

AFFAIRS OF NICARAGUA.

Views of a Decided Opponent of the Walker Movement.

Effect of the Dallas Treaty--Rivalry of the Steamboat Kings, &c.

To the Editor of the New-York Daily Times:

Even those prejudiced by their passions against the tenor of my former letters on the secret history of Wm. WALKER, must acknowledge my forbearance in view of those actual misfortunes, for predicting which as inevitable the writer was assailed at the time with every epithet and insinuation not too gross to be inserted in your columns. I cannot expect such to appreciate the charitable motives of my latter silence; it requires some generosity in the losing party to recognize this moderation as a virtue; and I have only referred to the matter at present to assure you that nothing but motives of the gravest interest could impel me to reënter a discussion so distasteful in its incidents, and of which, when time had proved me the better prophet, I took not the least advantage.

No sooner had my first letter on the secret history of the filibusters appeared, than a cloud of objurgants arose—all eager, excited, vindictive, abusive, and suspicious, but not one arriving at the dignity of a logical or argumentative opponent. Some few of these were gentlemen misguided but sincere, who found themselves enlisted under a desperate flag, and clung to it—from a sense of chivalry, for which we honor them—on account of its very desperation. Others of a lower sort brandished paper bowie-knives and revolvers in a style that won the admiration of the corner grocer; they challenged the writer to impossible duels, and seemed to cherish the delusion that this exhibition of cheap valor would be accepted as a full and satisfactory reply to the uncontested facts and documents put forward in my letters. There were yet others of the quasi-official class, who, after a lame defence, which they found untenable, next endeavored to conceal their irrepresible and guilty alarm behind an affectation of official dignity and contempt. It was beneath them, they found out, to argue with a shadow; but this discovery was not made until after the shadow had proved that he knew more than they dared venture to discuss. Any who remember that correspondence will readily individualize the actors in it for whom these observations are intended.

But with them we have done; and with WALKER we have done: for, wholly irrespective of the Dallas-Clarendon treaty to be hereafter noticed, WILLIAM WALKER, as a power in Nicaragua, has long since ceased to exist. The puppet of GEORGE LAW has replaced the puppet of CHARLES MORGAN; and while the wretched original instrument of all the havoc there is retained as titular President—for the sake of such questionable popularity as may still attach to his name, and because he serves as the cloak under which our New-York capitalists have been fighting—while thus retained and made a witness of the ruin provoked by the avarice of his employers and his own mad and bad ambition, the last moves of the desperate game have passed into other hands, and HENNINGSEN, GEORGE LAW's commander-in-chief, is paramount in a camp where there are only soldiers to obey.

Startling as the assertion that Wm. WALKER is virtually deposed may seem to the uninitiated, let them reflect a moment and they will be satisfied, not only of its absolute truth, but that it could not possibly be otherwise. The office of President is a civil one, and there are none in Nicaragua who even pretend to obey the filibuster Government except the soldiers in the camp and the dying in the hospitals. Over these latter, therefore, the Morgan-President may exercise his civil power; but the moment they emerge into active life again, (supposing, *argumenti gratia*, such a case to be possible), that moment the George-Law-Commander can claim them as his own. HENNINGSEN, and a few others of the Law men, have everything as they will. WILLIAM WALKER's name is considered essential to their last faint chance of extrication; and he himself is only not a prisoner in their camp, because his infatuation, now verging towards fatuity, has never hitherto allowed him to make any public expression of his desire to escape. Doubtless if he were to do so, he would be given the same answer or sentence of death he has so often returned to others. The Commander-in-Chief cannot issue any passports. Let it, therefore, be understood by all aspiring recruits that though now, as heretofore, invited out to die for MORGAN's Walker, they will find on their arrival at the nearest point they can attain that it is really GEORGE LAW's Henningesen, in a camp on the other side of the lake, who requires them to do for his proprietor (who really had no use for these old muskets) that trifling favor!

Having incidentally touched upon this matter—the impossibility of effecting a junction with Law's Henningesen—let me briefly notice the reported successes of the reinforcements under LOCKRIDGE, and, accepting these reports as true, point out what yet remains before them. We all know, by sad experience in this business, that the "glorious victories" of one steamer turn out the wretched disasters of the next; but silencing our natural suspicions, let us swallow the accounts transmitted by the filibuster agents, and see what they amount to.

