

own citizens have thrown the ambitious encroachments of that power into the shade. The incoming Administration have promised us a temperate and justly conservative policy. Let us see what steps it will take to vindicate the honor of the nation, in behalf of these unfortunate Americans who have been detained in Central America, by the refusal of their passports. Many hundreds of our fellow-citizens—some with their families—who went to Nicaragua, were inveigled by false representations, made by lying agents. Once there, they were not permitted to return, and the most of them have perished miserably. Who are the guilty parties in this grave offence against the laws of nations, and the freedom of the American people? Let us have a thorough sifting and examination of this grand and pretentious expedition, which proclaimed itself to the world as an effort to civilize, pacify, and "Americanize" the people of Central America. If the whole has been from the beginning a gigantic fraud upon the world, contrived and executed for sinister ends, by a party who are always ready to disturb the order and equilibrium of the Union, the people ought to be made sensible of the fact. If, on the other hand, this incredible waste of life and property has arisen in a strife between rival steamship interests, rushing blindly and ignorantly in a career of mere avarice and ambition, let us have the clear and unmistakable proofs, in order that the Government and the nation may adopt some well-defined and liberal policy, "for the protection and security of the great channels of our commerce."

The people have a right to know the fullest particulars of any enterprise for which their sympathies are demanded, and in this particular instance they will no longer be blinded by the excuse that the great sacrifice of life and property in Central America has done aught for the commerce of the nation, or for the extension of its Democratic institutions.

#### Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

We publish to-day an important letter from our special correspondent in Costa Rica, which throws a broad light upon the real position of affairs in that country and Nicaragua. The energy and restless ambition of our people, it must be admitted, sometimes leads numbers of them into enterprises of doubtful morality, and which are sure to have a fatal termination for their authors. As one of this order, our correspondent regards the expedition to Central America. We are not prepared, however, altogether to indorse his views. It must not be forgotten that WALKER and his associates were invited allies of the Democratic party in Nicaragua. Their position from what it was a year ago has indeed woefully changed, but chiefly through their own faults and offences. Intoxicated with their first success, and committing the common error of self-confidence, they assumed a position which, they have found it impossible to maintain, and the vast majority have fallen victims to an intolerable climate and to the rage of a desperate nation. Though we have faith in General WALKER's determination, energy, and skill, we must admit that, according to present appearances, they have been overborne by the fate of war, and if, as we are advised, his reign in Nicaragua is inevitably drawing to a close, it becomes his duty to withdraw while there is time, and save the lives of the remnant of his followers. It is sincerely to be hoped that the favorable opinion which our correspondent seems to entertain of General MORA may be realized by the event, and that the prisoners taken at the conclusion of the war may be sent home uninjured.

Our correspondent is in error when he supposes that any enthusiasm exists in the United States now for the cause of filibusterism. The expenditure of three millions of property, and of fifteen or twenty thousand human lives, native and American, is certainly an ample sacrifice to the moloch of vanity and ambition. We have taken a lesson in the great art of conquest, having learned by the failure of the Nicaraguan expedition, that the right way to "Americanize" a people is to treat them with kindness and consideration, and not to trample them under foot. We trust that the policy of shooting, hanging, burning, and confiscating, may have become at length discreditable, and the doctrine of equal rights between nations and individuals, have from this time as high a place in our political creed as the doctrine of MONROE. We complained bitterly of British aggressions upon Nicaragua, but a portion of our