

# VERY INTERESTING FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.

## ARRIVAL OF THE TENNESSEE.

### Progress of the Nicaraguan War.

### Walker Victorious at San Juan del Sud—Unsuccessful at Massaya.

### DESTRUCTION OF GRANADA.

### Walker Fortifying Himself at Virgin Bay.

### DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF HIS TROOPS.

### Fierce Naval Engagement.

### EXPLOSION OF A COSTA RICAN BRIG.

The steamship *Tennessee*, Capt. THOMAS TURNER, arrived yesterday morning from San Juan del Norte, at Key West, with the passengers and specie which left California per steamship *Orizaba*, Nov. 20.

From Nicaragua we learn that Gen. WALKER has fought several successful battles since the last dates.

Having found it necessary to evacuate Granada on account of the sickness which prevails so extensively there among the white residents, he determined to burn the place that it might not be again fortified by the enemy. He had removed the sick and wounded to the island of Ometepe, and was awaiting the arrival of the new recruits at Virgin Bay to attack Rivas, having left Gen. HENNINGSEN to remove the stores, and finish the destruction of Granada.

On the 23d of November a most brilliant naval engagement took place in the harbor of San Juan del Sur, between the Nicaraguan schooner *Granada*, of 2 six-pounders and 28 men, Lieut. C. J. FAYSAUX commanding, and the Costa Rican brig *Eleventh of April*, formerly American brig *Dover*, of 6 nine-pounders and 114 men, well armed with Minié rifles.

The battle lasted two hours, when a shot from the schooner struck the magazine of the brig and caused an explosion. Lieut. FAYSAUX immediately lowered his boats and picked up 40 of her crew, many of whom were terribly burned. Among the rescued were the captain, second lieutenant and chaplain of the brig. She had on board a large supply of stores and ammunition, and \$25,000 for the Allied army.

The *Tennessee* left in the harbor of San Juan, Dec. 5, H. B. M. Line of battle ship *Imperieuse*; sloop-of-war *Archer* and *Cossack*; gun-boats, *Victor* and *Intrepid*; British Mail steamer *Teviot*, and American schooners *Onkika* and *Peerless*.

#### SPECIE LIST.

C. Morgan & Co.	\$120,810	Petrillo & Echeverra	\$1,977
Metropolitan Bank.	140,600	C. Durand	1,200
G. H. Wines & Co.	2,900		
Total			\$266,888

#### Exciting Details of Recent Events.

CAPTURE OF SAN JUAN DEL SUD BY THE COSTA RICANS—ATTACK BY GEN. HORNSLEY—BATTLES AT VIRGIN BAY—WALKER AT MASSAYA AND COMPELLED TO RETREAT—HIS POSITION AT VIRGIN BAY—BURNING OF GRANADA—NAVAL ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN A COSTA RICAN BRIG AND A NICARAGUAN SCHOONER—EXPLOSION OF THE BRIG.

The following detailed account of General WALKER's movements in Nicaragua is furnished our telegraphic agent by Mr. G. H. ROZET, U. S. Inspector of Customs at San Juan del Sud:

Nov. 7—3 o'clock P. M.—The Costa Rican Army, under General CANA, numbering about 500, entered San Juan del Sud and took possession of the town. They encamped about four miles out on the mountain, where they erected strong barricades in well selected positions.

On the 8th they were reinforced by about 300 Guatemalians.

On the 9th, General HORNSLEY, who was stationed at Virgin Bay, attacked the first barricade, from which he had drove the enemy by a flank movement. He had about two hundred and fifty men with him, and, had he followed up his success, he could have driven them before him like sheep, but his orders to keep possession of Virgin Bay were imperative, and he had to return to that place, fearing an attack in his absence from other portions of the enemy stationed in that vicinity.

The number of the enemy killed and wounded in his fight was about fifty.

On the 12th, Gen. WALKER arrived at Virgin Bay from Granada, and, with two hundred and fifty men drove the enemy from their barricades to San Juan del Sud, from whence they fled to Rivas.

Few of the enemy were killed in this fight, the battle of a few days previous having so completely intimidated them that they fled on WALKER's approach with but little resistance.

On the morning of the 13th Gen. WALKER returned to Virgin Bay, leaving 175 men to garrison San Juan del Sud.

On the 15th WALKER marched from Granada to Massaya. When in the vicinity of Massaya he received intelligence that HERZ had left for Rivas, at the head of 700 men. Col. JACQUES at the head of 250 men was immediately dispatched to protect the Isthmus, which was deemed to be in danger. On his arrival at Virgin Bay he immediately threw up barricades around the town, made from wood cut for the use of the Company's steamers.

After two and a half days' fighting, WALKER abandoned Massaya, his force not being sufficient to take the place. He retired upon Granada. He left on the 19th, with his staff, for Virgin Bay; sending most of the sick, with women and children, to the island of Ometepe, for safety.

