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IMPORTANT FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.

ARRIVAL OF THE ORIZABA.

Evacuation of Nicaragua by the Costa Ricans.

SUCCESSES OF GEN. WALKER.

Interesting Military Movements.

Gen. Domingo Goicouria's Expedition to the Chontales Mines.

ORGANIZATION OF CAVALRY AND MILITARY BANDS.

THE TRANSIT ROUTE OPENED.

COFFEE, CACAO AND COTTON CULTIVATION.

Sentence of Death on Col. Schlessinger.

No Interference from the British Naval Commanders.

MOVEMENTS OF THE AMERICAN SQUADRON, &c., &c., &c.

The steamship Orizaba, Capt. E. L. Tinklepaugh, arrived yesterday afternoon, from San Juan del Norte, with 456 passengers, most of whom left San Francisco May 5, on the Sierra Nevada.

We are indebted to Purser Hatch, of the Orizaba; the Pacific Express Company, and Wines & Co.'s Express, for late files and news from Nicaragua.

Among the passengers by the Orizaba are Mr. E. Randolph, who succeeded the Transit Company on the Isthmus; Mrs. G. F. Alden; Colonel Piper, of the Nicaragua Army, and a portion of the family of Mr. Wheeler.

The transit route through Nicaragua is again open, the Costa Ricans having left the country without another battle. The cholera made its appearance among their troops at Rivas, owing to the dead being left unburied after the battle. President Mora, with his staff, left on the 26th of April, and the army followed immediately.

Gen. Walker landed at Virgin Bay on the morning of April 30, and found that the last detachment of the enemy had left only six hours previously.

Gen. Canas, the Commander-in-Chief of the Costa Ricans, after President Mora left, wrote to Gen. Walker a letter commending to his care a number of sick and wounded Costa Ricans, whom he could not remove, and offered to exchange twenty-five Americans, whom he said he held as prisoners, for them, when they recovered.

The elections are being held in Nicaragua, and it was considered certain that Rivas would be elected President.

The Vanderbilt party—that is, those agents and others who remain in the interest of the old Transit Company—aided the Costa Ricans during their invasion of Nicaragua, notwithstanding the slaughter of innocent Americans at Virgin Bay.

General Walker is in good health and spirits. There is no sickness in the army, excepting at Granada, where the fever has been very severe, several Americans having died with it.

H. B. M. frigate Eurydice and steamer Hermit were at San Juan del Norte, but made no opposition to the passengers going up the river or on shore. There were no other vessels in port on the 24th.

The brig C. H. Sampson left for New Orleans on the 22d.

Movements of the American Home Squadron.

OUR NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE.

KEY WEST, May 28, 1856.

The following United States vessels are at this moment at anchor in our harbor:—

United States frigate Potomac, Captain Tatnall, bearing the broad pennant of Commodore Hiram Paulding.

United States steam frigate Susquehanna, Commander Joshua R. Sands.

United States steamship Fulton, Lieutenant Commander R. H. Tilghman.

United States sloop-of-war Cyane, Lieutenant Commander R. A. Robb.

The Fulton and Cyane have been in port—the former since the 9th and the latter since the 17th—both having orders to await the arrival of the Commander of the quadron. The Susquehanna, Captain Sands, arrived off Sand Key at an early hour on the morning of the 27th, and sent in despatches for the Cyane and Fulton. She had left Havana the day previous, and was in search of the Commodore, having important despatches for him.

Not finding the Potomac here, as was expected, she headed for San Juan, and soon disappeared. At sunset, however, she was again signalized in the offing, having the frigate Potomac in tow. The two vessels anchored off the city last night, and this morning got under weigh, and came in to the usual anchorage.

The Orizaba hove in sight at 6½ o'clock this morning, having late and important news from San Juan—the character of which will govern the movements of the squadron.

In consequence of the success of Gen. Walker, and the visit of the Saratoga at San Juan, whence she sailed the 17th for Key West, and the entire uninterrupted transit of the Isthmus, no occasion arises for the presence of the fleet at that important position. As far as we can now learn this is the disposition of the fleet: The Fulton is to go North—first visiting Havana, and thence to New York, via Key West; the Susquehanna to take the Mediterranean mail, and sail hence (after coaling) for the Mediterranean; the Cyane to go to Aspinwall, and the Potomac to remain here until the Fulton and Saratoga arrive.

Our Nicaragua Correspondence.

CASTILLA, VIEJO, May 18, 1856.

The Defeat of the Costa Ricans—Their Losses and Retreat—Coffee, Cacao and Cotton Cultivation—Military Movements—The Rainy Season—The Very Latest—Arrival of the Sierra Nevada—Manufacture of Minie Rifle Balls at Granada—Interview between Minister Wheeler and Capt. Tarleton—Death of Mr. G. F. Alden—A Kentucky Sharp Shooter—Gossip—Incidents, &c., &c.

