

APPENDIX A

Pedro Joaquín Chamorro's Proclamation

The Prefect

and Hacienda Subdelegate of the Oriental Department.

Compatriots:

Today I was appointed Prefect and Hacienda Subdelegate of the Department, and under these circumstances I have not hesitated to accept, for it would not be I who would abandon the Government when the independence of my country is in imminent danger. On the contrary, I shall cooperate as much as possible to uphold such holy cause; and although I may not have the necessary ability, I do have a heart that is all my country's.

For the performance of my duties I count on your patriotism and generosity, for nothing could be done without your cooperation.

Fellow-Nicaraguans: a setback means nothing when patriotism is not disheartened; the fall of Granada must not overwhelm us, since it was not the result of a defeat in battle; Madrid and the main Spanish provinces were occupied by the triumphant armies of France, and yet the Spaniards gained their freedom, because they wanted to be free; we are their descendants, and ought to imitate their example.

And you, glorious champions, soldiers of the motherland; you who have humiliated your enemies so many times, there, on that same soil, witness of your glories, on which you have shed your blood for freedom; your enemies are there; your religion is there, your possessions; the independence of Central America is there; the remains of your General



Pedro Joaquín Chamorro
President of Nicaragua, 1875-1879

"Chamorro wanted Corral to attack Walker at once" (p. 203)

Chamorro are there, as well as those of so many defenders of your country's independence, those of your ancestors and friends, ready to rise in their graves to witness the triumph of your heroism or to teach you to die for your country.

If in order to attain that noble goal, were it necessary to shed the blood of my family and friends who are there, blood that I adore, so be it, if it nurtures the tree of independence. Forward, then, for victory shall be yours, but if fate should turn against us, let us go down to the grave without remorse. Let us leave ignominy to the traitors, to those ungrateful sons, to the selfish, and to the neighboring countries for their criminal indifference.

They will think like I do, and they will realize their error when they become slaves; and then, what good will it do them?

Masaya, October 19, 1855.

*Pedro Joaquín Chamorro.*¹

¹Jerónimo Pérez, *Obras históricas completas*, p. 142.

APPENDIX B

Joseph L. White's instructions to agent Cortlandt Cushing

*Retranslation into English from the Spanish version
in the Caja Relaciones, 1855, Archivo Nacional, San José, Costa Rica.*

New York, October 2, 1855

TO: Hon. C. Cushing.

(Confidential)

Dear Sir:

By the *Star of the West*, which arrived on the 31st ult., I received your several communications. The ones referring to your interview with Col. Walker and the defeat of the Government forces, came at an opportune moment and gave me much pleasure.

The commissioners are so convinced with the idea of the inadequacy of the Government troops, that their foolish demands border on insolence and intolerance, but I have been invulnerable to their repeated propositions, which brought as a result a suspension of the talks. They are now ready to accept any arrangement under any terms, but I will refrain from making an agreement until I receive orders to do so.

The people, and specially the authorities of Nicaragua, are faithless and ignorant and conceited, and the sooner a man with common sense may acquire or exercise absolute power over them, the sooner they will be able to give some element of joy to the people, as well as to all those who complain of wrongs from the present Government.

As you know, I have adopted this measure very slowly, although for a long time I have thought about the contingen-

cy "for which I have been ready," when our company should be obliged to take this State as its own business to defend, or as a necessary precaution.

If Col. Walker could spare us this job, he would receive my thanks and obtain all those advantages and honors he may demand from such undertaking. All I desire and ask is the preservation of our Charter, and it shall be preserved. Our Government is connected with it, and will defend it, too. Col. Wheeler's recent letter indicates that the United States may take Nicaragua under its wing, notwithstanding which I think that having money and men, with the ample power we possess, we can defend her against any assault from whichever quarter it may come.

Based on what I have heard about Col. Walker, and what I have been told by gentlemen both from here and from California, I am convinced that Col. Walker is a man on whose word you may rely with entire confidence, which is enough to know about any man. As for Kinney, he is a man that I abhor. He is a man of extremely bad moral nature, who has made me several propositions, but I have rejected them all, as he deserved.

Col. Walker, however, is an entirely different person, as I have learned from those who know him, and your letters come to confirm the opinion that I had already formed of him.

