

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with the resolution of the Senate, the correspondence in relation to the arrest of William Walker by the naval forces under the command of Commodore Paulding.

MAY 28, 1858.—Read, and ordered to lie on the table. Motion to print referred to the
Committee on Printing.

JUNE 2, 1858.—Report in favor of printing submitted, considered, and agreed to.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, in compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the 19th of May, a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, with copies of the correspondence, &c., as afforded by the files of the department.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, *May* 27, 1858.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May* 26, 1858.

SIR: To enable the President to answer the resolution of the Senate of the 19th of May, requesting him "to communicate to the Senate all correspondence, instructions, and orders, not heretofore communicated to either branch of Congress, connected with the arrest of William Walker and his associates by the naval forces under the command of Commodore Paulding, including all the correspondence between him and the Navy Department since the arrest of Walker in relation thereto, or in relation to the property or persons seized by the forces under his command, and including, also, copies of any letters, orders, or instructions, if any, addressed to Commodore Paulding, which may have been subsequently withdrawn from him by the Navy Department, and the reasons for such withdrawal," I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the correspondence, &c., called for by the resolution, numbered 1 to 23.

The only communication addressed to Commodore Paulding which

was subsequently withdrawn from him, is the order, numbered 13, detaching him from the command of the home squadron. This was withdrawn lest it might be misunderstood, and another, numbered 14, substituted, that the true reasons for detaching him might be stated.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,
ISAAC TOUCEY.

The PRESIDENT.

Correspondence between Commodore Paulding and the Navy Department, called for by resolution of the Senate of May 19, 1858.

- No 1. January 2, off Aspinwall.—Commodore Paulding to the department. Reports arrival of the *Fulton*, with Colonel Anderson's party, captured by Captain Sands. Enclosures A, B, and C; list of names, &c. Will sail with fillbusters for Key West, via San Juan, and there await orders as to their disposition.
- No. 2. January 15, Havana.—Commodore Paulding to department, reporting arrival. Was visited at San Juan by General Jerrez, who thanked him, in the name of the president of Nicaragua, for removing Walker and party from Punta Arenas.
- No. 3. January 18.—Department to Commodore Paulding, acknowledging despatches. Refers to his despatch (heretofore communicated to Congress) detailing capture of Walker, and transmits President's message explaining his views on the subject.
- No. 4. January 19.—Department to Commodore Paulding, acknowledging No. 1, and furnishes extract from letter of department of December 28, [18,] instructing him not to leave Aspinwall or neighborhood, under any circumstances, without further orders. Should this reach him at Key West, proceed, without delay, to New York.
- No. 5. January 20.—Department to Commodore Paulding, correcting a clerical error, as to date, in No. 4.
- No. 6. January 21, Key West.—Commodore Paulding to the department, reporting arrival, and enclosing certain papers of interest, marked A to F, in relation to transactions of Colonel Anderson and party, and list of arms taken from them.
- No. 7. January 25, Key West.—Commodore Paulding to the department. Prisoners, taken by Captain Sands, delivered to the custody of the marshal of this district. Should no orders reach him by the "*Isabel*," controlling his movements, will sail for Aspinwall. Department's letter of December 18, published in *New York Herald*, has not been received by him.
- No. 8. January 25.—Department to Commodore Paulding, acknowledging No. 2.
- No. 9. February 2.—Department to Commodore Paulding acknowledging No. 7.
- No. 10. February 2.—Department to Commodore Paulding. Should Nos. 4 and 5 (copies of which are enclosed) failed to have reached

