

From the N. O. Picayune.

LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM NICARAGUA!

The Aspinwall Courier, of the 24th ult., brought by the steamship Black Warrior, contains late and highly important intelligence from Nicaragua, received at Aspinwall by the British steamship Trent from Greytown.

It appears that Walker's force under command of Col. Lockridge and Titus had succeeded in driving the Costa Ricans from the San Juan river, and from the positions they occupied at Serapiqui, Castillo and San Carlos; has obtained possession of the steamboat J. N. Scott, the largest and finest boat on the river, and further, and most important of all has again established communication with Walker.

The Courier has letters from four different sources, giving accounts of these operations. One letter is from Lieut. Col E. H. McDonald, 2d Rifles, and as it gives the most complete account, we copy it as follows. The letter is dated Greytown, Feb.

THE LETTER IS DATED GREYSTOWN, FEBRUARY 19 :

February 4th, the steamer Texas arrived with 200 men, who proceeded up the river and joined Col Anderson's force of 200 men; the 5th was spent in cleaning arms; on the 6th, we advanced with the steamer Rescue to Cody's Point and took it—losing two men killed. According to the enemy's account they lost seven killed and a large number wounded; the same day we fell back on our former position, because it was useless to attempt anything on the opposite side of the river without artillery; the next morning we ran up to a point 500 yards below Serapiqui and landed all the forces and artillery, except one company, which we left at Fort-Anderson. Then we erected barricades, bush houses for the men, provisions and artillery. Next day we began cutting a road and bridging the creek up to Cody's Point. On Wednesday evening we started up this road to mount our artillery on Cody's Point, which work was completed on Thursday night. The force thus posted was under the command of Col Titus—the artillery being under Gen Bob Wheat, the left resting place on the artillery, the right ranging up the river, both being pro-

acted by the artillery along the bank of the river.

On Friday morning, at the break of day, Gen. Wheat opened his fire on the fort occupied by the Costa Rican forces. At the same time Col. Frank Anderson crossed the river with 130 men and took the position on the point called Airoado Point—his right resting near the mouth of the Serapiqui, his line extending up the same about 200 yards. They arrived there at 12 o'clock M. and took their position without being perceived by the enemy.

Meanwhile, the action had been going on warmly between Gen. Wheat's artillery and Col. Tamm's riflemen on one side and the Costa Ricans in the Serapiqui fort. One of their pieces was dismounted, and another, their heaviest, was not fired during the day, Capt. Brantly's company of riflemen keeping up such a destructive fire that they did not dare to approach and hold it.

Capt. Anderson's men having been posted opened a vigorous fire on the right flank of the enemy, driving them from their batteries to the main building up the San Juan river. From that time until dark a constant and severe fire was kept up from

Cody's Point and Alveredo's Point, which was responded to by scattering shots from the Costa Ricans, and we saw the enemy running away into the woods, leaving their blankets and throwing their guns away — The commander of the fort at Serapiquí, Col Blanco, was among the first that left at 2 1-2 P. M.

During the day Col Anderson's force lost two killed and two wounded, the latter being now able to do duty — Col Titus's command two wounded and none killed — and the artillery none.

The next morning Com DeBrissot and a volunteer called "Kentuck" went over in a canoe, pulled down the Costa Rican flag, and hoisted the Lone Star of Nicaragua, all the enemy having abandoned the point in the night. Upwards of 400 stands of English Minie bullets were left scattered on the ground. Col Frank Anderson's command crossed in the steamer, and took possession of the enemy's works, chattels, &c, finding thirteen dead bodies in the principal fort probably all killed by the artillery of Gen. Wheat. Fifty men of this command were detached for burying the dead of the enemy, which amounted to thirty three. Prisoners taken and they had

been badly treated and worse fed, living on beans and plantains alone. Five pieces of artillery—four brass 6 pound pieces, and one iron 9 pound piece, with corresponding ammunition—were found; also, fifty thousand rounds of Mina rifle cartridges, in good condition, and a large quantity of damaged ammunition, 250 pairs of pantaloons, 40 bushels of beans, and 6 barrels of salt, but enough kettles and pans for 3,000 men.

The same evening the steamer Rescue, or "Libuster," as some of the boys call it, took up the forecs of Col Titus and one 4 lb gun, to the island San Carlos, which was taken without any resistance; the boat returned to Serapiqui, and took up all the stores stored at the above post, and then proceeded up the river in pursuit of the steamer Charles Morgan, which had gone on with the Jews of the Costa Ricans having left Serapiqui; the latter boat had four hours start, and the Rescue came in sight of her just as she went over the Castillo Rapids. The Costa Ricans had tar and rope on the steamers Scott and Cachuca, and all the buildings of the town; at the moment they saw the Rescue, they set fire to the boats and buildings and at the same

to the boats and gunboats, and at the same time they opened a heavy fire of round shot and grape from the fort on the hill. The lower fort on the river was taken by storm by Capt West's company of Col. Titus's command. Four men jumped from the steamer, swam against a six mile current, cut loose and saved the steamer Scott, although the machinery was very much injured. All the furniture and bedding of the National Hotel were saved. All other houses, with their contents, were destroyed.

In taking this fort, the enemy lost 45, while we only lost 1, killed.

The Costa Ricans were still fifty strong

on the high fort of Castillo, cut off from water and provisions, and surrounded by our forces. On the 18th, the fort was to have been taken by storm. By this time, that is done, and communication has been established to Walker.