

# NICARAGUAN AFFAIRS.

## An Anti-Walker Review of the Recent Letters from Nicaragua.

New York, Wednesday, April 8, 1857.

To the Editor of the New-York Daily Times:

On reference to the daily leading papers of this City, highly important news from Nicaragua was announced in capital letters. The saving clause (if true) should have been added in small italics on your impartial sheets. The American public had been led to believe for a day or two, that the Allies were utterly routed with immense slaughter on the 16th of March. We had also previously been assured, by accounts brought per Steamer *Sierra Nevada*, that a great battle had taken place on the 15th of the same month, in which "Walker literally mowed down his enemy like grass." Yet it is now known and acknowledged that those flaring accounts, announced as authentic, have proved totally false.

Doubts have now also risen in the public mind as to the degree of credit to be allowed to the last announcements of victory by Walker's party. And as some time must now elapse before reliable news can be received, I have carefully read and analyzed the sources of information.

In the first place, I find the steamer *Orizaba* was the last vessel which had arrived at Panama from San Juan del Sur up to the sailing of the *Texas* from Aspinwall on the 22d. The *Orizaba* left San Juan del Sur on the 18th, where neither the United States Consul, Mr. PRIEST, nor any of the inhabitants, had heard any tidings about a battle on the 16th, nor had any accounts of such battle been published, or even whispered at Panama, on or after the arrival there of the *Orizaba*. If WALKER had won such a battle, the trumpet-sound of victory would have been loud and strong.

Next we find in the *Tribune* the testimony of a respectable proprietor from Nicaragua, (formerly an adherent of WALKER,) who came down the River San Juan to Greytown, and thence per steamer *Texas* to New-York. This gentleman was at San Jorge on the morning of the 16th, which place was then well fortified, and occupied by General CANAS' division of the Costa Rican army. They had had no battle on the 17th or 18th, up to the moment he left, at which time it was there known that WALKER and his followers, being in a state of starvation, had left Rivas in the direction of the village of Rosario, followed up by Costa Rican guerrilla parties, and confronted by the allies, whose object appears to have been to prevent those reaching the coast, and effecting WALKER's escape from Nicaragua by sea, as General CANAS had previously agreed to accept their surrender, on condition that WALKER should be delivered over to the Costa Ricans.

Thus, up to the 16th, the great Walker battle had not been fought.

WALKER's adherents, in this City, now allege that the great battle near Rivas took place, not on the 16th, but on the 19th, at San Jorge, and on the road back again to Rivas.

Two letters have been published, from General HENNINGSEN, in the New-York *Herald*, dated March 19. The General says the battle took place on the 16th, and describes the victory as decisive with a loss to the Allies of 400 killed, (and, of course, 600 wounded in proportion,) at a sacrifice of only fifty to the Fillibusters. *How important if true!*

Immediately following General HENNINGSEN's letter, is another "from an officer with General WALKER to a friend in this City," dated Rivas, March 18. It does not tally, as to dates, with HENNINGSEN's, for he says the battle was fought on the 17th and not on the 16th, as the General alleges. This discrepancy looks bad. So does his estimate of the Allied forces engaged. He says, three times their own number, which would make the Allies engaged amount to 1,050 of whom it is calculated 400 were killed and 600 wounded, leaving only 50 to cut and come again. *Very important if true!*

By a letter also published in the New-York *Herald*, and dated March 20, it would appear the Costa Rican guerrilla parties were still alive and on the alert, for that letter says, "*they come on the Transit Road*, and lie in wait for any weak party of Americans they can cut up."

Next comes the testimony derived from a communication of Captain ANDERSON's, published in the *Sun*, and dated Rivas, March 19, stating that a hard contested battle had been fought on the 16th, Monday. The troops (he says) started from Rivas at 3 o'clock in the morning, and opened their fire at daylight upon CANAS' forces in San Jorge; although the accounts given by the Nicaraguan Proprietor to the *Tribune* leads us to believe that no such attack was made before he left on the morning of the 16th. Capt. ANDERSON says the Costa Ricans charged repeatedly with the bayonet, whenever an opening was made, and that the enemy, after suffering severely, left the Plaza. Then why did not the fillibusters rush in? Did they suspect the trap—did they smell the mines? Did they detect the lines of rifle pits? Were they afraid of the loop-holes in the adobe walls commanding the Plaza? If they had entered that Plaza, not one would have returned to tell the tale.

Capt. ANDERSON then confesses that WALKER's little army did not exceed 350 men; and that although they had not entered the Plaza, they were completely outnumbered and hemmed in by the enemy—all communication cut off with Rivas, and no food. He continues to say that WALKER then forgot he was President of this glorious Republic, and ordered a retreat to Rivas through his enemies, who had "ambushed themselves all along the road," and from whom they received a constant fire, which he tells us did "but little harm," as "at least 500 shots were fired at the General, but all to no effect." *Very important if true!*

This is all the information we have been able to sift and separate from the chaff about this great and decisive battle. A few weeks will bring us precise accounts whether WALKER has escaped from Nicaragua, or fallen into the hands of the Costa Ricans, for that seems to be the only question undecided.

Let the accounts brought by the steamer *Texas* be true or false, the "*predetermined issue*" of Walkerism in Nicaragua will indubitably remain the same,—it cannot be changed, unless the Government of this country (at the solicitation of the New-York *Herald*) pronounce for and lend material aid and assistance to a band of unprincipled adventurers, whose chief, from his first onset, has shocked every feeling of chivalry—every impulse of humanity—and every incentive of honor and justice. At what a sacrifice of human life and happiness he has maintained his wretched position and tyrannical sway in Nicaragua!

Three hundred and fifty (according to HENNINGSEN and ANDERSON's reports) are all that are now left of the 7,000 brave and adventurous youths who departed from our shores in the space of 18 short months to the pestilential fields of Nicaragua. Where are they? shrieks many a bereaved, broken-hearted wife and mother. Where are they? asks shuddering humanity. The happier have died on the field of blood, in a cause without a flag or a creed. The rest have perished by disease, pestilence, and starvation, in their most dreadful form, and the wretched remnant of 350, who have now been driven back to Rivas, emaciated by hunger and sickness, there await their fate at the hands of an exasperated and determined enemy.

Yours respectfully, K. ROMAN.