I want you to see the Colonel, I want you to talk to him and see if an arrangement can be made, "provided that it be conditional, having the following bases: First, that our Charter be recognized in its entirety, as also the obligations of the State towards us. Second, that the company is to make no payments whatsoever to the present Government, but will hold a sum in reserve for payment to the new one to be established by the Colonel"—I say the Colonel, because he would not be the man he is now thought to be, if after deposing the old Government he allows anyone but himself to assume as head of the newly constituted Government. "Third, that Col. Kinney and his followers be repudiated, and that the jurisdiction of the new Government be extended to the Mosquito Coast."

This last is the one that concerns us most, provided that it be accomplished without a dollar of expense to the State and without committing hostile acts against any foreign power.

I ask for nothing more than the above; therefore, if the Colonel agrees to the above terms, I will get ready to furnish him all the aid I can for his plan to succeed with our secret assistance, since we cannot do it in the open after having formally adopted and proclaimed our entire neutrality in the Nicaraguan civil wars.

Naturally, the Colonel will need artillery and munitions. We have four six-pounders with their supply of shot and required accessories. If he accepts our terms, you can manage matters in such a way that he may take everything while you publicly protest against such violence, and at the same time you will notify the Nicaraguan Government that the Colonel must be held responsible for the loss. The more biting your language, the better.

Moreover, if the Colonel wishes to transport his troops to any point on the Lake, "as he would naturally need to do before the final outcome," he may seize for his use, "in any form most convenient to you," one of our steamers, with the understanding that you must publicly protest. Upon such occurrence, you must again demand a prompt indemnification from the Nicaraguan Government.

If the Colonel needs more fighting men, let me know immediately, and I will send him eighty or one hundred men, on our account, as passengers for California.

He knows the state of affairs better than I, but I know the people and resources of Nicaragua better than him.

As things stand now, he can conquer the State with 150 Americans and 250 natives--so long as the Castellón party can keep the Government forces busy for sixty more days.

He can get the natives, naturally, from León. The Americans can be sent to him: with this force he will need artillery, and this is within his reach. Once he gets it, no more fighting will be required, for shot and shell will do all the work. Such is my opinion and such is my proposal that must be very

carefully tendered to the Colonel, for he is no man to be deceived. Approach him candidly but with boldness; tell him everything confidentially. If he refuses, confidence will be preserved and then I will put into effect another plan that cannot fail to succeed, no matter who carries it out.

I will delay all negotiations with the commissioners as long as possible, until I hear from you. Meanwhile, I hope that Walker will hold firm and will expel Kinney, Fabens, and company. Kinney's ambition and vanity would ruin everything.

I am tired of Nicaragua's duplicity, stupidity, and incipient extortion—I am determined to establish a respectable Government, on whose word and faith I may place my confidence, without being obliged to constantly petition the intervention of my Government against its outrages.

Finally, I want to go to sleep at night with the conviction that the Nicaraguan treasury will not have been plundered by morning. This is a luxury that I have not enjoyed in six years. Keep Walker from writing any more letters. His last one to Governor Marcy only served to provoke hostility that would have been better avoided. Moreover, with it he has offended Wheeler, a person we could have counted upon without trouble, and on whom we could still count if we try.

This letter is entirely confidential.

Give my regards to Col. Wheeler and Cottrell, and I am, your friend,

(Signed) J. L. WHITE

APPENDIX C

The cornerstone of Costa Rican claims upon the waters of the Nicaragua Lake and San Juan River, was a charter granted by the king of Spain in 1540, which Don Felipe Molina transcribed in his *Memoir on the Boundary Question pending between the Republic of Costa Rica and the State of Nicaragua* (Washington: Gideon & Co., Printers, 1851), p. 7, as follows:

BOUNDARIES OF THE ANCIENT PROVINCE OF COSTA RICA. CHARTER GRANTED TO GUTIERREZ.*

According to a charter granted by the King of Spain, under date Madrid, 29th November, 1540, to don Diego Gutierrez, for the conquest and settlement of the then province of Cartago, the limits and jurisdiction of said province are described as extending from sea to sea, and from the frontier of Veragua, running to the westward to the great river (Río Grande,) provided that the coast adjoining said river on the side of Honduras should remain under the government of Honduras, with power to Gutierrez to conquer and settle any island in said river which should not be previously located by Spaniards; and the right to the navigation, fisheries, and other advantages of said river; and provided that he (Gutierrez) should not approach within fifteen leagues of the Lake of Nicaragua, because these fifteen leagues reserved, as well as said lake, were to remain in

*Unpublished documents existing in the archives of Spain, of which a certified copy is in my possession. F.H.

the possession of the Government of Nicaragua; but the navigation and fisheries, both in that part of the river granted to Gutierrez, as in the fifteen leagues reserved, and in the lake, should be possessed in common, or conjointly with the inhabitants of Nicaragua.