- him at Key West, and he has returned to Aspinwall, proceed immediately to New York, agreeably to instructions in No. 4.
- No. 11. February 3.—Department to Commodore Paulding, acknowledging No. 6, and enclosures.
- No. 12. February.—Commodore Paulding, at New York, to the department, detailing his recent movements, acknowledging No. 4, and reporting his arrival in obedience to it. Department's letter of December 18, not yet received, &c.
- No. 13. February 18.—Department to Commodore Paulding, detaching him from command of home squadron, and granting three months' leave. [Withdrawn by department.].
- No. 14. February 18.—Department to Commodore Paulding, detaching him from command of home squadron—having been over two years in command.
- No. 15. February 20.—Department to Commodore Paulding, acknowledging No. 12, and enclosing duplicates and triplicates of letters to him not yet acknowledged.
- No. 16. February 20.—Commodore Paulding to the department, acknowledging Nos. 13 and 14, detaching him from command of squadron; will haul down his broad pennant on the 22d; returns to the department No. 13, agreeably to request.
- No. 17. February 20.—Commodore Paulding to the department; asks what disposition shall be made of the stores and arms taken at Punta Arenas; relative to his responsibility, personally or otherwise, in breaking up Walker's camp and embarking his arms and stores; regrets that no sentiment entertained by the department as to his course has reached him; whilst his course seems to have met the approval of the country, he is made to feel that he has not secured the approbation of the department; would like an interview with the President and the Secretary.
- No. 18. February 12.—Commodore Paulding to department, acknowledging No. 15, also duplicates of letter of December 18, 1857, and Nos. 3, 4, and 10.
- No. 19. March 12.—Department to Commodore Paulding, in reply to No. 17, about the disposition of the stores captured from Walker, and his complaint that the department has not expressed its views of his course. His presence at Washington at this time not deemed necessary.
- No. 20. March 17.—Commodore Paulding to the department, enclosing its despatch of December 18, which has just reached him. Requests that the *envelope* may be placed on file, as the information it affords will exonerate him from the serious imputation of having disobeyed an order given by command of the President. Despatch was missent.
- No. 21. March 19.—Commodore Paulding to the department, acknowledging No. 19, about disposition of stores, and views of department as to his course. Explanations: Letter of department enclosing President's message was not received when his letter of February 20 (No. 17) was written. Misapprehended in supposing that his presence would be of importance in Washington. Made suggestion on public grounds alone.

- No. 22. March 27.—Department to Commodore Paulding, acknowledging No. 21. Commandant of New York instructed in relation to the stores and arms brought home in the Wabash.
- No. 23. April 1.—Department to Commodore Paulding, in reply to his letter (No. 20) enclosing despatch of department dated December 18, just received by him. Explanations in relation thereto. Despatch returned, and *envelope* placed on file.

No. 1.

No. 148.]

FLAG-SHIP "WABASH,"
Off *Aspinwall*, January 2, 1858.

SIR: On the 30th ultimo the United States steamer "Fulton" arrived here from San Juan del Norte, conveying to this place, under the orders of Captain Joshua R. Sands, forty-five of Walker's men, captured by Captain Sands, on the San Juan river, on the 24th ultimo. These men composed the party that ascended the Colorado to Castillo.

I enclose a copy of Captain Sands' letter to me, together with a copy of his correspondence with the chief of the party, (marked A;) Lieutenant Commanding Almy's report on his arrival here, with a list of the names of the men on board, (marked B,) and a private letter from B. S. Cotrell, esq., our commercial agent at San Juan, with extracts from one of earlier date, (marked C.)

It would appear that the filibusters had abandoned Castillo, after destroying everything they could, and had taken to marauding upon the river in the steamer "Ogden." About one-third of them are under medical treatment.

The crew of the "Fulton" are suffering from the fever of the country, and require rest. I have therefore ordered the prisoners to be sent to the Wabash, and intend to sail for San Juan as soon as the passengers arrive from California, leaving the Fulton here.

When I shall have communicated with Captain Sands, I will sail with the prisoners for Key West, and await the orders of the department as to their disposition.

The mail steamer from here will arrive in New York on the 12th or 13th instant, affording time for the department to communicate with me by the steamer that sails from New York for Havana, and also by the steamer that sails from Charleston for Key West.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PAULDING,
Flag Officer, Commanding Home Squadron.

HON. ISAAC TOUCEY,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

A.

UNITED STATES STEAM FRIGATE "SUSQUEHANNA,"
San Juan Del Norte, December 28, 1857.

SIR: I have deemed it expedient to forward to you the United States steamer Fulton at Aspinwall, having on board the remainder of the men composing the late expedition of Walker.

F. P. Anderson assumes to be their chief.

They were captured under the following circumstances:

On the 23d instant, I received a letter from Anderson, (marked A,) to which I replied, (as per B.) I then received another, (C.)

On the 24th, I ascended the river in the boats of this ship, towed by a steamer I took for the purpose, (the "Morgan,") and fully succeeded in capturing the force, under Anderson, in the steamer "Ogden"—say 35 (thirty-five) men—and one brass field-piece. I have also to state that the day before, (23d instant,) boats of this ship ran on shore and captured eight (8) men. The next day two more surrendered themselves, having separated from the above party the day before—making altogether 45 (forty-five) men.

Lieutenant Commanding Almy, of the Fulton, is directed by me to furnish you with a list of the names of the above party, as received from me.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JOSHUA R. SANDS,
Captain United States Navy.

Flag Officer HIRAM PAULDING,
Commanding Home Squadron, Aspinwall.

A.

SAN JUAN RIVER, *December 20, 1857.*

SIR: Having received information that the United States government have arrested General William Walker, with the forces, munitions of war, &c., which he had at the post occupied by him, opposite Greytown, and feeling that it would be folly for me to continue with any military command now at my disposal on this river, I wish to be informed by you if any of the men who were under my command, or myself, with our property, will be interfered with should we or any of us enter the harbor of San Juan del Norte. Some ten or fifteen of us wish to become settlers in this country; the others desire to return to the United States.

