

COLONEL WILLIAM WALKER.

Brief Sketch of the Career of the Man Who Invaded Nicaragua—His Struggles and Tragic Death.

Some time during next month, says the Alta California, a grand reunion will be held at Louisville of the surviving members of the old platoon of bold spirits who invaded Nicaragua under the famous Gray-Eyed Man of Destiny, Colonel William Walker, otherwise termed the "Wild Filibuster." The survivors are not many. They numbered but several hundred in the first place.

The history of Colonel Walker's adventures in the Nicaraguan state read like a romance and forms an intensely interesting chapter in the history of Spanish America. In May, 1854, affairs in the Nicaraguan republic were in a critical condition. There were two parties—the Democrats and the legitimists. The latter were in the ascendancy and had exiled the leaders of the opposition party.

It was about this time that Colonel Walker returned to San Francisco from his ill-fated Lower California expedition. He became aware of the condition of the government in Nicaragua, and immediately saw a grand opening for more adventure. It was a darling scheme for him to entertain, that of taking a body of men to the scene of the trouble and participating in it; still it was in accord with his wild spirit. He succeeded in obtaining from Castillon a grant to introduce 300 Americans into Nicaragua with the privilege of bearing arms.

No secrecy was used in organizing the band of "colonists." Walker showed the grant to the district attorney of the United States for the northern district of California, Hon. S. Inge, who declared that no law would be violated under it. Walker then sailed from San Francisco with a band of men in the brig Vesta for Realfo. His intention was to assist the democratic forces in Nicaragua. He arrived at Realfo on June 11, 1855, with sixty-two followers. On his arrival he found that affairs in Nicaragua had taken a bad turn for the Democratic party.

The next action took place at Virgin bay, in which he was triumphant. On Oct. 15 Walker took possession of the city of Granada, and by a treaty with Corral, the opposing leader, was made generalissimo. Corral was tried for treason by a court martial, over which Walker presided. On Nov. 8 Corral was shot. As success crowned Walker's struggles, so did interest in his cause increase in the United States. Shipping offices were opened in the leading cities, and recruits were plentiful.

On March 1, 1856, Walker had over 1200 Americans under his control. His star of destiny was in the ascendancy, and his dreams of conquest were well nigh realized. But he now had another difficulty on his hands. Costa Rica declared war against him. Walker got his army in motion and advanced on the Costa Ricans. A battle took place at Guanacaste on March 20. Walker was defeated, but in a second battle that occurred at Rivas he once more obtained the advantage. Hostilities ceased with this battle, the Costa Ricans being much depressed. Cholera was also prevailing in their state.

Walker now carried matters further in Nicaragua by breaking up the interoceanic route and confiscating the property and revoking the charter of the Vanderbilt Steamship Company. He followed this act by becoming president of the state, being elected in June.

In September by a decree he annulled the existing prohibition of slavery. Of such an arbitrary nature were many of his acts that a domestic revolution was created. This was an opportunity which the surrounding states that had long been jealous of Walker's advances had been waiting for. A series of battles were fought, and

on May 1, 1857, Walker delivered himself up to Commander C. H. Davis of the United States sloop-of-war St. Mary, by which he was conveyed to Panama. He was taken to New Orleans and put under bonds to keep the peace. Somehow or other he managed to escape the surveillance of the government, and in November, was again in Nicaragua with a band of 132 men.

He and his men were compelled to surrender to Commander Paulding, U. S. N., and were taken to New York. President Buchanan refused to interfere in Walker's case and declined to recognize him as a prisoner, on the ground of the illegality of his arrest on foreign soil.

Twice after this did Walker attempt to invade Nicaragua with bands of enthusiastic admirers. On the last venture, in 1860, Walker ventured into Honduras with revolutionary purposes in view. But the Hondurans captured him and in a decidedly summary manner shot him. Many of his followers were sacrificed. When the survivors of his ill-fated expedition met in Louisville they will have many wild and thrilling experiences of their campaign to relate.

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EDUCATIONAL.

Train to Read in the Schools.

[Boston Courier.]

There is much talk nowadays of the importance of good writing; of the influence upon the public of literature and the cardinal need of encouraging a high grade. It does not seem to occur to people that if preaching is to be done it would be well to devote some stress to the advocacy of good reading as well as of good writing. There is much more of the latter than the former. There is no lack of good books, but the unhappy fact is that there is decidedly a lack of people who know how to read them.

We are a race and as a nation of the nervous habit of mind and body which prevents our doing properly whatever demands deliberation and care. We read as we do everything else, hastily, feverishly and superficially. If an author has written carefully, if he has charged every line with meaning, if his choice of words has been deliberate and subtle, all these fine distinctions are lost upon the hasty reader. He skims hastily over the surface and loses half the force the author has carefully and patiently wrought into the web of his work. He even complains, often enough, that the author has failed to put into his writing the meaning which escapes him simply because of his inefficient reading.

It is a pity that instead of some of the useless and multitudinous rubbish with which our public schools force children to struggle painfully in the shape of superficial and assimilating spattering of all sorts of things, place could not be found in the instruction of youth for the cultivation of the habit of careful and intelligent reading. If this could be once established it would be infinitely more valuable than the sort of stuff with which their minds are at present concerned.

