

sustain, with firmness and good faith, the true men of the non-slaveholding States, who have the moral courage to stand by our constitutional rights. Such men as Willard, Richardson, Douglas, Cass, Dickinson, Toucey, Glancy Jones, and a host of others, who have led on the democratic column to victory, deserve our warm support and cordial gratitude. The democracy of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, New Jersey, and California, co-operating with the almost untamed South, has rescued us from the fangs of sectional strife, and secured to the country at least a temporary repose. Similar concert will bring similar triumphs for many future contests. Let us encourage and promote it by all honorable means.

In view of the importance of this consideration, it seems to me unfortunate for the South, particularly at this juncture, that any new and extreme policy should be broached. We have obtained from the recent legislation of Congress a recognition of the equality of the States, and the principle of non-intervention, and the repeal of the Missouri restriction. Whatever ground of complaint is furnished by the past, the South enjoys for the present a full admission of her constitutional rights. The democracy of the non-slaveholding States, at the hazard of political martyrdom at home, have gallantly maintained our cause. Is it not wise to adhere to our existing attitude rather than raise issues which, not involving positive rights, may drive from us their support and co-operation? I will instance the proposition to reopen the African slave trade. What good can result from the agitation of this question? None whatever. Even if demanded by the interests of the South, as its advocates contend, is it not utterly impracticable so long as the Union of the States is preserved? The unanimous demand of the South cannot affect it, for the North would unanimously oppose it; whilst we could not complain that, by such opposition, our rights were infringed. The concentrated efforts of our federal government would be powerless for this purpose; for it is adverse to the sentiments of the civilized world, to our treaty stipulations for its suppression, and the conventional laws of nations, by which it is declared to be piracy. Its agitation is fraught, therefore, with mischief only. It will distract and divide the South, when union is so indispensable. It will tend to drive from us our true friends in the non-slaveholding States when their cordial co-operation is needed to shield us from abolition aggression. It will rouse to a still higher pitch the prejudices of other nations against us, on account of the existence of southern slavery. It were wise, therefore, to adhere to the present status of the slavery question. It is protected by the constitution, and our northern friends can safely fight our battles on their own soil. With their alliance we can maintain our right in the Union. I repeat, then, let us cultivate that alliance with scrupulous assiduity and by all honorable means.

It may not be possible, however, to avert the dangers at which we have glanced. Indeed, hope is not without the mixture of serious apprehension. With the exercise of the greatest discretion, forbearance, and address, the South, at no distant day, may find herself standing between the alternatives of degrading submission or of manly resistance to wrong. Whilst, therefore, we should strive against the mortification of the former, both prudence and patriotism teach that we should prepare for the latter. Such preparation is not incompatible with fealty to the Union. Readiness for self defence never provokes, but often prevents, assaults.

With sentiments of great respect, your obedient servant,
HERSCHEL V. JOHNSON.
Messrs. O. S. TAPLEY and others, Committee, &c.

DEFEAT OF WALKER'S PARTY AT HIPPI'S POINT, CASTILLO RAPIDS, AND FORT SAN CARLOS.—PARTICULARS OF THE CAPTURE OF THE RIVER BOATS, &c.

From the Panama Star and Herald, Jan. 16.
The Panama Railroad Company's steamer Columbus, J. M. Dow, esq., commander, from Punta Arenas, Jan. 6, arrived at Panama on Saturday, January 10. Among the passengers are Don Hurtado and Dr. U. Rostrop, of this city; Mr. Webster and Mr. John Anderson, from Costa Rica; Sr. Gono, Spanish minister to Chile; Dr. Sr. Livingston, of Leon, Mr. Lefebvre, Captain Morton, &c.

The most interesting news we can give our readers is the following information relative to the proceedings of the Costa Rica forces on the river San Juan, which resulted in the capture of the various stations along the line, and of the river and lake boats, and which fully confirm the reports received by the British steamer from San Juan del Sur in reference to that event.

Our information is derived from undoubted authority, and adds another chapter to the history of the rapid downfall of Walker and his followers.

