

Reply to the Official Letter of Don Fermín Ferrer, Minister from Nicaragua.
To the Editor of the New-York Daily Times:

The junta of Walkerites at present in our City took a much longer time than usual to the manufacture of the "reply" which appears in your columns this morning, over the signature of Don FERMÍN FERRER.

That it was not actually written by that gentleman I am well assured; and that its purport was imperfectly, if not falsely conveyed to him when his signature was obtained, I have strong grounds to hope. Persons do not willingly provoke contrasts which they know must be unfavorable to themselves; nor would any one having pretensions to social eminence, and claiming a position of grave responsibility, deliberately make statements which could only be introduced with propriety into one of JOHN BROUGHAM'S burlesques. It was not friendly of Gen. CAZNEAU to place the unsuspicious Don FERMÍN in a position so intrinsically false; and though I can well imagine the roars of laughter with which the concocters of that reply hailed the conclusion of each paragraph in the official travesty, still the joke—though of the raciest for those in the secret—becomes a very serious and embarrassing fact to the present representative of Nicaragua, when it has thus been made public at his expense. You will admit, Sir, I think, that nothing in "Po-ca-hon-tas," as rendered in the Bowery or at Wallack's, can belong more purely to the school of broad burlesque than does the following extract from the letter which Don FERMÍN was induced to sign:

"The masses of Nicaragua wearied with the losses and exhaustion of a third of a century of civil wars accept with satisfaction the policy of the Government which their suffrages have placed in power. They perceive in it the elements of stability and advancement which they so much desire, and for which most of their neighbors sigh in vain. The industrial classes begin to breathe freely, under a system which relieves them from forced military service, and gives them space and liberty to cultivate their fertile soil, work their rich mines, and take a more active part in the trade and navigation that naturally belong to their favorable position."

It would be useless to italicise the rollicking extravagance of caricature which pervades these bombastic assertions. It is not denied by Don FERMÍN that the only votes which WALKER received at the illegal election which he forced upon the people at the bayonet's point, were those of his own soldiers and camp-followers in the city of Granada; nor does he deny that Wm. WALKER proclaimed himself President before the votes from the departments of Leon and Chinandega, (which were all in favor of Don PATRICIO RIVAS,) either were or could be heard from. He also shurs over the point that (as in our own country) the Constitution of Nicaragua forbids any foreigner to hold the office of Chief Magistrate. He makes a dreamy allusion to the services of LAFAYETTE—but to complete the parable, he should prove that the French Marquis, at the head of 1,200 Parisian gamins, proclaimed himself President of the United States, levied war against GEORGE WASHINGTON and the Federal Congress, caused JOHN ADAMS to be butchered in cold blood, and attempted to open relations with foreign powers as the *de facto* Government of America, while shut up within the walls of some plundered and famine-stricken city on the southern border of Lake Erie! Don FERMÍN does not deny that the whole military force of Nicaragua is arrayed against the foreign adventurer whose minister he has the dangerous honor to be. According to WALKER'S own organ, the *Nicaraguense*, there are eleven hundred native Nicaraguans under arms for Don PATRICIO RIVAS, while not so much as a corporal's guard of the "yellow skins," (the phrase is WALKER'S Aide-de-Camp's) can be mustered on the Plaza of Granada. They have been "relieved from military service"—in other words, he dares not trust one of them with a musket, lest it should be leveled against the author of their latest and greatest disasters! And then, how exquisite, when we think of it, (for this wit is of the dry order, which requires to be rolled over in the mouth several times before we perceive its peculiar flavor,)—how exquisite is the rallery with which he declares that the natives have now both "space and liberty to cultivate their fertile soil, work their rich mines, and take a more active part in trade and navigation!"

They have "space," because WALKER is hopelessly shut up in Granada, and rules just as much of the soil as can be covered by his soldiers' feet. They have "liberty" to dig, or mine, or navigate; but, with characteristic ingratitude, he should have added, they fail to avail themselves of these most noble opportunities—for they have all taken up arms against their "liberator," and at last accounts had not left him even so much as a spirit-pan over which to heat his coffee!

Don FERMÍN pays the perceptive faculties of his countrymen a compliment which they scarcely deserve. Nothing short of the second-sight of ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS, or the Misses FISH, the Spiritualists, could "perceive the elements of stability" in a Government conducted by a man who has estranged every friend, embittered every enemy, exhausted his resources both at home and abroad, made his name a proverbial synonym for treachery, and who is now shut up, closely besieged and cut off from all resources, in a city which, at this season of the year, is a deadly pest-house even to the native population.*

I am more courteous to Don FERMÍN than he has been to me, and it is my wish to maintain that advantage. He more than hints that I am one of those whose "crimes and misconduct in Nicaragua had rendered it impossible for them to remain in that country, and who are now vindictively using the freedom of the American press," and so forth. This is a sweeping charge, and one which no gentleman should make against persons entirely unknown to him:—if he had known me, it could not, except as a deliberate falsehood, have been insinuated. For, unless General WALKER has imitated the example of his illustrious prototype, Jack Cade, and made it a crime to hold property in Nicaragua, and to be largely interested in the true welfare of that State, I am innocent of any other offence, and were I inclined to retaliate on Don FERMÍN, there is one little luncheon extract which might be turned to a most dangerous use. I will use it, however, only in its legitimate and public sense, and forbear those private comments with which it could be made to sting.