Compulsory School Attendance.

We must get ready to face this question, Compulsory School Attendance. Rev. T. De Witt Talmage in a recent sermon, said:

"I say that we must depend upon the school for a great deal of correcting influences. A community can no more afford to have ignorant men in its midst than it can afford to have uncaged hyenas. Ignorance is the mother of a hydra-headed crime. Thirty-one per cent of all the criminals of New York State can neither read nor write. Intellectual darkness is generally the precursor of moral darkness.

I know there are educated outlaws, men who through their sharpness of intellect, are made more dangerous. They use their fine penmanship in signing other people's names, and their science in ingenious burglaries, and their fine manners in adroit libertinism. They go their round of sin with well-cut apparel, and dangling jewelry, and watches of eighteen carats and kid gloves. They are refined, educated, magnificent villains. But that is the exception. It is generally the case that the criminal classes are as ignorant as they are wicked. For proof of what I say, go into the prisons and the penitentiaries, and look upon the men and women incarcerated. The dishonesty in the eye, the low passion in the lip are not more conspicuous than the ignorance in the forehead. The ignorant classes are always the dangerous classes. Demagogues marshal them. They are helmetless, and are driven before the gale.

It is high time that all city and State authority, as well as the Federal Government, appreciate the awful

statistics that, while years ago, in this country, there was set apart 43,000,000 of acres of land for school purposes, there are now in New England 191,000 people who can neither read nor write, and in the State of Pennsylvania 222,000 who can neither read nor write, and in the State of New York 241,000 who can neither read nor write, while in the United States there are nearly 6,000,000 who can neither read nor write. Statistics enough to stagger and confound any man who loves his God and his country.

Now, in view of this fact, I am in favor of compulsory education. When parents are so bestial as to neglect this duty to the child, I say the law, with a strong hand, at the same time with a gentle hand, ought to lead these little ones into the light of intelligence and good morals."

A RUDE AWAKENING.

She had a face surprising fair; And men admired her beauty rare— And I? Well, I adored her, nothing less; To be with her was happiness Three ply.

Of course she knew; she was not blind; She saw my plight, and she was kind And good; For when I asked her if she'd wed A chap like me, she blushed and said She would.

Oh, then the summer quickly flew Till the time came to say adieu One night. She promised when I went away That every single day She'd write.

But her first letter drove me mad Almost, with wild despair, for sad To tell; This lovely maid, for whom I yearned So longingly, had never learned To spell.

—Journal of Education.

Definiteness in Knowledge.

The memory will only be content when there is that accuracy which gives absolute confidence. Suspicion of inaccuracy is the most vicious element in memory. It is more satisfactory not to recall a thing than to recall it in such a way as not to know what we have recalled—whether the recollection is reliable, where the memory of fact shades into fancy. It requires the best mental activity, the closest observation, the clearest thought, the sharpest discrimination, the cleanest classification, to give knowledge that definiteness which is indispensable to reliability in memory and accuracy in recollection.—Journal of Education.

RELIGIOUS.

Interesting Facts and Figures, for Students of the Scriptures.

The Apocrypha has verses, 7051. The Apocrypha has chapters, 183. The books of the Old Testament, 39. The Apocrypha has words, 152,185. Verses in the Old Testament, 23,241. The books in the New Testament, 27. Verses in the New Testament, 7,959. Words in the Old Testament, 592,430. Words in the New Testament 181,253. The chapters in the Old Testament, 929.

Letters in the New Testament, 838,380. Letters in the Old Testament, 2,628,100. The chapters in the New Testament, 260.

The word "Jehovah" occurs 6855 times. The middle book of the Old Testament is Proverbs.

The middle chapter of the Old Testament is Job, 29. The middle verse of the New Testament is Acts, xvii, 17.

The shortest verse in the New Testament is John, xi, 35. Chapter 19 of II. Kings and chapter 37 of Isaiah are alike.

The longest verse in the Old Testament is Esther, viii, 9. The middle book of the New Testament is II. Thessalonians.

The word "and" occurs in the New Testament 10,604 times. The middle chapter and shortest in the Bible is Psalm, cxvii.

The word "and" occurs in the Old Testament 36,543 times. The shortest verse of the Old Testament is I. Chronicles, i, 25.

The middle verse of the Old Testament is II. Chronicles, xxi, 17. The middle chapters of the New Testament are Romans, xiii, and xiv. Verse 21, chapter 7 of Ezra, has all the letters of the alphabet except "J."

A Church With Lady Members Only.

[Toronto, Ill., Special.]

The Presbytery of Bloomington has a small-sized elephant on its hands. There is a church at Sidney, this county, composed entirely of women. They raised the money to build a neat little chapel and dedicated it practically free from debt. But there were no male members to hold the offices, and so no officers have been chosen. A committee recently appointed by the Presbytery is now endeavoring to complete the organization by electing elders. The question at issue appears to be whether they can hustle up some male members or will have to disregard all custom and precedent by letting the women take the place they have so abundantly earned.

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