It appears that the Costa Rican government, in addition to the army it had sent to co-operate with the allied forces against Walker in Nicaragua, resolved upon organizing an expeditionary force for the purpose of possessing itself of the river San Juan, wisely judging that the efforts made to dislodge Walker would be prolonged, if not rendered futile, as long as he possessed facilities for receiving supplies and reinforcements by every steamer from the United States. On the 10th of December this force set out, not by the Serapiqui river, as was publicly received and believed, but by the San Carlos, another tributary of the San Juan which enters that river about half way between the lake and San Juan del Norte. This was done for the purpose of misleading a detachment of Walker's forces who were posted at Hipp's Point, at the mouth of the Serapiqui.

As this route is very little, if ever used, the Costa Ricans experienced great difficulty in advancing, having to cut their way through the forest along a track where mules could not be used, and along which all the provisions and munitions of war had to be borne on men's shoulders. Six days were spent on the march, during which the rain fell incessantly. At last, the "embarcadero" was reached, and a few canoes were reached, and rafts made of the trunks of trees rudely lashed together with vines and twigs.

Thus these enterprising men, most of whom had never before beheld a boat on a navigable river, boldly embarked on December 16 to float down an unknown stream to its confluence with the river San Juan, and thence to Greytown itself. It was indeed a perilous undertaking. Had these frail rafts, upon which 120 men had ventured, met one of Walker's steamers coming up or going down the river, the slightest contact would have been fatal to them.

On the morning of the 23d the expedition was hauled into a creek near Hipp's Point, to refresh the men, previous to attacking Walker's post of fifty men and two cannon. At that moment a steamer was heard coming down the river. The men were made to lie down on the raft. It was a perilous moment. The steamer passed without any one on board having seen or suspected the lurking danger. A road or track was soon cut towards the flank and rear of Walker's post, which they silently reached. The signal (a single shot) was given. The Costa Ricans rushed with the bayonet with horrid yells upon their surprised foes, and in half a minute resistance was at an end. A panic had seized them. Some were bayoneted; the rest sprung off the bank into the deep and rapid river. One brave officer (Captain Thompson) did all that mortal man could do to rally the men, but in vain—the onslaught was too sudden and overpowering to admit of a resistance. Captain Thompson only ceased his exertions after he received a second severe bayonet wound. His very enemies, admiring his signal gallantry, liberated him subsequent at Greytown, where also they did all in their power to alleviate his sufferings. One man beside Captain Thompson was saved from the river, and five escaped into the forest. The rest are said to have perished.

A sufficient force having been left to guard Hipp's Point, the rest of the adventurous band again committed their lives to the precarious chances of the river upon the same rafts, which had now become rickety and insecure. They arrived close to Greytown about 2 o'clock on the morning of the 24th. Here again fortune favored them, for a steamer was just getting up her steam to ascend the river. She was immediately taken, with three others. Had the expedition been delayed an hour later in its descent it must have perished. It would, indeed, have been "touch and go;" the slightest touch from the steamer would have separated the slightly-bound pieces of the rafts, and sent the Costa Ricans instantaneously to a watery grave.

By dawn of day the steamers were taken without loss, and the Costa Ricans also in possession of Punta Castilla, (or Punta Arenas,) which they have always claimed as belonging to their country.

At the same time the inhabitants of Greytown became aware of the presence of this unexpected invasion. The place was soon in confusion and commotion; one party, the most numerous, threatening violence to the foreigners in the place, (mostly Americans,) under the cry of "Viva Costa Rica!" However, the officers commanding the expedition discountenanced any and every hostile attempt against the inhabitants of Greytown, and left the place next morning in the captured vessels.

In the mean time the United States consul made an application to the officer commanding the British squadron at Greytown "to protect the property of Captain Joseph N. Scott, agent of Messrs. Chas. Morgan & Son, of New York, from a forcible seizure by a force of Costa Ricans under the command of Col. Joaquin Fernandez."

