

An Interesting Correspondence—Gen. Goicouria and Commodore Vanderbilt.

No. 122 EAST THIRTEENTH STREET, Dec. 22, 1856.

C. VANDERBILT, Esq.: Sir—Your letter of the 19th Dec. to Mr. McKEON renders it necessary that I should address you this note. In that letter you say "that you have not failed to observe that in general instances your name has been associated in the newspapers with various individuals known to be connected with the filibustering scheme of which the Republic of Nicaragua is now the arena," and you proceed to say that you "have as little sympathy with filibustering when it takes the form, as in the case of Nicaragua, of a military invasion of a neighboring Republic, as when it assumes the more familiar, but not more atrocious, shape of burglary and larceny upon the property of our citizens."

Public opinion has connected you so intimately heretofore with the assistance given to WALKER, at the outset of his career, that it may be very prudent and proper for you to enter a protest against any fresh suspicions of the kind, although, perhaps, it may be considered rather overdoing the matter for you to call those who have been heretofore considered your friends and associates by the mild names of *burglars* and *thieves*. As to the question of fact touching the extent of your past connection with the expedition to Nicaragua, I have no interest to prove or disprove it, but I have a right to know, and I ask categorically whether you intended by your letter any reference to me, or directly or indirectly to charge me with participating in anything criminal or dishonorable.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. DE GOICOURIA.

COM. VANDERBILT'S REPLY.

New-York, Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1856.

Gen. D. DE GOICOURIA: Dear Sir—Your letter of the 22d inst., referring to mine to JOHN McKEON, Esq., United States District Attorney, of the 19th inst., and inquiring whether I intended in that letter to charge you with participation in anything criminal or dishonorable in connection with the pending filibustering transactions in Nicaragua, has been received.

In consideration of the friendly personal relations which have existed between us, and of the assurance which I feel that your intervention in this Nicaragua affair has been prompted by sentiments and feelings so different from those which have actuated the men to whom I have referred in my letter to Mr. McKEON, I do not hesitate to disavow the design of imputing to you any participation in any scheme of crime or dishonor.

Your position has been represented to me as that of a native of the island of Cuba, anxiously desiring her disenthralment from the dominion of Spain, and not unwilling to render aid to the people of that island in any well-considered effort for the accomplishment of this result. While I am not called upon to express either sympathy or disaffection towards measures having in view the establishment in your native country of representative government in lieu of that which it is now asserted oppresses her people, I am at liberty to regard you in a very different light from that in which an American citizen stands who gives aid to a crusade upon the liberties of a neighboring Republic for purposes of speculation in her lands or the despoilment of her citizens. This Nicaragua movement, although heralded as a scheme for the establishment among that people of American institutions, has thus far resulted in the erection of the worst species of military despotism known to civilized man. And the parties most immediately concerned in its sustenance appear to aim at nothing beyond an unrestrained license to speculate in the lands and properties of others. With such views it ought not to surprise you that I was willing to characterize its aiders and abettors by the terms which among our people distinguish those who seek their own advantage without regard to the restraints of laws or the acknowledged rights of property.

You intimate in your letter that public opinion has connected me intimately with the assistance given to WALKER at the onset of his career.

I am not conscious of any foundation upon which such impression can rest, and I am unwilling to permit the opportunity to pass without the most explicit denial of its accuracy or truth. I presume that you have referred to the circumstances attending the transportation to Nicaragua, about one year since, of persons who are reported to have joined the military force which has been since maintained in that country under the command of WALKER. I will not controvert the statement that during the period of Mr. MORGAN's agency for the Company in New-York, and that of Mr. GARRISON's agency at San Francisco, recruits for WALKER were conveyed to Nicaragua in the Company's steamers. And my attention has been repeatedly called to the fact that the newspapers, or some of them, have failed to discriminate between the transactions of the agents of the Company anterior to and since the assumption by me of the control of its affairs. I have not taken, perhaps, all the means which might have been employed to prevent this unjust blending of past and recent occurrences. It is so well known that a portion of the public press is conducted in such a manner that it is idle to expect at its hands either justice or accuracy, that I have assumed that the intelligent portion of the community, whose judgment is alone important, would have taken the pains to discover the real truth of the matter. But since it is apparent that a man of your information has supposed that there may have been, at some time, some sort of complicity on my part with those associated in this filibustering enterprise, I am not willing to permit the occasion to pass without making such an explanation of my connection with the Company as will henceforward leave no room for misrepresentation.

In the months of December and January last, I was a Stockholder in the Accessory Transit Company, and also its creditor to a considerable amount. Mr. C. MORGAN was the agent of the Company at New-York, and had the charge of its steamships at this port. Mr. GARRISON occupied the same position at San Francisco.

On the 1st of February last I was induced, as well from regard to my own pecuniary interest involved as upon the solicitation of others whose property was embarked in the stock of the Company, to assume the agency at New-York in the place of Mr. MORGAN.

In the course of the same month of February, WALKER was induced to annul, in the form of a decree of the Government of Nicaragua, (which he had already usurped,) the charter of the Company, and, without even the semblance of legal process, deprived it of its properties upon the Isthmus of Nicaragua. A brief period elapsed, and the properties upon the Isthmus, including all the means of transportation from ocean to ocean, were claimed by MORGAN & GARRISON under an alleged purchase from WALKER, and since that time the steamers of the Company upon that Isthmus have been employed alternately in the transportation of their passengers and WALKER's mercenaries. My own efforts have been constant to preserve the property of the Company from further depredation, and to set on foot the necessary measures to obtain for the Company redress against those who have attempted to despoil it.

This, Sir, is the whole history of my connection with the Company since WALKER's invasion of Nicaragua, and you can now judge whether it can be justly asserted that I was associated with the scheme of invasion; or whether it ought to be a matter of surprise that I have characterized the transaction itself in the language to which you appear inclined to take exception.

If the attempted robbery of the properties of the Company shall, in spite of all efforts, become successful, I shall, with very many other of the citizens of New-York, sustain pecuniary loss; but I shall not fail, nevertheless, to increase the loss by persistent efforts to bring to justice of some sort the men who are responsible for the most unexcused and inexcusable invasion of private property that has hitherto come to my knowledge. Every man of property is interested in the question of its reasonable security against every species of invasion, and my pursuits in life have met with such success that I can well afford to make considerable sacrifices for the assertion of right and the punishment of wrong.

I may have mistaken the spirit in which your request of explanation has been made, but I have, nevertheless, given you all I have to offer.

I am your very obedient servant,

C. VANDERBILT.