THE CENTRAL AMERICAN IMBROGLIO.

The Government and the Walker Filibusters.

Stoppage of the Expeditionary Vessel Alice Tainter—Excitement Among the Filibusters at Mobile—Walker and the Southern Emigration Society—The Manifestos of Yrisarri and Jerez, and the President's Proclamation Against Filibusters—The Isthmus Transit Grants—Threatened Interference of France and England—Force of the Different Squadrons,

&c., &c., &c.

The latest project of Walker and the filibusters to get up another expedition to Nicaragua has been unceremoniously knocked on the head by the action of the administration at Washington. It has been known for some time past as a matter of public news, and was officially brought under the cognizance of the national Executive, that an expedition was being fitted out under the lead and management of William Walker, and that the vessel, with the expeditionary army on board classed as peaceful emigrants, was to clear from the port of Mobile yesterday or to-day, with the destination of San Juan del Norte. So long as the filibustering party furnished no stronger motives of interference than prudence and public rumor, the government did not feel it its duty to interpose the strong arm of the law to prevent their departure; but so soon as it had what appeared to it sufficiently strong grounds of action it did interpose, by issuing special orders to the Collector at Mobile not to allow the expeditionary vessel to clear from that port. At the same time the Collector was informed that in the case of persons wishing to go to Nicaragua as emigrants, and who were provided with the passport required by the government of that republic, he was not to interfere with them, or to refuse the vessel conveying them a clearance.

FILIBUSTER EXCITEMENT AT MOBILE.

Despatches from Mobile, published in yesterday's HERALD, represent that on the Collector's instructions from Washington becoming known there, an intense excitement had sprung up, and that four hundred of the filibuster emigrants had collected around the office of the Collector and treasurer of the enterprise, Mr. Julius Hesse, demanding immediate transportation to Central America or the return of the money which they had advanced for their passage there. It was also stated that violent measures were apprehended if their demands were not complied with, and that the Deputy Collector of the port had to interfere to prevent disturbance, by representing to the excited people that still further instructions of a more definite character were expected from Washington, which might somewhat affect the position of affairs; and so they agreed to abide events a little longer.

HISTORY OF THE ENTERPRISE.

This new project of Walker's has been in course of preparation and maturing ever since his arrest at Punta Arenas by Commodore Paulding, and his being sent back to the United States. On that occasion he endeavored to obtain sympathy and material aid here in New York, but was not very successful in that, and he then departed on a Southern tour, spreading his wares wherever he got an opportunity, and complaining bitterly of the action of Commodore Paulding and the government in regard to him.

WALKER AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

In some of these speeches he made allegations implicating to a certain extent the President and some of the Cabinet in his adventures—alleging, in fact, that overtures had been made to him to turn his attention towards Mexico and filibuster on it if he chose, and that the government would not interfere with him in such a case. He would only act against Nicaragua alone, as to which the government had designs of its own. These charges were noticed through the press, and awakened great surprise and much curiosity throughout the country. They were, of course, semi-officially denied; whereupon Walker addressed a communication to the *Mobile Register*, under date of July 19, reiterating his charges, and making them in the most formal and unofficial manner. We published it at the time, and now make the following extract from it:—

In the month of October last (1857) I was in New Orleans, preparing to return to Nicaragua. About the mid-dle of the month General Henningsen arrived from Washington, and soon after we met he informed me that he had important news to communicate. He then proceeded to state that while the Washington he had held several conversations with the Secretary of War; that in the course of one of the interview the Secretary had informed him that the determination on the part of the President to arrest the expedition to Nicaragua, adding at the same time that the acquisition of Cuba during the administration was the object dear to the heart of Mr. Buchanan. The Secretary further proceeded to say, according to General Henningsen's report, that if we would turn our attention to Mexico and enter into the service of Comonfort, we should have the support of the United States government; that while in the Mexican service we might, if we chose, such as Sonora down the flag of Spain—bring about a war between Mexico and Spain, and Cuba might then be seized by the former Power. The Secretary, according to the report of General Henningsen that means would not be lacking for such an enterprise, and when pressed by the General to state how the money was to be had, he replied "I have gone the length of my tether; before I can say more it will be necessary for me to see a person above me." In the next interview the Secretary informed the General that he was not authorized to go further, but that he might rely implicitly on the means being provided if the enterprise were undertaken. When General Henningsen made this communication to me I was shocked at its nature, and remarked that the government could hardly be in earnest.

