

defended by five hundred men under the command of General BOSQUET. At the first fire the treacherous natives abandoned WALKER to a man, and he found himself with his 56 Californians exposed to the assault of a force ten times his number. With his customary sagacity, his first movement was to take possession of a heap of ruins which formed an excellent breastwork for the defence of his company. "Walking Billy," for such is the soubriquet his indefatigable pedestrianism achieved for him—took the place of a dozen men himself. Standing in the window of the ruin, the men loaded and passed their rifles up to him. His aim was like the stroke of fate—he missed but one man during the day? As for General BOSQUET, he still carries a bullet in his left leg as a proof of the accuracy of "Walking Billy's" aim. He aimed for the knee-joint, and struck an inch and a half above,—he wished to maim, but not to kill, the commander of the enemy.

The fight lasted six hours, during which there were seven Americans killed and eight left wounded on the field. BOSQUET lost in all about one hundred and thirty. The wounded men were afterwards burned to death by the command of CHOMORRA! WALKER was enabled to retreat in good order, and returned to Realejo, from which place he moved over to San Juan, on the Pacific. In September his force consisted of 48 Americans and 160 faithful natives. With this he attacked General GUARDIOLA at Virgin Bay, whom he succeeded in routing with a severe loss, and captured a large quantity of cannon, small arms and ammunition. Incited to further action by his successes, he embarked on the 12th of October for Granada, where he landed about three miles northward of the landing-place. With half the men he entered the city by the Lake Road, while Col. SKERRIT, with the remaining troops, forced a passage through the ruined Convent of San Francisco. There was but little blood shed in the capture of the Citadel. President ESTRADA—who had succeeded CHOMORRA, deceased in March, 1855—quitted the city, with his entire Cabinet, at very short notice, and fled to Honduras, where he is now residing. The noble and patriotic CASTILLO having died in September of cholera, PATRICIO RIVAS was chosen by the delegates of the people as President of the Provincial Republic, and he has continued to occupy that office with a dignified consistency satisfactory to all parties. MACGREGOR and CORRAL, traitors, differing only in the details of individual crime, received the just reward of their treachery in an ignominious death—but the great masses of the honest and loyal people met with the greatest kindness and consideration at the hands of the conquerors.

THE GOLD MINES OF CHONTALES.

All of Spanish America is proverbial for its mineral wealth. It was lust for gold that brought the Spanish *Conquistadores* to these shores. They were successful in their search. The ruins of the cities they founded bear witness to the wealth and grandeur of a people that has almost passed away. The comparative ease with which they reached the end of their expeditions was the prime cause of their decay. Their object was, like many of the voyagers of those days, to bedeck themselves with the spoils of conquest, to make a name for personal pomp and opulence, to establish dynasties and give renown to the Spanish name. In this they succeeded. They never sought to enrich and beautify the country of their adoption by any broad and liberal system of agriculture; manufactures engaged not their attention; the most oppressive restrictions were placed upon their intercourse with other nations, from the apprehension that others might see and court their rich possessions; and therefore the state languished and the race decayed.

But a new era has dawned. In the progress of events a more enlightened policy has prevailed. The sons of the country awake, at last, to a consideration of its true interests, and have invited to their aid, in the development of its riches, their brothers of the North. I do not think with Sir WALTER RALEIGH, in his narrative of voyages to Guiana, that "where there is store of gold it is needless to remember other commodities." But, as many of the first comers will undoubtedly give their attention to mining, I desire to inform them, as much as I am able, of the prospects in this branch of industry.

During the past week I have had the pleasure of conversing with a gentleman direct from Chontales; he had with him some specimens of the gold as crushed and separated by the natives—which is done by hand; it contained some silver alloy, and, I am told, averaged at the mint from fourteen and a half to fourteen seven-eighths dollars to the ounce. He also informed me of the discovery of rich washings near the head-waters of the Blufields and Indian Rivers, where parties were getting out from one to two ounces per day; he, himself, broke up seventy-five pounds of the quartz, which is rotten and easily crushed by hand, and obtained therefrom two and a half ounces of gold. The washed gold is of a superior quality; what I have seen of it was mixed with black sand. There are known to be many very valuable mines not yet announced, and indeed, it is believed that the deposit of gold is general throughout the entire range of mountains connecting with the rich mines of Honduras; there are likewise, doubtless, a proportional number of placer diggings, which will be discovered and worked as soon as Californians get in.

The above, which is the substance of the information communicated by the gentleman above alluded to, who has since returned to the mines to buy gold, is confirmed by all with whom we have spoken on the subject. There are also silver mines known to be very valuable in the same district. Most of these were worked by the old Spaniards, but are now abandoned; the mouths are clogged up with piles of stones overgrown with weeds and bushes. It is reported by the Indians that the mines were abandoned in consequence of Indian incursions, and, that bars of silver are buried in their mouths; but the devil keeps a constant watch over it and no one can take it away.

Living is cheap in the Chontales and Segovia districts; cattle and game, such as deer, wild hog, wild turkeys, quail and woodcock, abound. In the Indian pueblos there is plenty of corn, chickens, rice, beans, chocolate, and in the mountain streams are found trout of a delicate flavor. The climate is represented as delightful, the temperature of the mountains and high table land being cool and invigorating. Excellent water can be obtained at short intervals. In fine, the mining district appears to be one of those patriarchal spots where the men of old lived in luxurious plenty, like Abraham and Lot, "very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."