I hold in possession a steamer, the property of Messrs. Garrison & Morgan, of New York, by virtue of authority from one of their agents, Mr. J. C. Macdonald; this I should like to retain until further orders, subject, however, to any orders you may issue.

Will you favor me with an explicit answer to the above, which the bearer will see sent forward to me?

Your obedient servant,

F. P. ANDERSON.

Captain SANDS.

B.

Answer to the above.

U. S. STEAM FRIGATE SUSQUEHANNA,
San Juan del Norte, December 22, 1857.

SIR: In reply to your note of the 20th instant, I have to say that any of the party of William Walker, that lately came from the United States on a military expedition, who will surrender themselves to me on board this ship, I shall take prompt means to send back, as has been the case with the party from Punta Arenas.

I am your obedient servant,

JOSHUA R. SANDS,
Captain U. S. Navy.

F. P. ANDERSON,
On the River San Juan.

C.

SAN JUAN RIVER, *December 23, 1857.*

SIR: Your answer to my letter of the 20th instant has been duly received. Since that time I have made up my mind to make such disposition of the steamer in my charge as will relieve me from further responsibility in the premises. I desire, therefore, to turn her over to you in the harbor of Greytown, to be held by the United States for the benefit of whom it may concern.

Will you do me the favor to advise me if this will be proper and satisfactory?

Your obedient servant,

F. P. ANDERSON.

Captain JOSHUA R. SANDS,
U. S. Frigate Susquehanna.

ON BOARD THE STEAMER "OGDEN,"
San Juan river, nine miles above Greytown, December 24, 1857.

SIR: I surrender, by virtue of your superior force, to the United States, the force under my command, with all arms, munitions, &c. ;

also the steamer Ogden, property of Messrs. Morgan & Garrison—all of which I do under protest.

Your obedient servant,

COL. F. P. ANDERSON.

Captain JOSHUA R. SANDS,

U. S. Steam Frigate Susquehanna, Harbor of Greytown.

B.

U. S STEAMER FULTON,
Aspinwall, December 30, 1857.

SIR: I hereby report my arrival here from San Juan del Norte, having left there on the evening of the 28th instant. I was directed by Captain J. R. Sands, of the United States steamer Susquehanna, to take on board and bring to this place six officers and thirty-nine men belonging to the expedition which came out with General Walker, and which had been captured, by the order of Captain Sands, up San Juan river, and report to you for the further disposition of these men. A correct list of the names, and rank which they held in Walker's army, is herewith transmitted.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN J. ALMY,

Lieutenant Commanding.

Commodore H. PAULDING,

Commanding Home Squadron.

Names of 39 men and 6 officers of the late expedition of General Wm. Walker, transferred by Captain Sands, of the United States ship Susquehanna, to the United States steamer Fulton, 28th December, p. m., 1857, harbor of San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua.

1 Colonel Frank Anderson	15 Frederick Betts
2 Captain Dudley McMichael	16 Pietro Catanio
3 Captain John S. West	17 Marion Cox
4 Surgeon John Henley	18 Henry Fisher
5 Lieutenant Flarel Belcher	19 Martin Gilmartin
6 Lieutenant Francis P. Powers.	20 Thomas Johnson
<i>Privates.</i>	21 Francis Lilly
7 Charles Moore	22 Charles Manly
8 Jno. A. McLure	23 Jno. W. McClelland
9 Charles Downing	24 James Richardson
10 George Jackson	25 William Taylor
11 Philip Thompson	26 Joseph Woods
12 John B. Hogan	27 William Thomas
13 Philip Raimond	28 Charles Marshall
14 Joseph Brown	29 Charles Brady

30 Thomas F. Byron	40 August Miller
31 Thomas Austin	41 Robert McDonald
32 John Griddle	42 James O'Kane
33 Henry W. Somerford	43 John Sheppard
34 David Beal	44 William Champion
35 John Benson	45 John Velie
36 Peter Carawaker	46 Richard Lyles, a passenger from
37 John Green	San Juan, not having been
38 William Johnson	engaged in the expedition.
39 Michael Lawless	

The foregoing is a correct list.

ROBERT H. CLARK, *Purser.*

Approved: JOHN J. ALMY,
Lieutenant Commanding.

C.

The following are extracts from a private letter from B. S. Cottrell, esq., United States commercial agent at San Juan, received by the "Fulton," dated December 26.

