

LATE AND IMPORTANT
FROM NICARAGUA!

Special Correspondence by the Tennessee

COL. TITUS'S DEFEAT AT CASTILLO.

BRITISH INTERFERENCE
IN NICARAGUAN AFFAIRS.

Intercepted Costa Rican Correspondence.

Walker's Position at Rivas, &c., &c.

Our large and varied Nicaraguan correspondence by the Tennessee at New York, reached us this morning. It gives the latest possible intelligence of Walker's movements, both on the River San Juan and Lake Nicaragua, as also a full resumé of all important events in that country since the last steamer. We arrange it in the order of time, the latest dates first, and each subject by itself, so that the reader will be able to obtain the clearest view of affairs in Nicaragua:

[Special Correspondence of the Pleasane.]

ASPIKWALL, March 10, 1857.
Gentlemen—I regret very much that the news from San Juan river is very unfavorable, and the assistance, which Gen. Walker has so long been looking for from that quarter, he cannot receive. After the taking of Serepique, of which you have been advised, the next point of attack was Castillo; after taking possession of the Island of San Carlos, below Castillo, they immediately proceeded to besiege the latter place; it was completely invested, and all supplies of water, &c., cut off, and could have been taken by a decisive charge; but, at all events, it appeared to be only a question of time to take the place without loss; but Col. Titus, who was left in command by Col. Lockridge, with 200 men, was badly defeated.

This disaster has ruined everything, and places things in a worse position than they were, previous to the taking of Serepique; all Titus's officers have resigned, and he himself crossed the Isthmus to-day, on his way to Gen. Walker. Before leaving Punta Arenas, he was placed under arrest by a British officer, but was afterwards released by Capt. Erskine, of the Corsack. I fear that this part of the enterprise is lost, for it is certain with the many influences at work against him, Col. Lockridge cannot succeed. I am positively assured that over 100 desertions have taken place; not less than 22 arrived at this place yesterday in the British steamer Clyde.

This news, I fear, will have a bad effect upon the army at Rivas, as their spirits have been kept up with the prospect of assistance from the opening of the river, and their only resource now is California, and from the small number of recruits she sends, she is but poor reliance.

Col. Lockridge is quartered at Greytown and Serepique, where they started from.

Enclosed you will find copies of some intercepted correspondence of the enemy, which I have been kindly furnished with. Yours truly, N. R.

A British Officer Offers a Safe Passage to Walker.

SAN JUAN, March 7, 1857.
Gentlemen—I have informed you in one of my letters of the arrival of H. B. M. propeller Esk, commanded by Sir Robert McClure, but I did not learn till to-day that his visit was one of philanthropy. It was to offer to Gen. Walker a safe passage to California, wishing to save him from the Grensers. On his arrival at San Juan he pursued a very urgent, friendly and unofficer-like course towards Capt. Faysoux, of the Nicaraguan schooner Granada. I have just procured a correct statement of what occurred between Capt. F. and Sir Robert. I can vouch for its correctness, having conversed on the subject with the Captain since my arrival there. The conversations as reported were written down at the time by the purser of the Granada. The interview with Gen. Walker I also know to be correct. Not having time to prepare for publication, I send it to you as I received it, and if you think it worthy of publication arrange it to suit yourselves.

I think it necessary to show up these British officers sometimes, and particularly this British interference with the affairs of Central America. Gen. Walker has sufficient to contend against without their interference, and their pretended philanthropy towards him extends merely to the attempt to make his soldiers desert, by offering them a free passage through Costa Rica.

Sir Robert must have been sadly disappointed when he found Gen. Walker was not so reduced as to require a safe passage out of the country.

Yours in haste, N. R.

Interview between a British and Nicaraguan Officer.

AND A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW WITH WALKER.

At 6 o'clock on the afternoon of the 11th of February, 1857, the first Lieutenant of the British man-of-war Esk, Sir Robert McClure commanding, came on board the Nicaraguan schooner of war Granada, Capt. C. J. Faysoux commanding, when the following conversation took place:

Lieut. Dawkins—Sir Robert McClure has sent me on board your vessel, and wishes to know by what authority you fly a flag which is not known to any nation, and also where your commission is, and orders me to take you on board H. M. S. Esk, to show your commission to Sir Robert McClure.

Capt. Faysoux—I have my commission below in the cabin, but will not go on board the Esk to show it. I am in the service of the Nicaraguan Government, and fly the flag of that Government. If you compel me to show my commission and papers, I will do so on the deck of my own vessel, under protest; but it is beneath my dignity to go on board your vessel with them, and I will do so under no circumstances.

Lieut. Dawkins—I will tell Sir Robert what you say and warn you if you attempt to go out of the harbor in the night I will sink you.

Capt. Faysoux—Should I have occasion, or my duty oblige me, I will do so, regardless of your threats.

Lieut. Dawkins—But my guns are shotted and loaded with shell, and will blow you up. I shall go on board the sloop-of-war St. Mary's, and tell the officers if they hear any firing during the night not to be alarmed, it will be nothing only our sinking the schooner.

Capt. Faysoux—Can't help that, sir.