Time drags its slow length along—so does the cause of political and civil reformation in these Central American States. They, however, travel "with unequal step;" while the one has made only a "march," the other has taken a brilliant stride within the brief space of thirty days.

Costa Rica has been taught a sorry lesson in the loss of nearly all her brilliant army, at the head of which President Mora so pompously entered the State of Nicaragua, proclaiming his desire to eat the flesh and drink the blood of Walker's ragamuffin band of filibusteros. Beside learning that she cannot fight with Americans, she has lost fully two-thirds of her army, which consisted of nearly four thousand men.

The American bullet from the Mississippi rifle—the scourge of cholera, engendered by the stench of the one thousand bodies of their slain at Rivas, together with the bad generalship of Mora, their President and leader, so thinned their ranks and decimated their numbers as to leave them powerless. General Mora, while almost totally discouraged and disheartened at the unhappy state of affairs, and while contemplating a speedy retreat from this State, learns that the liberalists at home, sympathizers with General Walker and the republican cause, had effected a revolution, and that he was deposed, and a new President elected in his place. Would it not be better in this connection, to throw out the suggestion to Secretary Marcy, that, acting upon the same policy with which he rejected P. H. French, he had better dismiss the Costa Rican Charge d'Affaires at Washington, "not knowing whether there is any responsible government" in Costa Rica, "or whether the government powers are temporarily assumed by a reckless band (Americans,) of marauding adventurers?"

Tell the old *burra* that the one case is a fac simile of the other; that consistency is a jewel, and he can now win for the first time a political one, by dismissing forthwith the Costa Rican Minister. He of course will do this, unless he has some ulterior designs which he carefully conceals from the public, as in the case of Nicaragua.

If he fail to dismiss him promptly, and the new party (which is of filibustering proclivity,) should remain permanently in power, and also send on an ambassador whose claims were not at once rejected by Secretary Marcy and the Executive, it might not only involve the United States in a war with Costa Rica, "a power with whom we are at peace, and a friendly State," but also with Nicaragua, who is already becoming jealous of the rising, growing power of the United States.

But to return to the subject. When General Mora was hurrying away from Rivas, Virgin Bay and San Juan del Sur, scattering those dying of wounds and disease so thickly along in his train as to render the roads impassable from stench—filling up the wells that lay in his course with dead bodies, arms and munitions, and hurrying the starving remnant of his army off upon two over crowded vessels, on which to make his escape, it should be fully known, and kept in mind, that Gen. Walker had it in his power to have fallen upon the rear of his army, and slaughtered the entire remnant of his force. Notwithstanding the barbarity and cruelty of Mora to prisoners, as well as unarmed citizens of American origin, massacreing both indiscriminately, and in cold blood, Gen. Walker showed the most noble minded and merciful magnanimity in thus sparing their lives and refraining from unnecessary bloodshed.

Subsequent to the embarkation of the enemy, their dead bodies daily floated ashore in scores, and it is doubtful if three hundred of them survive to reach their homes. Such are the results of the first lesson of experience taught Costa Rica at the hands of Gen. William Walker and his brave followers.

But the end is not yet. Though the enemy has fled from the State in such sorry plight, there is harder fighting in store for her; and, if she have the courage to stand up to defend herself when the war is pressed upon her own gates and upon the defences of her capital, many thousands more of her soldiery must and will be made to bite the dust. Costa Rica declared the war and opened the ball. Now, it only remains for her to learn, by sad experience, against whom she declared it; that the extermination of *Los Americanos* is no play spell; that war is no joke this time, for Costa Rica, at least. Let her be assured at the same time that their Minie balls will be returned next time; that the majority of Gen. Walker's army love to fight; that they will insist on fighting; that no compromises will wipe out an indignity, and that no diplomatic dodges or graceful and plausible apologies, or hypocritical and lying propositions, however liberal, their character, will appease, stay or avert the wrath to come.

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The allusion to coffee reminds me that I have further and more definite knowledge concerning the productiveness of coffee growing than that communicated in a former letter. I have taken much pains to collect information, and I think the following statement will bear criticism. The high price of labor and provisions will be placed in offset at liberal figures, thus:—

Clearing land, at $30 per acre, 500 acres	$15,000
Fencing, to enclose	2,000
Planting trees, $5 per thousand, 600,000 being wanted	3,000
Cost of seed for trees, living and incidentals	1,000
Interest of capital, at seven per cent, for two years	2,940
Total	$23,940

Now, estimating the profits, allowing the trees to produce but one pound each the third year, 600,000 pounds of coffee, at 10c.—and it is worth that here, being the best in the world excepting the celebrated Mocha—$60,000.

Deducting expenses from the product of the first crop and adding ten per cent for labor of that year, leaves a net profit at the close of the third year of $32,460.

It is said not to be an uncommon thing to obtain an arobo from a single tree, 25 pounds; but putting all the trees at an average of 10 pounds per year, it affords 6,000,000 pounds, which, at 10c. per pound, amounts to the enormous sum of $600,000. Take from this for expenses as much as you please, and it still leaves a princely annual fortune which endures for a life time.

