

NEWS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.

Affairs in Nicaragua—Col. Caity Pronounces Capt. Spencer a Traitor—Message of President Campo, of San Salvador—The Spanish-American Alliance in Disfavor, &c. &c., &c.

The steamship Columbus arrived at Panama on the 7th of February from San José de Guatemala and intermediate Central American ports. The dates are—Granada (Nicaragua) 19th, Guatemala 21st, Cojutepeque (Salvador) 23d, and San José (Costa Rica) 30th of January.

NICARAGUA.

Mr. W. Carey Jones was at last dates at Realejo awaiting the arrival of Gen. Lamar.

Col. Caity publishes the following letter in the *Centro-Americo*:—

GRANADA, Dec 28, 1857.

In your issue of the 8th of December you reflect somewhat unjustly on the integrity and gratitude of the government of Costa Rica to the foreigners who have served her in the filibuster war, in which my name is included.

It is not my province to qualify the acts or the policy of the government I serve, but I wish to express through your columns that I have no reason to believe momentary financial embarrassment will preclude their doing justice to all who have served them in the same cause.

In the case of Spencer, his subsequent conduct and proved machinations in other interests, besides holding no direct commission from Costa Rica, are sufficient to exclude any claim he may have; and the services he actually rendered a'one prevented his being prosecuted according to martial law for his subsequent misdeeds.

You will much oblige me by not confounding my name or service with that of any outside speculators or complainants.

GEORGE J. CAITY.

COSTA RICA.

The *Cronica de Costa Rica* says the republic of Costa Rica is following its steady course of progress. Justly judging that want of proper roads and the bad state of those already in use is a great drawback for a country where agriculture is the principal source of commerce, the attention of the government and private capitalists has been directed to the subject, and the advantages are beginning to be felt.

On the 20th of January the English bark America, from London, arrived at Punta Arenas. Her captain, John Le Cacheur, died shortly before rounding the Cape.

Referring to the last debates in the Congress of Washington relative to Commodore Paulding's interference, the *Album Semanal* says:—

In 1855 Mr. Ramon Rivas headed a pirate party against Walker, ascended the river in small bongos, and soon after his party was pursued and dispersed by rifle-men sent for that purpose from a North American sloop-of-war then lying at San Juan. When the Nicaraguans are attacked in the act of defending their country there is no violation of international laws, nobody talks; but when it is all the contrary—when they chase away a parcel of pirates who have invaded the territory of a friendly nation, without regard to the laws of God or men, then they talk.

Col. Don Francisco Alvarado, who abandoned Castillo Viejo to the filibusters, without making any resistance whatever, has been sentenced to the degradation of four years confinement in the port of Moín. The sentence has not been confirmed by the Superior Court.

The new coffee crop was just coming in; it is reported to be below an average in quantity. There is none for sale in the market; and as most of the crop is already engaged, the prices still continue very high. Some of last year's crop has been sold at \$9 50 to \$9 75. Business is reported dull in Punta Arenas.

GUATEMALA.

President Carrera had been on a tour in Los Altos, and returned to the capitol on the 18th of January.

The cholera had ceased in the capital and in most of the other cities. A few cases are reported as having broken out among the people who attended the fair of Esquipulas.

The French frigate *Persévérante* arrived at San José de Guatemala on the 19th, and, after landing an officer with despatches for the French legation, sailed again for Acapulca.

A court martial was held on the 14th on Colonel William Knoth, charged with having executed Don Juan Santi Antoni, captain of the sloop-of-war *Ascension*, in March, 1857. The captain, it appears, was a Frenchman by birth, though holding a commission in the Guatemala navy. The French Minister had taken the matter up, and the government of Guatemala had pensioned the widow and son of the murdered man. Perhaps the time will come when President Carrera will call Knoth to account for the cold blooded murder of Chris Lilly and other American citizens at La Union, in 1856.

The sentence of the court martial was not made public in the official papers. It had been referred to the court of justice for its opinion on certain legal points.

SAN SALVADOR.

The Legislature met on the 22d, when President Campo delivered his message. It opens with a review of the campaign in Nicaragua, and touches lightly on Gen. Barrios' attempted revolution. He recommends a revision of the civil and penal codes, and suggests that the task should be entrusted to a commission. The public revenue is declared to be in a flourishing state, and the State debt is now so reduced that he hopes it will be paid off in three years. The commerce of the country has increased, and certain restrictions have been taken off.

The President congratulates Congress that the country is on the best terms with the other Central American States and with all foreign nations. The claims of some foreigners for money due since the time of the federal government, have been paid off, and the rest will be settled in a short time.

The committee of Central American bondholders in London having offered certain terms, the President made a proposition to them through the Consul General in London; but this not being acceded to, the matter stands now on the same basis as heretofore.

The President gives the following favorable account of the progress of the country:—

The progress of the country, Messrs. Representatives, is a true progress. Notwithstanding the misfortunes of the last six years, we have been able to improve our legislation, our ports, our roads, and our productions of revenue are increasing every year, but what is most satisfactory is that the customs of the people keep pace with the general progress. Thus every year that passes leaves behind for succeeding ones new elements of order and prosperity.

In another place he says:—If I don't mistake, Salvador is the only portion of the Spanish American Continent that can boast to-day that none of its sons eat the bitter bread of banishment.

[San Salvador (Jan. 28) Correspondence of Panama Herald.]

The Spanish American Alliance question seems to attract very little attention in this country, probably on account of the doubts entertained of its being carried into effect. Still less do they seem inclined for a confederation of the five republics, upon the grounds that Salvador and Costa Rica, the two best governments and most thriving States, would be compelled to impoverish themselves in order to support their lazy and thrifless neighbors of Nicaragua and Honduras.

The government of Salvador is devoting its attention to the roads and bridges throughout the State. This is a good move, and will well reward the attention given them, particularly in a country like Salvador, which presents every element necessary for developing its resources, excepting capital; land and labor reasonable, and the people docile and willing to work—what more is wanting, excepting the capital necessary to make a commencement?

Coffee planting on a grand scale is going on in the departments of Sonsonate and Santa Ana. The number of trees planted in these places is computed at 3,000,000. This is owing to the interest taken by the government in this product, and also to the fact that Salvador is, without doubt, blessed with the most liberal and best regulated government in Spanish America.