The statements thus made and persisted in had a double effect. They tended to exasperate the government against Walker, and to increase its repressive measures against his future enterprises; and at the same time they created intense alarm in Central America, and probably were the immediate cause of the application made by Presidents Mora and Martinez to the French and English governments for protection against American filibusterism.

SOUTHERN EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

Nevertheless, Walker's project of a renewed invasion continued to be pursued. An association was formed some six months ago under the designation of the Southern Emigration Society. Branches of this society were established in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina, and bonds were issued, somewhat after the manner of Walker's former Nicaragua scrip. Major Julius Hesse, the same person in whose name the steamer Fashion had been cleared from Mobile in November, 1857, the time that Commodore Paulding took such liberties with the filibuster, was the corresponding and treasurer of this society, and it was under his auspices and his name that the ship Alice Tainter (not Painter) was to clear from Mobile on the present occasion. This vessel, according to our marine record, was built in New York in 1856, of oak and locust, is of 667 tons burthen, and is rated A No 1. She is owned by Messrs. Peet, Smith & Co., of this city.

The Southern Emigration Society not only had agents and ramifications throughout most of the Southern States, but it also issued circulars addressed to particular persons, inviting emigration to Central America. These circulars were couched in the following terms:—

MOBILE, OCT. 8, 1858.

SIR—You are advised that on the 10th day of November next a vessel will leave this port for San Juan del Norte. She will take any passengers and freight that may offer for Nicaragua. If you, or any person in your neighborhood, desire to emigrate to Central America, please advise me of it as soon as possible that I may hold passages may be secured for you and your companions. It will be well for you to arrive here three or four days previous to the day of departure. WM. WALKER.

It has been denied by or on the part of Walker that those circulars had his signature attached. They were printed on note paper, without any signature, the being afterwards appended in manuscript. The one which we published at the time was addressed to Captain Doubleday, of Cincinnati, and was signed "William Walker." However, the fact of whether they bore his name or not makes not the slightest difference. He was the head of the movement, and it would be a ridiculous display of hair-splitting to deny his privity and connection with these circulars. And yet such an attempt was made because, forsooth, the design of the allegation was, says the *Mobile Register*,

To prejudice the contemplated emigration from this section to Nicaragua, by creating the impression that it is a military expedition in violation of the neutrality laws.

What an admirable affectation of injured innocence!

RECRUITS AND MATERIALS FOR THE ENTERPRISE.

Well, the operations of this society were carried on with such success that between three and four hundred men were enlisted and collected at Mobile, prepared to embark "as peaceful emigrants" in the Alice Tainter, bound to San Juad del Norte. They were not openly enrolled or mustered into companies or platoons. There would be plenty of time for that after they got out to sea or were landed on the shores of Central America. But they had all the necessary arms and equipments and munitions of war to make them very dangerous customers when they got there; and they were even to carry out all the materials for a newspaper, to be established on the same principle as *El Nicaraguense*, the one that registered Walker's decrees and the victories of his men in the heyday of their early success. There was little apprehension felt as to any interference on the part of the officers of the government, because it was thought that matters were so arranged that there should be no apparent infraction of the neutrality laws, and consequently that the Alice Tainter would get her regular clearance for the port of her destination.

YRISARRI'S MANIFESTO AGAINST THE FILIBUSTERS

The first broadside that was fired into the projected emigration scheme was the manifesto issued by the Nicaragua Minister, Yrisarri, notifying the public that all persons attempting to enter Nicaragua unprovided with passports would be stopped and compelled to return by the same conveyance by which they should have arrived. Here is the manifesto:—

LEGATION OF NICARAGUA, BROOKLYN, OCTOBER 27, 1858.