Having determined to burn and destroy Granada, he left the 1st Rifles and 2d Infantry to accomplish this purpose, and the result had not been heard at Virgin Bay when the steamer left for San Juan del Sud. General WALKER was anxiously awaiting recruits to attack RIVAS.

On the 23d of November a most brilliant naval engagement took place between the Nicaraguan schooner-of-war *Granada*, of 70 tons, carrying two six-pound cannon and 28 men under C. J. FAYSAUX, Lieutenant-Commanding, and the Costa Rican brig-of-war *Eleventh April*, 214 tons, carrying six nine-pound cannon, with 114 men, all well armed with Minié rifles, &c.

The engagement lasted over two hours, when a shot struck the brig in the stern, carrying it away and causing her magazine to explode.

Lieut. FAYSAUX immediately sent off his boats to rescue the sufferers, and succeeded in taking from the water and off the brig before she sunk, 44 persons whom he brought into San Juan del Sud, the following morning; 13 of them were horribly burned, among whom were the captain, second mate, padre, second lieutenant, and not more than four of them will live.

The balance of the prisoners were sent by order of Gen. WALKER to Virgin Bay, where, with a few exceptions, they were liberated. Too much praise cannot be awarded to FAYSAUX for his gallant achievement, and the humanity displayed in his endeavors to save life, regardless of securing the prize or the sunk. FAYSAUX lost two men and had three wounded. The Costa Rican brig had ninety riflemen on board, with a large amount of clothing for her army, provisions, and \$25,000 in specie.

**Deplorable Condition of Gen. Walker's Army—Ravages of Disease.**

We have conversed with Mr. PETER TURNER, of Michigan, passenger by the *Tennessee*, from San Juan, who has given us some interesting information concerning the actual condition of Gen. WALKER's men, and their capabilities for resisting the formidable combination made against their chief. It seems that a large number of passengers left San Francisco on the 20th of November, in the *Orizaba*, for New-York, via Nicaragua. On board was a company of about 100 men, who had been enlisted in San Francisco, for Gen. WALKER's service, by Capt. BRADLEY, of the Nicaraguan Army. On arriving at the Isthmus, and witnessing the destitute condition of the renowned liberating army and its gloomy prospects, they would fain have turned back or passed on to New-York, but were compelled by the circumstances of the case to "fall in" reluctantly. Mr. TURNER states that a number of men of Gen. WALKER's army were conveyed with the transit passengers in the same boat from San Juan del Sud to Virgin Bay, and that their condition excited the sympathy and commiseration of all who beheld them. Most of them were barefooted, and what garments they had on were worn t-

shreds. They were obliged to feed wholly on fresh beef, having scarcely any vegetables and without a single loaf of bread. An ounce of flour had not been seen among them for more than two weeks previous to the departure of the *Tennessee*. The soldiers were unanimous in the opinion that if no sufficient reinforcements of men, and particularly of provisions, should arrive within the space of two or three weeks, Gen. WALKER would be compelled to evacuate the country.

Mr. TURNER further states that at the time the *Tennessee* left Virgin Bay, Gen. WALKER was engaged in conveying to his army at Granada a supply of provisions which he had placed on board one of the lake steamers, then in his possession. The bulk of his forces were at Granada, and were mostly surrounded by the Costa Ricans. WALKER's men had burned down the greater part of the town of Granada, reserving only a certain number of buildings for their own accommodation. One very unfortunate circumstance for WALKER was, that he had not men enough to occupy and defend a place after he had taken it, and hence he was driven from pillar to post, less by the enemy than by causes over which he had no control. But a foe with which Gen. WALKER has to contend, far more formidable and destructive than the Costa Ricans, and all the combined forces of Central America, is sickness. For some time anterior to the sailing of the *Tennessee*, disease was thinning his ranks at the rate of ten or twelve a day. Hundreds of those who have gone to Nicaragua, especially from this latitude, have fallen untimely victims to cholera and the fevers of the country. Mr. TURNER relates that among WALKER's troops he saw numbers of emaciated beings, just recovering from severe attacks of fever, and likely to succumb if deprived much longer of wholesome diet. Altogether our informant was of opinion that WALKER's case was one of great extremity; and unless more fortunate than anticipated, he would not be able to hold out much longer.

#### Experiences of an Escaped Drummer Boy from Walker's Army.

ARMY QUARTERS—GREAT MORTALITY—WRETCHED FARE—FIGHTING IN GRANADA—CAPTURE OF THE BARRICADES AT VIRGIN BAY—BATTLE AT MASSAYA—DESTRUCTION OF GRANADA.

Upon the arrival of the *Tennessee*, one of our Reporters, learning that one or more of WALKER's men had been landed at Quarantine, proceeded to Staten Island for the purpose, if possible, of hearing the statement of persons directly from the stirring scenes now passing in Nicaragua. Through the politeness of Dr. HARRIS he was conducted to one of the Wards of the Hospital, where he was introduced to a young man who, he was told, was the only person belonging to General WALKER's army that had been landed from the *Tennessee*.

