

From the Savannah Republican.

LETTER FROM COL. TITUS.

The reader will find copied below a letter from Col. Titus, of the Nicaraguan army, defending his conduct at Castillo from the aspersions cast upon it by Gen. Walker and others connected with his unfortunate expedition. It appeared some weeks ago, we infer from its date, but escaped our eye until enclosed to us a few days ago in a letter from a friend.

If the statement of Col. Titus be correct, his retreat from Castillo, which has been used by his enemies greatly to his disparagement as a soldier, was entirely justifiable. We only blame him for placing his services and character in the hands of such mere adventurers as Walker & Co., for which he deserves to suffer at least a moderate amount of penance.

The reflections on Walker and Lockridge are very severe. We have long been inclined to the opinion expressed in regard to the former, viz. that he was in pursuit rather of "his own high and selfish ambition" than of the extension of liberty to an oppressed people. It can now be nothing else with him, for there is probably not a man in all Nicaragua who would not as soon see the Prince of Darkness land on his shores as their would-be deliverer. If we are not greatly mistaken, public sentiment in this country is fast taking the same direction, and Walker will soon find, if he has not already done so, that his race is at an end.

LETTER FROM COL. TITUS.

NEW YORK, June 6, 1857.

My attention has just been called to notice a communication in the columns of your widely circulated journal, published a short time since, in which my name appears in connexion with Nicaraguan affairs in such a manner as to compromise me in the estimation of my friends and the public.

I would most respectfully represent that, in responding to the call of Nicaragua for aid in her recent struggle to establish and maintain a liberal government, I was actuated only by a desire to promote the interests and general welfare of the State, whose people (through Walker) were calling loudly for assistance in their efforts to put down the tyranny and oppression of their aristocratic and corrupt officials; and my endeavors in behalf of Nicaragua, while engaged in its service, were wholly for the advancement of the cause, now disgraced by its leader, who lost sight of the real interest of the State in contemplating and planning for the realization of his own high and selfish ambition, and whose contemptible hounds both in Central America and the United States have endeavored to mislead my friends and the public in relation to my conduct at "Castillo,"* and whose accusations would pass unnoticed by me but for placing the stigma where it properly belongs.

After the battle of Serapiquí I advanced with a part of my command for the purpose of taking up a position upon which to operate prior to a general attack upon the old Fort Castillo, which was to be made on the return of Col. Lockridge with 150 men to my support. I was landed without proper means of defence, having neither artillery nor axes, and short of provisions. Many obstacles were overcome when we reached and cleared out the trenches of old Fort Nelson, where I remained nearly sixty hours without food or shelter for my men, awaiting the return of Lockridge who agreed to return with reinforcements in twelve hours, or I might be assured he was cut off.

In the mean time I cut loose from her moorings the other steamer, J. N. Scott, which was secured under the cover of the guns of the enemy, put on board my sick and wounded, under charge of Maj. Wm. Moon, and dropped the Scott some three miles down the river. In this extremity I was attacked by 500 Costa Ricans, whose object was to flank my little party, cut off our retreat, and retake the steamer Scott. We made a determined resistance, and drove the enemy back into the fort; when, finding it impossible to take the fort without the aid of artillery, and considering the steamer of great importance to our cause, for our means of transportation were limited, I ordered a retreat and went some six miles down the river, where I met Lockridge.

Had Col. Lockridge kept his word with me, or had he complied with my requisition for artillery, instead of remaining at Greytown making protests and speeches to the English commander, our attempt on Castillo would have been successful. The total ignorance of Col. Lockridge in every thing relative to military matters, and his contemptible jealousy, in connexion with a base heart, have prompted him to a course so low, mean, and cowardly, in carrying out his threats to disgrace me, that I regard it with as little consideration as the yelpings of a barking cur.

What service I, with my command rendered to the cause was given without being mustered into the army of Walker, or in any way identified with his operations, except for the general interest of Nicaragua. After becoming satisfied that I had been deceived in relation to Walker's position in the country, I at once determined to leave and return to the United States; but at the urgent request of my friends, who wished me to communicate with Walker, I left the river and proceeded, via Panama, to Rivas, where I declined service in Walker's staff, for which he unlawfully detained me two months. When I saw the fate of his little army would be that of certain annihilation, I interposed for their safety, for which kindly office my character has been assailed by such contemptible minions as Walker only would engage to fabricate reports without truth or justice. Sufficient evidence will soon be brought out in relation to that tyrant, Wm. Walker, and such minions as Lockridge, as will enable those interested in this matter to decide upon the merits of the case.

I have recently met with an extract, published in a newspaper, from a letter signed E. J. C. Kewen, dated at Washington, March 25, 1857, addressed to a gentleman in Tennessee, in which he assailed my character for the purpose of arousing sympathy, and calling upon the citizens of Charleston, Savannah, and adjacent country to aid him with money, men, &c. In noticing his efforts to calumniate my character, I take this occasion to hurl the lie back to his teeth.

Young men of the South, await the return of that little remnant of Walker's army from the Isthmus before embarking in another expedition against Nicaragua. Ask the sick and wounded of that little band whether they can rely upon the magnanimity of the "gray-eyed man," then decide.

H. T. TITUS.

* Fort Castillo is one of the strongest fortifications in Spanish America, is in good state of preservation, was one of the late strongholds of the Spaniards in the war of independence, and is impregnable against small arms if defended by a few brave men.