"Anderson evacuated Castillo, after burning all the buildings and partially destroying the fort, spiking the cannons, and taking all the goods and cattle he could, and reached the Tauro, in the river steamer Ogden, on the evening of the 27th. W. K. Rogers and one other man who came out with Walker, named Romer, and who had been up the river, came direct to town in a canoe, and began offering for sale the cattle, &c., brought down, in the steamer, by Anderson. After a couple of days, Captain Sands embarked a force in the steamer 'Morgan,' and, proceeding to the Tauro, took Anderson and party prisoners, and brought them and the steamer 'Ogden' to this port."

"Before abandoning Castillo, Anderson took a part of the engine of the lake steamer 'La Virgin,' at anchor at the Toro rapids, and threw a portion overboard into deep water and mud, so that it will be difficult to regain it."

"There is a rumor here that Costa Rica and Nicaragua have adjusted their difficulties. Costa Rica abandoning all pretensions to forts San Carlos and Castillo, as well as the control of the river San Juan. Costa Rica also consents that the department of Guanacasta, occupied by the government of Costa Rica, shall be nominally considered the territory of Nicaragua. This leaves the whole question in the same position that it has been for a long time past."

"It is said that four hundred Nicaraguans had arrived at Fort San Carlos to strengthen that point previous to Anderson's leaving Castillo, and that this fact hurried his departure therefrom."

Respectfully,

H. PAULDING,

Flag Officer Commanding Home Squadron.

FLAG-SHIP WABASH,

Off Aspinwall, December 31, 1857.

SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,
Monday Morning, December 28, 1857.

DEAR COMMODORE: I learn that the English mail steamer is in sight and hasten to give you the latest news. A coréo arrived last night from Castillo, bringing a letter from General Jeréz, who, with one hundred men, were occupying that point. There were, also, 400 men at Fort San Carlos, and the steamer "San Carlos" had gone to Granada for a further supply of soldiers. The coréo was sent to give notice of these facts, and to ascertain the position of things hereabouts.

Costa Rica has withdrawn all her foolish pretensions from Nicaraguan territory, Forts San Carlos, Castillo, &c., and Nicaragua seems to re-occupy these places thus vacated with considerable spirit.

In haste, truly yours,

B. SQUIRE COTRELL.

The above is a true copy of a private letter to Flag Officer Paulding, received December 30, by steamer "Fulton."

T. PAULDING,
Flag Officer's Secretary.

No. 151.]

FLAG SHIP WABASH,
Havana, January 15, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I arrived here this morning, five days from San Juan del Norte, where I communicated with Captain Sands, of the Susquehanna.

At San Juan, General Jerez came on board the Wabash and, in the name of his excellency the president of Nicaragua, thanked me for the service rendered to his country by removing Walker and his armed followers from Punta Arenas.

As the department was informed at Aspinwall, by my letter No. 148, I shall await for instructions as to the disposition of the forty-five filibusters now on board the Wabash.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PAULDING,
Flag Officer Commanding Home Squadron.

Hon. ISAAC TOUCEY,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

No. 3.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
January 18, 1858.

SIR: Your several despatches, not heretofore acknowledged, and numbered 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, and 150, have been received.

Referring to your No. 140, detailing the capture of General Walker and his companions, and the other despatches in relation thereto, I transmit herewith a copy of the message of the President to the Senate upon the subject to which they relate, which will fully explain his views.

The Cyane and Saratoga have been put out of commission. Commander Robb has transmitted to you, from Norfolk, through the department, a report of his late cruise to Port au Prince.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Flag Officer HIRAM PAULDING,
Commanding Home Squadron, Aspinwall, New Granada.

No. 4.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *January 19, 1858.*

SIR: Your despatch No. 148, dated at Aspinwall the 2d instant, has been received, in which you inform the department of the arrival of the Fulton at Aspinwall with forty-five of Walker's men, whom you had ordered on board the Wabash; and that on the arrival of the passengers from California you intended to sail for San Juan; and when you should have communicated with Captain Sands you would "sail with the prisoners for Key West, and await the orders of the department as to their disposition."

A despatch from the department, under date of the 28th of December last, was sent to you by the Star of the West, which left New York on the 21st December and arrived at Aspinwall on the 31st of December. The same vessel left Aspinwall for New York on the 4th January instant with the mails, in which were your despatches of the 2d January.

The following is an extract from the department's communication, above referred to:

"The three points which it is most important to guard are Aspinwall, Chiriqui, and San Juan del Norte, and with this view you will dispose of the forces under your command to the best advantage. The President directs me to inform you that he considers it all important that you should not leave the neighborhood of these points until further instructed by the department, which you are hereby ordered not to do under any circumstances."

Should this present despatch reach you at Key West, you will proceed with your flag ship to New York without delay, and, reporting your arrival by letter to the department, await there its further orders.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Flag Officer HIRAM PAULDING,
*Commanding Home Squadron,
Key West, Florida.*

No. 5.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
January 20, 1858.