Diego Gutierrez having, in virtue of said charter, occupied the country, and assumed the title of governor and captain general of the province of Cartago, reported to the Emperor Charles V, in a letter dated Cartago, 30th November, 1543, that he had complied with His Majesty's injunctions not to approach within fifteen leagues of the Lake Nicaragua, but that the *Desaguadero*** outlet, issuing from said lake, held its course midway through the coast of his government, and if the liberty to come within fifteen leagues of the lake were denied to him, the grant would be of little value, and he would have spent his fortune without due remuneration. He therefore requested that his Majesty would issue the necessary orders. The then governing prince, being at Valladolid, ordained, under date 9th May, 1545, "that every part should be explored and properly provided for, and that in the mean time he (Gutierrez) should be guided by his charter and instructions."

Based on those "unpublished documents existing in the archives of Spain, of which a certified copy is in my possession," Molina advanced "the claim of the Republic of Costa Rica to the joint navigation of the river San Juan and Lake Nicaragua" (*Memoir*, p. 37). His arguments convinced Secretary of State Daniel Webster and British envoy John F. Crampton as the three diplomats huddled behind closed doors to hatch the Crampton-Webster Convention of April 30, 1852, which allowed Costa Rica full partnership in navigation rights

** Name generally given to the San Juan river in old documents, and meaning *the outlet*.

over the river and lake waters of Nicaragua. Had Crampton and Webster been able to read in Spanish the original records in the Sevilla archives, they would have never collaborated to advance Molina's preposterous pretensions upon Nicaraguan waters. In a nutshell, they would have learned:

1. That the Governor of Nicaragua, Rodrigo de Contreras, had sent an expedition from Granada, under Diego Machuca de Suazo and Alonso Calero, who traversed the lake and discovered, navigated, and took possession of the entire river San Juan or *Desaguadero* in 1539.

2. That upon learning of the charter given to Gutiérrez, Nicaraguan Governor Rodrigo de Contreras interposed a complaint before the Real Consejo de las Indias at Sevilla on March 3, 1541.

3. That after hearing both sides, the Real Consejo dictated final sentence at Talavera on May 6, 1541, which reads:

-. . . and we ordain that you, Diego Gutierrez, may enter by the mouth of said Desaguadero, even though it was discovered by the said Rodrigo de Contreras and the captains he had sent, so long as you keep out of what Rodrigo de Contreras or his captains may have settled or distributed or be in actual possession of colonists (*encomenderos*) throughout the length of said desaguadero on both of its banks . . . and we also prohibit, defend and ordain you, Diego Gutierrez, that neither you nor the captains and followers that you may take now nor at any time whatsoever, that you can not, may not, and should not enter in the said lake nor in the fifteen leagues of said desaguadero that is prohibited and forbidden by your charter, even though it had not been settled nor discovered by the said Rodrigo de Contreras . . .

4. That when Diego Gutiérrez arrived in America, in 1541,

Nicaraguan Governor Rodrigo de Contreras had already taken possession of the Desaguadero's mouth, and established there the town of San Juan de la Cruz; frigates and schooners from Granada had opened the traffic downriver to inaugurate trade with Nombre de Dios on the Atlantic coast of Panama.

5. That on November 30, 1543, Diego Gutiérrez asked the King to appoint him Governor of Nicaragua, which the King, in his answer of May 9, 1545, refused to grant; instead, he ordered Gutiérrez to obey his instructions (and to abide by the sentence of the Real Consejo of May 6, 1541).

6. That Diego Gutiérrez did not conquer or settle any land under his charter; that around December, 1544, he and some twenty of his men were killed by the Indians at an unspecified spot in Costa Rica, and the rest of his followers (another twenty men) were forced to flee, fortunate to escape alive to Nicaragua. Thus ended Diego Gutiérrez's "conquest and settlement of the then province of Cartago," with no settlements and no Spanish colonists on Costa Rican soil.

7. That when Costa Rica was eventually conquered and settled, in the last quarter of the sixteenth century, she maintained no connection with the Nicaragua Lake or river. Her meager Atlantic commerce during colonial times was carried on through the port of Matina, more than a hundred kilometers south of San Juan.