The republic of Nicaragua being threatened by a new invasion of a band of adventurers, coming to this country under the disguise of colonists, and under other pretexts, the public are hereby informed that all persons, whatever may be their nationality, going to said republic, to any port or place within its territory, will be subject to the following regulations:—

1. All persons, whatever may be their nationality, arriving at any port or place of said republic, will be obliged, before entering or landing, to present themselves to the local public authority, with their passports, for inspection. If going from any of the Spanish-American States, by the Minister or Secretary of Foreign Relations; if going from the United States of America, or from any other countries, by the Minister Plenipotentiary, Minister Resident, or Charge d'Affaires, and in default of these, by the Consul General of Nicaragua in such cases respectively.

2. Passengers going for the purpose of passing through, without stopping longer than may be absolutely necessary to make the transit, or to change vessels, or to land, and embarking immediately for California or any other foreign port, are exempt from the obligation of presenting passports.

3. Persons attempting to enter the country or to land therein without a passport, in the cases in which it is required, will be stopped, and shall be compelled to return by the same conveyance that took them to the country.

4. Persons arriving for the purpose of passing through to foreign countries, but who, from unnecessarily stopping or tarry in the republic, shall be considered as suspected individuals, and shall be subjected to such measures as the laws of the country shall prescribe, which the Legislature establish for the preservation of the public peace, excepting however cases of sickness or other physical impossibility.

5. All persons arriving at any place in the republic in any ships or vessels not belonging to the company having the right of transit, or by any stations to enter the country, being in either case more than ten in number, and who shall not immediately proceed on their way to a foreign country, shall be considered as to be subjected as suspected individuals, to the measures now existing and which may hereafter be adopted for the preservation of the public peace; excepting however, the case of sickness or other physical impossibility.

6. All persons not passing through to foreign countries shall immediately on arriving in the republic, and public authority what business (if any) takes them to the republic, or what art, trade or profession (if any) they intend to carry on there, and also the place in which they respectively intend to reside.

7. The public authority before which the bearer of the passport shall first present himself, will endorse on the same and write at the foot thereof, "the bearer goes to ——," inserting the name of the place mentioned by the bearer, and the endorsement by this authority, certified as aforesaid, before the public authority of the place in which he may have decided to reside; and the so aforesaid public authorities shall immediately give notice to the Minister or Secretary of Foreign Relations that such person has appeared as required.

8. The Consuls at San Juan del Norte, and the Commandant of the port of San Juan del Sur, shall insert in a book, to be respectively kept by them for that purpose, the name of every person who shall land in the republic by every ship or vessel at each of said ports respectively, getting from the places to which they are going; and shall also immediately give notice to the Minister of Foreign Relations of all persons who have landed from the ship or vessel.

9. All foreigners attempting to enter the republic without a passport in the cases in which it is required, shall be considered as suspected individuals, and may be compelled to leave the territory of the republic by the same place and in the same ship or vessel in which they arrive.

10. Ships or vessels arriving with passengers at San Juan del Norte, or San Juan del Sur, for the republic, shall receive on board the agent or officer that may be appointed by the government of Nicaragua, for the purpose of enforcing the faithful performance of these regulations.

11. The public safety of the republic requiring, under present circumstances, that the ports shall not be opened for the transit of passengers to California and other foreign places, nor for the purpose of receiving colonists or emigrants, consequently no passengers or bands of colonists or emigrants can only take place by the ports of San Juan del Norte and San Juan del Sur, until new regulations or orders shall be issued; and no bands of colonists or emigrants shall not be allowed to take with them arms of any kind that may be used in war.

J. YRISARRI.

This opened the eyes of the would be emigrants to the real difficulties that lay in their path, and most have made many of them retrace their steps. Nevertheless, a bold face was put upon the matter, and it was even asserted that the intended emigrants were furnished with passports from the Nicaragua Minister—an allegation which, it is needless to say, had no truth in it and was denied by Yrisarri. And then it began to be whispered in Washington that if Walker could succeed in fitting off his expedition from Mobile, he would endeavor to obtain through tickets for California by way of Panama, and trust to luck for getting into Nicaragua. Yrisarri's manifesto was quickly followed by a proclamation from the President, warning deluded persons of the disastrous consequences to which they would be exposed if they should embark in any such expedition. Here it is:—

THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 31, 1858.