TITUS, ANDERSON and Gen. WHEAT, with a force of four hundred men at the outside (still using their own accounts) had forced Hipp's Point, captured Fort Castillo, and taken possession of two burnt remains of one river steamer, the *J. N. Scott*, lying on the San Juan below Castillo rapids. This report is cunningly worded, and, even if true in its literal sense, conveys a wholly false impression. The fort Castillo taken was a small two-gun battery, erected on a level with the river, across the road leading to the precipitous crag on which the fortress of Castillo stands: this fort was a mere earthen breastwork, and its defenders no doubt fell back into the strong castle on the height, which overlooks the reach of the river and commands it both above and below the rapids. This point was garrisoned by five hundred Costa Ricans; and a tenth of that number, with common resolution, could hold the castle against the whole muster-roll of filibusters, until hunger compelled them to submit. The ascending party could not storm it from its strength; they had no gold, so there is no hope of treachery; they could not starve it out, for the garrison were well provisioned, and the rate of mortality amongst the filibusters—excluding the chances of war—is twenty-five per cent. per month. Common prudence and the fate of those they are endeavoring to reinforce, should teach them not to leave a garrison in their rear and holding the line of supply, lest they, too, should be caught in the same trap with their friends. But prudence is not to be expected here, and we will suppose them to push on. Unless through the very grossest carelessness of the generally vigilant Costa Ricans, they could find no steamer to ascend from above the rapids to the lake. The steamer *John Ogden* was in sight, (so said the filibuster correspondent,) but she, too, no doubt, had been made a fire-ship, like the *Bulwer*, *Morgan*, *Macbuen* and *J. N. Scott*, all smeared with tar and resin and ready to be burned to the water's edge whenever a signal from the castle should announce that the two-gun battery had been captured.

But grant—despite the cheapness of lucifers—that this steamer above the rapids was quietly resigned to them. If the Costa Ricans had fulfilled their intention of raising obstructions across the rapids of Macbuen, further up, and placing a gun battery at Toro—a point of great natural strength a few miles on this side of the entrance of the lake—the ascending party would meet with still further loss and delay, and those acquainted with the climate can imagine what the mortality would be with raw recruits, undergoing all this fatigue and excitement, during their first passage through the land of pestilence. But grant that these obstacles are either surmounted or were never erected; they are now at the entrance of the lake and under the guns of Fort San Carlos—a fortress in excellent order, garrisoned by 800 men, one-third with *Mitú* rifles in pits along the side of the river, and the whole under the command of competent French and German engineers and officers.

It cannot be denied that we are generous; for we have given them a steamer to ascend, and un molested passage through the obstructions of Macbuen and Toro. Let us suppose in addition to this that the steamer escapes the shot of Fort San Carlos, and eve

that the fort is captured? How then will they find themselves? And how do they propose to cross the lake to Virgin Bay, where President MORA, with 1,100 men under General CANAS—a veteran warrior, who has already twice beaten Generous WALKER and HENNINGSEN at St. George and Obraje—is waiting to give them a warm reception?

Generous as we may feel inclined to be, we cannot give them either of the two steamers on the lake—for these are carrying troops and provisions between Chontales and Granada. And yet without one or other, or both of these, all our former generosity is of no avail. The river steamer *John Ogden*, is a mere flat-bottomed scow, top-heavy, and drawing only 18 inches of water; in her, even filibuster desperation could scarcely attempt to cross the squally and tumultuous lake. But suppose—for we are weary of granting these indispensable by-pieces—suppose they do make the attempt and are successful in it, and that President MORA either resigns his fortifications at Virgin Bay, or politely assists the filibusters to land their baggage, arms, ammunition and artillery (the whole being drawn in a donkey cart with two little boys on suite to carry bundles)—suppose all this, and that they have only lost one hundred men on the way by battle, desertion and malaria,—and suppose that the remaining 800 effect a junction with the 250 Law men under HENNINGSEN, we would then have at Rivas a force of less than 600 filibusters, cut off from all supplies, in a country where the average mortality is 25 per cent. a month, and surrounded by enemies at least three times as numerous—those enemies well provisioned and natives of the climate, flushed with success at Masaya, Granada, St. George and Obraje, and constantly receiving, uninterrupted reinforcements from the countries engaged in the Central American league.

