

IMPORTANT FROM NICARAGUA.

OPENING OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER.

Transfer of Serapiqui and Castillo— Capture of a River Steamer.

REPORTED CAPTURE OF SAN CARLOS.

PROCLAMATION OF COL. LOCKRIDGE.

Steamers Burnt by the Costa Ricans, So, So, So.

Empire City, Captain J. P. Griffin, left New Orleans at 5 1/2 P. M., for Havana and New York. She left here last evening, and brings details of the news received to us from New Orleans by telegraph.

The United States mail steamer Granada, from Aspinwall, after the afternoon of the 31st, arrived at Havana the previous day, and awaited the arrival of the Empire City to forward her passengers and mails from New Orleans. The Granada left Aspinwall without, as usual, awaiting the arrival of the steamer and passengers from California (not yet due), and brought one week's later intelligence from Greytown, forwarded by the British West India mail steamer, Trent from that place February 20. Also later advices from the South Pacific by an arrival Panama on the 21st.

The Trent acknowledges partial successes gained by Colonel Titus and Lockridge over the Costa Ricans, reported at various points along the San Juan river up to the point, which takes into consideration as emanating from the most trustworthy sources would indicate that General Walker's star is again in the ascendency.

The Aspinwall Courier, in its extra of the 3d March, informs that "Walker's party have forced their way up the San Juan river to the Lake, with but trifling loss, the capture of very considerable amounts of arms, provisions, and the saving of another steamer, the Scott."

To find in the Aspinwall Courier of the 24th ult., the following correspondence brought from Greytown by the British mail steamer Trent Besides the letters the Trent has the following in its editorial columns:—

We need not give to-day from Nicaragua, on the Atlantic side, of the Walker party, and makes the entire establishment of communication between the two divisions of their forces altogether probable, unless Walker met with some reverse on the Pacific. We publish accounts—one from a lookout on, one from a resident in San Juan, one from a filibuster and one from the person of the British steamer. We have also another statement in a private letter, declaring Serapiqui, Castillo and Carde to have been taken by Walker's forces. This account gives the number of killed and wounded as follows:—1 killed, 12 or 13 wounded of the filibusters; 100 dead, 200 to 250 wounded of the Costa Ricans. We were informed that among the papers taken at the various dispatches signed, by General Mora, and addressed to President Mora, supplicating for reinforcements, and declaring it impossible for him to hold out longer without them.

AT THE SERAPIQUI—CAPTURE OF THE FORT—DEATH OF J. N. SCOTT.

CASTILLO Feb 17, 1857. At 10 1/2 of this month, at 6 A. M., we opened the fire on the enemy in fine style, three brass six pounders and 250 rifles sending our friends in and about Serapiqui a pressing invitation to leave for home. In ten minutes we threw 400 round shot among them, knocking over and houses to pieces, and making it too hot for a Costa Rican to withstand. At dark they evacuated the fort, leaving four brass guns, 363 mule rifles, a quantity of provisions and ammunition, and all wounded. At daylight on the 14th we took possession of the same evading our little boat (the Rescue), with 10 men, started for Castillo, arriving on the 15th. Out of the greater part of the enemy from the fort, killing them; but 40 of them were left in the fort, but it was now so closely invested that there is no hope for their surrender. On the 15th we cut from under the steamer J. N. Scott, the largest and best boat on the river. Some of the prisoners tell us the enemy have no provisions.

The Costa Ricans are as grateful for a good meal of rice as men can be; their wounded are receiving the same as our own men. At Serapiqui was three killed and seven wounded; the enemy left seventy killed and forty wounded in the fort. The two sides were nearly equal, we having been 410, and that of the enemy 430. Ascertained by their own muster rolls. As soon as the prisoners are able they will be furnished with canoes and allowed to go home, at the great expense of the British navy. Tomorrow (Feb 18th) our guns (now six six pounders) open on the fort hold Costa Rica has on the San Juan river, and fall it must. I regret to state our killed and wounded at Castillo were—killed, 1; wounded, 8.

ARRIVAL OF THE TEXAS—COL. LOCKRIDGE VISITS SAN JUAN—PROCLAMATION.

