

BRILLIANT NAVAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE HARBOR OF SAN JUAN DEL SUR, BETWEEN THE NICARAGUAN SCHOONER "GRANADA" AND THE COSTA RICAN BRIG "ELEVENTH OF APRIL."

AN artist correspondent who witnessed the brilliant fight between the Granada and the Eleventh of April, sent us the sketch of the vessels as they appeared at the decisive moment of the action; but by some untoward circumstance it did not reach us promptly, which we exceedingly regret. These two vessels came together on the 23d of November, 1856, in the harbor of San Juan del Sur. The Costa Rican brig, the Eleventh of April, carried six nine-pounders and one hundred and fourteen men, well armed with Minie rifles. The Nicaraguan schooner Granada, commanded by Captain C. J. Faysaux, had only two six-pounders and twenty-eight men. The moment, however, the gallant Faysaux saw the enemy, he bore down upon her regardless of the odds against him. The Eleventh of April was well managed, but did but little execution, her gunners firing wild and her shot passing over the top of the schooner. Faysaux, to save ammunition, made every shot on his side tell, not one failing to strike the hull of the enemy. For one or two hours the battle raged with fury, when fortunately a shot from the schooner struck the magazine of the Costa Rican brig and caused it to explode, killing a great number of persons, and leaving the vessel a wreck upon the waves. Capt. Faysaux immediately lowered his boats, and before the brig sunk managed by incredible exertions to pick up part of the crew of the enemy, many of whom were terribly wounded. Among the rescued were the Captain of the Costa Rican brig, the Second Lieutenant and the Chaplain. The Eleventh of April had on board twenty-five thousand dollars in specie, and a large quantity of clothing and ammunition, intended for the allied army, operating against General Walker in Nicaragua. The prisoners rescued were brought to San Juan del Sur the following day, many being so severely wounded that they eventually died. The survivors were sent by order of General Walker to Virgin Bay and liberated. Commander Faysaux lost two men and had two wounded.

vanced through the thick darkness, he tried to put down the breaks of first one and then another of the cars. All were

broken off or damaged by the rock on the track. He at last felt his way back to the two cars at the rear of the train. Pulling out the coupling-pin, he felt sure that he could control the train when detached from the train. But they were in the same condition. All were broke. No control could be exercised over them. The train was now running at a frightful speed. What to do was the next consideration. To jump seemed like certain death, while to remain upon the train promised no exemption from a similar fate. A moment's thought determined the course of the intrepid engineer. Clinging for a moment to the rear car, he commenced climbing down until he could feel the ground with his feet. He then let all holds go, falling against the ground with much violence, but escaping with a few painful bruises. On went the train at a furious rate. The two detached cars were thrown from the track before going a great distance. One of the other iron hoppers had the trucks knocked from under and was dragged some distance, completely ripping out the bottom, but finally checking the train some three miles above town. Take it altogether, it was a frightful occurrence, and seen in the deep darkness of the mountain, with the sparks and steam issuing from the locomotive in a vast column, with a solitary man clinging for life to the rear car, or cautiously climbing down to escape from almost certain death, it must have presented a scene of fearful import.

