

[Written for the Sunday Dollie.

The Number of Gen. Walker's Forces— Why those False Statements!

Mr. Editor: The Graytown correspondent of the New York Times, in a recent letter to that paper, states, upon the authority of Mr. J. N. Scott, that "seven thousand" men went up the San Juan river to join General Walker, and that "three thousand five hundred" came from California for a like purpose. This would make a sum total of ten thousand five hundred men who joined Gen. Walker! And the Times' correspondent says Mr. Scott refers to the books of Messrs. Harris & Morgan to corroborate his statements. This appears like conclusive testimony. Mr. Scott was the agent of Harris & Morgan, and had charge of the lake steamers and river boats previous to their seizure by the Costa Ricans and Spaniards. He ought to know how many men were shipped by the Accessory Transit Company to Nicaragua; for Lee's book stated that when this Company obtained the charter from the Nicaraguan Government, they were to carry to Nicaragua ten thousand emigrants. The books of Harris & Morgan, according to Mr. Scott and the correspondent of the Times, show that they carried five hundred more than they agreed to. I shall not question Mr. Scott's veracity, nor the correctness of Harris & Morgan's books, but I should like very much to know where these men came from, when they were shipped, and where they went. I am fully satisfied that Gen. Walker has no knowledge of having ever received more than one-third the number stated by Mr. Scott. The books of the Adjutant General show only the names of thirty-one or two hundred who were regularly enrolled in the army. But it may be that the Adjutant General was not so particular with his books as was Mr. Scott with those of Harris & Morgan.

True, it was necessary that each man belonging to the army should have his name enrolled to entitle him to pay and rations. Still, seven thousand may have been careless about the matter and neglected to have their names recorded. Many of Gen. Walker's men were careless about the performance of their duty, but when it came to calling they were generally clear.

But, seriously, I should like to know what became of the seven thousand missing filibusters. I might hope that they had gone on to California, were it not for the introduction of the statement of a Mr. Bostwick, late Secretary of State of Nicaragua, who says he has authentic evidence to show that seven thousand five hundred of those who joined General Walker were either killed, or died of disease, in that country. As Mr. Bostwick was in the country but a short time before he was severely wounded, and as he was unable to attend to any business until after the siege of Rivas, I doubt the correctness of his information. Besides this, he deserted with Col. Titus and Major Bell—a circumstance calculated to slightly invalidate his testimony among men of honor. And, more than this, it is generally believed that this trio of rascals had made an arrangement for selling the position held by Bell's Battalion, and were to share equally the proceeds of the sale. The introduction of such testimony as this will throw doubt upon the evidence given by Mr. Scott.

Some may be curious to know why such statements are made, if not true. The reason is obvious. The object of the Northern press is to defeat Gen. Walker's attempt to return to Nicaragua, because they knew if he does return he will certainly succeed in establishing a Government in that country, and that that Government will recognize slavery. Captain Scott has been thrown out of business for some time, by the interruption of the Transit route, and hopes to make better terms with a company that may get a charter from Costa Rica and Nicaragua, than from one that may obtain a charter from Gen. Walker, should he return. Besides this, many are of opinion that Capt. Scott has compromised himself in order to secure favors from Costa Rica, and for this reason he does not wish to see Gen. Walker again in Nicaragua. Bostwick has disgraced himself by his loss and cowardly desertion, and now attempts to injure those whom he deserted and attempted to betray. He would stoop to any thing to defeat Gen. Walker and his followers in attempting to regain a country they were deprived of, through incapacity, cowardice and treachery on the part of their comrades in arms.

A moment's reflection will satisfy any one who is at all posted in regard to the history of Nicaragua for the last two years, that neither of the statements made or quoted by the Times' correspondent is correct. The shipments up the San Juan river were made from March to December, 1856. According to Mr. Scott's statement, the monthly shipments averaged seven hundred. In March, Gen. Walker had five or six hundred men; in April his force was between six and seven hundred.

He marched against Rivas with between four and five hundred men, besides the native troops under his command; leaving but a small force to garrison Granada. The largest number of troops he had at any one time, was when he marched against Masaya, October 12, 1854. He then marched out of Granada with over a thousand men, leaving only about two hundred in that place. Had the number stated by Mr. Scott been shipped up the San Juan River, General Walker certainly would have had a larger force than this. From the best information I could obtain, I am satisfied the shipments by the river did not average two hundred per month. It is generally estimated that he received between twelve and fifteen hundred from California. This approximates very nearly the number given by the books of the Adjutant General. Of this number fully one-half have returned. Of the others it is estimated that one-half died of disease and disorganization. The other half were either killed or died of their wounds. This estimate does not include those who were on the river with Col. Lockridge.

I have no object to gain by misrepresenting the facts, and only wish to prevent others from doing so. The object of those who are making these glaringly false statements in regard to the number of men who went to Nicaragua, and the number who lost their lives there, is too apparent to require an exposure. It is to deter others from returning with Gen. Walker. For my part, I have been to Nicaragua, and am willing to return, which is the best proof I can offer of my sincerity.