

## AFFAIRS AT GREYTOWN.

### THE SAN JUAN OPEN.

P. J. Clark of Texas, who was on the J. N. Scott on the 3d of April, the day of the explosion, gives the following account of subsequent events: All of the injured were removed to Punta Arenas, where they received medical assistance from the surgeons belonging to the English ships. On the 7th the whole force under Col. Lockridge arrived at the above-named place.

and were disbanded. The entire number of men then amounted to about 400. Col. Lockridge then commenced disposing of the provisions and effects for his own benefit, which was discovered by the soldiers, when they took possession of the steamer *Rescue*; together with the provisions, arms, and ammunition, and on the 10th of April delivered them over to Major Martin of Greytown, in consideration of which they were to be sent to the United States.

On the 12th the Costa Ricans, probably 80 in number, arrived near Greytown on the steamboat *Morgan*, and were about to make an attack upon our men who were all at Punta Arenas; but were prevented by the English vessels. They then took possession of the *Rescue* which was lying anchored in the river. On the 14th about half of our men went on board of the English ship *Cossack* and the remainder on the ship *Tartar* and the two vessels proceeded to Aspinwall, where we arrived on the 17th and remained until the 20th, not being permitted to go on shore. On that day about 60 were taken on board the *Illinois* for New York and about 100 on board the *Granada* for New Orleans. The others still remain on the *Tartar* waiting a passage home.

On the 12th instant, while we were at Punta Arenas, I went over to Greytown, and there learned from the Costa Ricans that Walker was attacked on the 5th, that the Costa Ricans had succeeded in destroying the principal part of Rivas, but in so doing sustained a loss of about 1,000 men; they did not know what Walker's loss was; they had entirely surrounded Walker, and thought he could not hold out long, as there was no possible chance for him to replenish his provisions. I did not place much reliance upon this statement, but have no doubt but that a battle was fought, and that Walker is in a very critical condition. The men and most of the officers turned against Col. Lockridge from the time he ordered the retreat from Fort Castillo.

We have been favored by Lieut.-Col. Doubleday, late of the expedition on the San Juan River under Col. Lockridge, and other passengers by the *Illinois*, with the following facts relative to the state of affairs in Nicaragua.

The complete evacuation of the San Juan River and Punta Arenas by the filibusters under Col. Lockridge's command took place on the 3d inst. The deluded volunteers, finding that Col. L. would make no arrangements to get them back to the United States, resolved to turn their arms and ammunition to the best account they could, and after disbanding on the 5th inst., they made a proposition to the commander of the British fleet lying at Greytown to give up the property in their possession, consisting of six pieces of ordnance, about four hundred stand of arms, two tons of powder, &c., to the British officers, on condition of having their passage paid to the States; which was complied with by the latter. Accordingly, 170 were placed on board the man-of-war *Cossack* and 204 on board of the *Tartar* and taken to Aspinwall, with a view of being forwarded by the first steamers from that port to New-Orleans and New-York, as they might desire. A portion of those who were taken to Aspinwall by the *Cossack* were transferred to the *Granada* for New-Orleans, and the rest came on in the *Illinois* to this port; but in consequence of measles or some other contagious disease breaking out among the passengers on board the *Tartar*, none of them were permitted to come home on either of the steamers, and it was understood that at the time the *Illinois* left Aspinwall they were still on board the *Tartar*, waiting for a favorable change in the state of health among them, and an opportunity to get home by some other steamer. Beside the 204 volunteers on board the *Tartar*, there were about 100 deserters from Walker's army, in Aspinwall when the *Illinois* left there, depending upon the charity of the inhabitants and California passengers for their daily bread. Col. Lockridge did not accompany the officers and men of his late command to Aspinwall, but remained at Greytown, and intimated to one of his friends that he should try to get to California as soon as possible. Col. Doubleday considers that the breaking up of the expedition on the San Juan River must be followed by the entire annihilation of Walker, unless reinforcements should reach him from California, which, it was rumored, were to leave San Francisco on the same day that the *Golden Gate* left that port. A proclamation had been issued by the Costa Rican Government, setting forth that the Transit route was open through to the Pacific for any except those engaged in the cause of Walker. News had been received at Greytown from Rivas, representing Walker as completely surrounded by the allies, and San Juan del Sur in the possession of Guatemalans, and that Walker's force was reduced to about 200 men, who were reduced to the necessity of living on dog and mule flesh. According to the most favorable intelligence which the friends of Walker had received from Rivas prior to leaving Aspinwall, Walker's force did not exceed 250 to 300 men; and although they were represented to be in a healthy condition, desertions were of such frequent occurrence that he will soon have but few left with him to share his fate, whatever it may be. Some of his friends appear to think that he will, as a last resource, succeed in cutting his way through the enemy's lines and claim protection on board of the *St. Mary's*, lying in the harbor of San Juan del Sur. Others seem to think that Walker will prefer to die by starvation at his post, rather than give his enemies an opportunity of catching him alive. The returned volunteers from the San Juan River attribute the failure of their expedition to the inexperience of Col. Lockridge, and consequent unfitness to take command of the force; that had Gen. Wheat been intrusted with the command, they would have promptly pushed their way up the river and captured Fort Castillo before the Costa Ricans could possibly have obtained reinforcements, inasmuch as the fort was then defended by about 30 men. The council of war which recommended the evacuation of the San Juan River consisted of Gen. Wheat, Col. Lockridge, Col. Anderson, Lieut.-Col. Doubleday, Major Baldwin, Major Moon and Major Capers, who, having approached under cover within one hundred yards of Fort Castillo, and found it most thoroughly fortified, as well as Nelson's Hill, and that the fortifications were defended by about 400 men, concluded that if they could take the fort at all, it would be at such a sacrifice of life among them that there would not be a sufficient number of them left to make further progress, and consequently no advantage would be gained, even with the loss it would require.

Considerable chagrin appears to have been felt by some of Walker's friends who were engaged in the late expedition, on account of the British officers at Greytown handing over the arms and ammunition which had been surrendered to them by the filibusters; otherwise, they speak in the highest terms of the kind treatment extended to them by the commanders of the British fleet.