

Later from Central America.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PANAMA, Aug. 16th, 1857.

The American steamship *Columbus*, from San Jose de Guatemala, and intermediate ports, arrived in the harbor, on the 9th of August

Honduras—The Railroad and Terminus.

Amongst her passengers is Wm. N. Jeffers, U. S. Navy, who, as the readers of the *Bulletin* are aware, has been engaged in surveying the Bay of Fonseca, in order to select a suitable harbor, as terminus of the contemplated Honduras railroad. He has completed his work, and the result, he says, is most satisfactory. He goes to New York in the *Illinois*, and I presume his report will soon be published. A correspondent of the *Star and Herald*, who has resided in Honduras for many years, is not very favorably impressed with the feasibility of that route. He writes under date of Guatemala, July 24th, and as he has some experience in that country, I quote what he says on the subject of the railroad, as follows: "The corps of engineers for the survey of the 'Honduras Inter-Oceanic Railway,' were at Comayagua, making preparations for fulfilling their duties, and it is said, that upon their report, the work will either be commenced, or altogether abandoned.

Your correspondent does not wish to hazard an opinion as to its feasibility, knowing that good engineers and ample funds can accomplish a great deal; but knowing as I do, and perfectly, the intended route, my word for it, that the amount required to construct the road will be double the estimated expense; whilst many thousands of unacclimated laborers will find an untimely grave, particularly upon the coast, before the work is completed. No doubt, interested parties will scoff at this statement, but let such come here and spend fourteen years on these unhealthy coasts, as your correspondent has done, and see the ravages made by sickness among new-comers, and justice will compel them to admit the truth of this statement."

Guatemala and San Salvador.

The cholera which made its appearance in Guatemala about a month since has not been so virulent as was at first reported, but thirty persons having died out of a population of 40,000. But the accounts from Salvador represent the epidemic as very bad. The season of the cochineal has closed, and is considerably short of last year's crop. The yield of this year will not, it is said, exceed 8,000 bales, whilst last year, it was over 12,000 bales. A large amount of produce has been sent from the interior, to Guatemala, for shipment to the United States, via the Panama railroad; but owing to the scarcity of laborers—many having left the place in consequence of the sickness—it could not be embarked.

Nicaragua.

The news from Nicaragua is unimportant. By a decree of government, the people are required to give up the national arms, under a penalty of ten days' imprisonment. The election for judges for the supreme court was ordered for 15th August. The government advertises for 25,000 lbs. of powder, and 1,000 lbs. of lead. Walker's address at New Orleans, which has been republished in Nicaragua, may have excited the fears of government, lest Walker should honor them with his presence again. Hence this preparation.

Costa Rica.

Files of Costa Rican papers to the 1st of August have been received here. The *Weekly Album* has been discontinued, its editor and publisher, Capt. Cauty, having left for the United States, in company with W. R. C. Webster, who, it is supposed, induced him to leave, by large promises—such as he alone is capable of making.

Congress is to re-assemble on the 6th of September.

The coffee crop for the year is reported to have reached 110,000 quintals, and next year's crop is expected to exceed this.

Government has reduced the duties on plain and unbleached cottons to five cents per lb., and on manufactured wool to two cents per lb.

The following remarks by a correspondent of the *Star and Herald* will give an insight into the doings of W. R. C. Webster, the probable character of the contract obtained by Mr. Harris, of the firm of Morgan & Son, and himself, together with the extra-territorial privileges conceded to Webster by President Mora, which betrays one of two things, that President Mora has either been bribed, or else he has reserved for himself a private interest in the new arrangement;

The Webster and Harris negotiations have been kept very close, and various rumors are afloat as to the result of their mission. Some say that Webster has done nothing definite, and that Mr. Jones's presence, in some way, affected the negotiation, whilst I am inclined to believe that he has succeeded in obtaining a grant of the transit for a short term of years, on condition of making a large advance to the government, and of obtaining the guarantee of England and the United States, for the neutrality of the route.

Capt. Cauty has obtained a privilege from the government, the nature of which is not exactly known. Some say, it is the exclusive right to navigate the river San Juan, from the mouth of the San Juan to the Colorado. Others say from the Colorado to Castilla. This, I think, most probable.

You, of course, have heard of Webster's having been sued. Two parties brought actions against him for debt, but the President forbade action being taken in the matter, and the summary proceedings adopted towards Fernandez prevent parties from attempting to look for justice. You cannot imagine what a strong feeling of disgust the President's conduct has given rise to among both natives and foreigners.