

IMPORTANT FROM NICARAGUA.

WALKER STILL UNCONQUERED—HE PROPOSES TO CARRY THE WAR INTO COSTA RICA.

The New York Times has the following intelligence as furnished by a special correspondent who arrived in the Catawba:—

Mr. E. N. Stagers, U. S. Mail Agent at San Francisco, who left Greytown on the 22d of January, informs us that advices had been received there from Gen. Walker to the 17th of that month—which is 5 or 10 days later than previous advices.

He states that the report, which reached here some days since, by telegraph from New Orleans, that Greytown was in possession of the Costa Ricans, was utterly untrue. He was himself there for some time, and every thing was perfectly quiet.

"Fifty-one men who had served under Walker, and been discharged upon the expiration of their time, had found their way to Greytown, and reported that Walker's position at Rivas had been undisturbed,—and that he had from 450 to 500 effective men under his immediate command.

"Captain Scott was at San Juan with 215 men, fitting out a steamboat with four pieces of artillery, for the purpose of recapturing the boats from the Costa Ricans. Four hundred men were expected from New Orleans, and ninety-two from California, in the steamer *Sierra Nevada*.

"A quarrel is reported to have arisen between the Guatemalans and Costa Ricans, which may injure the entente cordiale of the Allies, and impede their future operations."

A letter to the *Times*, dated San Juan, January 21st, contains the following:—

"It is said that the *Sierra Nevada* has been taken by the Costa Ricans. She had not been heard of since her departure from San Juan del Sur, and it was known that the Costa Ricans were at San Juan del Sur in large numbers, and as two Chilean men-of-war were supposed to be on their way to blockade that port, it is thought that she has been seized.

"On the other hand, there is a rumor that she has been taken by General Walker, for the purpose of conveying troops to Costa Rica, with a view of attacking San Jose, and thereby "carrying the war into Africa." Both, however, are rumors, and the latter has been in circulation long enough to have been confirmed by official news had it been true. The friends of Walker here, not having heard from him, conceived the idea that he had chosen to march into Costa Rica, instead of proceeding to attempt to retake the Transit. And, assuming such to be his course, they arrived at the conclusion that he must have taken the *Sierra Nevada* to convey his troops."

"Again—four days ago—some Costa Ricans who came down, stated that General Walker had been forced to leave Rivas with all his force, and take position at San George, where he was surrounded by the allied forces, and being nearly out of provisions, had offered to capitulate."

The same letter contains a very highly colored report of the "British interference," which seems to amount only to an offer of protection to such British subjects as were among the emigrants by the *Texas*. The offer was made by Capt. Cockburn, of H. M. ship *Cossack*.

THE BRITISH INTERFERENCE AT PUNTA ARENAS— OFFER OF BRITISH PROTECTION.

By John Elphinstone Erskine, Esq., Captain of Her Majesty's Ship Orion, and Senior Officer of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels Employed on the Coast of Central America.

Representations having been made to me that there are at present at Punta Arenas, among a body of armed men landed from the American steamer *Texas*, (which had been represented to me as emigrants waiting an opportunity to proceed to their destination, but whom Mr. Joseph N. Scott has since stated to the United States Commercial Agent, he has employed to protect his property, and who have not been recognised as citizens of the United States,) several British subjects who are detained, and forced to bear arms against their will; you will proceed to the place where these men are at present quartered; and having ascertained who is the officer commanding the party, you will require from him a list of all the men under his nominal command, and in the event of your obtaining such a list, you will call the men together and read to them this my order to you.

Should any of the party in question claim protection as British subjects, and their claims appear to you to be well founded, you will acquaint the officer commanding that these men must be permitted to withdraw from their present positions; and you will (in the event of his acquiescence) either give these men a passage to Greytown, or take them on board her Majesty's ship under your command, to await my decision as to their disposal, as they may desire. In the event of the aforesaid officer resisting such a course as I have pointed out, you will inform him that in the first place no person whatever

under his command will be permitted to leave their present position to proceed up the river or elsewhere until my demands shall be complied with, and, secondly, that I shall adopt such measures to enforce the rights of British subjects as I may think best adapted for that purpose.

Given on board the *Orion*, off Greytown, this 16th day of January, 1857.

(Signed) JOHN E. ERSKINE.
To James H. Cockburn, Esq., Captain of Her Majesty's ship *Cossack*.

P. S.—The number of men at Punta Arenas composing the party in question, was stated to be about 175, of whom 150 or thereabouts are fit for duty, the remainder being sick.