SIR: In the despatch addressed to you on the 19th instant there is a clerical error, which will be apparent to you. The department refers to the despatch sent to you by the *Star of the West*, as having been dated December 28; it should have stated that it was dated December 18.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
ISAAC TOUCEY.

Flag Officer H. PAULDING,
Commanding Home Squadron, Key West, Fla.

No. 6.

No. 152.]

FLAG SHIP WABASH,
Key West, January 21, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I arrived here on the 17th instant, from Havana; the officers and crew all well.

I enclose, for the information of the department, certain papers that I have thought might be interesting, viz: a letter from the Nicaragua consul at San Juan, (A;) a letter from Mr. Cotrell, (B;) a letter from a person by the name of Leefe, with bill, (C and D;) an affidavit of a man named Deroger, (E;) and a list of arms, &c., taken from Anderson's party, (marked F.)

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. PAULDING,
Flag Officer Commanding Home Squadron.

Hon. ISAAC TOUCEY,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

A.

No. 34.]

SAN JUAN DE NICARAGUA,
Deciembre 8, den 1857.

Dipulacion Consular de Nicaragua.

SEÑOR COMODORO: En mi calidad de Diputado Consular de Nicaragua en este puerto, desearia presentur a Vme. personalmente mis mejores respetos—y felicitarle, a nombre del Gobierno de Nicaragua y demas de Centro-America, por la captura que tan en órden se ha verificado en este dia, Cajo el mando de Vme. del demasiado insegue caudillo de filibusteros Wm. Walker y horda de fieros companeros.

Tonga la bondad de haierme saber á que hora podré tener el honor de ser admitido aceria de Vme. y asi crea á la expresion. De los senti-

misentos de mas perfecta consideracion conque me suscribe de Vme.
Señor Comodoro su muy humilde y ob't serv't,
ANTONIO DE BARRAEL.

Al honorable Señor Comodoro Don H. PAULDING,
Al mando de la escuadra de los E. E. U. U. aítualmente en este puerto.

B.

COMMERCIAL AGENCY U. S. A.,
San Juan del Norte, December 12, 1857.

SIR: I enclose a note from her Britannic Majesty's Consul Green, and other papers, regarding the conduct of Colonel Frank Anderson and party, at an island belonging to Mr. Leefe, on the San Juan river, known as the "Colorado island." So many complaints have been made against General Walker's filibuster party, accusing them of robbery, &c., that I have deemed it my duty to send to you such documents as have come into my hands sustaining the charges. Yesterday I witnessed a scene almost resulting in murder, on the landing of Mr. De Brissat, with stolen trunks in his possession, brought down the river by him in the steamer "Morgan." The people of this town, and those of the interior now staying here, are very much enraged at the conduct of Walker's men, as it is not strange they should be, after the past two years' experience.

I am, in much haste, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. SQUIRE COTRELL,

United States Commercial Agent.

Commodore H. PAULDING, U. S. N.,

U. S. Flag ship, Wabash, off San Juan del Norte.

C.

GREYTOWN, *December 11, 1857.*

SIR: I beg leave to trouble you with the enclosed statement of an account against a party of filibusters who, on Wednesday, the 25th ultimo, took forcible possession of my premises on the Colorado island, in the territory of Mosquito, and occupied them until the following Sunday, the 29th, ransacking my dwelling house, and stealing my wearing apparel and domestic utensils, also provisions; all of which transpired during my absence in Costa Rica.

I would ask your assistance in representing these facts and my position to Commodore Paulding.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOHN LEEFE.

JAMES GREEN, Esq., *H. M. Consul.*

D.

GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,
December 11, 1857.

Filibusters under the command of Colonel Frank Anderson,
To John Leefe, Dr.

Nov. 29, 1857.—For having taken possession of my property on the Colorado island, and destroying thereon, together with pillaging, for which I charge	\$200 00
To one 2-year old steer, 150 lbs., at 20 cts.	30 00
To provisions taken away.....	20 00
To jewelry and other property belonging to Mr. Beschory, stolen.....	150 00
	<hr/>
	400 00
	<hr/> <hr/>

I, the undersigned, Geo. Ph. Beschory, having had charge of Mr. Leefe's property at Colorado island during his absence in Costa Rica, do hereby certify that the charges of the above account are but a fair compensation of the damage done by said filibusters during their stay on said island, from the 25th to 29th of November last passed.

GEORGE PH. BESCHORY.

E

GREYTOWN, OR SAN JUAN DEL NORTE,
December 9, 1857.