Is it any wonder that England is so interested in these central States, or that her citizens owning coffee or cocoa plantations in Costa Rica, as well as the natives, can afford to live abroad in princely style and float around the courts and palaces of Europe?

The truth is, Costa Rica coffee is better, richer and finer flavored than its only rival, the Mocha, and is now polished by the English market, Americans scarcely knowing what it is.

Superior to coffee, in productiveness, is the cacao, or chocolate. The cacao is not to be confounded with the cocoa, the former producing the chocolate and the latter the nut by that name. Cacao is still more profitable than the coffee, by perhaps one hundred per cent, and an orchard of it lasts for a long life time with but little care. It will plant five hundred trees to the acre, and will yield $10 to $30 per tree per annum.

These look like large figures; but let those who doubt come and see for themselves, remembering that they are the products of a tropical clime, so luxuriant that people forget the necessity of either labor or economy, and become too indolent to attend to either the one or the other. Labor pays best where it meets with the most speedy and liberal return, and here is that locality. Cotton appears to be perennial and enduring, at least the variety of that staple of the United States which appears here; but I am requested, as a favor, to intercede with you for samples of the best seeds, for the purpose of testing them in this soil and climate, and you will oblige many friends by forwarding the same to me.

The Urapiqui river is still commanded by Capt. J. M. Baldwin, the enemy being driven back to San Jose by the force under his command.

Major A. F. Rudler, commanding the river San Juan, is stepping here. He is an exceedingly fine specimen of the man, gentleman and soldier, and was promoted from a captaincy subsequent to the sanguinary battle of Rivas, where his cool bravery, manifested so conspicuously throughout that trying day, proclaimed him most worthy of the high position of Major in the line. It was him who led the Volunteers at Santa Rosa, in Guanacaste, and did all the fighting of that day of treachery and cowardice—his little band stood up and coolly fought the fearful odds, when Schlessinger, with all the rest of the command were in full flight. A Georgian by birth and education, he reflects honor upon his native State, and gives promise of still greater laurels and higher promotion.

Capt. McNamara Comys, with his company, garrisons this place. He is a brave and good officer, and it was him, (called "Corporal Kelly") at Santa Rosa, who collared Schlessinger, and attempted to form his men; he has accompanied Gen. Walker from the first. First Lieut. Bemish and Second Lieut. J. M. Griffin, both of whom are from New York, are attached to his command.

The rainy season is slow in setting in, and the water is low in the river. The Transit is free from obstruction, the general health is good, and no *vuemijos* in the country. Large quantities of freight, mili ary stores and provisions are passing up the river, bound for headquarters.

The steamer Orizaba has arrived from New York, with a small reinforcement. News is brought from Aspinwall and Panama of the fearful loss of life among the passengers—first, in an attack by the natives, killing thirty to forty, and second, by the fearful leap of the railroad train through a bridge.

Times become more and more stirring in this direction. Will it not be necessary for Gen. Walker to go down to Panama and afford protection to that route also? or will Mr Secretary Marcy wake up to a sense of public duty?

THE LATEST.

CASTILLA, May 23, 1856.

The steamship Sierra Nevada has just poured upon us an avalanche of 500 passengers from California. The news from headquarters is gratifying; all is quiet except in the armory department, where the manufacture of the Minie rifle ball is employing all hands. I am informed that machinery is being prepared, at Gen. Walker's directions, to rifle the United States muskets so as to adapt them to the Minie ball—make Minie muskets of them; but to furnish the Minie ball to the Mississippi rifle is the great point of interest. From experiments recently made at Granada with this arm, charged with the Minie ball, it is clearly shown to be the most destructive, and in every way effective, arm known. It carries farther (1½ miles) with greater precision and force than any other, tearing an enormous hole, at 500 yards, in two thicknesses of boiler iron. The Costa Ricans, with their English Minie muskets, have hitherto had the advantage in reach, of the Mississippi, but now our soldiers feel a disposition to retaliate and give them a show.

The health of the army is generally good.

As I predicted, Major Rudler is promoted to the position of lieutenant-colonel—than whom no man is more deserving. He adorns his laurels—not they him.

Colonel Wheeler, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, passed down to Greytown a few days since, to dismiss his family—they wishing to visit home—when he took opportunity to see Captain Tarleton, of the British frigate there on station, and informed him that the American government would not tolerate his conduct in boarding our mail or passenger steamers for the purposes of either question or search, and that he must desist. Captain Tarleton apologizingly said, *"he did not wish to do it, having no instructions from his government, but that the people of Greytown had asked his protection from passengers and filibusters, as they had nothing for them to eat."*

Judge Randolph has just arrived here, and is suffering temporary illness. The rainy season has just set in earnestly, and we hope to soon have water in abundance.

Mr. G. F. Alden is here, en route to New York—his widow, having lost her husband in Granada by fever. He was clerk in one of your courts.

