

personal motives which had in many cases rendered them reckless; while some were soldiers of fortune—men who were unable to live except under the exciting influence of gunpowder.

It was a never-ending source of interest to me to hear from their own lips the adventures of men whose whole life had been passed in constant exposure to danger in every form. There were men who had fought in every part of the world.—One company was composed entirely of Germans. There were Hungarians who had bled at Segedin; Italians who had fought at Novara; Prussians who had gone through the Schleswig-Holstein campaigns; Frenchmen who had fought in Algeria; Englishmen who had been in our own artillery in the Crimea; Americans who had taken part in both the Cuban expeditions, and suffered a year's imprisonment in Spain; others fresh from Kansas; while among the younger ones were those who had not yet fleshed their maiden bowies, and were burning to have some deeds of prowess of their own to relate. Some of the officers had served already in Nicaragua, and were returning from leave of absence; others had been in the United States army, and were as well-informed, gentlemen-like, and agreeable as the officers in that service usually are.

With such an incognitious mixture it might have been anticipated that to keep order would be no easy task. So far, however, from this being the case, nothing could exceed the orderly behavior of the men. No spirits of any kind, even on New Year's Day was allowed to be issued. The roll was called regularly morning and evening, the officers of the day appointed, and a guard of sixteen men told off. Nor did the fact that no distinction existed between the men and officers in any way affect the maintenance of discipline; the men lived forward, the officers aft, and they mixed but rarely together, though now and then absurd mistakes arose among some of the younger and inexperienced officers at drill, one of whom I heard say to his company, "Break rank, gentlemen; right flank march!" I am bound to say that the gentlemen behaved themselves as such. They were exercised daily at drill, to which they seemed to take instinctively. The officers of the day wore swords buckled round their shooting-coats, as insignia of rank, otherwise they were guiltless of uniform, while the men presented an extraordinary variety of costume. Some wore red flannel shirts and high jackboots; others, in seedy black, were clerical in appearance, as though they belonged to a sort of church militant; some were neat and respectable; others detestably shabby and ragged; still for the most part, their countenances were not ill-favored, and so strong was my confidence in their honesty at last, that I did not take those precautions with regard to my cabin door which I should have done, and all my property was abstracted. My only consolation was, that my fellow-sufferer in the same cabin was the colonel himself.

Miscellaneous.

"A Run to Nicaragua."

The number of *Blackwood* for the present month, among a series of excellent papers, contains a very racy sketch of the filibustering expedition that sailed from New Orleans in the latter part of December last. The author was a member of this delectable company, eye-witness of its operations and a participant in the defeat with which it was eventually visited. As an extract from his somewhat extended description of this heartless expedition will be very seasonable at this time, when the redoubtable Walker himself is an object of public attention we have appropriated the following sketch of the *materiel* of the "army." After describing the parting scene at the St. Charles Hotel, in the city of New Orleans—"all was a scene of stir and bustle"—where cocktails and punches were freely discussed by the parting "patriots" and their stay-at-home acquaintances, who preferred the comfortable position of "sympathizers" at home to encountering the vicissitudes of the expedition—he thus proceeds:

"A large crowd was collected upon the Levee to wish us god-speed, and I parted with a number of friends who had come down to see me off, with feelings of a somewhat unusual description. The crowd, generally, seemed to regard us with mingled feelings of compassion (for those who had gone to Nicaragua hitherto seldom returned), of admiration (for the desperate nature of the adventure commanded this), and of no sympathy (for was not the object laudable?). So that we were rather lions, on the whole, more particularly when slightly intoxicated and highly enthusiastic individuals harangued those on shore from the side of the ship, and were responded to by short spasmodic cheers, and observations ironical or genuine, according to the sympathies of the speaker. A number of oblong deal cases, very ominous in appearance, for they looked like unostentatious coffins, immediately preceded me, and I learned afterwards that they contained two hundred rifles, to be used upon an occasion hereinafter to be named. A good deal of delay took place, after we got on board, consequent upon the non-arrival of a certain Col. Titus of Kansas notoriety, who was hourly expected from that tranquil territory with one hundred and fifty "boys," who had been helping him to keep the peace there, and who, now that their services were no longer needed, were going to make themselves useful elsewhere. Thick fogs, however, had prevented their coming "to time," and so we were obliged at last to start without them; and one more waving our adieus, we cast off from the wharf, unmolested by the myrmidons of Marcy, and amid the cheers of the populace dropped slowly down the river.

All that night and the following day we were enveloped in fogs so thick that our progress was but slow, and their depressing influence seemed to be felt on board; the men had not shaken down into their berths; the decks were wet and uncomfortable; and it was not until we had crossed the bar, and left the river and its fogs behind us, that we began to feel at home, when it was time to establish regular discipline among the men. Various *contretemps* before starting had reduced our force from 500; the number at which it was originally estimated, to 250. It was only necessary, however, to see these men mustered, to perceive their real value as irregular troops, peculiarly fitted to the style of warfare in which they were about to be engaged, and in which, to a certain extent, every man would be called upon to rely upon himself. They were divided into five companies, each having a captain and two subalterns; these had all been raised in different States by enterprising young men, who received, as a reward for their exertions, rank proportionate to the number of men whom they enlisted. The inducement held out to them was a grant of land as soon as the country should be settled, and, in the meantime, twenty-five dollars a month, to be paid in scrip. There was nothing, however, in the aspect of these men, to lead one to suppose that they had embarked in the enterprise from mercenary motives alone. The spirit of adventure was the moving cause with nearly all; some were well off in their own country, others had left from