

than any I have yet heard of on the part of WALKER or his officers.

HIPP'S POINT.

The news of LOCKRIDGE's attempt against Hipp's Point reached here four days after the event, which will serve to show you how rapid the communication is. Men leave here daily with loads of provisions for Hipp's Point, San Carlos and Castillo. Roads have been cut, and a daily communication established. The heavy rains that fall on the Serapiqui at all seasons of the year have bred sickness in the garrison at Hipp's Point. To supply the loss, the sick are constantly relieved by new recruits. LOCKRIDGE is reported here to have lost seventy men in the attempt, but I believe the number is greatly exaggerated. Thirty killed and wounded would be nearer the truth.

My old friend Major DUNSMURY is reported among the killed at Obraje. I hope this may not be true, if it were only for the sake of his excellent wife, who has shared all his hardships in Nicaragua since April last.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EXPEDITION AGAINST THE RIVER SAN JUAN.

For a time after my arrival here a general gloom pervaded Costa Rica. This was soon changed into an excitement by the arrival from Panama, on the 28th of November last, of a Mr. WEBSTER, accompanied by a countryman of mine named SPENCER. These persons were immediately closeted with the President, whose usual urbanity was now changed into decided cheerfulness. SPENCER took his departure a few hours after his arrival; but everything was conducted so secretly we could only conjecture that some movement was intended against the positions on the San Juan River. WEBSTER remained in San José, and was continually closeted with the President. Movements were made in the military department for a secret expedition. So perfect was the management, the volunteers who came pouring in from the vicinity of Cartago could form no idea of their destination. In three weeks' time the facts came out. All the steamers had been taken on Lake Nicaragua and the San Juan. Immediately on the return of SPENCER with the news, WEBSTER gave a grand dinner to the President and dignitaries of San José.

Captain CANTY, afterwards promoted for his services to the rank of Colonel, was the officer who conducted the rafts down the river San José with three hundred men to surprise Hipp's Point. SPENCER was third officer, and managed the practical details of the expedition. Colonel BARRILLER, a French Zouave, and Captain CANTY, led one of the storming parties at Hipp's Point. Colonel JOAQUIN FERNANDEZ was the general commander of the expedition, and took possession of the boats in the name of the government of Costa Rica. The second storming party of sixty men was led by SPENCER and FERNANDEZ. The name of Colonel MAXIMUM BLANCO ought also to be mentioned among the most efficient officers of the expedition.

The garrison, forty in number, were taken completely by surprise, and yielded after a short struggle. You may remember that when Captain JOHN M. BALDWIN commanded here last Spring, he went up the Serapiqui and repulsed two hundred Costa Ricans. BALDWIN soon after transmitted to WALKER, a plan of the river, with hints for a campaign against Costa Rica, of which Serapiqui and San Juan del Sur were to be the two *points de appui*. BALDWIN was soon after removed from the army to a civil *sinecure*. It was he who saved the American women and children from massacre in the night attack at Ometepe. WALKER would take no advice in those days, and was jealous of all good officers. More than half of LOCKRIDGE's men have already fallen sick, or have died of the marsh fever. The great Lord NELSON, when a young man, was one of a well-appointed British force who attempted to penetrate Nicaragua by the San Juan River. Their success was only partial. LOCKRIDGE, with a handful of men, miserably furnished, was, of course, repulsed. The facilities for defence against an army of invasion attempting the San Juan, are the greatest that could be desired, and as it is the intention of Costa Rica to keep up her present fortification on the river after this, we may consider that door as permanently closed against filibusterism. There was a kind of poetical justice in the loss of Hipp's Point by WALKER, the river San Juan having been, until then, the spiked door of the recruiting trap, through which so many thousands of miserable men have been decoyed, and by which so few have been able to return.

MAJOR H. K. ROGERS.

I have a letter from Panama which arrived here by the *Columbus*. It informs me that my old acquaintance, Maj. H. K. ROGERS, who played the part of Secretary of Hacienda and general confidant for WALKER, had taken passage up from Panama, in an open boat, for San Juan del Sur, intending to rejoin WALKER, from whom he was accidentally separated by the seizure of the river boats, which happened while he was at Greytown, looking after supplies. If he lands here he will be roughly treated, as he has been the principal adviser in all the violences committed against property in Nicaragua, and it was he and his party who were most active in the sack and burning of Granada. SPENCER and his men were floating down the little San Carlos River on rafts, when the steamer passed down with ROGERS and REDLER on board. ROGERS was probably in liquor, as usual, or he would have seen the rafts and defeated SPENCER's enterprise. Here was another example of retributive justice.

PROBABLE FATE OF WALKER.