E. H.

NICARAGUA AND THE FILLIBUSTERS.

Position of General Walker—Mr. Edmund Randolph and the Transit Company—A Sketch of the Walker Campaign—The Gold Mines, &c.

Special Correspondence of the N. Y. Daily Times

GRANADA, Sunday, March 2, 1856.

I can assure you that the attacks which have appeared in many of the newspapers in the States on General WALKER, fall perfectly harmless here. I doubt even if the illustrious fillibuster takes the trouble to read them. Every one here, in and out of the army, will bear me out in saying that his course in Nicaragua has been noble, generous and honorable, alike to the soldier and civilian. The more intelligent of the native population would view his departure from the Republic at this time as the direst calamity that could possibly befall them. When the leading spirits of the Democratic Party invited the assistance of General WALKER, it was that a stop might be put to those bitter civil heart burnings; that peace and quiet might once more reign throughout the State. The treaty of the 23rd of October last secured these blessings, and all is now as placid and calm with the people as is the bosom of the beautiful lake which laves the threshold of the city.

MR. EDMUND RANDOLPH.

This gentleman has figured so conspicuously in the late *coup d'état* of General WALKER, that a brief allusion to him may not be uninteresting. He is a Virginian by birth, but resided for many years in California, where he became acquainted with plain Mr. WALKER, who was then engaged in editing a paper. He was one of the original fifty-six who came down to Realejo, in the brig *Vesta*, and afterwards fought his way through the subsequent campaign, so brief and eventful. He does not aspire to be a military man, his ambition being limited to business pursuits. Hence the desire on the part of his friend the General to give him a position adapted to his talents and capacity, which he has effected in placing the business of the Transit Company in his hands. In person, Mr. RANDOLPH is an agreeable looking gentleman, of about thirty years of age, social and dignified in manner. He is regarded as the right-hand man of General WALKER, and is always admitted to his counsels and confidence.

THE CAMPAIGN IN NICARAGUA.

As yet the public know but little of the events which preceded the advent of Gen. WALKER in the State, and even less of the details of the campaign. For more than thirty years has this garden spot of the world been the scene of internal commotion. Towns and cities often desolated—villages and haciendas burned or sacked, while the probably well-meaning and peacefully disposed inhabitants were forced either to fly their native country or take to the fastnesses of the mountains. The civil war in Nicaragua has been terrible, and one who has not visited the scenes of its battle fields has no conception of the amount of devastation to be witnessed. Granada, it is computed, once contained thirty thousand inhabitants, with a much larger number of buildings than is now to be found within its limits. To-day there are not six thousand people living in the town, while two-thirds of the former City—including the handsomest and most wealthy portions—lies one vast pile of ruins. Churches and stately edifices that have withstood the onslaught of the enemy's cannon, bear upon their bruised fronts letters so indelibly impressed that "he who runs may read" the tales of former havoc.

There has always existed a feud between the Liberal, or Democratic, and Oligarchical Parties. The latter, comprising the wealthy portion of the population, assumed to control the masses in all political affairs, and to form, in fact, a privileged or exclusive class. Constant revolutions attested the discontent of the majority of these mixed races, in which are blended the worst characteristics of the Indian, the Spaniard and the Negro, with but few of their redeeming traits. The accession of CHOMORRA, in 1852, was the result of a protracted struggle, in which the aristocratic *Serviles* were successful. Leon, although then swayed by a Democratic majority, was too jealous of her sister city, Granada, to lend her any assistance. In April of 1854, President CHOMORRA violated the Constitution of 1838, by exiling CASTILLO, JEREZ, PINEDA, GURRERO, ZAPATO, and others of the Democratic Party. This resulted in a revolution. On the 26th of May, in that year, General JEREZ, with forty-four men, attacked and routed a large body of the Chomorrists faction. The people of Leon instantly raised 700 men, and proclaimed in favor of JEREZ the entire State Democratic army. With this army he invaded Granada, and succeeded in entering the city. The plaza was, however, defended by President CHOMORRA, with 300 men, the citadel being well fortified with cannon, small arms and ammunition. The greater troop of the city was at this time occupied by the troops of JEREZ, and the entire State of Nicaragua declared in his favor. But owing to the misconduct of his officers and men the inhabitants, previously well disposed, rose in a mass against him, and he was driven from the city, after losing a vast number of his men.

Returning to Leon, CASTILLO, who had previously been elected President of the Republic by the Democrats, advised him to make overtures to Colonel WALKER, who had then just returned from his fillibustering expedition to Sonora. The proposals of the Government of Nicaragua were accepted by Mr. WALKER, and he immediately sailed in the brig *Vesta*, with 55 men, for Realejo. His first movement was to march upon Port Biito, near San Juan del Sur, where his little band was strengthened by the accession of about 200 natives. Gen. MUNOZ, through a feeling of jealousy to WALKER, gave instructions to his officers to draw their men off the moment they came into action. The first action took place at Rivas, a large town situated upon Lake Nicaragua, which was then