Unfortunately Nicaragua, in the 1850's, did not have the resources to send or hire for researchers in Spain, and a long century elapsed before one of her sons finally uncovered a vast number of precious documents in the Archivo General de Indias at Sevilla.¹

¹Dr. Andrés Vega Bolaños, who published his 17 volumes of *Colección Somoza--Documentos para la Historia de Nicaragua* (Madrid, 1954-1957). The documents used in this analysis are found in III, 458; VI, 96, 129, 132; VII, 22, 74, 90, 115, 530; IX, 405; X, 258, 484, 491, 514, 518; XI, 368, 430, 434, 471, 487, 497; XII, 488, 490.



Juan Rafael Mora
President of Costa Rica, 1849-1859

"On March 1st, President Mora issued a Proclamation" (p. 291)

APPENDIX D

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA TO ITS INHABITANTS:

FELLOW CITIZENS -- To arms! The hour has arrived, which I announce to you. Let us March on Nicaragua to destroy that implous phalanx which have reduced her to the most opprobrious slavery! Let us march to fight for the liberty of our brethren!

They call us--they expect us to raise herself up against her tyrants. Her cause is our cause--those who to-day will rob and assassinate them audaciously defy us, and wish to bind upon us the same bloody chains. We fly to burst asunder those of our brethren, and to exterminate to the last man their executioners.

We do not go to contend for a piece of land--not to acquire ephemeral powers--not to follow up miserable conquest, nor much less for sacrilegious parties.

No! we go to struggle for the redemption of all our brethren from the most iniquitous tyranny; we go to help them in the fruitful work of their regeneration: we go to tell them, "Brethren of Nicaragua--arise, annihilate your oppressors; we come here to fight by your side for your liberty, for your country! Union, Nicaraguans, union! Your feuds bury in oblivion. No more partisanships, no more fratricidal discords. Peace, justice, and liberty for all! War only on filibusters.

To the conflict, then, Costa Ricans--I march at the head of the national army. I that rejoice to see this day your noble enthusiasm, which makes me proud to call you my sons, I wish always to share with you your dangers and glory.

Your mothers, wives, sisters and daughters animate you.

Their patriotic virtues will make you invincible. In fighting for the salvation of our brethren we will fight likewise for them, for their honor, for their existence, for our idolized country and Spanish American Independence.

All the loyal sons of Guatemala, San Salvador and Honduras are in march upon that herd of bandits. Our cause is holy--triumph certain. God will give us victory, and with that the peace, concord, liberty and union of the great Central American family.

JUAN R. MORA.

San José, March 1, 1856.¹

¹"The War between Costa Rica and Nicaragua," *New York Herald*, April 3, 1856, p.8, c.3. [Translated from the *Boletín Oficial*, March 1st].

APPENDIX E

THE TRUTH ABOUT NICARAGUA

To the Editor of the *N. Y. Tribune*.

Sir:

Since my arrival in this city by the *Northern Light*, from Central America, I learn that the excitement in relation to the emigration to that country is greatly increased, and that multitudes are preparing to embark soon, with the view of finding there a home. Having had several weeks' experience in Nicaragua during the present year, I presume a statement of that experience will be of interest to your readers; and, inasmuch as my accounts will differ in very many important particulars from others of a glowing character, in relation to the prospects that open there to emigrants, which accounts have been published to the world by the press of this and other cities, let me premise by saying that I went to that country with no personal ambition to serve in the field or in the sphere of politics, and with no idea of making that country my home; but being a man of middle age, a farmer in Greenwich, Connecticut, and unemployed for the Winter, I left for Nicaragua simply to see the country and ascertain what the inducements really were for farmers, mechanics, merchants and persons engaged in other respectable callings to make that country their future home. Hence, in differing from others who have written from that country, I am actuated by no prejudice or ill will, and only by a desire to give the world the truth. Indeed this communication was resolved upon in Nicaragua, from having witnessed sufferings, not only in the army but among honest, hard-working farmers, many of whom have sold comfortable homes, and

mechanics, artisans and clerks who have left good situations in the United States.