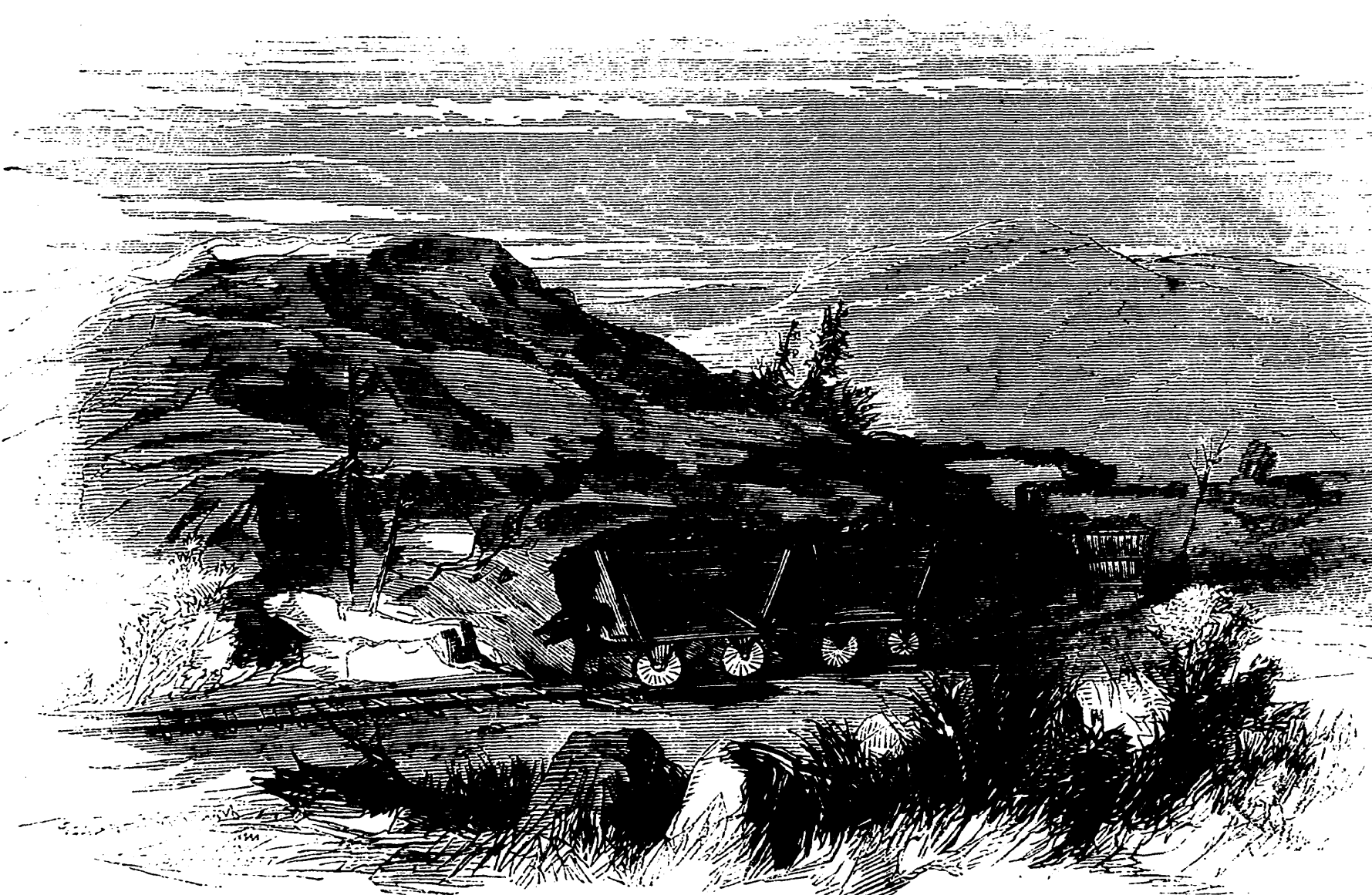


MAJOR-GENERAL FREDERICK HENNINGSEN, OF THE NICARAGUA ARMY. AMBROTYPE BY BRADY. SEE PAGE 309.

A FEARFUL RIDE IN A RAILROAD TRAIN ON AN INCLINED PLANE—HORRIBLE SITUATION OF AN ENGINEER.

On Wednesday morning, April 1st, as the early coal train from the mines of the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company was coming down the grade, about four o'clock, the train ran over a large boulder which had rolled down from the embankment immediately upon the centre of the track. The locomotive passed over it with slight damage, but the balance of the train, including the tender, had every brake ripped out from one end of the train to the other. The brakemen becoming aware of this fact, and seeing in a moment that the cars could not be controlled, going down a grade of over one hundred feet to the mile, thinking discretion the better part of valor, at once left the train. On it went, and at each revolution of the wheel the momentum increased until the velocity became absolutely frightful. The whistle sounded to put down the breaks, but the only answer was a wild, unearthly whistle reverberating amongst the black hills, scarcely heard before it died away, or was drowned by the rattling of the swift revolving wheels upon the iron track. At length the engineer, Mr. George Myers, became convinced that something must be the matter.

Adjusting his valves, he began cautiously to pick his way to the rear of the train. As he ad-