Mr. Durosu, owner of a plantation on the right bank of the river San Juan, two miles above Sirapiqui, doth declare and say: That when the steamer Morgan came down the river from Castillo in charge of Commodore De Brissat, he landing at his plantation; took all the property which he left in his house, and cut down all the corn which he had grown at his plantation; that they likewise took a quantity of fire-wood from his place, the quantity of which deponent could not state. That deponent knows these facts from Mr. Bon, engineer of said steamer Morgan; and further deponent says not.

O. D'DUROYER.

Signed and sworn before—

T. J. MARTIN, *Chief Magustits.*

F.

List of arms, &c., belonging to Walker's party, received from the United States steamers Susquehanna and Fulton.

UNITED STATES STEAM FRIGATE WABASH,
Key West, Florida, January 21, 1858.

42 rifles; 22 cartridge boxes; 1 bayonet; 4 bayonet scabbards; 1 cavalry sabre; 1 9-pounder brass gun; 1 bale containing 46 pieces white cotton cloth.

WM. H. HAMILTON,
Gunner United States Navy.

No. 7.

No. 153.]

FLAG-SHIP WABASH,
Key West, January 25, 1858.

SIR: My letter No. 152, of the 21st instant, informed the department of my arrival here.

The prisoners taken on the San Juan river by Captain Sands, and transferred from the Fulton to this ship, have been delivered to the custody of the marshal of this district, and are now under examination. Judge Marvin desired me to remain until he had disposed of the prisoners.

If I receive no orders from the department by the "Isabel" from Havana, this afternoon, controlling my movements, I shall sail for Aspinwall.

An order from the department to me, dated December 18th ultimo, is published in the Weekly New York Herald. It is proper that I should inform the department that it has not been received.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PAULDING,
Flag Officer Commanding Home Squadron.

HON. ISAAC TOUCEY,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

No. 8.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *January 25, 1858.*

SIR: Your despatch No. 151, written at Havana, January 15th instant, has been received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Flag Officer H. PAULDING,
Commanding Home Squadron, New York.

No. 9.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *February 2, 1858.*

SIR: The department has received your No. 153, dated Key West, January 25, 1858.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. TOUCEY.

Flag Officer H. PAULDING,
Commanding Home Squadron, New York.

No. 10.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *February 2, 1858.*

SIR: Should the despatches dated January 19th and 20th last, (copies of which are herewith enclosed,) addressed to you at Key West, have failed to reach you, and you have returned to and are now at Aspinwall, the department directs that you will immediately proceed to New York with your flag-ship, agreeably to the instructions of the 19th of January, above referred to.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. TOUCEY.

Flag Officer H. PAULDING,
Commanding Home Squadron, Aspinwall, N. G.

No. 11.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *February 3, 1858.*

SIR: Your No. 152, dated January 21, 1858, reporting your arrival at Key West, on the 17th January, from Havana, and enclosing papers marked A to F, inclusive, has been received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. TOUCEY.

Flag Officer H. PAULDING, *Com'g Home Squadron, N. Y.*

No. 12.

No. 154.]

FLAG SHIP WABASH,
New York, February —, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I sailed from Key West on the 2d inst., intending to proceed to Aspinwall if, on the arrival of the mails from Aspinwall, Charleston, and New York, which arrive in Havana about the same time, I should receive no orders from the department.

The "Isabel," from Charleston, brought me your despatch of January 19, on Sunday, 7th inst., and on Tuesday, 9th, I sailed for New York, in obedience to your order, and arrived here to-day.

The despatch from the department of December 18, an extract from which is made in your despatch of January 19, and which should have reached me at Aspinwall by the "Star of the West," December 31, has not yet come to hand, although I have received a mail from Aspinwall that arrived subsequent to my departure from there.

The department and the President had much reason to suppose I would have received and obeyed the order; that it was not received I have cause to regret.

From the tenor of your despatch I infer that the purpose of the department was fulfilled by my return, although the order found me at Havana instead of Key West, distant but a few hours' sail.

The officers and crew are in fine health, and the ship in excellent condition.

If the crew are to be transferred or discharged, it is necessary, in justice to the meritorious, that Captain Engle should rejoin the ship without delay.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PAULDING,

Flag Officer Com'g Home Squadron.

Hon. ISAAC TOUCEY,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

No. 13.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *February 18, 1858.*

SIR: You are hereby detached from the command of the home squadron, and a leave of absence is granted to you for three months, at the expiration of which you will report to this department.

I, am, respectfully, &c.,

I. TOUCEY.

Flag Officer HIRAM PAULDING,

United States Navy, New York.

No. 14.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *February 18, 1858.*

SIR: Having been over two years in command of the home squadron, you are hereby detached from that command, and you will regard yourself as on leave of absence for three months.