Headquarters are at Virgin Bay.

David Cristalar, a lad, and son of A. M. Cristalar, 23 Bowery, New York, (and who was sent here to have his eyes medicated with the aid of this climate) was mercilessly shot by the Costa Ricans, while standing upon the wharf at Virgin Bay, upon the occasion of their entry in that place, April 8.

Wm. *Irving Langdale*, of Kentucky, who was in the battle of Rivas, and who made forty-eight shots at the enemy with a Kentucky rifle, killed forty-eight Costa Ricans! He occupied a place of security, took rest in shooting—saw twenty-six of them fall himself, the balance others witnessing. He is one of those few sharp shooters who will, off hand, at the distance of 100 yards, knock out the middle spot of the "tray of hearts" nine times out of ten.

But they finally wounded him with buckshot, shooting away the stock of his rifle, wounding his hands, and putting out his left eye. I hope he will soon be able to return from the States, whither he is going with his right (shooting) eye, all *entire* and sound, to "give them another turn." He is a brave fellow and good soldier.

Mr. Morris Schwartz, formerly clerk of the Hygeia Dealers' Society, New York, has opened the Cottage Hotel, in Virgin Bay, and is the bearer of my special despatches to the NEW YORK HERALD. He returns per next steamer, with his family, to make his abode at Virgin.

General William Walker still moves rapidly and mysteriously and worthily wins upon the confidence, esteem and affections of all parties. Loved and feared by the soldiers and officers—idolized by the natives as a supernatural man—the opinion gains ground that his destiny is a proud one, and the speeches at National Hall, which utter hopes of seeing him at Washington as United States Senator, degrade both the man and his grand future by the allusion.

The U. S. war frigate Merrimack is daily expected at Punta Arenas. Will she stop and give some balls at Havana, or will she obey orders promptly?

General Walker's Pursuit of the Costa Ricans.

THE WALKER VICTORY OF THE SARAPIQUI.

[From El Nicaraguense, April 25.]

On the 10th of the present month the garrison of American troops stationed at the mouth of the Rio Sarapiqui, which empties into the San Juan about sixty miles above San Juan del Norte, ascertained that the enemy were cutting a road through the country down to the coast, by which they hoped to communicate with Point Arenas. A party was immediately despatched to reconnoitre, and it was discovered that the engineers had progressed to the river Sarapiqui. Two hundred and fifty Costa Ricans sustained the working party. It was immediately determined to attack the enemy, and Captain Baldwin immediately led a party of forty men, consisting of regular soldiers and a few volunteers, down to the river, and awaited the approach of the enemy.

When the Costa Ricans appeared a volley was fired by our troops, quickly followed by another, and in a few moments the enemy fled, leaving twenty-four men dead on the field. The wounded of the enemy were taken away, and it is not possible at present to give any information as to the total number that suffered at the hands of our gallant boys.

We are filled with sorrow in announcing the death, in this engagement, of Lieut. Wm. Rakestraw, and also the wounding of Lieutenant John B. Green. Both of these officers are spoken of in our reports in the highest terms. The gallantry of the troops is also much extolled. The post on the Sarapiqui is at present manned by eighty men, who feel confident of being able to hold it against any number of the enemy. The position is an important one, as it commands the only route to the city of San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica.

WALKER'S OPPONENTS AT RIVAS.

[From El Nicaraguense, April 26.]

At the battle of Rivas the principal damage done to the American soldiers was inflicted by a party of concealed foreign mercenaries, who, fortified behind walls and towers, out of danger, shot down our men with cowardly precision. The range of the Minnie musket enabled them to pick off our officers at a great distance; and the advantage was taken without compunction for the brave spirits that fell before these unseen foes. Many of these fatal guns were captured by our troops and brought home. General Walker immediately had them examined to see if our muskets could be improved, and on trial it was found that a decided improvement on the Minnie could be made. Captain Rawle immediately set the Ordnance Department at work, and he now reports on hand a large supply of the new material, which, on trial, has proved of greater force and accuracy than the arms of the Costa Ricans. The force is still at work, and in a few days the soldiers can be armed with muskets more desperate than any yet ever tried in Central America.

OPERATIONS AT VIRGIN BAY—THE REMNANT OF THE COSTA RICAN ARMY.

[Correspondence of El Nicaraguense.]

VIRGIN BAY, April 30, 1856.

The expedition left Granada at 11 o'clock last night, and arrived off this port about sunrise this morning. The force consisted of the infantry battalion, under Col. Piper, and the whole of the rifle battalion under Col Saunders—all under command of Gen. Walker himself, accompanied by Gen. Hornsby and Col. Natzmer.

As the Virgin rounded to at the wharf every eye was strained to catch a glimpse of the enemy, and many a good rifle was examined and recapped to make sure. But very few persons could be seen in or about the streets; and as no sign of the presence of any force could be detected, a visible shade of disappointment came over the countenances of our men; but this was quickly removed by the appearance on shore of a small party who came down to the flagstaff standing in front of the Transit Company's building, and ran up the American flag, the sight of which drew forth from our boys three hearty cheers.