This 600, then, so situated, are what is left of the 7,000 men carried to Nicaragua in the different steamers from here and New-Orleans, and swallowed up in that still hungry maelstrom! Five thousand four hundred emigrants from the States have perished there—the happler, in the hot blood of battle; the remainder of disease or their wounds in hospitals where the worm antedates his banquet on mortality and writhes and quivers and lifts up his eyeless head from the still palpitating flesh! Five thousand four hundred men have perished—and to what end? asks shuddering humanity. Did they go there with an aim—an object, ostensible and avowed, and worthy of the sacrifice proposed? Or were they mere incendiaries and pirates, lured on by an indefinite hope of pillage and free quarters, while assisting "the gray-eyed man" (as Padre VILL had it,) to establish a military autocracy, hostile to these United States, hostile to the democratic freedom of the population, and in league with England or France, or any other power that could be induced—through motives of hostility to the United States—to assist Wm. WALKER in establishing and making permanent his assumed dictatorship? Had WALKER any desire to assist the Democratic Party of the country by whom he had been imported? No—for on the first chance he deserted them and made a league with the Chomorristas, through CORRAL, in the hope that they would aid his views of personal aggrandizement. Did he desire to Americanize the country, so that Americans could remove and settle there as readily as they now move out to Michigan or Texas? Most indubitably not, as his bitter expressions of hate against Americans in his private letters to his English Ambassador, Gen. GORTONIA, abundantly revealed. Self-asserting! Americans, accustomed to democratic freedom, were the last men in the world that would be likely to submit to such an irresponsible dictatorship as in those letters he avowed his intention of establishing. Most indubitably not again, because had he wished our people to colonize the country, he must have known that confiscations, robberies, lust, perjury and murder, were neither the means of conciliating the native population, nor the atmosphere of society into which respectable American settlers, with wives and families, would voluntarily plunge. And once again most indubitably not,—for if he had hoped to create a legitimate army for a legitimate purpose, he would not have tolerated the drunkenness, even in his personal staff, to which his worst disasters may be attributed, nor would he have tossed captivities into the stews of Mercer-street, to be thence groped out by whomsoever could induce two of the fair and frail ones to accompany his fortunes.

WALKER's object then was not to Americanize the country, and yet five thousand four hundred Americans have perished there for whatever was. Would you know the cause of this? The means by which this hideous waste of human life, and hope and national energy was rendered possible? Then turn your eyes from WALKER and fix them nearer home; look into three of our down-town counting houses and you will see three men placing the mere chance of profit in one scale, and the lives or five thousand four hundred human beings—their equals and perhaps superiors—in the other,—and with the flip of a pen, the chance goes down (it is the heaviest in their eyes) and the blood ascends in the other scale to cry to heaven for vengeance. Yes, gentlemen capitalists, your millions have long arms: they have reached to Nicaragua and moved their several puppets on the smoking board. You have made the personal ambition and fatuity of WALKER subservient to your hopes of gain. You have nourished that fatal passion in him—your steamers carried free the thousands for his holocaust—you took possession of the telegraphs for lying victories—you corrupted the fountains through which our press draws information—you have desolated a generous country, rolled back the tide of American progress there for a dozen years, and nearly embroiled us in a great foreign war. But as sure as a just God lives, when the secret history of this stock-jobbing in American blood becomes known—as known it shall be—the friends and relatives of the victims butchered in your quarrel will hold you to a strict account. It will not avail you anything that you have now withdrawn from the hopeless struggle, and refused to carry fresh victims to the scene of carnage; the blood of those already slain is on your robes—it rises and half conceals the clay feet of the golden idol you worship, and every guise of your huckstered scrip is dripping with the crimson witness.

You may endeavor to withdraw now and hide your tracks—but you repent too late. You only withdraw because the ratification of the Dallas-Clarendon Treaty, which you endeavored to defeat, removed all cause of contention between our own and the British Governments, and guarantees that the great transit route between the opposing oceans shall no longer be the battle-field between three truculent and rival monopolists. That treaty gives the disputed Bay Islands to Honduras; and the contracting Governments agree to protect Central America from all further violence, and to keep open the line of travel for the advantage of American and English interests. The rights of transit have been already transferred by the Central American Governments to parties in this City and country, whose names, when published, will suffice to restore public confidence, and assure Americans that all possible advantages will be afforded them while guaranteeing the peace of the country through which the travel has to pass. The ships that have lain idle so long will again have an opportunity of becoming useful; and when the security of the road is beyond cavil the whole trade of the East Indies will gradually be attracted to its Pacific terminus.

