nicaragua to offer a few observations on the present state of that unfortunate country.

The accounts in the papers are confirmed on the general outlines of their statements by the most reliable private advices, but the latest letters do not coincide to the same extent in the inferences of the press, that Gen. WALKER is in a desperate situation. Difficult it is, but not desperate. Without being the eulogist of Gen. WALKER, it is not to be admitted that something like two thousand Americans, with rifles in their hands, are to be exterminated by three or four thousand badly armed and undisciplined men. If, as is stated, the Americans are short of clothes and provisions, their enemies are in a still worse condition. It must also be recollected that the Americans occupy the transit, and have on both sides open and prompt steam communication with their rich country and countrymen, who can, if they choose, supply them in ten days with food, clothing and munitions of war to any extent.

The *Tennessee* left—as the curtain often falls on the fictitious drama—at the crisis of the scene, but comparing the latest letters with the verbal accounts of the most trustworthy passengers, we have this summary of the late events.

The allies had concentrated their forces on the Isthmus, with the double view of seizing the treasure *en route* from California, and breaking up the transit. General HORNSBY's dashing attack with two hundred men had made a serious impression, but had not dislodged the eight or nine hundred Costa Ricans and Guatemalians fortified at San Juan del Sur, to watch and capture the California train.

Virgin Bay, as every one understands, is the Depot of the Transit Company on Lake Nicaragua, and connects with San Juan del Sur on the Pacific, by an excellent macadamized road, of about twelve miles. This road General HORNSBY traversed to make a flying assault on the enemy, and feel the strength of his position at San Juan del Sur. He carried the first barricade, and wrote to General WALKER that "he could take the place and keep it, if it were not for his orders not to expose Virgin Bay, and the passengers then expected by the *Tennessee*, to a repetition of the murderous onslaught perpetrated by the Costa Ricans more than a year since." "As the United States Government does not notice these outrages and protect its citizens and commerce, we must do it for them." Under these orders Gen. HORNSBY returned to Virgin Bay to protect that end of the land transit, while Gen. WALKER himself marched from Granada to San Juan del Sur, and drove out the enemy. Leaving one hundred and seventy-five men to protect San Juan del Sur and communicate with Gen. HORNSBY's command at Virgin Bay—thus securing the free transit of the California passengers and treasure—Gen. WALKER then returned to Granada with the intention of making that place untenable to the enemy and of concentrating his force on the transit and Rivas.

He established his base line of protection from Lake to Ocean on the 13th of November, and on the 15th we find him forty miles distant, besieging Masaya. On comparing accounts, it would seem that Gen. WALKER's object was to dislodge the enemy, and make that place untenable, also; but he only succeeded in part, for after a succession of sharp attacks, continued through three days, he fell back on Granada, to complete the chief feature of his plan. He dispatched the sick and wounded, the women and non-combatants, to the large Island of Ometepe, and after giving due notice to quit to the inhabitants, he embarked on one of the Lake steamers to meet the reinforcements from the United States, known to be on the way up the river to San Carlos.

He left Gen. HENNINGSEN at Granada with 400 men, to destroy the town and bring away the military stores, after the inhabitants had left.

These men, with those stationed on the Transit Line, show an effective force of about 1,200 Americans holding possession of the most commanding points on the Isthmus, without counting the expected reinforcements or the detached and floating parties.

Immediately on the departure of Gen. WALKER and his staff, the allies marched into Granada, and as some accounts state, have surrounded Gen. HENNINGSEN in the Church of San Sebastian. How far it may be assumed that Gen. HENNINGSEN was positively in a state of siege, it is impossible to say, as we have no distinct or reliable accounts beyond the last-known fact, that Gen. WALKER had left the city to join his main force, and that Gen. HENNINGSEN had collected his men, munitions, and transportation mules for the march to Rivas. He then occupied the Church of San Sebastian on a height in an excellent defensive position, and was well supplied with artillery and the necessary munitions of war.

Including the last reinforcements, General WALKER must have found himself on landing at Virgin Bay at the head of ten or twelve hundred men independent of HENNINGSEN's command, and with the means of transporting them by steam in one night to points within a league of Granada, where he could take the allies at disadvantage on flank and rear. It is hardly possible therefore to suppose he failed to relieve the Americans in Granada before their condition became desperate.

The California train having already been protected across the Isthmus by his decisive action, and having safely embarked its treasure and passengers on board the New-York steamer, General WALKER would be at liberty to throw all his force on Granada, and not only relieve General HENNINGSEN, but bring the war to a close in one decisive battle.

On a careful examination of all the probabilities, I believe this result may be expected with much better reason than we can suppose that a force of two thousand Americans will suffer themselves to be driven from the great Isthmus highway and yield to their enemies that communication so important to all the States of the Union as well as to Nicaragua.

Yours,

AMERICUS.