I am, respectfully, &c.,

I. TOUCEY.

Flag Officer HIRAM PAULDING,

Commanding Home Squadron, New York.

No. 15.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *February 20, 1858.*

SIR: Your despatch, No. 154, reporting the arrival of the *Wabash* at New York, from Havana, has been received.

Enclosed herewith are duplicates and triplicates of communications addressed to you by the department, which have not been acknowledged.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. TOUCEY.

Commodore H. PAULDING,

Late Flag Officer of the Home Squadron, New York.

No. 16.

[No. 155.]

FLAG SHIP "WABASH,"

Navy Yard, New York, February 20, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of your communication detaching me from the command of the home squadron and the officers from the *Wabash*.

The presence of the officers is necessary until the discharge of the crew, which will take place as soon as the funds are provided for their payment. I shall haul my broad pendant down on Monday, the 22d instant, by which time my necessary duties will have been disposed of.

With the communication received to-day from the department there are two orders detaching me from the home squadron, both dated on the 18th instant. One of these orders commences, "You are hereby detached from the home squadron;" the other commences, "Having been over two years in command of the home squadron." The former, Mr. Hardin requests me to return, and it is herewith enclosed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PAULDING,

Flag Officer, commanding Home Squadron.

Hon. I. TOUCEY,

Secretary of the Navy.

No. 17.

[No. 156.]

FLAG SHIP "WABASH,"

Navy Yard, New York, February 20, 1858.

SIR: I have informed the department of the stores and arms taken on board this ship and the *Saratoga* at Punta Arenas, furnishing inventories, and requested to be instructed as to their disposition. Up to the present time I have not been made acquainted with the pleasure of the department on this subject. I know not how far it may be

considered that I am responsible, personally or otherwise, for the course I pursued in breaking up the camp of William Walker and embarking his stores and munitions of war, and it will be apparent to the department that it is of so much importance to me as to excuse my importunity in pressing the subject upon its decision.

I would now, sir, respectfully request that the responsibility be assumed by the government, or, if this shall be declined, that I may be permitted to dispose of them in such manner as I may be legally advised.

In the course that I pursued towards the lawless men at Punta Arenas I had supposed the department would have conveyed to me whatever views it might have entertained; and, under all the embarrassing circumstances in which I have been placed in the performance of difficult and responsible duties, I cannot refrain from expressing my extreme regret that no sentiment that may have been entertained has reached me.

In connexion with this subject it may be considered proper, in justice to myself, that I should observe that my whole proceeding, from the landing of Walker at the Punta Arenas to the landing of Anderson in this ship at Key West, was prompted by no other than strictly patriotic and national motives. Whilst it seems to have met the approval of the country, I am made to feel that I have not secured the approbation of the department. I cannot suppose that this was designed, yet all the circumstances connected with my recent service combine to make this impression upon my mind.

Whenever it shall be the pleasure of the department, I deem it important to myself officially, and to the government, to be favored with an interview with the Hon. Secretary of the Navy and the President.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PAULDING,

Flag Officer, commanding Home Squadron.

Hon. I. TOUCEY,

Secretary of the Navy.

No. 18.

[No. 158.]

FLAG SHIP WABASH,
Navy Yard, New York, February 22, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, enclosing the following duplicates, viz:

Of letter of December 18, 1858, acknowledging my Nos. 134, 135, 137, 138, and 139.

Of January 18, 1858, referring to the capture of Walker, and stating that the "Cyane" and "Saratoga" had been put out of commission.

Of January 20, referring to an error in department's letter of December 18.

Of February 2, of orders sent to Aspinwall for me to proceed to New York.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 H. PAULDING,
Flag Officer, commanding Home Squadron.

HON. ISAAC TOUCEY,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

No. 19.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
 March 12, 1858.

SIR: Your despatch of the 20th ultimo has been received, in which you complain that the department has not expressed to you its views in relation to your course "towards the lawless men at Punta Arenas," and requesting to be instructed as to the disposition of the stores and arms taken on board the Wabash and Saratoga at that place.

The message of the President to the Senate of the 17th of January, 1858, reviewed the whole subject of the seizure of Walker and his associates, and a copy of it was sent to you with the despatch of the department of January 18, 1858. A duplicate was also sent to you at New York, the receipt of which you acknowledge. The views of the President, as expressed in that message, were the views entertained by the department, and should have been so understood by you.

As to the stores, arms, &c., taken on board the Wabash at Punta Arenas, the government of the United States has no claim upon them, and of course you have no authority to detain them, but must deliver them to the owner or owners who shall show a sufficient title. A similar instruction was given to Captain Dornin, commanding the Gosport navy yard, in reference to the stores and arms taken on board the Saratoga.