SAN JUAN DEL NORTE, Feb. 18, 1857. The TEXAS arrived here on the 4th, with the same ideas, under Col Titus. They immediately went to the river to join the Walker party under Col. Lockridge, at Fort Anderson (this Fort Anderson is about four miles above this place. It is a small clearing with a few trees on a projecting point on the river, seven miles from Serapiqui; it was occupied by an Italian (Philippe) and his party. The Texas left here on the 12th, but up to that time the importance had been accomplished toward the river. Just before the Texas left there was some excitement, caused by a report put in circulation, that an expedition consisting of some armed boats of the English squadron in the harbor, went up the river the night before, for the purpose of demanding the release of the British subjects who were said to be detained in Lockridge's party. It proved to be a tale, and some persons were so uncharitable as to say that the story was manufactured on board of the Texas, especially for the New Orleans market. Various reports of attacks and repulses at Serapiqui were prevalent; but nothing was known for certain. That there had been fighting was evident, from the fact that Lockridge's steamer, the Rescue, had been down to Punta Arenas for repairs, on account of damages sustained by it, &c. There also came down one or two wounded men, who returned to New Orleans on the Texas. On the 13th two deserters from the Walker party arrived here, and on the following day three more; they stated the Costa Ricans at Serapiqui strongly fortified, and having successfully resisted several attacks. On Monday last this news reached here that Serapiqui is in possession of Colonel Lockridge, having been abandoned by the Costa Ricans on the Saturday morning previous, after a fierce cannonade from the Walker party. Friday, and that Colonel Lockridge had proceeded up the river to take the fort at Castillo Rapids. Yesterday the Rescue arrived down here with Colonel Lockridge, and several officers, but, as usual, very little intelligence could be obtained from them; but, from the large advantage of circumstances, left the Rescue at Punta Arenas and are here now. They with several others leave here on the English steamer. The first news was that Castillo and one or two steamers were burnt, but from the last information the present state of affairs seems to be that the Costa Ricans have burnt all the boats at Castillo and also the river steamers which are below the rapids, and are in possession of the fort. The Rescue after taking on board some provisions, returned up the river again. Before leaving, Colonel Lockridge posted the following proclamation in various places in town:—

NOTICE TO THE CITIZENS OF NICARAGUA, AND ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Having succeeded in opening the San Juan river as far as Castillo rapids, I now inform all those who wish to pass trade on the river, that I offer the fullest guarantee that they shall be protected in their rights, property and persons, on all occasions, which I have promulgated as orders to all who are subject to my control, to be strictly carried out. I make this proclamation from the fact that evil disposed persons and enemies of the republic of Nicaragua have accused me of the most heinous crimes, all of which I come to restore tranquility and peace to Nicaragua, and not to molest peaceable and well disposed persons of any nation, save those belonging to the Central American States with which we are now at war.

S. A. LOCKRIDGE, Emigration Agent for the Republic of Nicaragua.

Done at Castillo Rapids, this 17th day of February, A. 1857.

MORE PARTICULARS OF THE CAPTURE OF SERAPIQUI—RIFLES, ARTILLERY AND AMMUNITION CAPTURED—CHASE OF THE CHARLES HERRON—BURNING OF THE MACHUCA AND BUILDINGS AT CASTILLO—STEAMER J. N. SCOTT SAVED.

PUNTA ARENAS, GREYTOWN, Feb. 19, 1857. February 4, the steamer TEXAS arrived with 200 men, who proceeded up the river and joined Colonel Anderson's force of 200 men; the 6th was spent in cleaning up; on the 6th we advanced with the steamer Rescue to Cody's Point and took it, losing two men killed. According to the enemy's account, they had never killed a single man; because the same day we fell back on our former position, because it was useless to attempt anything on the opposite side of the river without artillery. The next morning we ran up to a point 500 yards below Serapiqui and landed all the forces and artillery, except one company, which we left at Fort Anderson; then we erected barricades and bush houses for the men, provisions and artillery; next day we began building a road and bridging the streams up to Cody's Point; on Wednesday evening we started up this road to mount our artillery on Cody's Point, which work was completed on Thursday night; the force thus posted was under the command of Colonel Titus, the artillery being under General Pabst's, the left resting on the artillery, the right ranging up the river, both being protected by the shrubbery on the banks of the river.

On Friday morning, at the break of day, Gen. Wheat opened his fire on the fort occupied by the Costa Ricans. At the same time Col. Frank Anderson crossed the river with 120 men and took the position on the point called "Alvarado's Point"—his right resting near the mouth of the Serapiqui, his line extending up the

same about two hundred yards. They arrived there at 11 o'clock at noon, and took their position with out being perceived by the enemy.

Meanwhile, the action had been going on warmly between Gen. Wheat's artillery and C. A. Titus' riflemen on one side, and the Costa Ricans in the Serapiqui fort. One of their pieces was dismantled; and another, their heavy company was not fired during the day—Capt. Branley's company of riflemen keeping up such a destructive fire that they did not dare to approach and load it.

Capt. 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 on the San Juan river. From that time until dark a cannon and severe fire was kept up from Cody's Point and Alvarado's Point; which was responded to by scattering shots from the Costa Ricans, and we saw the enemy running away into the woods, leaving the blankets and throwing their guns away. The commands of the fort at Serapiqui, Col. Bianca, was among the first that left, at 3 1/2 P. M.

During the day Col. Anderson's force lost two killed and two wounded, the latter being now able to do duty. Col. Titus' command, two wounded and none killed, and the artillery none.

