

## Personal character of Gen. Walker.

We make the following extract from a Macon letter to the *Charleston Mercury*, on the personal character of the "Regenerator" of Central America:—

A firmness that was never known to relent for any entreaties, and a calmness in administering punishment that makes his own soldiers speak of him as a hard-barted man, and are yet no evidences of want of feeling in one so gentle and true in his private friendships as William Walker. Why not regard such characteristics as the qualities of a great man's judgment, that controls and survives, in happy results, the passions of the heart, whose satisfaction lasts but for a moment of tenderness?

The execution of Gen. Corral for treason, is still fresh in the popular memory. It was only a few days before dooming the unhappy man to death, that Walker, in the ceremonies of the celebration of the peace, had embraced him in the Plaza, and walked, arm-in-arm, with him to the house of God. In vain the relatives of the convicted traitor plead with Gen. Walker for his life, and clasped his knees with prayers and tears—in vain depositions of the priests attempted, by the sad and meek appeals of religion, to touch his heart with pity—in vain his own soldiers sympathized with the inbred chivalry of the condemned, as he bowed to his fate, and walked proudly to the execution ground—in vain the noble and humble joined in begging for the life of a man who, notwithstanding his political crime, was a favorite with the people; and when at last he was led out to die, and after refusing to be blindfolded, and simply saying, "tell Gen. Walker I think I should have been fairly tried," he fell proudly before the bullets of his executioners, the people rushed forward to bathe their handkerchiefs in his blood. Walker never relented. His heart was undoubtedly touched by the appeals made to it. But it was a critical time; treason and insurrection still threatened the country; the new Government had to make its first example, and judgment imposed the sacrifice.

The character and motives of Gen. Walker, superior to popular defamation and clamor as they are, may even be said to be so far independent of the issues of history, that his personal heroism, his integrity and enthusiasm, must remain a fixed fact in the changes of time. He has already, in his own personal trials, passed the crisis of greatness: and, in any event, his name, if not his deeds, will live in history with such glory as greatness without honor, and self-devotion without success, may give.

The true character of William Walker is, as we sincerely believe, but little known, while it has been much defamed. He is a man incapable of sordid or selfish motives, and entirely destitute of any thing like ambition, in the popular sense of the term. He has none of the fierceness of the reckless adventurer. He has none of the haughtiness and self-important air of a man of mere personal ambition. With all the mild thoughtfulness and gentle manners of true decision of character, and with all the humility and reserve of an elevated enthusiasm, the regenerator of Central America might readily pass under hasty observation as a very commonplace and unimportant individual. The secret of his character lies in the supposed enthusiasm of his heart.

We may quote most aptly Walker's own words, in illustration of his characteristic enthusiasm, so different from the sordid and vulgar ambition of the mere conqueror, as well as in explanation of a proposition we have already advanced in relation to the original purpose and policy of the expedition. We quote the material portion of a letter addressed by Walker to Mr. Senator Weller, as a private friend, at a time of a great peril and uncertainty, on account of the hostility arrayed against him in the neighboring States, of which he writes:

"You have, doubtless, learned from the newspapers how pacific was the policy Nicaragua proposed to pursue towards the other States of Central America. Notwithstanding all our overtures of peace, the neighboring Governments showed themselves, if not positively, at least negatively, hostile to the actual administration of Nicaragua. It was constantly asserted, not only here, but throughout Central America, that the States were stimulated by English and French agents against the Government of Nicaragua; yet it has invaded our territories, and has murdered American citizens who have never forfeited the protection of the United States Government. Costa Rica says Americans shall not emigrate to Nicaragua, and take arms in her service. It remains to be seen whether she can sustain herself in so singular a position. In such a war as they are now waging against us, there can be but one result. They may destroy my whole force—a circumstance I deem almost or quite impossible—they may kill every American now in Nicaragua, but the seed is sown, and not all the forces of Spanish America can prevent the fruit from coming to maturity. The more savage the nature of the war they wage against us, the more certain the result, the more terrible the consequences. I may not live to see the end, but I feel that my countrymen will not permit the result to be doubtful. I know that the honor and the interests of the great country which, despite of the foreign service I am engaged in, I still love to call my own, are involved in the present struggle. That honor must be preserved inviolate, and these interests must be jealously maintained. Nothing but our own sense of the justice of the cause we are engaged in, and of its importance to the country of our birth, has enabled us to struggle on as far as we have done. We may perish in the work we have undertaken, and our cause may be for a time lost, but if we fall, we feel it is in the path of honor. And what is life, or what is success, in comparison with the consciousness of having performed a duty, and of having co-operated, no matter how slightly, in the cause of improvement and progress?"

The explanations contained in this quotation confirm and enlighten the assertion that Filibusterism or rapacity was not the original spirit of the WALKER Expedition, although its purpose and policy may have been in a measure changed by the course of events and the expansion of ambition with the increase of success; but that if the enterprise has ever assumed the aspect of conquest and aggression, it has been chiefly in consequence of the provoking insults and hostile intrigues with which the Americans in Nicaragua have been treated from the first by the neighboring republics. It would be strange, indeed, if such treatment, on the part of any of the republics of Central America, aggravated by proposals, to place any portion of that country under a British Protectorate, in opposition to such interests as our countrymen may acquire in Nicaragua, should not have awakened a spirit of retaliation and jealousy in the American heart; that, if continually provoked, must result in the subversion of the entire country. It was not to be supposed that the Americans would shed their blood in a foreign cause for nought; they expected to acquire certain interests in Nicaragua, and a weight in the Government; and they might have hoped that, in time, their civilization and industry would win a peaceful and natural triumph over native imbecility, and change the destiny of the country. Such expectations and hopes were perfectly legitimate—but the result is hastening. The fickleness, the jealousy, the treach-

ery, and the revolutionary spirit of the Central American people, that deny our countrymen the honors and rewards of a foreign service, and that would expel them from a country they have rescued from an internecine war and baptised in their own blood, as saved for a higher destiny, can but tend to provoke and offer opportunities of just revenge to a spirit—call it Filibustering if you will—not easily pacified, but active, invasive, persevering, and eventually to triumph wherever it carries the American civilization and arms.