Don MARIANO SALASAR remained true to the legal and Constitutional Government of his country. Having befriended WALKER with purse and arm and tongue and pen longer than any other of the native leaders, he was at length forced to choose between the foreign dictatorship which WALKER sought to impose by military force, and the Constitutional Government of Nicaragua as represented in the authority of PATRICIO RIVAS. He may not have loved WALKER less—but he loved his country more; and that noble patriotism was the crime of "treason" for which he was butchered in cold blood by WALKER's order.

Don FERMÍN FERRER is a native Nicaraguan, and at present represents (though his representation has never been accepted,) a Government for Nicaragua in which no single native except himself is even supposed to have the slightest influence! He—a native of a Central American State—represents 1,200 German, Irish, French and American filibusters, who claim through WALKER to be the supreme rulers and owners of a country, the name of which, two years ago, the majority of these self-dubbed conquerors had never so much as heard of;—while against them, are arrayed from sympathy the whole native military forces of that State and the forces of all such neighboring States as can spare a man to do battle for the common cause!

Keep these two foregoing paragraphs in view, and then ask was it kind of Gen. CAZNEAU to put such a paragraph as the following into Don FERMÍN'S mouth?

"Let those who condemn the present Government of Nicaragua decide which have the best claim on public confidence: those who have faithfully labored to secure her domestic tranquillity and development, and who have valiantly defended her soil and sovereignty from foreign invaders—or those who have instigated her enemies to attack these precious rights with fire and sword."

This contrast needs no italics or small capitals to aggravate its damaging and deadly force. I question even whether the private comments, before alluded to, could increase the bitterness of the sting.

Don FERMÍN FERRER is made to allege—and this is one of the points which assures me that the letter could not possibly have been read by him before signature—that, after WALKER'S first ridiculous assault on Rivas and consequent defeat, "MARIANO SALASAR abandoned his country and her cause and retired to Costa Rica, with his whole family;" and further, that SALASAR did not return to Nicaragua until after he had "heard, at his retreat in Punta Arenas, in the State of Costa Rica, of the triumph of Gen. WALKER at Granada, the execution of CORRAL and the up-

*To remain in Granada through the months of December and January is more even than the natives dare attempt. After the termination of the rainy season in November, the climate for the next sixty days is worse than that of Sierra Leone, in Africa.

pointment of PATRICIO RIVAS to the Provisional Presidency. Now the fact is, that, in consequence of WALKER'S dreadful blunder at Rivas, the safety of Don MARIANO SALASAR'S family was put in jeopardy, and he was forced, at a great pecuniary sacrifice, to remove them to the neighboring and neutral Republic of San Salvador. It was in San Salvador that he received WALKER'S letter entreating aid and money. It was from San Salvador he returned to WALKER'S assistance, enabling and planning for that Chief the second successful demonstration at Virgin Bay and the bloodless surprise of Granada. It was to his family in San Salvador (abandoned for WALKER'S sake) he was returning when treacherously captured in Fonseca Bay and shot by WALKER'S brutal order; and it was in San Salvador that his frenzied wife breathed her last a few days after hearing of her noble husband's murder.

Does Don FERMÍN FERRER need any more particulars? Be it remarked that he does not dare to question—does not so much as allude to—the extract from WALKER'S private supplication to SALASAR which I laid before the public through your columns in the letter to which this purports to be a reply. I gave name and date—WALKER'S very words and signature; and yet this advocate, who aspires to defend him, would have us believe he had never so much as seen or heard of the point which forms the head and front of my indictment.

"From those in office here," said WALKER, in that letter, "I can obtain no encouragement—they seem entirely bewildered. Do come and render your advice and assistance, as you are the only man that your country can depend on to deliver it from the incubus that oppresses her." And this—says FERRER—WALKER wrote to one who had "abandoned his country and her cause!" To me it seems that Gen. WALKER would hardly thank his advocate for such a plea; nor does it better the matter when we afterwards told that this same SALASAR, on his return from a traitorous flight, was well received by WALKER, "and appointed Governor of the Western Department with the rank of Brigadier-General."