Col. Piper, with a small party, was immediately despatched in a small boat on shore to learn particulars. He returned and reported that the Costa Ricans had abandoned Rivas and Virgin Bay, and were probably in force at San Juan del Sur. Orders were immediately given to debark, which was done, company B, of the infantry, Capt. Farnham, in advance. As soon as this company landed, strong picquets were detailed and posted well out upon the approaches to town, and the balance of the company took charge of the town and one cannon, which had been mounted by the enemy, but which they had left behind, ready loaded for service. By 10 o'clock the whole party was landed, and the several companies had selected quarters in the deserted buildings.

A heavy discharge of musketry was suddenly heard down the San Juan del Sur road, and being detested by the quick ear of the General, orders were given to "fall in," and in a very few moments the two battalions were under march for San Juan. It appears that the picquet fired upon two persons who were coming into town, but who, when hailed, turned and fled, followed by a volley from the whole picquet.

We had marched about three miles from town when Gen. Walker was met by a courier, with despatches for the chief from Canas, the Costa Rican General. The courier informed the General that the entire force of the enemy had left San Juan the day before, and that the whole country was clear of them. There was now no necessity for going to San Juan, and the order to countermarch was given, and in one hour more we were all again in quarters at Virgin Bay.

The Transit route is again free from all obstruction, and, God willing, it will not be closed by Costa Rica until she is able to do something better towards "exterminating *los Americanos*" than she has done thus time.

We learn that President Mora was highly incensed at, and disgraced the officer in command at Virgin Bay by whose orders the wharf was burned. He is reported to have said it was an act of vandalism and a disgrace to his army.

In fact, we hear that the Costa Ricans proper were far more civil and humane in their conduct and treatment of prisoners than the "Serviles" from the's State, who were in their army. All the wanton and barbarous acts done by the Costa Ricans are laid to the charge of the Chamorristas, and shows that between them at least and the democrats there can be "no peace," but "war to the knife"—a war of extermination.

Two companies have been sent to occupy San Juan; the balance of the army will remain here. What is the next move? *Quien sabe?*

LETTER FROM GENERAL CANAS, OF COSTA RICA, TO GENERAL WALKER.

The following is a translation of the letter referred to, and explains itself. It will be seen from this that some twenty Americans who we have heretofore supposed to have been taken and killed by the enemy, have only been retained as prisoners of war, and they may yet all return in safety to their friends and country:—

RIVAS, April 26, 1856.

WM. WALKER, General in Chief of the Nicaraguan Army:—Obliged to abandon the plaza of Rivas on account of the appearance of the cholera in the most alarming manner, I am forced to leave here a certain number of sick men whom it is impossible to carry away without danger to their lives; but I expect your generosity will treat them with all the attention and care their situation requires. I invoke the laws of humanity in favor of these unfortunate victims of an awful calamity, and I have the honor of proposing to you to exchange them for more than twenty prisoners who are now in our power, and whose names I will send you in a particular list for making the said exchange, when they may be quite recuperated from sickness. Believing that this my proposal will be admitted, according to the laws of war, I have the honor of subscribing myself, with the feelings of the highest consideration, your most obedient servant, JOSE MA. CANAS.

General in Chief Costa Rican Army.

[From El Nicaraguense, May 3.]

It will be perceived that the enemy have evacuated the State, and are now in Costa Rica. The most reliable reports estimate the loss of General Mora at 1,200 men, in those who were killed in battle, wounded and since died, and taken off by disease.

General Walker, with a larger part of his army, left this city for Virgin Bay, on Tuesday evening, and arrived at that place at daybreak next day, just six hours after the enemy left San Juan del Sur. He found at Rivas a large number of the enemy sick and wounded, together with a letter from Gen. Jose Maria Ganas, commander of the Costa Rica forces, entrusting these men to the generosity of General Walker, and proposing, at some future time, to exchange American prisoners for them. They were taken care of by the General. General Walker returned to Granada on Thursday, and after remaining in this city two days, again departed this morning for Virgin Bay, where the headquarters of the army will be temporarily fixed. It will be a matter of congratulation to our friends in the United States to learn that the transit route across from San Juan del Norte to San Juan del Sur has been re-opened, and will be continued so hereafter. The almost entire strength of the American force is now stationed on the line of the Transit.

NEWS FROM HEAD QUARTERS IN VIRGIN BAY—CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAILING FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

[Correspondence of El Nicaraguense.]

VIRGIN BAY, May 8, 1856.

War leaves behind it many an evidence of its destructiveness, and its footsteps of desolation may be seen wherever its votaries have been. This little town, so thriving once and happy—with its streets full of busy men, chatting women and playful children, its fine road, and above all, its handsome wharf—presents another aspect now and the very reverse of the one I have pictured. Why are these houses and cabins deserted? Why has the fire blackened and destroyed yonder wharf, a work of which any State or country might be justly proud? Why has an enemy been here to burn, sack and destroy all that they could find? Why has the commerce of the two worlds been in part interrupted, and the peace and quiet of millions of people disturbed? Simply to gratify an inordinate ambition to rule, or a criminal revenge that opportunity might grant with its bloody destructive vengeance.