Whereas, information has been received from sources which I cannot disregard, that certain persons, in violation of the neutrality laws of the United States, are making a third attempt to set on foot a military expedition within this territory against Nicaragua, a foreign State, with which they are at peace; and that they are raising money for equipping and maintaining this expedition, persons connected therewith, as I have reason to believe, have issued and sold certain pretended certificates, pledging the public lands of Nicaragua and the Transit route through its territory, as a security for their redemption and fulfilment. The illegality of this expedition is rendered manifest by the fact that these bonds and contracts can be of no possible value to their holders unless the present government of Nicaragua be overthrown by force. Besides, the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of that government in the United States has issued a notice in pursuance of his instructions, dated the 27th inst., forbidding the citizens or subjects of any nation, except passengers intending to proceed through Nicaragua over the Transit route from ocean to ocean, to enter its territory without a regular passport signed by the proper Minister or Consul General of the Republic resident in the country from whence they shall have departed. Such passports, with this exception, will be stopped and compelled to return by the same conveyance that took them to the country.

From these circumstances the inference is irresistible that the persons engaged in this expedition will leave the United States with hostile purposes against Nicaragua. They cannot, under the guise which they have assumed, that they are peaceful emigrants, conceal their real intentions, and especially when they have taken arms with them landing will be resisted, and can only be accomplished by an overpowering force. This expedient was successfully resorted to previous to the last expedition, and the vessel in which those composing it were conveyed to Nicaragua obtained a clearance from the Collector of the port of Mobile. Although, after a careful examination, no arms or munitions of war were discovered on board, yet when they arrived in Nicaragua they were found to be armed and equipped, and immediately commenced hostilities. The leaders of the former illegal expeditions of the same character have openly expressed their intention to renew hostilities against Nicaragua. One of them, who has already been twice expelled from Nicaragua, has invited, through the public newspapers, American citizens to emigrate to that republic, and has designated Mobile as the place of rendezvous and departure, and San Juan del Norte as the port to which they are bound. This person has renounced his allegiance to the United States, and claims to be the President of Nicaragua, has given notice to the Collector of Mobile that two or three hundred of these emigrants will be prepared to embark from that port about the middle of November.

Yet these and other good reasons, and for the purpose of saving American citizens who may have been honestly deluded into the belief that they are about to proceed to Nicaragua as peaceful emigrants, if any such there be, from the disastrous consequences to which they will be exposed, I, James Buchanan, President of the United States, have thought it fit to issue this my proclamation, enjoining upon officers of the government, civil and military, in their respective spheres, to be vigilant, active and faithful in suppressing these illegal enterprises, and in carrying out their standing instructions to that effect, admoniting all good citizens by their respect for the laws, and their regard for the peace and welfare of the country, to aid the efforts of the public authorities in the discharge of their duties.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents. Done at the city of Washington, on the twenty-first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of Independence the eighty-third.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

By the President: LEWIS CASS, Secretary of State.

This was broadside No. 2; and we should suppose that about this time the Southern Emigration Society began to fear for the result of their enterprise, and the intending emigrants to realize that they would have a hard road to travel. But still the enterprise was not abandoned—far from it. Walker and Henningsen and other filibuster chiefs and leaders, met in convention in Washington to see what was to be done. Finally, one, more prominent personages connected with the Nicaraguan Envoy—Hon. Figueroa, of New Orleans; Hon. W. K. Vanjey and Major Julius Hesse, of Alabama; Captain Fayssoux, who commanded the schooner Granada, with two guns, and blew up the Costa Rica brig Once de Abril, with ten guns; Colonel Hindler, one of the original fifty-six who landed in Nicaragua; Major Robert Ellis, of Washington city, one of the Lopez expedition; Colonel Anderson, who captured Castillo in Walker's second expedition; Colonel Henry and Colonel Sevier, both well known in the history of Nicaragua filibusterism; Lieutenant Maury, Lieutenant Hay, and a few others.

