

# NICARAGUA AFFAIRS.

## PROCEEDINGS OF COL. LOCKRIDGE.

### Letter from Gen. Hall, Commissary General of Walker's Army.

New-York, Tuesday, April 14, 1857.

To the Editor of the New-York Daily Times:

SIR: Noticing in the New-York Herald of to-day a copy of an order signed S. A. LOCKRIDGE, Colonel Nicaragua Army, dismissing me from his command, I feel it my duty in self defence to make a statement in detail of my introduction, and the slight connection I had with him recently on the San Juan River, and trust you will allow me the use of your columns for the following statement:

At the expiration of my furlough, I left this City with a small detachment under Capt. J. E. FARNUM, for San Juan del Norte, for the purpose of reaching general head-quarters by the shortest route that offered. Arrived there I found it impossible at that time to reach Rivas by Panama, and therefore determined to essay the river. Immediately on our arrival the small steamer *Rescue* came alongside and the self styled Col. LOCKRIDGE boarded us. I was introduced as our men and stores were being transferred to her—and we immediately proceeded up the river to a point called Camp Titus, and landing there joined the forces under Gen. WHEAT, Col. TITUS, and Col. ANDERSON. Whilst there, at the solicitation of LOCKRIDGE, and for the better preservation of the stores, which were being wasted, I consented to take temporary charge of the Commissary Department, and, by the way, this was the only connection I had with the river command. A few days after the battle of Serapiqui was fought, Capt. FARNUM being in temporary command of the recruits, whilst I, in attending to the duties of my department, remained in camp, or upon the little steamer, in company with LOCKRIDGE, who, during the entire engagement, was not exposed to any manner of danger, Gen. WHEAT, Col. ANDERSON, and Col. TITUS having not only decided upon the manner of attack, but commanded, without the presence of Col. LOCKRIDGE, during the day. After the occupation of Serapiqui I was upon the boat when she had proceeded within a mile and a half of Castillo, for the purpose of landing the troops under Gen. WHEAT and Col. TITUS, that were to, and did, attack the place. During the engagement there, he, LOCKRIDGE, was not under fire, nor exposed, and when Gen. WHEAT returned, LOCKRIDGE sent a message to Col. TITUS, to the effect that he should hold his position for 24 hours, in which time he promised to return with reinforcements; he then proceeded to Serapiqui. Instead of returning as he promised, he went down to Greytown, and running the boat aground, failed to keep his engagement. The consequence of this failure is the loss of Castillo, for if he had returned with the reinforcement in 24 hours, instead of 56 hours, as he did, Col. TITUS would not have retired.

I have mentioned these two facts in this connection for the purpose of showing the man's incompetency and great regard for self when any fighting was going on. These are the causes that have led to want of discipline, and desertion, and all other evils that have delayed the opening of the San Juan River. It is my honest conviction that, had Gen. WHEAT, or any other competent man, had the command or position assumed by Col. LOCKRIDGE, long ere this a communication would have been effected with Gen. WALKER.

After these exploits of LOCKRIDGE, I took advantage of the boat leaving for Greytown to visit there again, that I might await the arrival of the steamer which was to bring us the reinforcements, without which, LOCKRIDGE informed me, no further operations could be carried forward. Capt. FARNUM and Maj. ELLIS (whom, with Col. McDONALD, then in Greytown, and myself, were the only commissioned officers on the river) accompanied me. Arrived there and discovering that the *Tennessee* had not brought reinforcements nor provisions, we resolved to await the arrival of the *Texas*; and, out of courtesy alone, informed LOCKRIDGE of our intention. Not having right, or authority, he of course made no objections, and, in consequence, we remained—Greytown being more pleasant to officers without command than up the river would have proved. LOCKRIDGE left, and, to cap the climax of his overbearing, unmannerly conduct, he has absolutely appropriated to himself all the private property, in way of stores, &c., that had been committed to my care, and which were intended to keep us, if it were necessary, free from Government expense, during our stay in Greytown.

Then commenced a series of privations that were enough to disgust any one with a military life, by their simple recital; nor were they relieved till Col. KINNEY stepped forward, and by his own exertions and sacrifices made us comfortable. This, I presume, was the only return LOCKRIDGE could make to an officer, who had not only written his dispatches, which, from utter inability, he could not write himself, but had with a delicacy worthy of a better object, corrected his orders, and attended to the slightest details which an ignorant commander might be called upon to issue.

Self-respect alone, would have induced any gentleman to refuse service under such a man; but when to this be added his conduct towards his superiors as well as the fact of his incompetency and vulgarity, is it to be wondered at, that failing to make a connection with the Army at Rivas we should retire? or is it at all surprising that a man of his character should make such charges when the absence of these he defames insures his safety? I think not, and leave allegations so inconsistent with my well-known sacrifices, and untiring services in the cause, to be settled between my friends, the public, and the man LOCKRIDGE.

GEO. B. HALL, Commissary General, N. A.