To what end, then, should this filibuster havoc, originating among the stock-dealers of Wall-street, be protracted, since it is clear that, in the end, the joint Governments will step in and close it? LOCKRIDGE's reported success cannot affect the main result, nor would his junction with Law's Henningesen, and any number of victories to their united forces, in the least degree alter the predetermined issue. The ratification of the Dallas-Clarendon Treaty gave the coup de grace to mangled and expiring filibusterism; and, while we lament the fate of many prized and noble-hearted men, who have perished in the fruitless struggle, we congratulate the country on the prospect now about being opened, by a wave of the wand of peace.

The natives of Nicaragua may be inferior to the citizens of the United States in energy, intelligence,

and resolution; but they are nevertheless human beings, and WILLIAM WALKER made a grave mistake when he treated them as animals of a lower type. It is an error to suppose that they are not capable of self-defence; for the fight is not always to the stronger—they have a powerful ally in the climate, and their persistency in revolt makes up for their want of nerve when under fire. No people having once tasted democratic freedom can be wholly conquered until annihilated; and if they cannot stand the charge of American bayonets, neither can the Americans resist the influence of the "plague, pestilence, and famine," which have fought on the side of Nicaragua through the whole of this steamboat war.

THE VOICE OF NICARAGUA.

AN IMPORTANT POSTSCRIPT.

P. S.—It must be remembered that, once having effected a junction with HENNINGSEN, LOCKRIDGE would be as helpless as the men he goes to help. Twice his whole force would not suffice to garrison and keep open the river; and the Costa Ricans, returning to their deserted entrenchments, would have only so many more victims in the trap. The river is like two plates of spring-steel, meeting at an acute angle and opening vertically; you may force your way up—but unless you leave a sufficient force to hold it open, it will close behind you and cut off retreat.

Important from Nicaragua by the George Law.

Costa Rican Version of the Operations on the San Juan—Lockridge's success denied—Two hundred recruits for Walker from San Francisco—Rumors of a great battle fought—Failure of Costa Rica to obtain a loan in Peru, &c.

Private letters received in this City yesterday, give the Costa Rican version of late operations on the San Juan River.

The Costa Ricans aver that the accounts of the successes achieved by Col. LOCKRIDGE are without foundation; that particularly at Hipp's Point, the Costa Ricans retired in perfect order, losing no arms and actually suffering no defeat.

It is also stated—but the assertion requires to be proved by the result—that the Costa Ricans had purposely allowed Col. LOCKRIDGE to ascend the river San Juan as far as Castillo;—that in fact they had enticed him up with a view to cut off his retreat and his communication with the Atlantic; and then give him battle. We may look for a confirmation or a refutation of these reports by the *Tennessee*, expected to arrive within a week.

The Costa Rican authorities deny altogether the report that Castillo had been taken by LOCKRIDGE, or that the latter had captured four hundred rifles.

The Costa Ricans are confident that without reinforcements they are sufficiently strong to defend San Carlos, at the source of the San Juan, against any force that can be brought against it.

From a conversation with some of the passengers of the *George Law*, we learn that the *Sierra Nevada* left San Francisco a few hours in advance of the *J. L. Stephens*, bound to San Juan del Sud.

At the time of her departure, it was believed in San Francisco that the Transit route was open, or would be open by the time she reached San Juan.

Besides a number of through passengers, the *J. L. Stephens* is reported to have carried out not less than 200 men for General WALKER, recruited in California by Captain BAKER and others. If, as is most likely, Lake Nicaragua and the river San Juan are found to be in possession of the allies, the *Nevada* will at once proceed to Panama.

One of our informants states that the *Stephens*, when off Cape Saint Lucas, met the *Golden Gate*, bound to San Francisco, and held communication with her. There was a rumor on board the *Golden Gate*, that the forces of General WALKER had been totally routed by the allies, and himself captured and hung. This rumor was most probably obtained from Acapulco, a similar one having been brought to New-York from the same place, by a late arrival.