To this Captain John C. Erskine, senior officer, replied from on board the Orion, dated December 24, 1856, that he had "taken steps, by landing a party of marines from one of her Majesty's ships, to protect the persons and private property of Captain Joseph Scott, his family, and all citizens of the United States of America; which the officer of the Costa Rica force, now at Punta Arenas, also assured him should be placed in no peril." Then, as regards the capture of the steamers, Captain Erskine, in continuation, very judiciously expressed himself as follows:

"To prevent any misapprehension, I think it, however, right to state that the steamers and other property belonging to the Accessory Transit Company, being at this moment the subject of a dispute between two different companies, the representatives of which are on the spot, and one of them authorizing the seizure, I do not feel justified in taking any steps which may affect the interests of either party."

"With respect to the participation of a force of Costa Ricans in the seizure and transfer of the steamers alluded to, I must observe that these steamers having been for some months past employed in embarking in this port, and conveying to the parties with whom Costa Rica is now carrying on active hostilities, men and munitions of war, it appears that as a non-belligerent I am prohibited by the law of nations from preventing the execution of such an operation by a belligerent party.

"I have the honor, &c.,
JOHN F. ERSKINE,
Captain and senior officer.

B. S. COTTRILL, esq., U. S. Consul at Greytown.

"December 24, 1856."

On ascending the river (when off the mouth of the river San Carlos, which, as before stated, is a tributary of the river San Juan) one of the steamers was despatched to ascertain if General Jose Joaquin Mora, brother of the President of Costa Rica, had arrived at the embarcadero with the main body of the expeditionary army; and if so, to report the success of the expedition to Greytown, so that measures might immediately be taken for carrying promptly into effect the second part of the plan of operations. On proceeding up the San Carlos, five men, placed on a raft as videttes, became so frightened by the noise and appearance of the approaching steamer, (never having before seen or imagined the like,) plunged into the river and were drowned in the attempt to reach the bank. The steamer then landed two men to cut their way through the forest to the embarcadero, in order that General Mora might receive timely notice that the steamer was no longer an enemy, so that the probability of his firing upon her might be removed. General Mora was found at his post, with 800 men, followed by a rear guard of 300, who have since also arrived. In addition to these, two transport corps of 600 men are alternately employed in carrying provisions, ammunition, &c., from the interior to the embarcadero.

Having now the four river steamers at command, the Castillo Rapids and the steamers John Ogden and Ruth were soon taken by Gen. Mora. He then moved up to Fort San Carlos, which, with the large steamer and detachment of men there, was also taken by stratagem. Then the two lake steamers, San Carlos and Virgin, not aware of these occurrences, came across the lake with passengers from California, and were also taken by Gen. Mora, who generously sent the passengers on to Greytown in the captured steamers.

Thus the second part of the plan of operations was completely successful.

The third and last part of this well-contrived campaign is as follows:

Gen. Mora having now 1,400 men, (exclusive of the land transport corps,) expected 500 more at the embarcadero of San Carlos, who, doubtless, have arrived long since. The river was to be occupied by 800 of these, backed by artillery and breast-works, and supported by the steamers, while Gen. Mora was to move up to La Virgin with 1,100 men and occupy the Transit route.

Meanwhile, Gen. Canas having retired from Rivas upon Massaya, (where the allied generals have been mispending both time and opportunity in dissensions,) Rivas was occupied by Walker. His forces are estimated by his friends at 1,200—by his enemies at 800. In either case it is well known that about 300 are on the sick list. By last official accounts Gen. Canas was nominated commander-in-chief of the allied forces. He was on his march back to Rivas with 1,000 men (leaving the remaining allied forces to follow as occasion might require,) where he would arrive just about the same time when Gen. Mora would reach La Virgin, near Rivas, with 1,100 men and the steamers.

Such is a short, but, we believe, faithfully correct, statement of the events which have given Costa Rica such an advantage over Walker, and cut him off from all means of receiving further assistance from abroad. If Gen. Canas can only succeed in harmonizing the discordant elements he has to deal with, and restore unanimity among the Central American generals, the fate of Walker may be considered as sealed. If, however, petty jealousies and intrigues allow the allies to divide their forces, Walker has still a chance of making good his retreat to San Juan del Sur, and escaping from a country he has shown himself so incapable of governing.

We add the following proclamation issued by the President of Costa Rica to Walker's men, in which they are offered most favorable terms; and there is no reason to doubt that Costa Rica will carry them out faithfully and fully:

The President of the Republic of Costa Rica to the soldiers of Walker's army.

