

ADDITIONAL FROM NICARAGUA

NEWS DIRECT FROM RIVAS.

INTERVIEW WITH GEN. WALKER.

The Conflicts at Obraje and St. George.

LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Reliable Intelligence Concerning Walker's Position, Strength and Prospects.

Special Correspondence of the N. Y. Daily Times.

SAN JUAN DEL SUR, NICARAGUA, }
Monday, Feb. 2, 1857. }

I arrived at this place, on the evening of the 24th, in the steamer *Sierra Nevada* from Panama, and the next evening, finding a company of mounted rangers bound to Rivas to escort up some munitions of war, I dropped quietly into line on a thinly-shingled mule, and counted one of a very vagabond-looking party. A ride of twenty miles brought me shortly after midnight to the only city that at present acknowledges the rule of the man with the "blue-grey eyes." Giving the pass-word to the picquets, our animals clattered over the flag-stones, a few hungry-looking dogs only entering a snarling protest against our advent. A dim light now and then from a half-open casement of an officer's quarters was the only evidence at hand that Rivas contained within its borders a hostile force that had stricken terror to the heart of Nicaragua, devastated her fertile fields and laid in ashes her fairest cities.

One of the bravest and best of WALKER's officers, Col. J. P. WATERS, who gained a name in our war with Mexico, led me into the presence of his chief, the renowned "WILLIAM WALKER, President of Nicaragua, and commander-in-chief of her forces." It was then past one in the morning. I will not describe his appearance—that has been done so often that all your readers are familiar with it. He was seated on a red plush-covered sofa, conversing with one of his aids, who left us alone after a parting word or two.

I had known WALKER in San Francisco five years ago, and was a good deal struck with the change that exposure, fevers and anxiety—though he never appears to feel anxious—had wrought in his face. It was thin, angular and sallow, and though but thirty-three years of age, you would take him for more than forty. He spoke a word or two about our old business of newspaper scribbling in California, and then asked a few questions in a careless tone about the closing of the river against him, news of which we brought by the steamer. When WEBSTER, the agent of VANDEBILT in Costa Rica, was named, his eyes dilated a little, and just perceptibly raising his voice from the half-drawing whisper of his usual tone, he exclaimed: "He's a villain, Sir!—he's a swindler, Sir!" And then he recounted how WEBSTER had offered to serve him and his cause by bringing out immigrants—that his terms had been rejected—that he had been guilty of many dishonorable acts in Nicaragua, and came near being arrested at the instance of our Minister WHEELER for some swindling transaction. He disavowed any belief in the story that VANDEBILT had employed such a man as WEBSTER in any important negotiation, and appeared a little surprised when I told him that he was reported as VANDEBILT's agent a month since in the New-York papers. But I promised not to talk about WALKER, and so will tell you all the news of his little force up to date.

On the 26th ultimo, the day after my arrival in Rivas, a report came into town towards evening that a small force of the allied army had marched into Obraje, a little village about eight miles distant. A company of Rangers and another of Rifles were immediately dispatched to reconnoitre. At 10 o'clock at night a courier came in with news that the Rangers had had a skirmish with an advanced guard of the enemy, in which Captain PHINNEY was badly, if not mortally, wounded. On the 27th, at about 11 o'clock, nearly 300 men were sent, under command of Brigadier-General HENNINGSEN, to the scene of action, making, with PHINNEY's force, about 400 men. The allied forces, under CAMAS, supposed to number about 1,500 men, were found strongly posted and barricaded. An attempt was made to draw them out, but they were rather wary, and after skirmishing for eighteen or twenty hours, HENNINGSEN received an order to fall back on Rivas. The result of this affair was the loss of Captain PHINNEY, and five of his Rangers killed—and some say sixty or eighty killed of the enemy, principally, it is alleged, by a single discharge of cannister from a four-pound gun. But a lad who saw the effects of the shot, tells me it did very little damage, killing only four or five and wounding ten or a dozen.

On the 28th WALKER's force all slept in Rivas, the sixty or seventy men he had stationed at Virgin Bay having been called in. His scouts reported that the enemy had fallen back from Obraje upon Pueblo Nuevo, which proved to be incorrect, for the next morning, the 29th, they marched into St. George, only two miles and a half from Rivas, took possession of the Church and immediately commenced throwing up strong barricades in front of it, and on the road leading into the Plaza. At 10 o'clock A. M., WALKER dispatched a force of about 450 men, under HENNINGSEN, to attack them. The 1st Infantry were three quarters of a mile in advance, with orders, as their officers say, to attack the enemy as soon as they should come upon them. HENNINGSEN says he gave no such order; but, at any rate, they did it, and the result was they had to fall back, after losing several officers and men. The main body coming up, the attack was renewed, and kept up with indifferent success until late in the night. HENNINGSEN had two four-pounders, and the enemy four or five pieces, but neither party seem to have used their artillery to much advantage. The enemy attempted to throw out two wings to flank WALKER's little force in the plantain patches, when the latter, by a well-directed fire, caused them to fall behind their barricades with considerable loss—said to be 200 killed, and of course many wounded. Probably their loss in killed might amount to 400. Brigadier-General BOSQUET, of the Costa Rican forces, is supposed to have been killed, from the fact that WALKER's sword which BOSQUET picked up in a former battle of Rivas, and which the latter was known to wear, was found on a dead body by one of the Rangers and brought into camp. But I questioned the soldier, and from his description, knowing as I did, BOSQUET, I doubt if his was the body.