Young ACKER was sitting close to a hot stove, evidently trying to recover from the effects of the atmosphere which had pierced his attenuated form. His whole appearance gave evidence of the hardships and sufferings through which he has passed, and excited emotions of pity and commiseration for his youth and his misfortunes. His flesh was wasted and his countenance cadaverous and haggard from disease and want, and his wardrobe altogether too scanty for the rigors of the season. Young ACKER possesses an intelligent face and mild and pleasing eye. We give his narrative very much in his own words, as it was delivered in answer to questions put to him: "My name is ROBERT ACKER; I am a native of New-York City, and fifteen years old; my father and mother are dead; I have a brother living in the City; I was a drummer in Gen. WALKER's army; learned to drum with a boy in Williamsburg; left New-York in the steamer *Tennessee*, about three months ago; I had been driving a milk wagon in the City, and was told by the men who were getting recruits for Gen. WALKER that boys could get three dollars a day there, and men five and six dollars; a free passage was offered me to Nicaragua, and when we were all together there were about 250; they were mostly New-York boys and from the ages of fifteen to thirty—rather hard cases; they were mostly drunk when they came on board, and drank all they could get on the passage; I do not drink; on the steamer we were fed on salt beef and pork, potatoes, hard bread and coffee, and were well enough satisfied with the fare.

Upon landing at San Juan we proceeded up the river in a flat-boat to General WALKER's head-quarters at Granada; we arrived late in the evening of the second day, and General WALKER came out and reviewed us the same night; I was then in good health, and pleased with the appearance of the country and things in general; we found the troops living in the native houses, which were used as barracks; the houses are built of turf, (adobe,) of one story, and covered with tiles; they were comfortable; there were about nine hundred at Granada, including our company, and exclusive of natives about the camp; saw General WALKER frequently busy among his troops.

During the six weeks we remained at Granada, about thirty of our company died, mostly of chills and fever; and at the end of three months, nearly all our company had died; they did not drink much, for though there was plenty of *aguadiente*, they had no money to pay for it. The food served to the soldiers at Granada was fresh beef and coffee; we had no salt or bread; I could eat but little of it, and would go hungry till I could stand it no longer, and then try it again; the men soon became weakened by their fare and by sickness, and seemed discouraged at the prospects before them.

The first battle was at Leon, about a day's journey from Granada. The forces, about one thousand strong, started at 10 o'clock in the morning, under General WALKER, and arrived about 7 in the evening. I went ahead as drummer, and there was another behind; this was all the music we had. We laid down in the grass, when we got to Leon, and in about half an hour the enemy charged upon us, before we had fired a gun, but as we rose up they "left." Col. MARKAM was with the forces. The next morning they charged on us again; we fired a shell into their ranks when they were about an eighth of a mile off, and when the smoke of the guns had cleared away there was none of the enemy in sight; another shot was fired, and the rifles rushed in and took possession of the small plaza; General HORNSBY then, with the infantry, went to the large plaza, but after firing a few shots retreated; the enemy took possession of the houses and fired upon our troops until 1 o'clock in the morning, when they vacated the town and went to Granada. At 2 o'clock our forces started after them, and on the way we met four hundred of the enemy who, on seeing our superior numbers, fled at our approach. We reached Granada at 9 o'clock that morning, and entered the place playing Yankee Doodle. We continued the fighting for an hour, when the enemy again left for Leon, General WALKER holding the town; but we were roused up every ten minutes with the alarm that the enemy were coming.

Our next movement was when we crossed the Lake to Rivas with a portion of the troops. Here we met about 600 of the native forces; our number was about 150.

We fought two hours, and took their barricade; we then burnt their tents along the road; at the five-mile house we got some corn bread and some beef. The natives have muskets, with flint locks, and their matchetae, (a long knife,) but we could never get near enough to them for them to use their knives. Our men had muskets with percussion locks, rifles and revolvers; and each person also had a bowie-knife in his belt. We were then recruited by two companies under Gen. WALKER, and after some further fighting a heavy rain came on. We had no tents, but each man had a blanket, and we slept on the ground; the men soon grew sick with chills, and we retreated to Massaya."

ACKER gives the narrative of the fight at Massaya in which he participated in much the same unsophisticated manner as the foregoing, confirming the main facts as given by others. He seemed disposed to put as good a face as possible upon the state of things in Nicaragua, but he evidently thinks the truth is hard enough. He had good clothing which was destroyed when Granada was burned. He became so sick as to be disabled from duty, and on three several occasions asked General WALKER to allow him to go home, but was always refused, WALKER saying he could not pay the passage of people to Nicaragua, and get no service out of them;—said he, "I wish to get service out of you, yet."

ACKER finally availed himself of the passing of the *Tennessee* passengers to escape with them—the passengers kindly assisting him to get home. The general opinion prevails among the people of the Isthmus that General WALKER's position is getting desperate and that he cannot hold out much longer against the great numbers combined against him.