

Later from Nicaragua.

Success of Walker's Forces on the San Juan.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PANAMA, March 2d, 1857.

The British steamer *Treat* arrived at Aspinwall on the 21st of February, bringing dates of the day previous from Greytown. All sorts of reports were immediately in circulation here, principally in favor of Walker's party on the river San Juan; and it is even now contended by some that the river is entirely cleared of the Costa Ricans, and that San Carlos, their last stronghold, has fallen. But the truth, when you sift the matter, will be found to be that Col. Lockridge, with his whole force, 400 men, has taken Serapiqui, and attacked the defences at Castillo Rapida, but that the latter point had not at the last dates fallen. I think, however, there is but little doubt that it has been taken ere this. San Carlos, at the head of the river, is supposed to be much the strongest point. If this falls, of course the communication with the Lake will be re-opened. I am perfectly astonished that the Costa Ricans, knowing as they did that their very existence depended upon holding the river, should so easily be driven from it by a handful of Americans, who must have fought under great disadvantages. The fact is, they are mere poltroons in war. They fight a little while, until they find half a dozen of their number killed, and then they throw down their muskets and run. They scarcely deserve success in the war they are waging against their brave, although unprincipled, enemy.

As the following, from one of Walker's officers, appears to be nearer the truth than any of the rest of the accounts published, I append it. It gives a detailed statement of all the operations on the river up to the day the steamer left:

PUERTA ARENAS, Greytown, Feb. 18th.

February 4th, the steamer *Texas*, arrived with 200 men, who proceeded up the river and joined Col. Anderson's force of 200. The 5th was spent in cleaning arms. On the 6th, we advanced with the steamer *Essex* to Cody's point, and took it—losing two men killed. According to the enemy's account, they lost seven killed and a large number wounded. 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, which we left at Fort Anderson. Then we erected barricades, bush-houses for the men, provisions and artillery. Next day we began cutting a road and bridging the creeks 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 Col. Titus—the artillery being under Gen. Bob Wheat, the left resting on the artillery, the right ranging up the river, both being protected by the shrubbery along the banks of the river.

On Friday morning at break of day, Gen. Wheat opened his 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 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 about 12 o'clock, noon, and took their position without being perceived by the enemy.

Meanwhile, the action had been going on warmly between Gen. Wheat's artillery and Col. Titus' riflemen on one side, and the Costa Ricans in the Serapiqui fort. One of their pieces was dismounted, and another, the heaviest, was not fired during the day. Capt. Brantley's company of riflemen keeping up such a destructive fire that they did not dare 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 up the San Juan river. From that time until dark a constant 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 their blankets and throwing away their guns. The commander of the fort at Serapiqui, Col. Blanco, was among the first that left, at 2½ 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's command, two wounded and none killed, and the artillery none.

The next morning, Com. De Briscoe and a volunteer called "Kentuck," went over in a canoe, pulled down the Costa Rica flag, and hoisted the "Love Star" of Nicaragua, all the enemy having abandoned the point in the night. Upwards of 400 stands 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, chattels, etc.—finding 13 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 33. Prisoners taken said they had been badly treated and worse fed, living on beans and plantains alone. Five pieces of artillery—four brass 6-lb pieces, and one 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, 250 pairs of pantaloons, 40 bushels of beans and 6 bbls. of salt, but enough kettles and pans for 2,500 men.

The same night the steamer *Essex*, or *Fideler* as some of the boys call it, took up the forces of Col. Titus and one 4-lb gun to the island 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 *Clerk Algeas*, which had gone on with the news of the Costa Ricans having left Serapiqui; the latter boat had four hours start, and the *Essex* came in sight of her just as she went over Castillo Rapida. The Costa Ricans had tar and resin on the steamers *Scott* and *Mohaca*, and all the buildings of the town. At the moment they saw the *Essex*, 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 Capt. West's company of Col. Titus' command. Four men jumped from the steamer, swam against a six mile current, cut loose 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 fifty 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. McDONALD, Lieut. Col. 3d Rifles.

Col. McDonald seems to ignore San Carlos altogether. At the time it fell into the hands of the Costa Ricans, it was defended by one six and one twenty-four pounder; and Col. Waters told me when I was at Rivas, that with forty Americans, he could defend it against a thousand men. If the Americans should get into the Lake, no doubt the Costa Ricans will burn the steamers *Virgin* and *San Carlos*—as they could not hold them against the largest of the river steamers, which would soon be after them.

Col. Lockridge has issued the following proclamation:

TO THE CITIZENS OF NICARAGUA, AND ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:—Having succeeded in opening the San Juan river as far as Castillo Rapida, I now inform all those who wish to pass or trade on the river, that I offer the fullest guarantee that they shall be protected in their rights, property and person, 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 are false.

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.

CASTILLO RAPIDS, Feb. 17th, 1857.