The history of the past two months in Central America is but the repetition of what has taken place here almost every year for a quarter of a century; and it is time these scenes were stopped. It is time that the wild and criminal ambition of those who are thus ready to bring war and desolation upon their own country should be taught a lesson as lasting as severe, and be made to feel in their own persons the pains and penalties their infernal acts so often heap upon others. It is time the legitimist party of this State should be made to know that their treason will be as severely as deservedly punished, and that the foes they may desire to others will return upon themselves with terrible force. They should be made to know also that the spirit of the age is against them, and that democracy cannot now be exterminated from this country by any combination they may bring against it; but that it will grow and strengthen just in proportion as it is persecuted and opposed; and that ere long it will sweep down all the feeble barriers raised against it in all Central America.

Rivas is emphatically a "city of barricades" now, for it is so strongly walled in and walled out that one can hardly pass from one street to another without climbing over half a dozen barricades of one kind or another. The plaza is walled in first—that is, across every street leading from the plaza, the Costa Ricans have thrown up a wall or breastwork about four feet high, and then fortified the adjacent buildings, so as to prevent the advance of any force upon this outer wall. The houses around the plaza are full of holes, through which they were to poke their muskets and fire in case Gen. Walker should return and attack them in their stronghold. They buried their dead of the 11th ult. in the walls; and when they left the city there were no corpses left to taint the air, as has been reported.

But Rivas is a sacked city. These well bred, moral, brave men from Costa Rica, led on by the humane and well disposed J. R. Mora, who pays so readily for everything he takes or destroys, (as some of his apologists will have it,) took from the people of Rivas everything under the heavens they could carry away—trunks of clothing, dry goods, groceries, provisions—in fact, everything they could find to lay their hands upon, they took away, which, according to my notion of things, amounts to a sacking of the place, and that too of a city that gave to the Costa Ricans no motive for such robbery and plunder.

On the night of the 3d instant, there was a small gathering of the "Vesta Boys" at the headquarters of the General, to celebrate the anniversary of the sailing of the expedition from San Francisco. From one cause and another, only about seventeen of the "original fifty-six" were present, viz., Gens. Walker and Hornsby; Col. Markham; Maj. Anderson; Capts. Rawle, Hoof, Vesder and Leonard; Lieuts. Gist, Caston, Gardner, Mathews and Webb; Privates Lyons, Travelis, Burke and Coleman, and Drummer Norris. All restraint was thrown off, and each one talked, sang and acted just as he did on board the little vessel that brought them hither. Of course, there was the usual accompaniment of all such gatherings, viz., *Eau de vie*; and when the company became a little "mellowed up," there were toasts, cheers and *songs*, as there naturally would be. The first toast was by General Walker, as follows:

The brig Vesta—She should never have made another voyage.

The second, by Major Anderson—

To General Walker.

The third, by General Walker—

To the Fifty-six, without their commander.

The fourth, by Captain Rawle—

To the lamented dead of the Fifty-six.

After these toasts were disposed of, Mr. De Frewer sang the "Blue, White and Blue;" and after a very pleasant time generally, the company separated in fine spirits. Of the original "fifty-six" some sixteen are dead, but the day will come when the anniversary of their exodus from California will be celebrated as a national holiday; and, like the anniversary of the "Landing of the Pilgrims," be commemorated as a great event in the history of Central America.

There is a talk now of moving the headquarters of the army up to Rivas, but as yet nothing is certain.

Should the steamers now overdue bring a goodly number of recruits, it is probable the cry will be "Hot for Costa Rica and Veragua!"

On the 6th inst. a Costa Rican was shot at Pt. George, for being concerned in the murder of some of our wounded after the battle of the 11th. This fellow an two others were found prowling about near Rivas, and were caught by some of our troops.

The San Carlos went down last evening to Castillo, and we expect her up to-morrow.

We have just heard of the appearance off San Juan del Sur of the California steamer.

There were two men hung yesterday. They were Chamorristas, and were engaged in the murder of a man on Ometepec Island, and were also concerned in burying the wood there. All the prisoners were out to witness the execution.

The expedition of Capt. Farnum to Sapoa came back last evening. They found nothing but a deserted town.

The health of the army remains good, though there are a few sick.

Captain Mason died on the 5th, and was buried on Ometepec.

PROSPECTS OF ANOTHER CAMPAIGN.

El Nicaraguense, of May 17, says:—A courier arrived in town yesterday, from Leon, bringing despatches from the President. The Northern States are still quiescent; and as the rainy season is about commencing, no fear of an invasion need be apprehended during the next six months. At the expiration of that time, if hostilities should be determined on, Nicaragua will be able to send into the field an army, not only sufficient to defend our own Territory, but to carry the contest into any adjoining State which may wage a war against us.