The next morning, Com. de Brissot and a volunteer called "Kentuck" went over in a canoe, pulled down the Costa Rica flag and hoisted the "Lone Star of Nicaragua," all the enemy having abandoned the point in the night. Upwards of 400 muskets of English Minnie muskets were left scattered on the ground. Col. Frank Anderson's command crossed in the steamer and took possession of the enemy's works, chateaux, &c., finding thirteen dead bodies in the principal fort, probably all killed by the artillery of Gen. Wheat. Fifty men of this command were detached for burying the dead of the enemy, which amounted to thirty three. Prisoners taken said they had been badly treated and worse fed, living on beans and plantains alone. Five pieces of artillery—four brass six pounders and one iron nine pounder, with corresponding ammunition, were found; also fifty thousand rounds of mine rifle cartridges in good condition and a large quantity of damaged ammunition, 250 pairs of pantaloons, forty bushels of beans and six barrels of salt, but enough kettles and pans for 2,000 men.

The same night the steamer Rescue, or Filibuster, at some of the boys call her, took up the forces of Col. Titus and one 4lb gun to the island of San Carlos, which was taken without any resistance. 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 latter boat 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 resin on the steamers Scott and Caracas and 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 they 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 Colonel Titus' command. Four men jumped from the steamer, swam against a six mile current, cut knee and saved the steamer Scott, although the machinery was very much injured. All the furniture and bedding of the National Hotel was saved. All other houses, with all their contents, were destroyed.

In taking this fort the enemy lost forty-five, while we only lost one killed.

The Costa Ricans were still very strong on the high fort of Castillo, cut off from water and provisions and surrounded by our forces. On the 18th the fort was to have been taken by storm. By this time that is done, and communication has been established to Walker.

E. H. McCONALD, Lieut. Col. 2d Regt.

BRITISH FORCE AT SAN JUAN—DETENTION OF COL. LOCKRIDGE BY THE ENGLISH COMMANDER AND EXPLANATION—BALL ON BOARD THE SHIP VICTOR.

GREYTOWN, Feb. 20, 1857. The royal mail steamship Trent arrived at Greytown on the 11th inst., and found there the British men-of-war, the Comack, Tartar, Victor, Pioneer and Intrepid. The Comack had gone to Puerto Cay in consequence of the unruly anchorage outside, her draught of water being too great to permit her coming into the harbor; the crews are said to be all healthy.

After the capture of the river boats, the other day, Mr. Scott, the agent, with surprising speed and energy, prepared a boat, called the Rescue, and despatched her up the river, but from her not having returned, reasonable fears were entertained of her having fallen into the hands of the Costa Ricans, but which were dispelled by her making her appearance.

On Sunday news reached Greytown that Walker had repossessed himself of Serapiqui. From the inquiries I have made of those there it would appear that on the 12th Walker's party attacked that place, about 5 A. M., with a force of 200 men and two six pounders, the Costa Ricans holding on till about the same time the following day, when they evacuated, and Walker's people took possession after sustaining a loss of two men killed and three wounded. From a statement of a prisoner in hospital it appears the Costa Ricans had a loss of 14 killed and about 20 wounded. The "Rescue" above referred to, confirmed the Serapiqui accounts, and brought further news of the fall of Castelo into the hands of Walker's people on Monday, with a loss of eight killed and twenty wounded; it is conjectured the Costa Ricans lost no fewer than thirty two killed and sixty wounded. Some of the accounts say many more. They also repossessed themselves of the steamer J. N. Scott, but her machinery had been so much injured that they were unable to bring her down until repairs are effected. The Rescue had on board Col. Lockridge, who came down for provisions of which there are plenty at present in Greytown. The British naval authorities here are preventing recruits from being forcibly compelled to join Walker, who claim their protection. Some very disgraceful scenes are at times enacted on board those river boats. It was only the other day a man's cries of murder awakened the attention of the Com. of the Victor (moored over by Scott's factory), who discovered that he had been threatened with his life, and a pistol held at his head for protesting against going up to fight. Of course the interference had the effect of rescuing the man and about fifteen others, who fell out of the ranks upon their being mustered at the desire of the naval authorities. A report was also stated that two Englishmen had been hanged on board the last river boat that went up, in consequence of which Captain Cockburn, of the Comack, at present senior naval officer, detained Colonel Lockridge and the Rescue, on her arrival yesterday, until he fully investigated the case, and after reading three men claiming British protection, he allowed them to proceed, I suppose, being satisfied of the falsity of the report.

Last evening a very brilliant ball took place on board her Majesty's ship Victor, given by the officers of that ship; the music was supplied by the band of her Majesty's ship Tartar, they being indebted to the courtesy of the Hon. Captain Danlop, who allowed the band to go. One would have thought the supper and wines had been supplied by Gunter or some other such celebrity, from the elegance of the arrangements and the excellence of the viands. The M. C. duties were most efficiently and ably discharged by Lieut. Belcour, who seemed peculiarly endowed with the art of making people happy and at home.

The ladies were numerous, beautiful and elegantly dressed, and dancing was continued to a late hour. The officers seemed to vie with each other in attention to their numerous guests.

The ball was attended by the different captains of the fleet and the officers from ashore.

EDWARD G. JEWRY, Parser.