

The March of Walker's Army into Costa Rica—Description of the Battle with the Costa Rican Army—Highly Interesting Particulars—Remored Slaughter of Walker's Men at Leon—Union of Honduras and Salvador with Costa Rica.

A correspondent of the *New York Times*, writing from Panama, under date of April 3, says: For some time past, the Republics of Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica, alarmed at the aspect of affairs in Nicaragua, and naturally jealous of the interference of foreigners in their affairs, especially when carried on in the high-handed manner Walker has done, have formed among themselves into a league offensive and defensive, for the purpose of opposing the foreign influence in Nicaragua. Costa Rica especially, cut off as it is from the other powers, small, sparsely populated, but at the same time wealthy and progressive, has every reason to fear that it would be the Naboth's vineyard coveted by Walker, and when the Commissioners from Nicaragua proposed to form a treaty with it, positively refused to have anything to say to that country as long as it was in the hands of strangers. In this it did no more than the United States Government, in not acknowledging Mr. Parker H. French. At last matters came to a crisis. On the 25th of February, the President of Costa Rica, Don Juan Raffael Mora, convoked Congress in extraordinary session, and on the 27th that body authorized him, alone, or in union with the other Central American States, to take arms against the Republic of Nicaragua, to defend its inhabitants from the heavy oppression of the fillibusters, and to drive them from the soil of all Central America.

On the same day, the President issued a decree calling out 9,000 of the militia; and on the 28th another, in which it denied the authority of the so-called Provincial Government of Nicaragua. A loan of \$100,000 was asked for, and the whole sum was immediately subscribed.

In the meantime, by Walker's order, the British mail for San Jose de Costa Rica was seized by a party of his forces, at a place called Hipp's Point, whilst ascending the San Juan River, and on the 10th of March he issued his proclamation of "war to the knife" against all Central America.

The Costa Rica troops were immediately marched to the Punta Arenas and there embarked for Liberia, the President himself accompanying them. A large force was left in Punta Arenas to protect it in case of invasion, as Walker threatened to come down there in the Company's steamers. A printing press accompanies the army, and a daily bulletin is issued. On the 20th of March the first engagement took place, at a place called Santa Rosa, between four hundred of the fillibusters under Colonel Louis Schlessinger, and five hundred Costa Ricans under General Jose Joaquin Mora. According to the official reports published in the *Costa Rica Boletin Oficial*, as well as from letters received from private parties which I have seen, it appears that in fifteen minutes the fillibusters were defeated, the Costa Ricans storming their position at the point of the bayonet, twenty-six were killed, many wounded and about forty prisoners taken. Schlessinger, however, managed to escape.

The name of the killed and wounded are not given. Private letters state that many prisoners have since been taken in the woods, and that they all have been shot.

In the meantime the main army, three thousand strong, is marching into Nicaragua, where Walker has taken his stand, having fortified Grenada as well as his means would permit.

Another version of this battle, and perhaps a more correct one, though I have it only from hearsay, is, that the Costa Rica force were advancing quite unconscious of the presence of the fillibusters at Santa Rosa, when the advanced guard met three strangers, two white men and a native, in the act of making a reconnoissance. They surrounded them and took them prisoners, and one, a Scotchman, name not given, the Secretary to Colonel Schlessinger, was wounded, (and had to have, subsequently, his arm amputated.) From them they learned of the presence of the force at Santa Rosa and managed to reach them unobserved. A general fight took place, many of the fillibusters took to the house and the others escaped; the Costa Ricans attempted to fire the premises but did not succeed, and they then broke in the doors, killed some and made the rest prisoners.

They then learned that a Costa Rica outpost had been attacked a few days before by Schlessinger on his march, and the party, consisting of eight, killed to prevent their giving notice of the approach of the invaders, and this barbarity so excited the troops that they insisted on the immediate execution of the prisoners. In this way it is possible to account for Schlessinger's defeat, otherwise it is hard to credit this overthrow by a force so little superior to their own, taking into consideration also the advantage of the invaders' position. I give this story as I hear it, and your readers must form their own opinion as to its credibility.

It is said that in Leon the people rose against Walker's men and killed one hundred, and that a strong feeling exists against him all through the State.

Carrera, it is reported, is coming with a large force of his Indian troops to the aid of Costa Rica, and Honduras and Salvador are also arming, so that Walker will find himself in a tight place, and a bloody war, without quarter on either side, is like to result.

Yellow fever and cholera are said to prevail among Walker's troops, and these, together with the climate, his small force, want of munitions of war &c., make it probable that his race is almost run, and that a bullet or a machete will terminate his adventurous career.