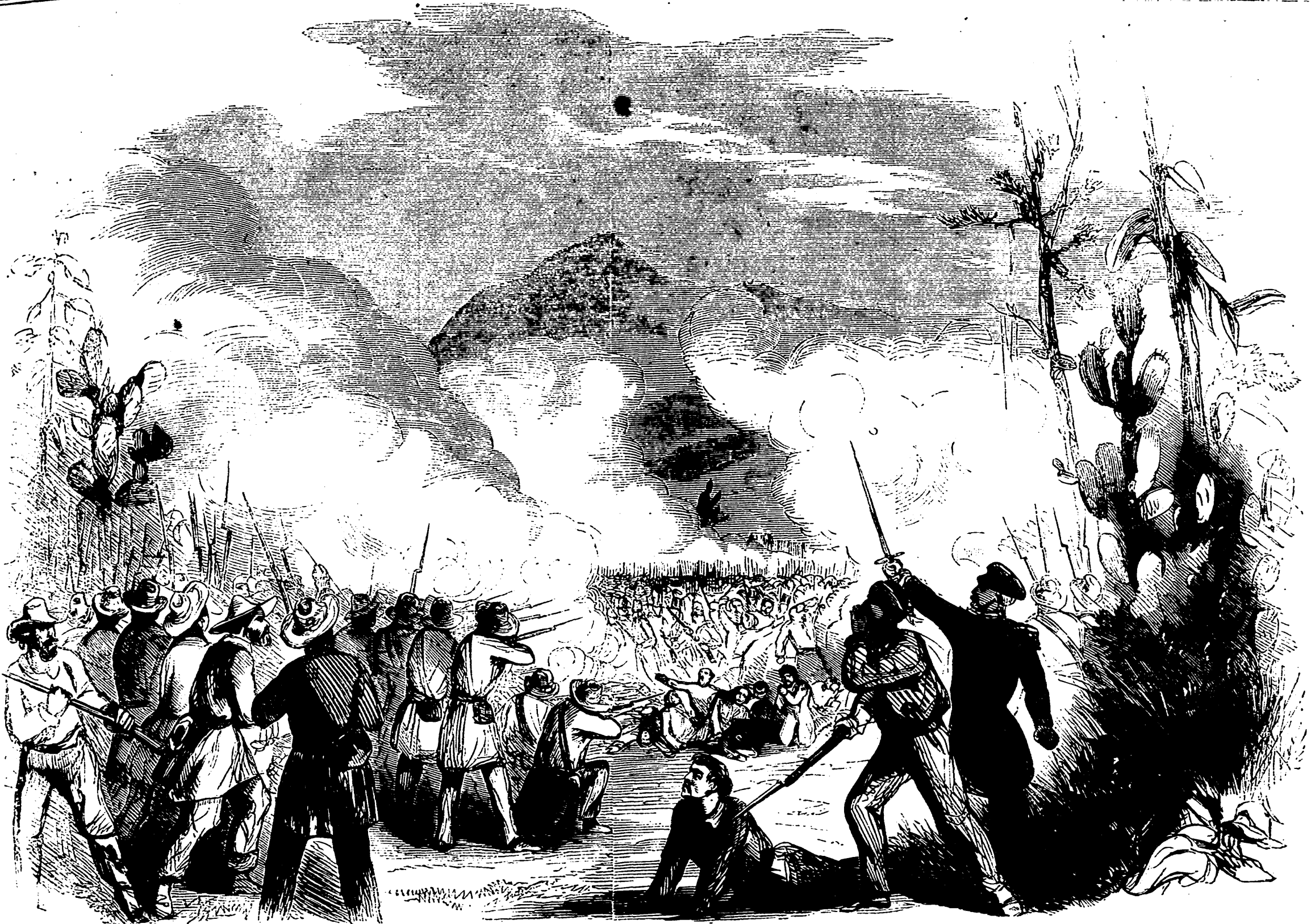


FEARFUL RIDE ON A RAILROAD TRAIN OVER AN INCLINED PLANE, HORRIBLE SITUATION OF THE ENGINEER.

BATTLE OF QUARISMA, FOUGHT BY GENERALS WALKER AND HENNINGSEN.

On the 16th of March General Walker with four hundred men left Rivas, and made an attack upon St. George, a place some three or four miles from Rivas. After driving the enemy from the entrenched positions in the houses he gained the plaza as a matter of defence set on fire that part of the town most important to the allied army. While thus engaged he learned that General Chamorra, with a large force, had marched by a circuitous route upon Rivas, which was defended by Gen. Henningsen. Henningsen received General Chamorra by a most spirited defence, and drove him back upon Rivas. While this action was going on, Gen. Walker, hearing the firing, brought his troops out of St. George along the travelled road, and there met the Costa Ricans in full retreat, driven before the victorious troops of Henningsen. The allied forces found themselves in narrow

gorges walled in by impenetrable cactus, making it impossible for them to escape, having Walker in front and Henningsen in the rear. In this battle the Nicaraguans used for the first time bombs and shells, and the effect on the enemy was terrible. Their whole force became panic-stricken, threw down their arms, and finally made no resistance. Nearly all the Costa Rican officers were killed, and the troops which escaped the same fate were demoralized past hopes of recovering them again to the field. The loss by their own army was lost three hundred and twenty-seven killed and over three hundred wounded. Gen. Walker estimates their loss at about eleven hundred and six hundred killed and five hundred wounded. Gen. Walker's loss was two killed and twenty-one wounded. The slaughter was so great that Gen. Walker was unable to properly bury the dead, and was compelled to order the bodies to be burned to prevent putrefaction, and to preserve the health of the neighboring city of Rivas, which order was promptly



BRILLIANT BATTLE OF QUARISMA (LENT), FOUGHT BY GEN. WALKER AND GEN. HENNINGSEN BETWEEN ST. GEORGE AND RIVAS, NICARAGUA.

ly carried out. These splendid successes of Generals Walker and Henningsen, combined with the reinforcement of Lockridge of two hundred and fifty Texan riflemen, will no doubt have the effect of a corresponding effort on the part of Lockridge, to push his base of operations beyond the river, so as to place his forces in the rear of the allies; and should the Costa Ricans attempt to retreat, they

would meet with a very hot reception; but even should they succeed in reaching their own country, the expedition that is to sail from New Orleans in a few days (composed of at least five hundred men), will meet them at their own hearthstones, and they will be easily disposed of. If the defection of Canas is such as has been reported, it will prove, to say the least, very danger-

ous to the further advance of the allies; and the death of Rivas, if true, will cause quite as much commotion among the allied forces, and may perhaps lead to a serious rupture between them. In such a case, we may look upon the war between Walker and the Costa Ricans as nearly at an end, and peace will soon once more rest upon Nicaragua.



WALKER'S SOLDIERS BURNING THE DEAD BODIES OF THE COSTA RICANS AFTER THE BATTLE OF QUARISMA.