Being in possession of the facts connected with the seizure at Punta Arenas, the department does not deem it necessary at this time to order you to Washington.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Commodore HIRAM PAULDING,
*Late Flag Officer of the Home Squadron,
 Huntington, Long Island, N. Y.*

No. 20.

HUNTINGTON, L. I., N. Y., March 17, 1858.

SIR: I have this day received the accompanying despatch, dated on the 18th day of December last.

For the information of the department, I send the letter enveloped as it came to my hands, and would respectfully request that the en-

velope may be placed on file in the department, and the despatch returned to me.

The information conveyed by the *envelope* will exonerate me from the serious imputation of having disobeyed an order given by command of the President.

It appears that this order was addressed to me at San Juan instead of Aspinwall. That having been franked by the chief clerk of the Navy Department, it was also, in Washington, covered with seven post office stamps. That instead of going to Aspinwall, or San Juan, it arrived at *Kingston, Jamaica*, on the 28th of December, and is there stamped by the post office. From thence it went to St. Thomas, and was there stamped on the 6th of January. On the 28th of January it is endorsed by Captain Sands, at San Juan, and returned to me by way of Aspinwall.

As an extract from this order of December 18, 1857, is made in my order of recall, so as, apparently, to convey a reproach for disobedience of orders made by command of the President, I have felt the more earnest concern to lay the whole subject before you, with facts that may prove conclusively my full exculpation from so grave a charge.

The Hon. C. C. Cambreling, my neighbor, was present when I received this letter from the post office, and witnessed my breaking the seal, and I have deemed it of sufficient importance to request him to certify to the fact.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PAULDING,

Late Flag Officer, commanding Home Squadron.

HON. ISAAC TOUCEY,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Mr. C. C. Cambreling takes pleasure in assuring Secretary Toucey that the letter referred to in the foregoing was opened by Captain Paulding in his presence.

No. 21.

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND,

March 19, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 12th instant, replying to *my letter of the 20th ultimo*, referring to the disposition of the filibuster stores and speaking of the silence of the department in regard to my transactions on the coast of Central America.

It is due from me to the department as well as to my official correspondence, that I should inform you the letter of the 18th of January, conveying a copy of the President's message to the Senate, was not received by me until two days ago, and that the duplicate copy sent to me after my arrival at New York was despatched with a letter

from the department written on the same day as the date of *my letter of the 20th ultimo*.

The department will therefore, I trust, pardon my intrusion, especially when it will be apparent that I had no official means of judging of its views at the time my letter was written.

The third paragraph of your letter of the 12th instant is as follows :

“As to the stores, arms, &c., taken on board the ‘Wabash’ at Punta Arenas, the government of the United States has no claim upon them, and of course you have no authority to detain them, but must deliver them to the owner or owners who shall show a sufficient title. A similar instruction was given to Captain Dornin, commanding the Gosport navy yard, in reference to the stores and arms taken on board the ‘Saratoga.’”

As the “stores and arms” taken on board the “Wabash” were landed at the navy yard in New York, and are now in the custody of the government, I would respectfully suggest whether it may not be best suited to the object in view to give the commandant at the New York yard an order similar to that which was given to Captain Dornin, of the Gosport yard, the arms and stores being no longer subject to my control except as may be directed by special orders.

I have misapprehended in supposing my presence of some importance in Washington, and beg the department will be assured that I made the suggestion on no other than public grounds.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PAULDING, *Captain,*
Late Flag Officer com'g Home Squadron.

HON. ISAAC TOUCEY,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

No. 22.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *March 27, 1858.*

SIR: Your communication of the 19th instant has been received.

The commandant of the navy yard at New York has been instructed that he has no authority to detain the articles surrendered by Walker and his party at Punta Arenas and brought to the United States in the Wabash, and will therefore deliver them to the owner or owners who shall present a sufficient title to them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Commodore H. PAULDING,
U. S. Navy, Huntington, L. I., N. Y.

No. 23.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 1, 1858.*

SIR: Your letter of the 17th ultimo, enclosing one dated 18th o December last, addressed to you by the department, and which had just reached you, was duly received.

The communication of the department was mailed in Washington on the 18th day of December, and the postage on it prepaid, as required by postal regulations, to go in the steamer of the 20th of that month. It was addressed to you at San Juan del Norte, and to the care of the United States consul at Aspinwall, that it might pass through his hands and be delivered to you at Aspinwall, if you were there, or transmitted to you at San Juan. The steamer reached Aspinwall on the night of the 31st of December, and had not the despatch been missent, it should have reached you there before you left, which was on the 5th of January.

Agreeably to your request, the despatch is herewith returned, and the envelope which covered it will be placed on file in the department.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. TOUCEY.

Commodore H. PAULDING,
U. S. Navy, Huntington, L. I., N. Y.