

New York Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 1856

To His Excellency

Gen William Walker

President of Nicaragua.

Sir, Since my

communications of 9<sup>th</sup> ult no important changes have taken place in matters concerning this Legation.

I have not yet been received.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> ulto I received a Telegraphic despatch "Come at once to Washington," I went on immediately although suffering from a severe attack of fever. The President had privately made up his mind to receive me and said "let Mr Oaksmith present his credentials in the usual way and they will be acted upon in due time." I presented my credentials on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, so that no question might be raised of their validity. I think this intimation came from the President although General Quitman did not say so.

I had an interview with Mr Marcy, he treated me civilly but expressed himself opposed to your movement in Nicaragua.

Some secret influence was brought to bear about this time which General Quitman nor I could

discover, which combined with the confusion occasioned by the adjournment of Congress without passing the army appropriation bill, and the call for an extra session, again deferred my reception.

You will understand the matter fully by referring to the copies of official and private correspondence which I have the honor to enclose.

Shortly after my return to New York I called upon Major Heifz, my pledge of secrecy was removed by the publication of my appointment officially in Niagara, the news of which came to New Orleans and was telegraphed all over the country; he took great umbrage at my proceedings and refused to turn over the Legation to me. I then learned for the first time that when Padre Vigil left this country he delegated Heifz to act as charge de affaires, and that four days after the Padre sailed the document was sent to the State Department, with a note from Heifz, the receipt of which was acknowledged about a week afterwards by the Assistant Secretary of State.

You can judge of the value which was attached to this relation when I inform you that Mr. Mancy asked me "what position does this Mr. Heifz hold who has lately addressed me a letter from your Legation". Of course I had to say, although knowing

nothing of the fact, that she was I believed "Chargé de affaires". He immediately said "we have no official knowledge of any thing of the kind in the Department."

Major Heifz went to Washington, presented his letter from the State Department to the President and he says that the President acknowledged him as the representative of Nicaragua. I had one

or two interviews with major Heifz after this and on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. I sent him a note (see official copies No 9) to which he refused to reply.

My position in regard to the matter I leave you to judge from my letters to General Quitman.

Last evening I received a note from Major Heifz (see official copies No 10) I was lying sick from fever on my bed, and shortly after Messrs Morgan, Garrison, Cazneau Myers, Heifz and Fabus called together; I had them brought to my room, and they all were of the opinion that Major Heifz should not give up the Legation till I was received - the discussion was a long one - they desired me to consent to the position assumed by Major Heifz; their arguments were simply those contained in Major Heifz's letter; mine were that major Heifz had no powers to represent your government; and that we did not care for any relations between Nicaragua & the United States unless these existed through your Government; That the quasi relations which are

thought to exist now, are of no benefit to Nicaragua although they might be thought of benefits to individuals, that we were better entirely without relations than such &c... Well the result was that I smoothed it over without committing myself, and I hope you will pardon any one in error in the affair.

Nothing however but your decision can change my conviction that Major Heap was bound to deliver the Legation to me when I called upon him for it. These matters are all passed and I shall be received ere long.

My despatches are not full this time, because yesterday, the day I expected to devote to them I was taken down with a violent fever from which I have not yet recovered.

I received all of your despatches by my brother and everything shall be attended to - The loan looks favorable judging from attention it has attracted in the papers.

I have appointed Alex. C. Lawrence Esq., General Emigration agents of Nicaragua.

The Calhoun sails at ~~hand~~ it is now two and I must close.

I have done more than I expected in the short time I have been here and have good prospects

5.  
ahead.

Excuse me for the roughness of this epistle for I am sick and in haste. You will find notes extracts & enclosed, which speak for themselves.

The matter of the "Chiriqui Improvement Co" I trust you will remember - Costa Rica lately ceded this tract to New Granada?

I am ever

Respectfully and faithfully  
Signed, Appleton Cushman.

You may judge of my labors by this steamer alone. My letters to all except yourself were written at spare moments within a few days - all directed to you to day, this the East, so you will see that I am not idle for a man just from a fever bed. Please destroy such scrawl as this.