THE TRANSIT COMPANIES—WALKER AND JOE WHITE—JEREZ AND YRISARRI.

The convention of filibuster chiefs at Washington was a remarkable gathering in itself, but still more remarkable from the variety of other elements with which it became mixed up. The various companies and commodores that laid claim to the transit route operated, some for and some against the filibusters. Jo White was there and became identified with them for these reasons: Senor Martino Jerez, who had been co-President of Nicaragua with Martinez, had been got rid of by his colleague and sent off Washington as Special Minister Plenipotentiary—one half of the [illegible] by himself and Senor Yrisarri. Well, Jerez had for the purpose probably of thwarting Yrisarri's plans, entered into a new contract with Van Dyke and others of Philadelphia, giving them the monopoly of the transit route, the use of the boats, bridges and works constructed and in existence on the Isthmus. This cut out altogether the Joe White and Stebbins company, who had the contract from Yrisarri which Jerez alleged had lapsed through the non-performance of the conditions. Yrisarri was interested in and supported the pretensions of the White and Stebbins party, while Jerez supported those of the Van Dyke concern. Jerez represented that his contract was good and valid, and that it did not need further ratification; and to gain for it the support and sanction of the American government, he sent his secretary, Perez, to Nicaragua, by the steamer which left here on the 5th of November, with despatches to Martinez urging him to call the Nicaragua Assembly together and have this contract approved and the Cass-Yrisarri treaty ratified before the adjournment of the next session of Congress, as by that means alone could the safety and integrity and interests of Nicaragua be guaranteed.

Notwithstanding this new Van Dyke grant, the White-Stebbins company prepared to open the line under their grant, and advertised the steamer Washington to sail from New York for San Juan del Norte on the 6th of November, and she sailed on that day with four hundred passengers, and is advertised to sail again on the 5th proximo.

At this stage of the complicated game Jerez made a most brilliant move. He issued a manifesto as Envoy Extraordinary from Nicaragua, declaring that the Isthmus route was not yet in a condition for the conveyance of passengers and freight, and of course throwing the adversary into the direct confusion. Here is his proclamation:—

SENOR JEREZ'S MANIFESTO.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:—The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the republic of Nicaragua near the government of the United States, having observed that certain parties have advertised to sail from this port for San Juan del Norte, on the 6th of November instant, for San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua, with passengers for California, and being aware that the route across said Isthmus is not yet in a condition for the conveyance of passengers and freight, for which reason it will be impossible to secure a comfortable passage over said Isthmus, notwithstanding the anxiety of the government of Nicaragua to have the route opened, deems it an act of justice to the citizens of the United States, and to the Minister of Foreign Relations, tickets, to caution all such not to risk their means in taking passage in such vessels as it will not be in the power of the government of the Isthmus of Nicaragua, under the present condition of the Transit, to fulfil their engagements in this respect.

In making this announcement, the undersigned is desirous to avoid entering into any discussion as to claims of the Transit Company, or any other company, or contract; but he has the gratification of [illegible] expectation that by convenient arrangements, in conformity with the rights and obligations alone that exist between the republic of Nicaragua, said route will be speedily opened and kept opened for the benefit of commerce.

JOSEPH L. MARTINO JEREZ.

NEW YORK, November 2, 1858.

THE NEXT MOVE OF THE JOE WHITE PARTY.

The reply to this move of Jerez was the immediate appearance of Joe White at Washington, with the twofold object of influencing the government and the filibusters to take his part. His representations to the government drew out the following note from General Cass, the Secretary of State:—

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Nov. 9, 1858.

JOSEPH L. WHITE, Esq., New York:

SIR—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., relative to a publication in the HERALD, at New York, by Senor Martino Jerez, warning the public against purchasing tickets for the steamer Washington, and to inform you, in reply, that this department has received an official notice from Mr. Jerez, pointing out the impropriety of his course and expressing the dissatisfaction with which it has been regarded.

LEWIS CASS.

SUMMING UP.

