

THE CRISIS IN NICARAGUA.

Additional Details of the Conflicts between the Costa Ricans and General Walker's Troops.

IMMEDIATE AID REQUIRED BY NICARAGUA.

AFFAIRS OF THE TRANSIT COMPANY, &c., &c., &c.

We give further correspondence and particulars of the condition of things in Nicaragua. Our despatches are very full, and exceedingly interesting; but it is impossible to find room for all this morning:—

Our San Juan Correspondence.

Herr's Point, 29 miles up San Juan River,
At its junction with the Serapiqui, April 20, 1856. }

Further Details of the Battle of Serapiqui—Gallant Conduct of Captain Baldwin and his Little Band—Death of Lieutenant Rakestraw—Defeat of the Costa Ricans—Navigation of the San Juan—Want of Arms in Nicaragua, &c., &c.

My last letter was delayed here until the arrival of the Orizaba, which again opened communication with the States, and is the pioneer of a new line, by which you will hereafter receive regular bi-monthly news of the stirring events transpiring in this portion of Central America.

The military ball with Costa Rica is just opened. Adjutant Schlessinger's partial defeat (for which he was tried and found guilty of cowardice, and is now under arrest for treason) has aroused the American soldiery and fired them with an untameable spirit of revenge. Gen. Wm. Walker, in command of 800 American troops, well armed, proceeded down the lake, per steamers, on the 8th inst., to probably come in the rear of the Costa Rican force near where Schlessinger met them, while Capt. Waters, with 100 Americans and 1,000 native Nicaraguan troops, had already advanced, by way of Silens bay, to deploy on the north side and attract the enemy's attention until Gen. Walker hemps them in between his two forces, whence there will be no possible escape. Gen. Walker has also 1,000 mounted Leonese troops to aid the force with him.

The General makes no communication as to his intended movements, and we are left to infer his designs from the movements themselves. In the meantime Capt. Kelly was stationed, with a force of forty men, at Castillo, and Capt. John M. Baldwin, with a company of thirty men, at this point. It was here that Capt. Baldwin intercepted the Costa Rican and English mail on its passage to San José, by way of the Serapiqui river, which is the only point of Atlantic communication: Costa-Ricans.

Capt. Baldwin lay with his small force upon Eppy's Point, the mouth of the Serapiqui, in hourly expectation of an attack from the eastern division of the Costa-Rican army, by way of that river. Hearing or seeing nothing of the enemy, Capt. Baldwin grew weary and impatient of the delay and suspense, and on the morning of the 8th inst. proposed to ascend the river with a volunteer division of his company, twenty-one of whom accompanied him, including First Lieutenant J. B. Green and Second Lieutenant Rakestraw.

A lack of canoes to carry all the party compelled them again to divide—a part proceeding by land, marching a trail upon the bank of the river. They proceeded in this manner sixteen miles up the river on the 8th and 9th, being still nine miles below the Moro, a Costa Rican military post, sixty-five miles from San José; and the head of river navigation.

On the morning of the 10th, Capt. Baldwin resolved to take all his party up in the boats, hitching them up the river by piecemeal, landing a load a mile or so in advance, and returning for the balance; so taking fifteen men in the two canoes, and leaving seven below; he boldly pushed up a strange and rapid river, in an enemy's country, to reach a point four miles in advance, from which smoke, as if from the enemy's camp fire, was seen curling up through the heavy forest trees upon the right bank of the stream. "A camp fire—the enemy!" shouted the men. "Who gets there, and opens on them first," shouted Captain Baldwin, and a hearty fire at once commenced between the boats. On nearing the place, which was at an acute angle of the river, and turning the point, the enemy appeared, some two to three hundred strong, encamped, and within twenty to thirty paces distant only, a narrow creek-mouth separating the Americans and Costa Ricans. The enemy were started to their feet by a volley from twelve muskets and a stream from Colt's revolvers. A second volley from the muskets tore through them before they seized their arms and formed upon the bank of the creek, twenty or thirty feet from Captain Baldwin's army; nine of whom climbed up the high and slippery river bank to gain the plateau. Some two hundred English muskets, shooting Minie balls, opened upon the little but undaunted and intrepid band. Captain Baldwin stood out in full view upon the beach, with his uniform inviting attention and death, nor could he be persuaded to change his position, while the leaden missiles directed at him whizzed in hundreds by his person, tearing up the earth all about him; and he, indifferent to all danger, cheered on his men, laughed derisively at the enemy, and was enraged that his Colt was wet, and wouldn't go off. Thus opened the fight, but in a few minutes some 50 to 100 shots came tearing through the chaparral, from the rear of the Americans. A part of the enemy were below, marching a military road down near the river bank. The gallant little band divided its attention, and literally "fought right and left." Thus progressed the fight: now charging down the trail, and running those below out of sight in the chaparral; now shooting left, across the creek mouth, the enemy falling dead at every shot from the Americans, until, after some half hour had passed, when the enemy slackened fire, and began to retreat in squads and break into the chaparral. In one hour no enemy was either seen or heard, save the thirty or forty dead which they could not bear away with them. The creek prevented pursuit, and prudence dictated a retreat, which, after lingering a while upon the field, was made in good order, leaving Second Lieut. Rakestraw, a brave and gallant officer, dead upon the field.

The boats having been ordered down the river, no means were at hand to either bury or bring away his body. The Minie ball which killed him was shot from an ambush, so close as to burn his clothes with the powder; passing through his hip, it struck First Lieutenant Green (a gallant and dauntless officer) in the left breast, knocking him down and making a slight flesh wound. These embrace all the casualties of Capt. Baldwin's daring, intrepid and gallant little party. This successful expedition, viewed in all its bearings, with a thousand and one nameless circumstances to annoy, and lessen the efficiency of those conducting it, such as fatigue, want of sleep, garments soiled and torn in the chaparral, arms soiled and wet with rain, and fording or swimming creeks, the scant numbers, and the overwhelming odds against them of men better armed, must be regarded as without a parallel in the annals of warfare, and must reflect golden and enduring honor upon Capt. John M. Baldwin, who conducted it, as well as First Lieut. J. B. Green and the men who were fortunate enough to be engaged in it.

Capt. Kelly, the corporal who throttled Adj. Schlessinger upon the field at Guana Costa, and since promoted, reinforced this point yesterday with fifty men. There are now some eighty-five rank and file at this place, and 500 Costa Ricans cannot drive them off. The river San Juan will be kept open; steamers, passengers and freights can pass safely, and no fear need be entertained. Nicaraguans volunteer in great numbers to join the army, and say they can dig Costa Rica alone. The rainy season is rapidly approaching; the river is so low as to impede navigation, but will soon be up. The weather is pleasant, the air genial and balmy, soldiers in good cheer, and anxious for a dash at Costa Rica.

I wish to call the attention of the Americans coming here to the fact, that there is a very great lack of arms in Nicaragua. We want men to come armed. There are a thousand good able bodied men here now without arms, and more coming by every steamer. Bring either Sharp's or the Mississippi rifle. We want good, educated, staunch and substantial citizens, of whom the more the merrier, and the sooner the better, from the States.

Lieut. Green is nearly recovered. Capt. Wm. Morris, of Philadelphia, and Dr. Traphagen, of New York, are here.