

Affairs in Nicaragua.

THE steamer *Empire City* arrived at this port on Friday evening, bringing mails from Aspinwall to the 3rd inst. There is no news from California in those advices; but we have intelligence from Greytown a week later than that last received.

It appears that the star of Walker is again rising. The Filibusters under Gen. Wheat and Col. Lockridge and Titus, have succeeded in forcing the passage of the river San Juan as far as Castillo Rapids, driving out the Costa Ricans from the various fortified points, and capturing their artillery, arms, ammunition and provisions.

The following account of their operations is given by Lieut.-Col. E. H. McDonald, 2d Rifles,—

On the 6th of February, the united forces of Cols. Titus and Anderson took Cody's Point, losing in the action two men; the enemy's loss was seven killed and several wounded. The following day they landed at a point 500 yards below Serapiqui with the artillery and all their force but one company. Here they fortified themselves, and having built a road and bridged the creek up to Cody's Point, they brought up their guns and mounted them on Thursday night. General Wheat commanded the artillery and Col. Titus the infantry.

On the following Sunday morning, the artillery opened fire on the fort occupied by the Costa Rican forces. At the same time Col. Frank Anderson crossed the river with 130 men and took position on the point called "Alvarado." They arrived there at noon and without being perceived by the enemy. Meanwhile the action had been going on warmly between Gen. Wheat's artillery and Col. Titus' command on one side, and the Costa Ricans in the Serapiqui fort. One of their pieces was dismounted, and another (their heaviest) was not fired during the day—Capt. Brantley's company of riflemen keeping up such a destructive fire that they did not dare to approach and load it. Col. Anderson's men having been posted, opened a vigorous fire on the right flank of the enemy, driving them from their barricades to the main building up the San Juan river.

From that time until dark a constant and severe fire was kept up from Cody's and Alvarado points, which was responded to by scattering shots from the Costa Ricans, the latter running away into the woods, leaving their blankets and throwing their guns away. The commander of the fort, Col. Blanco, was among the first to run.

During the day Col. Anderson's force lost two killed, and two wounded—Col. Titus command, two wounded, and the artillery none. The next morning, Capt. De Brizot and a volunteer called Kentuck went over in a canoe, pulled down the Costa Rican flag, and hoisted the lone star of Nicaragua, all the enemy having abandoned the point in the middle of the night. Upwards of 400 stand of *English Minnie muskets* were found scattered on the ground. Col. F. Anderson's command crossed on the steamer and took possession. The dead of the enemy amounted to 34. Five pieces of artillery, 4 brass 6 lb. pieces, and 1 iron 9 lb. piece, with corresponding ammunition were found; also, 50,000 rounds of Minnie rifle cartridges, in good condition, and a large quantity of damaged ammunition.

The same night the steamer *Rescue* took up the forces of Col. Titus, and a 14 lb. gun to the island of St. Carlos, which was taken without any resistance, and the boat returned to Serapiqui and took up all the stores needed at the above post, and then proceeded up the river in pursuit of the steamer *Charles Morgan*, which had gone on with the news of the Costa Ricans having left Serapiqui. The *Morgan* had four hours' start, and the *Rescue* came in sight of her just as she went over Castillo Rapids.

The Costa Ricans had tar and rosin on the steamers *J. N. Scott* and *Cochuca*, and on all the buildings of the town. At the moment they saw the *Rescue* they set fire to the boats and buildings, and at the same time opened a heavy fire of round shot and grape from the fort on the hill. The lower fort on the river was taken by storm by Captain West's company of Col. Titus' command.—Four men jumped from the *Rescue*, swam against a six mile current, cut loose and saved the steamer *J. N. Scott*, although the machinery was much injured. The furniture and bedding of the National hotel were saved; all other houses, with their contents, were destroyed. In this action the enemy lost 45, while the filibusters had but one killed. The Costa Ricans were still fifty strong on the high fort of Castillo, but cut off from water and provisions and surrounded; on the 18th the fort was to have been taken by storm.

The *Aspinwall Courier* of Feb. 24th, had the following in its editorial columns:—

"The news we give to-day from Nicaragua, on the Atlantic side, is of the Walker party, and makes the entire establishment of communication between the two divisions of their forces altogether probable, unless Walker has met with some reverse on the Pacific. We are informed that among the papers taken at the fort were despatches signed by General Mora, and addressed to President Mora, supplicating for reinforcements and declaring it impossible for him to hold out much longer without them."

In an "Extra" of the 3rd of March, the *Courier* says that "the Walker party have forced their way up the San Juan river to the Lake with trifling loss, and captured very considerable amounts of arms and provisions."