So stands the affair at the present moment. It is about the most complicated question that could be possibly presented for solution to any government. Yrisarri and Jerez are on opposite sides, and as they both appear to be possessed of equal powers in regard to our government it is impossible to decide between them. Here we stand in this position: The interests of the United States demand that the Transit route across the Isthmus shall be kept open. Whether the people of Nicaragua be disorganized or not, there is a properly organized government, the free and unmolested passage of which our commerce has a right and ought to be assured. That is more particularly the paramount duty of our government. Here, then, are two or more rival companies putting in conflicting claims to the monopoly of this Transit route, and the two diplomatic agents of Nicaragua espousing opposite sides in the quarrel. What is the solution of that part of the problem? Is there any more ready or more effectual mode of reading the riddle than for our government advertising for proposals and giving the contract for mail and passenger transportation across the Isthmus of Nicaragua, and then assuming to pay to the government of that country a fair remuneration for the advantage, such remuneration to be decided by any one or more impartial governments? That could be done in a few weeks; and all past contracts and treaties with irresponsible parties and officials could be set aside, and the difficulties in regard to them set at rest forever.

Then comes up the questions of filibusterism, and of a joint English and French protectorate over Central America. More difficulties and knotty questions arise. We may repress filibuster movements, it is true; but in doing so the rights of citizens may be infringed upon; or we may be over-careful of avoiding this Scylla, and may fall into the other Charybdis. In our delicate treatment of Walker and his filibusters, we may let them slip out of our hands only to run the risk of their falling into the hands of a foreign Power which has no more right to interfere with them on Nicaraguan soil than we have. There is the rub. There is the slippery footing on which we stand. It would be a world-wide calamity if we were to be brought into hostile collision with other great Powers by such a lawless customer as this Walker, who disclaims being an American citizen; and yet were he even more deserving of a short and summary process than he is, our honor would not permit us to stand tamely by and see the rights of an American citizen violated in the persons of his followers. France and England, it is said, will act the part of a police for Nicaragua, if we do not. We can enforce our laws at home, but we cannot go on a foreign territory to do so; nor can we tolerate such an infraction of international laws by any other Power. If, therefore, these filibusters should by any ingenuity succeed in forcing these shores and landing on the shores of Nicaragua, they should there be pounced upon by the marines of France and England, and hanged as pirates, however much we might have to admit the justice of the punishment, we would be bound to resent the acts of those who inducted it; and, as we said before, it would be too hard to be drawn into a war by such means. It is sad to be the scientific and instructions of the British officers on the station not to molest the filibusters by sea, but to capture them on land, either as acting under the authority of the Mosquito protectorate or under the invitation of the governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. We to be sure, one of the first acts of Congress at its approaching session will be to direct its attention to our Central American affairs, and to instruct the President on some definite course of policy to be pursued in regard to them.

THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH SQUADRONS.

In the meantime it would be well to look to the strength of the available force in these regions *vis-à-vis* of the British and French squadrons. The following American vessels are in the Central American or adjacent waters:—

	Guns.
Frigate Savannah	50
Steam frigate Roanoke	40
Sloop of war Jamestown	24
Sloop of war Saratoga	20
Storeship Relief	6
Five vessels, carrying	138

These are independent of the vessels on the Pacific side, which are:—

	Guns.
Steam frigate Merrimac	40
Sloop Vandalia	20
Sloop St Mary	20
Sloop Decatur	16
Steamer Saranac	6
Five vessels, carrying	104

The squadrons of the French and English navies that are cruising in the same waters comprise a larger number of vessels and of guns. Some of these vessels are cruising about the Island of Cuba, ready for contingencies that may arise out of the contemplated hostilities between that island and Mexico, while others are generally acting as a fleet of observation on our movements in Nicaragua. Among the British vessels of war at San Juan del Norte, by recent accounts, are the following:—

	Guns.
Steam frigate Leopard	11
Steam sloop Investigator	6
Steamer Scorpion	16
Steamer Bulldog	6

The vessels are under the command of Commodore Kellett, the Admiral of the station, Sir Houston Stewart having gone to Halifax. The Valorous is assigned to the service of Sir Gore Ouseley, the British special Minister to Nicaragua. It has been stated from Washington, on what is supposed to be reliable information, that the English government has replied favorably to the appeal of the well known Mora-Martinez declaration which was appended to the Selly contract, and has assured the government of Nicaragua that it will protect that republic against any invasion by filibusters from this country if the government of the United States does not.