Three or four deserters from Col. LOCKRIDGE's party, came on from Aspinwall by the *George Law*, working their passage.

We subjoin the letter of our Panama correspondent in relation to the position of affairs in Nicaragua:

Correspondence of the New-York Daily Times.

PANAMA, Friday, March 6, 1857.

The British steamer *Trent* arrived at Colon on the 21st ultimo, with dates of the day previous from Greytown. WALKER's force, no doubt, has got possession of Serapiquí, and it is said of Castillo, and even of San Carlos, thus opening the whole route. The truth appears to be, however, that an attack had been made upon the defences at Castillo, but at the last dates it had not been completely successful. There is not much doubt, however, that LOCKRIDGE is in possession of Castillo ere this. San Carlos, I expect will not be easily taken. When I was at Rivas, a month since, Col. WATERS told me that with 40 Americans he could hold it against a thousand men. It is astonishing that the Costa Ricans should be so easily driven from the possession of the river, acquired by so much labor and at such vast expense—but the fact is, they are mere poltroons in war, and scarcely deserve to succeed against their brave but unprincipled enemy.

The *Panama Star and Herald* says; "We are assured by Col. KINNEY, who arrived by the last British steamer from Nicaragua, that the report of Walker's party having taken Castillo, which we published on Tuesday last, is incorrect. The Colonel says positively that such is not the case, and that the allies still remain in possession of that point."

We also read in the same paper: "Sr. ESCALANTE, who went to Lima some time ago as Minister from Costa Rica, in order to effect a loan from the President of Peru, to enable Costa Rica to carry on the war against WALKER, has returned in high dudgeon, having, on account of the revolution in Peru, been unable to effect the object of his mission. It appears Sr. ESCALANTE published an article abusing CASTILLA for not acceding to the request of Costa Rica, and in return the *Commercio*, of Lima, contains several articles anything but complimentary to the Costa Rican Minister."

WALKER'S POSITION—STRENGTH OF THE COSTA RICANS AT SAN CARLOS AND ON THE SAN JUAN—EXECUTION OF A NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT, ETC.

The following letter from the Special Correspondent of the San Francisco *Bulletin*, though anterior in date to advices received in New-York, contains intelligence not yet published:

SAN JUAN, Sunday, Jan. 25, 1857.

After closing my short letter at Panama, on the 21st inst., I concluded to take a trip up on the *Sierra Nevada*, and look into WALKER's camp at Rivas, in order to judge for myself of the state of affairs. I shall go up this afternoon, and will write you by the *Orizaba*.

Col. WATERS is down at San Juan this morning, and gives me a favorable account of WALKER's forces. By the Colonel's account, WALKER has about 800 effective men, well provisioned, well armed and well clothed, and all in excellent spirits. They have not a particle of doubt as to their ability to maintain themselves against any force that may be brought against them. "The more they bring, the more we shall kill," is the common expression of all I have seen. They express great regret that the 500 men at Greytown are not able to join them. If, say they, we had them to garrison Rivas, we would, with our 800 men, clear the country, in three weeks, of every enemy we have in it. To-day, two or three small boats will be sent over the road to the lake. The steamers *Virgin* and *San Carlos* lay under the Island of Ometepe, about twelve miles from La Virgin; and, it is believed, a boat expedition may be got up to surprise and take them in the night. Without one of these boats it would seem impossible for a junction to be formed between the forces at Greytown and Rivas. SCOTT, it is true, is fixing up an old river boat, by putting a saw-mill engine into her, but if she could, by any possibility, pass the Castillo and Hipp's Point and the strong position of San Carlos, she could not live in the lake at this season of the year. The Costa Ricans have no doubt strongly fortified Castillo Rapids; and San Carlos—naturally an easily defended position—had, when taken by them, a good twenty-four pounder and a six-pound gun. With the six guns said to have been taken on one of the river boats, any one of the positions named might be, and probably has been, made so formidable that nothing that could be placed on the river could pass them. The general impression, indeed, of all of WALKER's officers with whom I have conversed, is, that the men cannot get up the river. The *Sierra Nevada* brought the first news to WALKER.