Lieut. Dawkins—[Then proceeded on board the Esk, and in a few minutes returned, said:] I have seen Sir Robert; he says you must show your commission to me and what is your authority for showing colors which you fly.

Capt. Faysoux—I would under no circumstances show my authority had I a vessel one-half your size, or were in any way able to contend against you. You see how I am situated, with a small vessel and a small crew; as it is, I show it, but understand me that I do so under protest. I cannot understand why you have taken these proceedings, and must say you are decidedly taking sides with my enemy. [Here shows Lieut. D. commission and other papers.]

Lieut. Dawkins—I will tell Sir Robert that I have seen your papers; if they are not satisfactory to him you will be taken as a pirate. [Lieut. D. then went on board the Esk and returned, said:] Sir Robert McClure says you must come on board with your commission; if you refuse I am ordered to haul you alongside the Esk, and send you on board. [Lieut. Dawkins had lines in his boat for the purpose of towing the Granada alongside.]

Capt. Faysoux—I will not go on board your vessel with my commission; I am weak and powerless in relation to you. But I protest against your threat, my wish is to conclude in all matters with other nations.

Lieut. D.—If I make use of these men (pointing to his boat's crew,) in hauling your vessel alongside mine, will you make any resistance?

Capt. F.—Certainly I will resist you; you have not a sufficient force to take me.

Lieut. D.—The guns of the Esk are pointed at you, and it is very easy for me to bring on board a couple of hundred men; resistance would be madness; will your men sack by you?

Capt. F.—My men will stick by me, and you will have to bring a much larger force than I have before you can take me; when you bring such a force and I see that resistance would be madness, I will surrender without resistance.

Lieut. D.—Have you any objection to my speaking to your crew?

Capt. F.—None whatever. Men, step aft here, this gentleman wishes to speak to you.

Lieut. D.—Well, men, I am going to sink this vessel as a pirate, and my boat will take on shore such of you as wish to go and save your lives. Will you go?

Crew—No, no, no. Sink and be damned.

Lieut. D.—You see my guns are bearing on you; they are loaded with shell, and will blow you all up. Do you still persist in remaining on the vessel?

Crew—Yes, and go to hell in her. Shell don't hurt much.

Lieut. D.—[Having gone on board the Esk, returns and says:]—It is customary, when a man-of-war comes into port, for the commanders of other vessels of war to pay the new arrival a visit. The captain of the American sloop-of-war St. Mary's sent on board my vessel, and his visit was returned this morning. You did not call, and as none of the crew or officers of my vessel had ever seen your flag, we did not know what it meant.

Capt. F.—When you came in last evening I did not omit visiting you from a want of etiquette, but I hoisted my flag, which I thought was sufficient I do not know by what authority you forced me to show my commission.

Lieut. D.—Will you come on board the Esk with me as a friend, will you show your commission? You can see the captain, who says he will be glad to see you on board, and will be happy to make your acquaintance. Get into my boat now as a friend and come along with me.

Capt. F.—I will be most happy to go on board with you as a friend, but not with my commission.

Lieut. D.—Well, get into my boat now and go off with me as a friend.

Capt. F.—I will be on board in my own boat in a few minutes.

Capt. Faysoux then went on board the Esk, and was received at the gangway by Sir Robert McClure, and had a long conversation with him, and says through the whole of which he could see a strong prejudice. Among other things, he was accused of having once taken English property. Capt. F. said, if he had done so, that it had not been recognized as such; that he doubted its being true, and that he would like for Sir Robert to see his journal, written at the time, and then he would be satisfied that he had been misinformed. Sir Robert said he would like to see it, and that it would satisfy him; also said if he heard of Capt. F. taking any English property, he would treat him as a pirate. Capt. F. replied that he would take anything in these waters that was in any way assisting the enemy. After some more conversation, Sir Robert said he was satisfied that he (Capt. F.) had a right to carry the flag at the present, and that he would like to meet him as if nothing had occurred.

The next day Sir Robert went to Rivas and called on Gen. Walker. When he entered the room the General was seated with his back to the door; he turned half round to see who his visitor was. Sir Robert says, "being so near you, General, I thought I would come up and see you." Gen. Walker did not rise, nor did he ask Sir Robert to take a seat; but in his peculiar measured tone of voice said, "Yes; I hope you have come to apologize for that affair of the schooner." This reception rather astonished Sir Robert, and he made no reply. After a long pause the General said, "Your conduct, sir, to Capt. Faysoux was unbecoming an Englishman and a British officer. I shall make such a representation of it to your Government as will cause an investigation and incur an expiation." Whereupon Sir Robert expressed his sincere regret at the occurrence, assuring the General that no offence was intended, and that he had no intention to desert.

After having made such explanations as were deemed satisfactory to the General, he was asked to take a chair, and the conversation turned upon the present state of affairs in Central America, neutrals, &c. The General gave him permission to take away any British subjects that were on the Isthmus who did not belong to the army.

When he called this morning (the 18th) he took with him some dozen of passengers for Panama and Punta Arenas, the majority of which were English subjects of the African race from the island of Jamaica.