The peculiar of the facts grouped together in this article will satisfy the people of the United States that the Central American question is one of the most delicate and difficult that can fairly engage the attention of our executive and of Congress, and will awaken them to the real dangers into which we may be brought by over-scrupulous respect towards those who evade, if they do not violate, our laws.

TELEGRAPHIC.

THE WALKER EMIGRANTS—GROUNDS ON WHICH A CLEARANCE HAS BEEN REFUSED TO THE ALICE TAINTER.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21, 1858.

It appears that Messrs. J. Hesse & Company, of Mobile, made application to the Collector of that port for a clearance of the bark Alice Tainter, with provisions and passengers for Greytown. The cargo consisted of flour, pork, beef, sugar, &c., and agricultural and mechanical implements, with a few articles of household goods. Between three and four hundred men, calling themselves emigrants, were ready to embark, with a view, it was stated, of becoming resident citizens of Nicaragua.

The Collector learned, from a quarter not liable to be misunderstood, that the persons who proposed to emigrate by the vessel were furnished with passports from Sr. Yrisarri, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister of Nicaragua.

The notice of the clearance of the vessel was given by General Walker. From what can be gathered upon the subject, the Treasury Department has no doubt that the persons who have set on foot the present enterprise, whatever be their ends, are in part if not entirely the same as those who were concerned in the equipment, loading and clearance of the Fashion in November, 1857, at the port of Mobile. That subsequently transpired was wholly inconsistent with the truth of the representations at that time made to the Collector. As arms and ammunition in large supply were landed with the cargo in Nicaragua, it clearly appears that false manifests were used to procure the clearance of the Fashion; and it also appears that the purpose of the expedition was not the character of the cargo were produced to full suspicion as to the true character of the voyage. These facts carry with them the irresistible conclusion—first, that the expedition escaped by false and deceptive proofs at the Custom House; and, second, that it was (in violation of the laws, a military expedition, set on foot in the United States, to be carried out against the territory and jurisdiction.

The persons who were active in promoting the shipment, loading and clearance of the Fashion are prominent in superintending the equipment, loading and clearance of the Alice Tainter. The pretence which were made use of to influence the clearance of the one are the same as those now presented to obtain a clearance for the other.

It is a significant fact, there has appeared in the newspapers a circular, signed, and identical in language with those of General Walker. Both of them invite emigrants to come to Mobile. They speak of associations having been formed in the various colonies west of the Mississippi without any concurrence or sanction of the authorities of the State, or any communication with them. When it is known under what auspices these associations have been formed, their design appears more conspicuous.

The Secretary of State, it appears, inquired of Senor Yrisarri whether he had given passports to the emigrants, and found the fact to be otherwise than believed by the Collector of the port of Mobile. None such have been issued under the authority of Nicaragua. If such passports have been shown to the Collector, the fact furnishes another circumstance to make him distrust the good faith of the applicants. In fact, it would be conclusive on his action, as without proper passports it is admitted that these persons could not go to Nicaragua as peaceful emigrants. If these persons were presented with written passports from the Nicaraguan Minister it would present an entirely different case, and one in which the Collector would be justified in granting a clearance.

For these reasons—fully set forth in the reply to the Collector's letter—he is directed to withhold the clearance applied for.

It is not intended by the instructions to interfere with any lawful trade between Mobile and the port of San Juan del Norte, which may exist, free from the circumstances surrounding this one; clearances will be granted to such vessels.

These illegal expeditions have already embarrassed the powers of the government of the United States. They violate the laws of nations and the acts of Congress, and furnish the national character. Nicaragua is entitled to repose in the confident belief that we shall faithfully execute the laws of the United States—shall maintain relations of peace and amity with her government and people.