Gen Walker and his staff left the city on Monday morning last for Virgin, by the way of Rivas. The General expressed himself well satisfied with the management of affairs in this department.

PRESENT APPEARANCE OF VIRGAN BAY—THE SICK COSTA RICANS—TRADE REVIVING.

[Correspondence of El Nicaraguense.]

SAN JUAN DEL SUR, May 14, 1856.

I came over here a few days ago on duties connected with the Quartermaster's Department, and am so well pleased with the town and surrounding country, that I should not like to leave it, at least for the present. The distance hither from Virgin, via the Transit road, is about twelve miles, and in a nearly southern direction, the road winding gracefully along the side of the hills, and finally across the mountain range which divides the great plain of the lake from the rugged slopes bordering the Pacific. In many places this great highway is cut from the sides of lofty hills that tower amid the clouds, and presenting many admirable points for ambush and battle of a foe. In one of these gorges, near the very ridge point, General Walker once posted his little army of two hundred men to await the approach of the Service force. The position was admirably selected, and had the enemy advanced within the ambush, there would have been no escape from the muskets and rifles of the ambuscaders.

A very small force, if skilfully posted at this line, could cut to pieces any number that might have the daring hardihood to advance upon it from either side. From one point on the road a sublime view is presented of the lake, the lofty Ometepec, Virgin Bay and surrounding country; and a little further on the eye is gladdened by a glimpse of the great Pacific, wrinkled with waves that plunge their surf with a thundering crash upon the sand or rocks that line the shore.

San Juan del Sur is set down in a little circular valley, bounded by high rocky hills, which enclose within their graceful reach the town and bay. The latter is full one mile in circumference; has excellent anchorage and sufficient water close in shore for the largest vessels to ride in safety.

As I rode slowly down the road from the elevation south of the Rio San Juan, a low rumbling sound, as of distant thunder, came from the bay, which I quickly detected as the beating of the heavy surf upon the low sandy shore. There was a deep wild music in that heavy roar that I loved to hear and involuntarily I reined up my horse to listen to its voice. It was the first time that my ear had ever listened to the "voice of old Ocean," whose waters roll round one half the globe and dash their spray upon "many a distant land and many a lovely isle." Hastily spurring forward towards the bay, I did not stop until my horse's feet and limbs were suddenly bathed by an inrolling surge, which broke into foam and bubbles far in my rear.

At present the bay is almost entirely deserted by everything like a water craft, if we except one great barge named Enchantman, which lies like a huge giant, browned and blackened by many a stormy voyage across the great ocean, upon whose waters it now rides slowly down to rottenness and destruction. The town, too, is still partially deserted; but as peace once more reigns around, the natives who fled away on the approach of the Costa Ricans gradually return to occupy their dwellings and pursue their usual avocations.

When I first came over from Virgin there were left here by Gen. Canas some fifty or twenty infirm Costa Ricans, many of whom have died, and the balance—eight in number—have been transferred to Virgin. These unfortunate fellows seem to be contented with their treatment, and have become much attached to the Americans, whom they regard with quite a different view from what they had previously entertained of them. They tell a sad story of the sufferings of the whole expedition from Costa Rica to this department; and if allowed to return to their homes and families, when they are exchanged, they will be apt to dispel many of the errors and falsehoods uttered by the San Jose journals concerning our people.

I found at this place several persons whom I had considered as dead, or at the best, prisoners, in Costa Rica. They were not molested much by the enemy during their stay at this post; and they represent the army under Canas as being exceedingly dissatisfied when it became known that they were in full retreat from this country. Many of the officers were so much disgusted with the whole expedition—the innumerable falsehoods that had been told them before leaving Costa Rica, and the disgrace that attached to the failure of their enterprise—that they openly denounced their Generals, and declared their intention to leave the army forever on their arrival home.

A portion of the Rifle Battalion (Col. Saunders) has been placed in garrison of this place, and I hear that the larger portion of the army is soon to be divided between Leon, Granada, Virgin and this town.

VIRGIN, May 14, 1856.

I have no news of importance to report, at least in connection with the army. The health of the troops continues good, although there have been some sickness and deaths since the army arrived here.

The General having wisely concluded that the enemies of peace and their own country shall furnish their full quota of support to those who are endeavoring to establish the prosperity and peace of the State upon a solid basis, there has been lately no want of wholesome food for our men, and consequently no murmuring is heard on account of empty stomachs and hard fare.

The steamer Virgin has been plying for several days between this port and Ometepec, from whence we have received provisions, horses and cattle, and a few subjects for "tight rope performances," unless they can prove themselves innocent of the charges preferred against them. The servile party will find out, by and by, that treason, conspiracy, murder and rebellion will not pay; and that it will be better to be quiet, at least, if not patriotic when their native soil is invaded by a foreign foe.