that the enemy had possession of the river, although nearly a month had expired since they took it. The night before we arrived, however, on the 23d January, the *Virgin* came into La Virgin and fired two shots into the town, by way, I suppose, of a notification to him to that effect. The *Sierra Nevada*, about the 11th of January, seeing that her passengers did not arrive, sent over one of her boats to the Lake, on an ox team, to coast along the shore, in order to see what was the matter. The boat was manned by eight or ten of WALKER's men. Up to this date nothing has been heard from her, and it is supposed she has fallen into the hands of the enemy. WALKER has a schooner on the Lake of about 50 tons, but without a rudder or rudder-iron, and it is impossible to get her where they can be put on, so he has only his small boats to depend upon.

The *St. Marys* will probably be in here in about three days, having left Panama on the 21st inst., at 5 o'clock P. M. It was understood at Panama that she had ordered to prevent the landing of any forces on this side for WALKER.

Mr. RODGERS, WALKER's Secretary of the Hacienda, who, I wrote you, left Panama on the 11th in a five-ton boat, has not yet arrived.

TOOZY, the correspondent of the New-Orleans *Delta*, who deserted HENNINGSEN at Granada, is said to have been hung by the Leonese. Also, Col. SILVA, who deserted WALKER, shared the same fate. TOOZY, it appears, was taken prisoner about six months since, by the Costa Ricans, at the fight of Santa Rosa, after having lost an arm. Gen. CANAS took him to his own house at San Jose, fed him at his own table, and treated him with so much respect that not a cover was allowed to be removed at his table, without the presence of his prisoner, or rather his guest. He voluntarily gave CANAS information in respect to WALKER's forces, and after he was fully recovered was released. When he returned to WALKER, he published an account of his adventures in Costa Rica, in which he abused his benefactor, and stated that he had completely deceived him in his account of WALKER. For this conduct he was undoubtedly hung.

Gen. FRY and lady, and several of WALKER's men and officers, go to San Francisco to-morrow.

The ship *Naragansett*, from New-York, with coal, to GARRISON & MORGAN, is still in port, her men in irons, refusing to do duty.

[After writing the foregoing, our correspondent was arrested by order of WALKER and carried to Rivas. We await further strange developments.—Ed. Bulletin.]

The *Bulletin* also publishes the following letter, translated from the Swedish. It was written to a friend in San Francisco by a soldier in WALKER's army:

ST. GEORGE, Dec. 12, 1856.

This letter I suppose will announce my death to you. I say so without regret, hoping in another world to find that rest which I have long wanted to find in these my last days. I have taken the worst path to seek fortune, for I find that fortune will necessarily ever shun the place where WALKER and his monster Generals are. If I could write as DUMAS or VICTOR HUGO, the most horrible truths that ever pen told would be proclaimed to the world. For all the wildest fantasies of hunger, sickness, misery and crime, that could be detailed by those here, is little to what is the hard reality.

I have now been literally starving here for the last fourteen days. I have been at the battle of Granada, which WALKER will assuredly say through his minions regained; but he will sooner or later have to answer to God for the lies he tells. The three last days we have been fighting day and night. Many have fallen on both sides. I have been spared through all this misery; but have heard balls raining all around me. Now, returned to this place, I have been seized with the cholera, and am in the first stage of the disease. I feel so weak that I cannot write more; but be this my last farewell, and blessings be to my friends! Farewell!

OTTO.

Brothers! Should fortune smile on you, remember my poor children.

Brother, I promised to write to Col. PHILPS, whom I have to thank for my being here. I cannot write in English to him, for all letters are opened here and read before they are allowed to be sent away. As this, however, is written in Swedish, I hope they will not understand it, and so allow it to pass. Tell PHILPS—who can be seen on Montgomery-street—that if he himself is a dupe, to beware; hell on earth is here. I think that those who induce people to go to Nicaragua are no better than fallen angels, who, I hope, as I write this on my death-bed, won't go free from punishment in another world.

OTTO.

[The above letter was inclosed in another epistle which is as follows: "Sir: I am very sorry that Mr. LINNENOW [OTTO] has made it my duty to send this letter to you in case of his dying. You will perceive, consequently, by my sending it that this event unfortunately has occurred. He died on the 23d December."]