I questioned MORA and his friends very closely as to their intentions should WALKER fall into their hands. They avoided giving any positive opinion, but seemed to believe that the Nicaraguans and Guatemalans would retaliate cruelly upon him for the death of CORRAL and SALAZAR. Others, however, will be implicated—President RIVAS himself, for instance, in the condemnation of CORRAL, and the Padre VILL in that of SALAZAR. I have been informed that the Padre did not exert all the influence he might have used on the last occasion.

Had the seizure of the San Juan river boats been made by any but an American, I should have been much annoyed; but it has been sensibly beneficial to the character and prestige of our countrymen here that the greatest service ever rendered to Costa Rica was by an American citizen. It is much for the glory of our arms, and has produced a counteraction in our favor which I feel sensibly in my intercourse with the natives. The Henningsens and Nutzmans have been beaten by a Yankee desperado.

THE COSTA RICAN ARMY.

Great improvements have been made in the organization of the Costa Rican armies. The Minié musket and rifle are extensively introduced, and the troops taught "to shoot low." After the two battles of the Transit road, the majority of the Americans were found by the surgeons to have been wounded in the body and legs. A Costa Rican huntsman, killed a great number of Americans at Rivas. The Central Americans have discovered the secret of our weakness in this country, having learned to wait patiently upon the masterly generalship of their ally the marsh fever, whose rapid advances sweep off, each month, one-fourth of the pale battalions of the invader. The lesser strategy of defensive war, to starve, terrify, annoy, deceive, to cut off stragglers, interrupt communications, and make night attacks—drawing from the invader his hope and confidence—all this has at length become familiar to them, and I do not now believe that there is a single intelligent native who thinks that the conquest of Central America is possible, even by armies well appointed and provisioned, much less by the ragged and half-starved men who trail a musket or rifle after a HENNINGSEN or a WALKER.

THE TRANSIT.

The Central American league is completed, and will endure as long as there is any fear of invasion from abroad. Nations who are able to carry on intestine wars for years among themselves, are perhaps the better qualified by such bitter experiences to unite against a common enemy. They may be conquered by large and well-appointed armies, but they will nevertheless maintain a guerrilla war, and perish slowly. It seems to me very questionable, whether we have a right to destroy the entire male population, and seize all the property of a people who have not offended us, but on the contrary have always coveted our friendship and asked for our protection. It is, at least, a very excusable fault on their part, if they make it as difficult as possible for us to accomplish.

"Every American who comes into Nicaragua," said an officer of WALKER's army to me, "kills three men, himself and two natives." Not less than fifteen thousand perished from causes chiefly generated by the war. The American loss has been less than half as great, because there were only seven thousand of them in all. Of these, six, at least, have fallen. The destruction of property has, been proportionate. The entire cost of WALKER's expedition cannot fall far short of three millions of dollars, of which two millions, in food and property, has been taken from Nicaragua. The rest came from the United States. We are some what entitled to learn whether the amount sacrificed by

Messrs. MORGAN and GARRISON to secure the Transit-Line for themselves, is equal to the loss of the old Accessory Transit Company. The total of both must be at least one million of dollars. A property that is contended for by millions, with armies, and vessels of war, and steamers, furnished at private cost, must be of immense value; both as a direct and legitimate source of profit, and as a grand machinery for the stock exchange. President MORA tells me that the profits of the Transit Line have been enormous, but that they have been entirely absorbed by a few men, (whom he named,) and that the general stockholder has been invariably cheated by the management. It is impossible to attribute this result to any cause but the character of the men employed as managers. They have all accumulated fortunes.

FILIBUSTERISM PROBABLY A DEPARTMENT OF STOCK-JOBING.

You will be interested to know that the exclusive right of the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican Transits has been negotiated with the Government of Costa Rica and Nicaragua by W. R. G. WEBSTER, his eminent services in the military management and planning of the expedition having given him a preference over all competitors. He left Costa Rica for Panama early in January, having the good wishes of the State with him.

President MORA regards the Walker concern in the light of an affair principally of Transit and Steamship Companies. I, however, am well informed of all the particulars of the Walker expedition from its first conception to the present time. I have repeatedly conversed with nearly all the principal agents in the affair, and they assure me that it originated in the brains of a few adventurous persons in California. HORSBURY, COLB, (of California,) and others, I am told, were in Nicaragua long before WALKER, and it was through COLB that his invitation and his powers over the Transit Company were secured to him. C. K. GARRISON managed the California business of the line and VANDERBILT the New-York business. I found it impossible to convince MORA that VANDERBILT and GARRISON were not the original filibusters, and WALKER and HENNINGSEN were employees. "Ninguna cosa hay que los hombres no pueden hacer por el dinero," he would reply to me, in Costa Rican patois. There is nothing that men will not do for money. These people are all traders, merchants or producers for the market, and their views of American enterprise are based upon their own natural predilections. By the next mail I shall advise you further.

SANTIAGO.