The reply makes a very lame attempt to mix up the loans made by SALASAR to the State of Nicaragua, with the private loans made by him to Gen. Wm. WALKER. It gives no specific denial to our statements, but asserts in an incoherent way that "the fable of Don MARIANO SALASAR'S pecuniary sacrifices in favor of Gen. WALKER and the cause is a pure invention, like many other statements which the enemies of my country are endeavoring to impose upon the American people."

Now, in the first place, let me say that I am more a friend of Don FERMÍN'S country than he appears to be himself; at least, I take part with the native Government and people of Nicaragua against an indiscriminate banditti of foreigners led by a revolted citizen of the United States, whose avowed object (see his letters to Don DOMINGO GONZALEZ) is the establishment of a military despotism, allied with the tyrannies of Europe, and hostile to the Republican freedom of the land which gave birth to an Arnold before producing him.

In the second place, I repeat that SALASAR furnished the money on which WALKER was originally imported by the Government of President CASTILLO; and if Don FERMÍN FERRER doubts my "anonymous" word, let him ask his present Secretary, who was, at the time these advances were made, a Colonel in the Democratic service, and who knows, as well as any man now living that SALASAR was, not only WALKER'S earliest and staunchest friend, and that his pocket was the treasury into which WALKER dipped when the official treasury had been closed by his proved incompetence at Rivas, but, also, that the same SALASAR was the only dependence the Democratic Party had in the State, and that it was on his resources they commenced the revolution against CHAMORRO.

Senor FERRER cannot surely object to such evidence. I say, let his present Secretary be put under oath; and from such reluctant testimony as he may give, let WALKER'S treatment of SALASAR be judged.

Sir, there is not a particle of doubt in the minds of any persons acquainted with the circumstances, that WALKER'S due bills and acceptances to SALASAR for money privately loaned, were the real and only "bills of indictment" on which that ill-fated gentleman was tried in the Star-Chamber of WALKER'S brain, found guilty on the evidence of WALKER'S fatal memory, and for which he suffered death through the treacherous omnipotence of Wm. WALKER'S will. Don FERMÍN says that "documents fully proving his treason were captured, with him," in Fonseca Bay;—but how happens it, then, that these traitorous "documents" have never been published by the man who is so anxious to stand well in public opinion that he takes his staff-officers from their duty and employs them as "puff-writers" in such papers as will accept their trash? It is utterly absurd to suppose that WALKER would allow himself to lie for an hour under this damnable and damning charge of black ingratitude and murder if he had any documents or even the shadow of any proof in his possession to palliate the horrors of that deed.

Is it not a little remarkable, Sir, that the "anonymous" and "irresponsible" assailants of Gen. WALKER should invariably corroborate what they assert by letters of Wm. WALKER'S own handwriting and admissions from Wm. WALKER'S own *Nicaraguense*; while the official defenders of Wm. WALKER (Don FERMÍN FERRER *et alii*) should invariably depend on general denials of these charges or scurrilous invectives against the character and veracity of accusers whose names they confess they do not know!

To me it seems odd a contradiction, and may doubtless seem odd to the public also.

I assert without fear of contradiction that WALKER'S peculiar temper gives gratitude a fatal form. Like the man mentioned in one of Dr. JOHNSON'S famous paradoxes, "He can never forgive a benefit." It was so with SALASAR, who died because he had lent him all his fortune: it was so with the Transit Company whose property he seized because they had befriended him: it is so with Gen. GONZALEZ who now holds WALKER'S obligations for a very large amount: it is so with Mr. OAKSMITH who did more for WALKER than any other Minister ever did, and whose fortune is at present very seriously embarrassed by those sacrifices which resulted in his curt and peremptory recall: it was so with Mr. BYRON COLE: it was so with many others who will be mentioned when necessary—and it will be so, to the end of the chapter, with every confiding fool who trusts his life and prospects to the keeping of a man whose only guide-star is the hope of self-aggrandizement and autocratic sway.

The recruit who imports on his back a clean shirt into Nicaragua, and does himself, or has done for him, (which is more likely,) the dangerous honor of lending that garment to his shirtless chief, will henceforth walk in hourly peril of summary execution; and if I were in that man's shoes,—(supposing him to have only recently arrived and to have shoes,)—I would prefer to escape from the city and take my chance of being shot as a spy by the besieging army of justly irritated natives, rather than remain cooped up in the same cage with him it had been my dangerous privilege to oblige. I would almost as soon have the shirt of Nessus on my back, as my shirt on the General's.

There are many other things I wish to say, and which should be said, but I must postpone them for the present:—many documents which I shall hereafter make use of are at present in Washington and I cannot get them back for some days. But I could not allow a day to pass without pointing out to Don FERMÍN FERRER (whose many good qualities I admire as they deserve,) the very serious error into which he had been betrayed when allowing his name to be appended to such a document as that which appeared in the front columns of your paper yesterday.

THE VOICE OF NICARAGUA.