

DEBATE ON THE PEACE

Though the establishment of peace is an event which all civilized nations may congratulate themselves on, it is not to be taken for granted that it will be a permanent and satisfactory one.

WALKER'S LAST ENGAGEMENT AT RIVAS

The April 17th Courier of May 23, gives the following particulars of Gen. Walker's successful attack upon the Costa Ricans at Rivas.

Some dozen individuals arrived here in the steamer Tevot, from Greytown on the 7th. We noted their arrival in our last regular publication of the 9th; but stated, we were then informed, that there was no news from the interior. Since that we have covered with several of these men—and from them we learn that when Walker had been succeeded at Granada, some days subsequent to his return, which we have heretofore stated, he learned that Costa Rica had taken Rivas.

He thereupon determined to go there with a small force, and endeavor to drive them thence, and toward Granada, by skirmishes. He took between four and five hundred foreign troops and two hundred natives, commanding himself in person.

A portion of his native force, by some means, notwithstanding the order, and they entered the city in conjunction with the force detailed for attack upon another line, and left only open a way of exit, which had been designed to cover. This gave the enemy a chance to retreat. The battle commenced at 9 a. m., on the 11th of April, and lasted until midnight, when the Costa Ricans were driven from the city.

Walker lost eighty killed and wounded, including almost all his officials. Lieutenants Gillis and Witter were among the killed. Capt. Carey lost an arm in the commencement of the action, and had his other hand badly wounded. He made the first charge having been ordered to take from the enemy a cannon, which was raised in a very difficult position, he took it and immediately turned it upon the enemy. The Costa Ricans lost, according to their official reports, we are told, over 200 killed 500 wounded.

In the morning after the action, Walker, having buried his dead, gathered together his wounded, and returned to the city. We learn, too, that after Walker's arrival at Rivas, he was met by the Costa Ricans, who took possession of those points, burning the British Company's Wharf, &c.

The parties from them have received the above items, and that the accounts of the battle of Rivas were obtained from the Nicaragua, of April 15th and 19th, (Walker's organ), and from the State press of Costa Rica. We were much surprised that the news had not reached us before, but we are constrained to believe there is truth in the story.

The April 17th Courier of May has further advised of the movement of the Costa Ricans, some of whom had reached San Juan on the 10th of April. They there shipped their wounded for Punta Arenas. The main body of the army pushed their retreat into Costa Rica, the troops suffering severely from Cholera on the route.

At 3 A. M. on the 12th, being out of ammunition, Walker marched out of the city to the field and drum—and for four hours the Costa Ricans continued to fire at her, which was not halted until 10 o'clock.

THE AMERICAN POSITION

The American position would seem to be black and white, and the latter, and the latter, that could be done the old country, would be confined to some partial success of privateers, and a filibustering expedition against Canada; but that country is in a very different state now to what it was when the experiment was last tried—it is now a free and independent nation, and its people are not to be treated as a conquered people.

The Letter says:—The United States Government, always slow to check the lawlessness of its own citizens, in such cases as this instance became necessary after the fact. It has all along looked calmly on the marauding expeditions of General Walker, and when the enterprise is declared to be successful it gives it the seal of its official approbation.

The case is such that the affair cannot fail to be regarded as a triumph for the United States Government, and the taking possession of Nicaragua, Walker is either a citizen of the United States or an outlaw. If the former, his Government, by endorsing his expedition, has taken upon themselves the responsibility of his acts.

But, on the other hand, Walker is to be held an outlaw, then we have Government treating as lawful open acts of piracy for the commission of which the chief perpetrators had previously been caused to be declared an outlaw. But such a position is contradictory and impossible.

General Walker must be held to be a citizen of the United States, and the United States Government must be held to be responsible for his acts. It is not yet—by a legitimate carrying out of the Monroe doctrine. We know not by what latitude of interpretation, the Monroe doctrine is to be made to cover acts like those of Walker. But in such a case, the actual facts and their inevitable tendency cannot be denied.

The United States Government has, by its official acts, declared the right of its hands and seize upon the territory of the neighboring power, and to act upon a precedent Government as the right of the conquerors; and it has shown that it is ready, at once, to give its admission and protection to the acts of its citizens.

If this can be done in the case of Cuba, Canada, and all British America and the West Indies. Nothing is wanted to subject all these countries, in the fashion that Nicaragua has been dealt with, but a band of pirates sufficiently strong and in possession of sufficient means to effect their ends. The practical question—supposing Great Britain to have no rights in Nicaragua—what the Governments of Europe is, whether this system shall be combated at the threshold, or whether Spain shall wait till Cuba is similarly operated upon, France will be immediately involved, and the United States will be drawn into the vortex.

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THE GREAT SEA SNEAKER

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THE CONSTITUTION

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THE SOUTHERN QUESTION

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