WALKER, as at Obraje, finding his force fighting at great disadvantage, ordered a retreat, and at 4 o'clock A. M., the 30th, it fell back again upon Rivas. It is said he withdrew for fear the enemy might land a force from the steamers and cut him off from the transit road, as the *Orizaba* would be due in a day or two, with men and munitions from California.

WALKER's loss at St. George was sixteen men killed and 33 wounded. Of his officers, Captains WILKINSON and RUSSELL and Lieut. HYER were killed. Col. JACQUES and Major DUGENBREE were mortally wounded. Col. LEONARD, Capt. JOHNSON and Lieut. CHAPLANT, badly; and Lieuts. SCHEMERHORN, NAGLE, NORTH-RIDGE and STEELE, slightly wounded.

On the 30th, at 7 P. M., WALKER, with a force of 300 men, started for San Juan del Sur, to guard the provisions and munitions of war, expected on the steamer. He arrived, with several carts and baggage-wagons, at 9 o'clock A. M. on the 31st, and took up his quarters in the Transit Company's house, his officers and soldiers quartering at one or two tumble-down hotels and in the old deserted shanties of the town. On the 1st, his officers held a Court-Martial on a deserter, picked up that morning. He was found guilty, and at sundown was shot on the beach in presence of the whole force, who were drawn up into line. I have not learned the poor fellow's name, after a good deal of inquiry. He was a German, and said to have a family in New-York.

About an hour after the execution, the steamer *Orizaba* came into port. She had, however, only 50 men for WALKER, a few provisions, but no ammunition or munitions of war. These 50 men were immensely warlike, beating their drums and making speeches till daylight; but when they were ordered to land in the morning, 15 or 20 of them were found stowed away in the holes and dark places of the ship.

At 5 o'clock, P. M., General WALKER, after having placed about one hundred and fifty spare muskets on board his little two-gun war-schooner in the harbor, awaited the arrival of more filibusters, pressed three or four men into his service who were waiting a passage to the States, and took up his line of march for Rivas.

At 11 A. M., yesterday, three to four hundred o

the Costa Ricans entered Virgin, on the Transit road, and immediately commenced making barricades about the Company's office. The steamer *Virgin*, for the first time, came up to the wharf, and landed a few men and officers. But after a few hours' stay, hearing probably, that the steamer was in, and that WALKER was at San Juan del Sur receiving reinforcements, the whole body rejoined the main force at St. George.

WALKER appears to have given up all hope of regaining the steamers, as he abandoned his small-boat expedition as impracticable, and on the 23th, burnt his schooner on the Lake, to prevent her from falling into the hands of the enemy. The allied army evidently has a force stationed on the Island of Ometepe, in the Lake, as they keep one or both of the steamers constantly cruising about it. Occasionally they approached Virgin, while WALKER had a force there, and threw a shot into town, but without damage. The general expectation at Rivas seems to be that the filibuster force at Greytown will get possession of the river in some way, but no one seems to devise how it is to be done. Castillo, Hipp's Point and San Carlos have all, no doubt, been made too strong for anything to pass them. San Carlos was defended, when WALKER lost it, by a twenty-four-pounder and one six-pound gun, and can only be taken by surprise.

WALKER's whole force, before the battle of St. George, amounted to eight hundred fighting men. In the two hospitals at Rivas, I counted 150 sick and wounded. Probably of servants, hostlers, drivers, and loafers, who are unfit for soldiers, there are 200 more. The arrival of the 50 men from California about makes up the loss at St. George. The men are tolerably well-fed on fresh beef, plantains, and a part allowance of bread, and at present there are but few new cases of sickness. At this season of heavy winds, Rivas is very healthy, but in six weeks more, when the weather changes, fevers, dysentery, and perhaps cholera, will thin out WALKER's forces. His officers are all excellent fighting men, and have no idea that they can be whipped, which feeling also seems to obtain among the men, if they come to a pitched battle. But it is quiet evident to any one that they are mostly weary of the hard service, and that if they had their choice, not fifty men would remain another day in the country. He has powder and lead enough for three months, but is short of round shot and shell. No doubt he has, also, with what cattle and corn he can pick up in the immediate vicinity of Rivas, enough provisions for three or four months.

Rivas can be easily defended. The houses have heavy adobe walls, and the streets leading into the city are narrow, and are being strongly barricaded. All the buildings about the Church of San Francisco have been pulled or burned down, so as to afford no shelter to the enemy, and to give WALKER's rifles a clean shot, if, by any stress, he should be shut up in the Church. He has also thrown down all the huts in the outskirts, and cleared away the trees and brush about the city, giving himself a clean field outside its original bounds.

In short, WALKER must have large reinforcements to enable him to fight with success the enemy that is circling about him. Cut off these, and he might last three months—perhaps six—but he must eventually succumb or be annihilated. It is useless to talk of making terms with his enemy; indeed, he does not expect this. He hasn't a hundred true friends in all Central America, and as long as the five States can raise a soldier or buy an ounce of powder, they will fight him. It is a war of extermination on both sides.

It is presumed that WALKER will again attack his enemy at St. George in a day or two. If he does, he will have to fight about 2,500 men, as probably 1,000 will be landed by the Lake steamers from Ometepe and the river.

Mr. ROEBBS, WALKER's Secretary of the Treasury, who sailed from Panama for San Juan in a four-ton boat on the 11th ultimo, has not yet arrived. It is supposed he has been blown off the coast.

A boat, which the *Sierra Nevada* sent across land to go out on the Lake, about four weeks since, to see what had become of her New-York passengers, and which was manned by eight or ten of WALKER's men, has not yet been heard from.

I go to Panama to day on the *Orizaba*, and will write you from there if I find any news when I arrive

F. W. R.