

An Old Filibuster.

ADVENTURES OF A CELEBRATED CHARACTER.

The Louisville Courier-Journal publishes the following sketch of the adventures of a once celebrated character, now about departing:

A letter announces the impending death of Colonel Jack Allen, at Bright Star, Hopkins county, Texas. He was widely known in the Southwest. In his young manhood he had the misfortune to slay a man in Shelbo' county, but the jury adjudged it a clear case of self-defence, and he was acquitted. Shortly afterwards he left for Missouri, and, with a single companion, made his way through the Indian Territory and thence into Texas. That people were then at war with the Mexicans. He was with Sam Houston at the battle of San Jacinto, which ended the war. He returned home and engaged in farming; but when the war broke out on the Rio Grande Allen raised a cavalry company, and was with General Humphrey Marshall's regiment at Buena Vista.

The conclusion of the Mexican war let loose a set of restless men eager for any

warlike enterprise. The acquisition of Cuba attracted their attention, as it did indeed many leading men in the South. Jack Allen was of course among the number. He raised a band of men in Kentucky, and was prominent among those who composed what may be called the "first Cuban expedition." Sailing from a Southern port in a small vessel by orders to act in concert with the creoles of Cuba, who were said to be ready to revolt, the "filibusters," as they were termed, proceeded to the island of Contoy, near the coast of Yucatan. A sojourn of three weeks with exposure disgusted the men, until orders were given to leave, when their spirits revived. The vessel made its way to Cardenas, on the Northern part of the island, where they were landed. Their rebel friends, to their chagrin, informed them that their force was too small to throw the island into revolution, and declined to give any assistance. The authorities had been advised of the plans of the filibusters, and had a force close at hand to meet them. They charged on the filibusters, who gallantly repulsed the assault, and, knowing discretion to be the better part of valor, retired to their little vessel. Allen fought bravely in this fight.

The filibusters then headed for Key West, and when within a few miles of that place, discovered the Spanish man-of-war *Fuero* bearing down on them under a full head of steam. She approached near enough to fire a few shots at the vessel, but the boys escaped and scattered over the place.

The year following (1851), the filibusters were again at work under Lopez, and Jack Allen was with them. He raised several hundred men in Kentucky, and took them to New Orleans. Lopez, with the lamented Major Wm. Crittenden, had also left for the island. Their fate is known. Crittenden's little band of fifty men was captured, and with himself shot, and Lopez was garroted. In the meanwhile the Kentuckians in New Orleans bought the Cuban Aid Society for transportation, but in vain.—When the late of the expedition was known, the filibusters in New Orleans disbanded, and Allen and others returned to Kentucky. Several expeditions of a similar character were projected between that time and the year 1856 by General Golcouri, with Colonel Allen as one of the leaders, but all of them failed.

General Walker and his filibusters, however, had met with more success in Nicaragua, and Jack Allen determined to join him. He chartered the steamer *Sulana*, and left the Portland wharf May 21, 1856, with nearly two hundred men, for his expedition. Few, alas! were destined to return. Half of the number reached Granada, where Allen was appointed Colonel of the regiment. He subsequently returned to Kentucky on the plea of ill-health. He believed the cause of Walker was lost; and while here he arranged with Golcouri for another Cuban expedition, embracing the enlistment of his own men in Nicaragua, as well as others who desired to leave Nicaragua, but who were restrained therefrom by force. Golcouri was to send a vessel to San Juan del Norte to bring away the men.

General Lockridge, who was subsequently the commander on San Juan River, was in the secret. Allen returned to Nicaragua; but a successful operation of the Costa Ricans, in capturing from Walker the steamships on Lake Nicaragua, defeated the Allen-Golcouri descent on Cuba. Colonel Allen left Nicaragua in October, 1856, and came home. He lived in quiet on his farm in Shelby County from that time until the inauguration of the late civil war, when he espoused the cause of the Confederates. He was the leader of several hundred men, who left Kentucky in September, 1861. He served in the Confederate army for a short time and then retired, remaining South, however, until hostilities ceased, when he again returned home and resumed his agricultural pursuits. He went to Texas some months since, but with what particular object we are not advised.