We turn to the concluding portion of Mr. Walker's language, quoted above, as an equal confirmation of his elevation of character. It is difficult to find terms of admiration for that noble, heroic, transcendental sentiment, that can hold life and personal success in such little estimation. How eloquent indeed of that high and ravishing enthusiasm which impels, animates and sustains the noble and chivalrous leaders of progress everywhere—which is superior to success, which is nobly careless of human criticism, and which is its own reward—whether it leave its memorial of greatness in the splendid monuments of fortune, or the lowly grave of self-devotion.

## The Abolitionists Confronted with ONE OF THEIR OWN DECISIONS.

The Albany *Argus* maintains that the Supreme Court has decided no new point in the Dred Scot case, and cites the following, from the records of the Black Republican State of Connecticut, in proof:

Prior to 1833, when the benevolence of Connecticut did not all run towards the colored race, Miss Prudence Crandall set up a school at Canterbury, for the education of colored children, and gathered into it a few pupils brought, some of them at least, from other States. Yankee dignity took fire at this. It was by no means content to have good old Puritan Connecticut, the home of a vigorous race of white men and the land of Pumpkin pie, made a school house into which the black boys and girls of the whole country should be gathered for instruction. Accordingly, in 1833, the Legislature of that State, in order to get rid of Miss Prudence Crandall and her black children, passed a law with the following preamble:

"Whereas, attempts have been made to establish literary institutions in the State for the instruction of colored persons belonging to other States and countries, which would tend to the great increase of the colored population of the State, and thereby to the injury of the people."

Which proceeded in the first section of the act, to enact:

"That no person shall set up or establish in this State any school, academy or literary institution, for the instruction or education of colored persons, who are not residents of this State, nor instruct or teach in any school, academy, or other literary institution, whatever in this State, or harbor or board, for the purpose of attending or being taught or instructed in any such school, academy, or literary institution, any colored person who is not an inhabitant of any town in this State, without the consent in writing, first obtained of a majority of the civil authority, and also of the select men of the town in which such school, academy, or literary institution is situated."

The act went on to impose a penalty for the first offence of \$100, and for the second of \$200, and "so double for every offence."—Miss Prudence did not heed this law, but kept right on teaching her little colored wards their A. B. C.'s. She was indicted and brought to trial under the above law, in 1845—Chief Justice Daggett presided at the trial. The counsel of Miss Crandall insisted, that the law, inasmuch as it denied to colored persons of other States rights which were conceded to such other persons if residents of Connecticut, was a violation of the 1st sub. of Sec. 2, of Art. 4, of the Constitution of the United States:

"The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States."

This raised the point whether negroes were citizens within the meaning of the Constitution, and Chief Justice Daggett decided that they were not, and delivered an opinion, from which we extract the following:

"To my mind it would be a perversion of terms, and the well known rule of construction, to say that slaves, free blacks, or Indians, were citizens, withing the meaning of that term, as used in the Constitution. God forbid that I should add to the degradation of this race of men; but I am bound, by my duty, to say they are not citizens."

"I have thus shown to you that this law is not contrary to the 2d section of the 4th Art. of the Constitution of the United States, for that embraces only citizens."

Such was the law settled in Connecticut in 1834, which has never been overruled in that State. Four years later, (1838) the Supreme Court of Tennessee followed this authority by a similar decision; the point of which is stated in the Reporter's note of the case, (1st Meigs' Reporter, 831) as follows:

Free blacks are not citizens within the meaning of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, Art. 4, Sec. 2, "that the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States."

## Dreadful State of Affairs in Utah.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—A letter was received here to-day from W. W. Drummond, United States Supreme Judge in Utah Territory, by the administration. It gives a sad and deplorable picture of matters in this Territory. The following is taken from the letter:—

The leading men of the church are more traitorous than ever. Only a few days since all the papers, records, dockets, and nine hundred volumes of the laws, were taken out of the Supreme Court Clerk's office, and burned. And this is not the only instance of the kind. I say to you again and through you to the President, it is impossible for us to enforce the laws in this Territory.—Every man here holds his life at the will of Brigham Young, and here we are without protection. I am firmly of the opinion that Babbit was murdered by Mormons under the direction of Brigham Young and not by Indians. Murder is a common thing here; and Mormons cannot be punished with a Mormon jury witnesses, officers and Governor to pardon. It is too cruel and must not be endured. A man, not a member of the church, is murdered, robbed, castrated and imprisoned, solely for questioning the authority of the church. Persons are now in the penitentiary, convicted before the Probate Judge, who are wholly innocent of any crime. Is there any other country where this abuse is or would be endured? Let all, then, take hold and crush out one of the most treasonable organizations in America.

The administration has had the matter under serious consideration, and will soon appoint a Governor, I understand, who will take a sufficient military force into that Territory to carry out the laws to the fullest extent. &c.

FOR THE CURE OF DYSPEPSIA. The Oxygenated Bitters are better entitled to confidence than any remedy known, and their peculiar action on the system, excites the surprise of those who have tried various medicines without benefit.