

NICARAGUA.

HOW WALKER AND HIS MEN ESCAPED

THE FAMINE AT RIVAS.

EATING MULES, HORSES, CATS AND DOGS.

Gen. Henningsen, Col. Titus, and one sick soldier are all that have arrived here of Walker's army. Gen. Henningsen had prepared a careful statement of affairs in Nicaragua, and had copies made for the papers of this city. These copies were intrusted to Gen. Cazeneau but for some reason not explained that gentleman has not furnished the statement to us, notwithstanding the best efforts of our reporters to induce him to do so.

INTERVIEW WITH GEN. HENNINGSEN.

One of our reporters called at the residence of Gen. Henningsen, at No. 140 Twelfth street, after the arrival of the Illinois, and found him in the midst of his family. The General has furnished us with the following particulars:

Since the last advices received here from Gen. Walker, the Allies made an attack on the intrenchments at Rivas with a force of 2,600 men. The assault lasted six hours, and was hotly contested throughout. As near as could be ascertained, the enemy lost 400 killed and wounded, including 30 prisoners taken by Gen. Walker; one cannon belonging to the Allies also fell into the hands of the filibusters. Walker's total loss in this engagement in killed and wounded did not exceed 50 or 60 men.

From this time until the second week in April, when Gen. Mora arrived and assumed command of the Allies, no offensive operations, to speak of, took place on either side. On the 11th of that month the Allied forces, led on, it was said, by deserters from the Filibuster camp, made a desperate attack on Gen. Walker's intrenchments, and succeeded in gaining possession at one time of the lower plaza. About 150 had entered that portion of the town, when Gen. Henningsen succeeded in bringing three guns to bear upon them, which mowed them down with great slaughter. About half of them escaped, and the remainder being surrounded were obliged to surrender. After a good deal of hard fighting the enemy was finally repulsed, but not without contesting the ground inch by inch. 123 prisoners in all remained in the hands of Gen. Walker after the fighting was over.

The hopes of the Filibusters were greatly sustained by the constant expectation of relief from Col. Lockridge and party on the San Juan River, who were daily looked for. Of course no correct intelligence could be obtained respecting his situation and prospects, as all the avenues of approach from that quarter were in the hands of the Allies. But as day after day no news came from the San Juan, the garrison in Rivas began to despair and were fast losing their spirits, when information was received that Capt. Davis of the United States sloop-of-war St. Mary's had seized the schooner Granada, containing half of all General Walker's ammunition. Then, in view of the hopeless prospect before them, the design of retiring from the country began to be entertained. Meantime Capt. Davis proceeded to the seat of war and endeavored to urge the contending parties to come to terms. General Walker, after prolonged and painful consultation with his officers, concluded to enter into stipulations with Captain Davis, and he subsequently surrendered to him as an officer of the United States Government. The Allies were not named in the instrument. By a full understanding, however, the retiring forces were not molested by them—one of the Costa Rican Generals attending Walker and his staff through the lines of the enemy, a hostage as it were.

At the instance of Captain Davis the women and children, numbering about 70, were removed from the camp on the 20th of April. The formal capitulation took place on the 30th of the same month, and the troops set out on the march to San Juan del Sur on the 1st of May.

The whole number of Walker's men at the time of surrender was 475; of these 260, including officers, were effective, 175 were on the sick and wounded list, and 40 were natives.

Provisions had been exceedingly scarce during the whole month of April, and the men had lived chiefly on mule and horse meat nearly all that time. Dogs, cats and other animals were sometimes killed to furnish a novelty. General Henningsen describes horse-flesh as quite passable—when one can get nothing better.

The enemy, the General states, had suffered much from desertions, and on the 1st of May could not have had more than 2,500 available men about Rivas. He thinks that, had Gen. Walker held out two weeks longer, scarcely a shadow would have been left of the Allies.

Gen. Henningsen has fortunately escaped without a single blood-letting wound, though he has received a great number of contusions. This is somewhat remarkable, as he has been engaged in many very hot encounters, and enjoys the reputation of being one of the bravest, as also the most efficient, of Walker's late officers. The General, in stature, appears to be something over six feet, and is of rather slight make-up, with, however, a high military bearing and soldier-like air. He is very much of a gentleman in his manners, and shows a very slight accent in speaking, though he is a German by birth. He believes his health to be in no wise impaired by his late campaign of seven months in Nicaragua, notwithstanding that he scarcely had his boots off six times while there, and enjoyed anything else but regular sleep. He desires us to say, by the way, that his letter of March, to his wife in this city, which was at the time pronounced fictitious by some, was in all respects true, and a bona fide letter from him.