

*Battle between Walker's Army and the Costa Ricans.*

RUMORED DEFEAT OF THE NICARAGUANS.

The New York papers of the 17th contain such particulars as have been received by the George Law, of the reported battle between the filibusters and the Costa Ricans. They are very interesting. The following is a letter from Panama to the New York Times:

PANAMA, April 3, 1856.

Our only important news here is from Central America, where Walker is making himself the "observed of all observers," and as your communication with San Juan del Norte is broken off, I send you the full particulars, as received here a few days ago by the steamer Emilie, from Punta Arenas and Central American ports.

As your readers are doubtless aware, 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 a league, offensive and defensive, for the purpose of opposing the foreign influence in Nicaragua.

On the 24th of February, the President of Costa Rica, Don Juan Rafael Mora, convoked Congress in extraordinary session, and on the 27th that body authorized him, alone, or in union with other Central American States, to take arms against the Republic of Nicaragua, to defend its inhabitants from the heavy oppression of the filibusters, and drive them from 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 Provisional 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 Juan 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 Punta Arenas, and there embarked for Liberia, the President himself accompanying them. A large force was also left at Punta Arenas to protect it in case of invasion, as Walker threatened to come down there in the Company's steamer. 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 filibusters under Col. Louis Schlessinger, and five hundred Costa Ricans under Gen. Jose Joaquin Mora. According to the official reports published in the Costa Rica Bulletin Official, as well as from letters received from private parties which I have seen, it appears that in fifteen minutes the filibusters 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 names of the wounded and killed 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 forces were advancing, quite unconscious of the presence of the filibusters at Santa Rosa, when the advance 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 of Col. Schlessinger, was wounded, and had to have, consequently, 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 filibusters 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 Rican outpost had been attacked a few days before by Schlessinger on his march and the party, consisting of eight, all 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 of so little superior to their own, taking into consideration also the advantage of the invader's position. I give this story as I heard it, and your readers must form their own opinion as to its credibility.

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

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

Yellow fever and Cholera are said to prevail among Walker's forces, and these, together with the climate, his small forces, want of the amunitions of war, &c., make it probable that this race is almost run, and that a bullet or a "marche" will terminate his adventurous career.

NEW ORLEANS April 16.

The agent of the Government of Nicaragua in this city denounces the story of the route of Col. Schlessinger by the Costa Ricans as a falsehood. He says the account received from head quarters is, that Col. Schlessinger had only two hundred and fifty men, that he was attacked by nearly three thousand Costa Ricans, and that he retreated to San Juan.