

# NICARAGUA AFFAIRS.

## Reply to Gen. CAZNEAU on Nicaraguan Affairs and the Transit Route.

To the Editor of the New-York Daily Times:

SIR: You have published a note from General CAZNEAU, on the affairs of Nicaragua. I will thank you to publish this, in reply to that gentleman's communication.

1. General CAZNEAU says, in his sixth proposition, "There are strong grounds for believing that some British capitalists have views of their own in relation to the Nicaraguan Transit, and are making efforts to monopolize and control for their private interest this peculiarly favorable route to the Pacific."

General CAZNEAU is not, perhaps, aware that Costa Rica, in conjunction with Nicaragua, is now offering the Transit line for sale in this City, and offers every inducement to the capitalists and practical business men of the United States to take possession of the line. In confirmation of which, I have now before me a copy of a contract, in Spanish and English, for the sale and delivery of the Transit line. Costa Rica considers it an imperious necessity for her that this line shall be sold to Americans, under a public guarantee.

"The partition of Nicaragua," says Gen. CAZNEAU, "was to ensure to the special benefits of the allies of England, and was planned under British direction, in the same spirit that the British officials at Greytown abetted the suppression of the Nicaragua Transit."

The object of Costa Rica in demanding the province Guanacasta, and that portion of the Isthmus which includes the River San Juan and the Transit Road, (her demands extend no farther,) is to enable her to give effectual guarantee for the fulfillment of her own contract with the American purchasers of the Transit in New-York, whoever they may be. While the line is in possession of irresponsible adventurers who pay only with bullets and the stocks, it is effectually closed for all commercial purposes.

3. "The Panama route," says Gen. CAZNEAU, is "under the irresponsible control of the negro subjects and allies of England." Now, as Messrs. ROBERTS, ASPINWALL, VANDERBILT and others, are neither negroes nor subjects of Great Britain, I presume the General alludes to the gangs of Jamaica negroes employed by Col. TOTTEN in the construction accounts of the P. R. R. General CAZNEAU, although an amiable and accomplished gentleman, is certainly enthusiastic in regard to British instigation of Jamaica negro riots at Panama. The riots arose from natural causes, which operate among a laboring population as well in New-York and Philadelphia as in Panama. The Panama riot was similar in principle to the violences of the Chagres boatmen, the destruction of power works in England by the hand-loom weavers, &c.

4. "The British officials at Greytown abetted the suppression of the Nicaraguan Transit," says General CAZNEAU. I have carefully read the reports of British proceedings at Greytown for the last few months, and can discover no action of Great Britain, except that she has given British subjects the opportunity of leaving the service of LOOKRIDGE and his friends, without the danger of being shot afterward as deserters. It appears to me very proper for Great Britain to protect her citizens in this manner, after having had one of her ministers (Mr. CRAMPTON) ignominiously sent home from Washington for the offence of enlisting men for the Crimea. I can now inform Gen. CAZNEAU that certain German agents of CRAMPTON, finding their occupation stopped by the United States Marshal, offered their services to the agents of General WALKER in this City more than a year ago; and those services for enlisting German and British mercenaries, (for the war in Nicaragua,) were probably accepted. General HENNINGSEN will give some information on that point. While I was in Nicaragua I saw Hessian mercenaries, similar in all respects to those who fought against us in the Revolution, employed to overthrow and destroy the Republics of Central America, and to establish there what General WALKER calls a strong Republic "on a military basis"—i. e. a despotism in no way different from that of SANTA ANA in Mexico, or BOMBA in Naples. *Vide* the Goicouria correspondence and conversation of General WALKER *passim*.

5. Gen. CAZNEAU is at a loss to know what has become of his Rivas letters. The explanation is very simple. They were either taken by the Costa Ricans, or the courier decamped with them into Costa Rica—an every-day occurrence at Rivas for the last three months.

6. It appears by Gen. CAZNEAU's note that no satisfactory accounts have been received of the condition of affairs at Rivas since the 4th of March. On the strength of this want of information—on the principle that "no news is good news"—Gen. CAZNEAU very simply concludes that Gen. WALKER, with a force of some 300 men, has beaten and utterly overthrown and destroyed the allies, with a force of not less than 3,000 men—some say 5,000, but that is nonsense. If so, it will be the first time since the battle of Virgin Bay, that Gen. WALKER has overthrown and driven away a greatly superior force of native troops. Gen. WALKER's military movements in Nicaragua appear to have been, in general, either retreats or defeats.