Impressed with a well-founded belief that the greater number of foreigners who are now in the ranks of the usurper have been deceived, and aware that they are now fighting in a bad cause, against a people who have given no cause of offence, and who are only defending their country, their rights, liberties, and their homesteads, from the criminal attempts of an unprincipled adventurer to subvert all that freemen revere; and convinced that many, if not all, who are now aiding that scourge of humanity would willingly quit his discredited service if only assured of protection and support to reach their native country:

Now I, President of the republic of Costa Rica, pledging my honor, hereby offer to any and all of the officers and soldiers of Walker's army, now in Nicaragua, a free and safe passage to Greytown, and thence per steamer to the city of New York.

Given at the National Palace at San Jose, December 10, 1856.
JUAN R. MORA.

GENERAL NEWS.

THE LATE STORM AT CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY.—The Ocean Wave, published at Cape Island, New Jersey, states that the snow-storm of the 18th instant was the severest for twenty-five years, and the tide was unusually high, covering the floor of one dwelling-house to the depth of twelve or fourteen inches. Many of the bath-houses were demolished, some were upset, and others drifted away, and several out-buildings were dismantled and scattered to the winds.

THE SOUTH GRINDING ITS OWN ICE.—In nearly all parts of the South the people are harvesting ice, with the expectation that no supply will be needed from the North next summer. It has been uncommonly cold at the South this season. The ice in the harbor of Norfolk is reported to be from 8 to 10 inches thick.

LAKE ERIE IN WINTER.—Lake Erie is now one vast field of ice, it is stated, as far as the eye can reach, from shore to shore. Along the shore the ice is fine, smooth, and solid, and covered at all practicable hours with troops of skaters, while further away it is covered with a snowy crust, upon which skaters never venture.

THIRTY GIRLS.—The Lowell (Massachusetts) factory operatives have \$1,101,725 deposited in the city institutions for savings in that city. The number of depositors is 4,413, which gives an average of nearly \$225 to each operative. This shows what frugality and a proper provision for the future may effect.

DEATH.—Hon. Wm. Berry, State treasurer of New Hampshire, died at Concord on Friday. He was about sixty years of age, and formerly lived at Barnstead.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.—It is said that the freight on this great highway to and from the West has increased recently to such an extent that, last Sunday, the company was compelled to violate their own excellent arrangement of not running freight trains on the Sabbath. Over two hundred burden cars reached Baltimore, Md., from the West on that day.

HIGH PRICES.—The Hinds county (Miss.) Gazette learns that at Brownville, in that county, on the 1st instant, negro men (field-hands) hired for \$300 each per annum!

FROZEN OVER.—The Tennessee river is frozen over at the mouth of Chattanooga creek.

OUR HORSES IN ENGLAND.—So far from Lecompte being broken down in consequence of severe training, he has not yet been put in training in England. We doubt if Prioress is ailing, although she may be, but not seriously. No challenge has ever been offered by Mr. Ten Broeck, nor has any person been authorized by him to challenge all England, or any part of it. Mr. Ten Broeck is a gentleman of means, and is possessed of sound judgment in racing matters. He will make himself thoroughly acquainted with the English system of racing, and will, doubtless, try his horses in some of the stakes—Goodwood first, probably. If England wishes a further trial, and Mr. Ten Broeck thinks he has a fair chance for his money, he will accommodate Johnny Bull.—*Spirit of the Times.*

IMMERSION IN THE ALLEGHENY.—Yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock, a very cheering scene was witnessed on the Allegheny river just below the St. Clair-street bridge. The congregation of the Church of the Disciples had assembled on the ice to witness the immersion of three of the sisters; for which purpose a hole was cut in the ice, when the ceremony was performed by the pastor of the flock. The immersion was entire and complete; and, after a prayer was said, the congregation repaired to warmer quarters.

THE GREAT SNOW-STORM IN ENGLAND.—The London Times of January 1st contains the following particulars of a terrible snow-storm experienced on the moors of Yorkshire, England:

"The moors of Yorkshire have been visited for the past few days by one of the most severe storms of wind and