Rivas begins to exhibit signs of returning life; but it will be a long time before the marks and scars of battle are entirely eradicated from her walls.

For several days past there has been in circulation a rumor that the Costa Rican government had sued for peace. Be this as it may, there is a political storm brewing in that State before which the servile party will fall down like ancient oaks before a whirlwind. A patient, toiling, industrious people have been deceived into a disastrous war, and as its fearful consequences begin to be felt in almost every cabin in the State, a wail of anguish, mingled with the cry for revenge goes up to the very Throne, calling to a bloody account the men who have deceived, betrayed and sacrificed their friends in a cruel, needless and destructive war.

Last week two of the Santa Rosa men reached this place, after wandering about and suffering for six or seven weeks. They had been protected and concealed by one or two natives, and finally brought in by them in a small boat across the lake. There is a report that more of the men who escaped from that field are on the islands in the lake, and may yet return.

Mr. Tootily, correspondent of the New Orleans *Delta*, is at San Jose, or was there some ten days ago.

We learn that but about 1,200 out of the 1,700 Costa Ricans who left San Juan under President Mora, reached La Union, and a large number of those were in a most miserable condition. The balance had sickened or died by the way or deserted the ranks.

Virgin is again filling up with residents, and business once more begins to revive; and, with the return of peace and the re-establishment of the Transit line, this department will begin to prosper like all other countries where Americans are interested.

We are looking anxiously for the return of the San Carlos from Castillo.

LATEST.

El Nicaraguense, of May 17, says:—

The latest information from the Costa Rican army represents it as retreating very rapidly through the Department of Guanacaste, towards San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica. The cholera was prevalent among the troops, and great numbers were dying off from its fatal effects. A facetious officer remarks that the cholera is serving our purposes very well as a squadron of cavalry.

Nicaraguan Army Intelligence.

PROMOTIONS, EXCHANGES, AND FORMATION OF COMPANIES AND MILITARY BANDS.

[From El Nicaraguense, April 26.]

Captain A. F. Rudler, promoted Major of the 1st Light Infantry Battalion.

H. L. Porter appointed First Lieutenant of Ordnance.

A. Schwartz appointed Captain of Artillery.

Leonidas McIntosh appointed Major of the 2d Battalion Light Infantry.

James Walker appointed Captain of Co. A, 2d Light Infantry.

James Mullan appointed Captain Co. B, 2d Light Infantry.

E. Eaglehart appointed First Lieutenant Co. B, 2d Light Infantry.

Geo. W. May appointed First Lieut. Co. A, 2d Light Infantry.

B. F. Delaron appointed First Lieut. Co. B, 2d Light Infantry.

W. J. Montjoy appointed Second Lieut. Co. A, 2d Light Infantry.

F. W. Pole appointed Second Lieut. Co. C, 2d Light Infantry.

Robert Glenon appointed Second Lieut. Co. C, 2d Light Infantry.

Calland Faysour appointed First Lieutenant, and attached to the staff of Brigadier-General Hornsby.

First Lieutenant George R. Caston assigned to the staff of Brigadier General Hornsby.

L. B. Hart appointed Second Lieutenant Co. B, 2nd Light Infantry Battalion.

The recruits received by the last steamers were immediately formed into a new battalion of infantry, and are now daily drilled in the tactics of that branch of warfare. The battalion is formed of good looking men, and for the time they have been in service, their drill is accomplished with great ease and order. The battalion is officered as follows:—

Major, Leonidas McIntosh; Captains Co.: A, James Walker; Co. B, James Mullen; First Lieutenants: Co. A, Geo. W. May; Co. B, B. F. Delaney; Co. C, L. Eaglehart; Second Lieutenants, Co. B, Robert Glennan; Co. A, W. J. Montjoy; Co. C, F. W. Polk.

By the steamer Charles Morgan a very full and efficient brass band, under the charge of T. G. Adkins, arrived in this city. Their performances, at the head of the column of recruits that entered the city on Tuesday last, gave unusual satisfaction, and raised the spirits of the boys to fighting pitch. The natives flocked around in large crowds, and everybody seemed to feel inspired under the magic influence of American tunes. The band has performed several serenades, on which occasions the city barony ever fails to turn out.

Lieut. Colonel James S. Piper having been promoted as Colonel of the First Light Infantry, resigned his position as Commandant of Granada, and took command of his battalion.

Brigadier General D. B. Fry has been appointed Commandant of Granada.

The services of the new mounted company which recently arrived from New Orleans on the steamer Charles Morgan, under Capt. Davenport, have been accepted by the government for four months. The men will be mounted as soon as possible.

Brigadier-General Hornsby, a general favorite with the army, arrived in town on Tuesday on the steamer, and was received by his many friends with a hearty grasp of the hand.

General Walker has given orders for the immediate organization of an artillery corps, and the detail has already been made. Several heavy pieces of ordnance are being mounted, and additions will be made as fast as possible. The want of artillery was felt most seriously at Rivas, and very effectual service was r