

## CENTRAL AMERICA.

### A Disclaimer from Thomas Francis Meagher —A New Constitution in Costa Rica—The Cauty-Croskey Transit—The Priesthood and Freedom of the Press—A Dictator in Salvador.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PANAMA, Saturday, March 17, 1860.

The Panama Railroad Company's steamship *Guatemala* arrived at this port from Central American ports on the 7th instant. The dates from Guatemala are to the 26th of February, Salvador to the 28th, Realejo de Nicaragua to 1st of March, and Punta Arenas de Costa Rica to 4th of March. The *Guatemala* brought a large freight, consisting of 3,718 sacks coffee, 300 seroons indigo, 97 bales India rubber, 5,330 hides, 20 bales deer-skins, 441 packages sugar and \$20,000 in specie.

#### COSTA RICA.

The new revolutionary Government has promulgated the National Constitution, one article of which seems indispensable to Spanish Constitutions, and which generally saps them as dry within a year after they are made as a Vermonter saps a maple tree in Spring-time: "The Catholic Apostolic Roman Religion is that of the Republic. The Government will protect it, and will contribute its means to no other form of worship."

No new attempts at revolution have been made since the failure of that in Guanacaste, although the Government is obliged to keep up a large and expensive military force as a preventive measure. An election for President is to be held in May. There are a dozen or so of aspirants in the field, and whoever is elected will make powerful enemies of all the balance, who will take the earliest opportunity to oust him and send him into exile, in the way they did President MORA.

The Government has issued a decree lessening the duties on foreign spirits.

The first shipment this season of Costa Rica coffee for Europe was made on the bark *America*—8,900 bags. The coffee this year is of superior quality, although the crop will not exceed 70,000 quintals, against 120,000 last year. The price in Punta Arenas is from 11 to 13 cents, say 10 per cent. off for American gold, or exchange on New-York.

Mr. THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER, of New-York, finding that his praise of President MORA, in his *Holidays in Costa Rica*, published in *Harper's Magazine*, is not much relished by his present political friends, the revolutionary authorities, has printed in the *San José Album* a penitent disclaimer, in which he says that the sentiments were not his, but were interpolated by the Messrs. HARPER! Good for THOMAS FRANCIS!

#### NICARAGUA.

The new Cauty-Croskey transit privilege has been approved by the President, and an extraordinary session of Congress is soon to be held at Managua to take that and the Mosquito treaty into consideration. Col. CAUTY agrees to give the Government a draft on Europe for \$25,000 when his contract shall be ratified, but doesn't say the draft shall be good for anything. He forfeits this draft if he fails to comply with the terms stipulated of commencing the work of opening the route in six months, and having it completed from sea to sea in eighteen months. CAUTY agrees to pay \$25,000 more, "in a draft," for the use of the road between Virgin Bay and San Juan del Sur, and for the wharves, houses, etc., on the route. The contract is to last forty years, the contractors to pay the Government for the first ten years \$30,000 a year, and for the other thirty years \$40,000 a year; at the end of the forty years the route to be given up to the Government on its paying for the improvements existing at the time. The Government can extend the contract for fifty years more, in which case it shall receive one-quarter part of the net gains. The Company agrees to spend at least \$500,000 in roads, in wharves, and in clearing the San Juan River of its obstacles.

This is about the twentieth "contract" the Government of Nicaragua has given for the opening of the route, and there is no reason to doubt it will give twenty more before it is finally opened. This new Company is to be "organized under the laws of Great Britain."

In Granada the priesthood have shown their power and their disposition to use it, by forbidding the editor of the *Centro Americano* to publish an article against a priest or any articles against the Church, under pain of excommunication. As an excommunication in these countries is followed by a withdrawal of Church privileges to all your servants and persons under your roof, unless a man wants to live a hermit, he must obey any order from the Bishop—and so the editor was forced to succumb.

#### SALVADOR.

Congress closed its sessions on the 12th of the present month, after giving to "Excelentísimo Capitan-General President GERRARDO BARRIOS" powers to do anything he may choose during the recess for the good of the country. This is the way Republicanism is practiced in these parts. Señor JOSE FELIX QUIRES is declared to be elected Vice-President. The papers are full of congratulatory addresses to Gen. BARRIOS on his accession to the Presideccy.

During the last year the imports into Salvador were 32,025 packages, valued at \$1,306,378. The exports amounted to \$1,991,650, consisting of indigo, cochineal, tobacco, hides, woods, coffee, balsam, wool, provisions, &c. The income of the Government was \$745,999, and the expenses \$649,374.

#### GUATEMALA.

HON. BEVERLY L. CLARK, United States Minister resident to Guatemala and Honduras, was still sick, and would leave his post for his home in Kentucky, if well enough, in the next steamer, by way of Panama. His disease, as I wrote you, is diabetes, and his situation is very precarious.

The Senate has approved the treaty of limits of the Belize, made between Guatemala and Great Britain, and which Mr. CLARK protested against. Capt. WRAY had arrived from England at Isabel, to survey the route of the road from the Atlantic to the City of Guatemala which the British Government stipulates in the treaty to make.

F. W. R.