General CAZNEAU says that friends of Gen. WALKER in this city have come to the following conclusion, to wit: "That having used PATRICIO RIVAS as an implement for the ruin of his country, the invaders (*which invaders?*) are prepared to set aside the feeble show of a Government they set up in his name." Is this intended to apply to Gen. WALKER and his friends? If so, it is the exact truth. But no; Gen. CAZNEAU applies it to the Allies. A word then about the Allies. The Nicaraguans were fighting desperately against their American and Hessian invaders, for their homes and firesides, their laws, religion and property,—against a system of confiscation and violence unheard of since the days of the Buccaneers. The old buccaneer MORGAN, (no offence is intended to the respectable gentleman of that name in New-York) did no more, in fact, than WALKER is doing. The entire native population of Nicaragua are against him. He has seized all they possess—land, cattle, plantations, estates and vessels; he has abolished their laws and institutions; he has deposed and driven away their civil functionaries; he has made war for the avowed and open purpose of converting an imperfect republican system, capable like our own of reform, into a perfect military despotism; he has issued decrees enslaving the natives of the country, by the restoration of the old laws of *peonage*, or enslavement for debt. The brilliant and enlightened "CORA MONTGOMERY," the lady of General CAZNEAU, understood the meaning of the word "*peonage*."

Is it surprising, then, that the States of Central America (the Allies) should "pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor," never to rest until they have driven "the invader" from their soil? Let my countrymen pause and consider which is the *right* in this contest.

7. The desertion of CHILLON (if it be true) from the Allies to the cause of the invader has its parallel in the history of the American Revolution.

8. Gen. CAZNEAU appeals to the Government of the United States, to recognize the effective validity of the odious Clayton-and-Bulwer Treaty, and, under that treaty, to "re-establish the Transit line;" in other words, to join with WILLIAM WALKER, Gen. CAZNEAU, and two or three others, in overturning the entire political system of the Central American Republics, and "occupying and fortifying" their territory, as though they were the open and declared enemies of a Government whose friendly protection they have been seeking for the past twenty-five years.

I would here suggest to General CAZNEAU and his friends in this City, and in *New-Orleans*, that as the Territory of Nicaragua, and the property and resources of the old Accessory and new Walker Transit Line are completely exhausted, they will find it more profitable to turn their attention now to the Isthmus of Panama. The murder of some sixty California passengers upon the Isthmus, not many months ago, is a grievance still unavenged. Let the forces of Gen. WALKER move suddenly from Rivas, pass through Costa Rica by forced marches to the province of Chiriqui, a district surrounded by mountains, where there are plenty of cattle and plantations for the support of an army. *There let them be joined by a force of five hundred men from New-Orleans*. After refreshing themselves for a month, let General WALKER make a pronouncement against Panama—taking

care to enlist enough of the natives to make active war of the affair—and move suddenly down upon the Panama Railroad. To occupy both ends of the road, engage the services of the Jamaica negroes who swarm along the Line, and pay his soldiers from the transit revenues; to quarrel with the steamship owners, because they will refuse to import filibusters; to seize and confiscate their property under a revolutionary decree of the newly established Government of Panama—all this can be done.

To continue fighting in Nicaragua is to expend blood and treasure for a region *now not worth the possession*, and that will require millions of capital, and years of labor, to restore its dilapidated cities and overgrown and ruined estates. Not so with Panama. It would be the affair of an hour to create a filibuster revolution against the Railroad Company and the native Governments, *with the certainty of an immense booty*.

After the Panama railroad had been used up and exhausted, and the second and only remaining channel of our California specie commerce shut up and destroyed—(we could still send specie by clipper round the Horn)—would then not be Honduras? A Company of English merchants and bankers are about opening a line of Transit for the benefit of American commerce across the Isthmus of Honduras. After exhausting Panama, WALKER and his men could move up into some quiet interior district of Honduras, and await the opening of the transit from Puerto Cabello to the Gulf of Fonseca. The Panama road would have been sold to another set of speculators, who have already exhausted themselves. Could a third set be found to purchase the confiscated Honduras railroad, and all the confiscated and ruined haciendas of Comayagua and Tequizulpa? No, this could not be done. The Honduras railroad is under British protection. England would not allow her citizens to levy private war against Honduras, nor would she allow the seizure of their property on a line of inter-oceanic communication. Bad as she is she is not bad enough for that. But would the career of WILLIAM WALKER and his friends be then terminated? Not necessarily. There would be yet the high seas open to the brave adventurer and the specie ships around Cape Horn. Gen. CAZNEAU would have "deserted," however, long before that. I have confidence in the honor and integrity of Gen. CAZNEAU. He is one of many who have been grossly misled and deceived. A word more and I have done. The defeat of the Allies does not constitute WILLIAM WALKER the President of Nicaragua *de facto*. He must reconquer the entire country before he can govern it.

HAND-GRENADE.