

Letter from Nicaragua.

How the Transit Passengers to the East were Trapped on the Isthmus.

GREYTOWN, January 5, 1857.

EDITOR EVENING BULLETIN:—The English mail leaving for Aspinwall in the early morn, I embrace the opportunity to furnish your readers with a little history of passing events in this part of the world, and which may be relied on as authentic.

I was one of the passengers on the *Sierra Nevada* which left San Francisco for San Juan del Sud on the 31st ult. Alas, for human foresight! for the hopes we all entertained of being in New York by the 12th current, are all vanished and blown into thin air as easily as a playful child would a soap bubble. Little did any one dream on the day before yesterday, when we left Virginia Bay, on as fine a steamer as the most captious could desire, that we were to be captured under American colors by Costa Rican soldiers. After passing San Carlos fort at 9 A. M., and being about three miles down the river, we were hailed by a steamer to the effect that Vanderbilt had seized all the river steamers, and the Costa Ricans all the forts on the river, and had 3,000 armed men at various points to prevent egress or ingress, and that we must come to for further particulars. The anchor soon found an embrace in the bed of the river, when a Mr. S. M. Spencer came on board, and produced a document said to be a power of attorney from the "Nicaragua Transit Accessory Company," authorizing him to seize all the steamers and property belonging to them, and which Walker had previously confiscated. Spencer has done his work up brown, and by having been up and down the river for the past two months spying out the nakedness of the land, has so far succeeded in his operations and out-generaled Walker, who, after his last fight at Grenada, was supposed to be safe and secure from any further molestation from either the Nicaraguans or Costa Ricans.

It appears that Spencer has been in communication with the latter power, and that a tacit understanding existed, if he found the means of transportation (and brains) for the swops to get possession of the fort and river, they would protect his property. He brought the soldiery (God save the mark!) down the San Carlos river on rafts after having just seized the steamer *Wheeler* here, on the 23d ultimo, and taking her up the river under our flag, he met the troops, and surprised the garrison in the fort at the confluence of the Serrapiqui and Nicaragua river, a strong and commanding point. Doing the matter cautiously, Walker's men had no time to defend themselves. Rumor says five were killed. Twenty five jumped into the river and lost their lives, while the few who surrendered were taken prisoners. Leaving a garrison here he proceeded up river, took Castillo and San Carlos, with all the other defensible points in a similar manner without firing a gun and obtaining all the boats on the transit line. But the way he captured us is the best joke of all. Permitting us to pass San Carlos, which was already held by Walker's enemies, he had the *J. Ogden* with three small field pieces and about sixty soldiers to cut us off, prevent our passing down, and knowing we could not pass up, was sure of the capture.

Had it not been that there were women and children on board, and who are always a clog upon a desperate move, we would have captured him (Spencer), soldiers, boat and crew—as there were enough brave souls to do it; but as we felt no direct interest in the affair of Walker, Garrison, Vanderbilt et al we concluded it was wise to let well alone. This coup is of serious injury to Walker, as well as the Nicaragua steamers, which have kept down the monopoly of the P. M. S. S. Company, who now will resort to their old game of high prices, as unless Walker drives the Costa Ricans out of their strong-holds, the communication of a surety is cut off. Spencer has brought all Walker's men that he captured to Punta Arenas, and the Proclamation herewith sent [published in yesterday's *Bulletin*] will speak for itself, as well the one he posted on his American—Costa Rican steamer privateer, or pirate. The latter is as follows:

TO THE GENTLEMEN ON THIS BOAT, (*J. Ogden*)

GENTLEMEN:—Do not be deceived or induced to enter into any combination to take this boat out of my possession. I am amply prepared for any emergencies that may arise. Keep quiet, and behave like gentlemen should, and I pledge you my sacred word and honor to see you safe through to Greytown.

L. L. SPENCER.

Agent of the Nicaragua Transit Accessory Co.

Two of Walker's officers (Doct. Hardcastle and Captain Tyler) were landed at San Carlos, and of course became prisoners of war, but Spencer, or General Mora (the President's brother) will send them here for New York.

The New Orleans boat only arrived last night, but up to this time (12, M.) has not communicated with the shore. The New York boat is not in, and three hundred anxious faces are turned seaward looking for the President's message, and the means of conveyance from out this most miserable of miserable holes.

Rumor says that the Costa Ricans have English officers in command. This may or may not be true, but John Bull has a large fleet here, and which has been equatted on the bosom of this safe harbor for the past three months; whether as watchmen, or for other purposes, deponent knoweth not.

We are paying more than California prices for every requisite here, and hard to get at that. Hellins' bombardment and Walker's war continued, will soon make this place anything but desirable even for the lazy drones who inhabit it. I do not wish to spin out a long letter, so conclude.

B. D. H.