On the 24th of January last I left in the steamer *Northern Light* for San Juan. There were about one hundred cabin and two hundred steerage passengers on board. We had a very pleasant passage to San Juan, where we were transferred to one of the steam propellers on which we were to be conveyed up the San Juan River. The scenery along the banks of the San Juan, coming as we did from the snow-banks of New-York and New-England, was truly beautiful; and on the first day on the river we were in high spirits, although we got aground many times. Some time in the night we laid up at a woodyard, where we remained until morning, when we were compelled to walk a mile or two to another boat, on account of the low water; and before we reached Lake Nicaragua, which required three days, if my memory serves me rightly, we had changed boats four times. During this time we could get but little to eat, except at Castillo, where we stayed all night, and were furnished very good meals at \$1 each, and \$5 for a room to sleep in. The bar was occasionally opened, at which times the passengers were afforded an opportunity of procuring a mouthful of ham and a sea biscuit for 50 cents. We were transferred to another boat at the Lake and proceeded on our voyage. During the night, however, a heavy gale sprang up, and we were compelled to put into a harbor. The next morning we proceeded on, and finally arrived in sight of Virgin Bay, where the passengers for California were to be landed. We made three ineffectual attempts to land, but were unable to do so on account of the heavy wind which was against us. The passengers, and particularly Walker's soldiers, became furious from hunger, and declared they could go no longer without something to eat. Every mouthful of food on board had been devoured. It was then determined to go up to an island higher up on the lake, where a German, named Meyers, had some cattle. The Nicaragua passengers were landed there. A bullock was purchased, slaughtered, skinned and hung up, and each man took his knife, cut off a piece of the meat and broiled it for himself, over a fire made

on the ground. I purchased a chicken and cooked it in a similar manner. In the meantime the boat had returned to Virgin Bay and landed the California passengers. Those for Granada remained on the island during that night. The next morning the boat returned and took us on board, and we proceeded to Granada, where we arrived about sundown, the passage from New-York having occupied about two weeks. The passengers were landed in a surf-boat, the dock at that time being unfinished. The landing of the passengers was not completed until nearly eleven o'clock.

My friend and myself took what baggage we could carry and started through the darkness for the city which was distant about three quarters of a mile. There were no lights except the occasional glimmering of a candle in a native store in the city; the road was narrow and very sandy, and on either side was a thick and heavy underbrush. We arrived at the city at last and met a sentinel of Walker's army who told us to hurry up or we would get into the guard house. Having letters of introduction to the American Consul, I proceeded to his residence, and without stopping to present them, I asked him if he knew where we could procure lodgings. He very kindly sent a servant with us, and after an hour's search were offered the privilege of swinging a hammock in the court of one of the houses. Having no hammocks, our next effort was to secure them, and after a long search we succeeded in buying a couple at \$2 each. We returned, tied them up, got into them and passed the remainder of the night in gazing at the stars and fighting musketoes. We learned the next morning that we were fortunate in securing as good accommodations as we did, as many of our companions had slept in the Government barracks, and some on benches about the Plaza. Mr. Squires, a carpenter, one of the passengers who had gone on with his family, succeeded in getting a house, and during the remainder of my stay there, myself and Mr. Squires's friend, a Mr. Jackson of Sharon, Connecticut, a farmer, remained with them and we were supplied with the best living which the country afforded. We still continued, however, to sleep in hammocks, which we hung high to avoid

the lizards which abound there. My next two weeks were occupied in looking about the country in the vicinity. My opportunities for observation were abundant, and I will now proceed to state succinctly the facts of importance which I desire to communicate.

First, then, I propose to show the inducements for farmers to emigrate to the land which has been called "Garden of the world." The offer of from 250 to 300 acres of land as a free gift, is held out to the worthy farmer; and on the *Northern Light* going out I found eight farmers on board who had been lured from their homes in the United States by the golden promises held out by Nicaragua. Mr. Jackson, who with myself boarded with Mr. Squires, had sold his farm in Connecticut to emigrate, got discouraged, was taken sick and died in three days. Four of the others went out from Granada with other parties to examine the country and were gone over three days. They hired mules and went to Messiah [Masaya]. Two of the number were taken sick with the fever before their return and died. The other two returned to Granada, where one died with the fever three days after. The remaining three left, determined to get out of the country as soon as possible. Another party of farmers, some from California, went down to examine a region of country said to be very fertile, situated between Rivas and Virgin Bay. Two of the party were taken sick with the fever while absent, and the others returned to Granada and filed their claims to the land they had staked out; after which they returned to the land to commence operations. But while at Virgin Bay, on my way home, I saw one of these gentlemen and talked with him. He was very low with the fever himself, and beyond hopes of recovery. He told me that soon after returning to commence working their claims, they were taken down with the fever, and when he left his location four of the number were lying there, too sick to be removed. I learned from a Government officer that these claims were the first which had been filed for farms since Walker's Government had been established, and that up to that time not a spade had been struck into the ground, on Government land, by an American.

As regards the fertility of the soil, some parts of the State is very fruitful; but I do not think an American can make a living on any amount of land. From all that I can judge, the Government land for agricultural purposes is worthless. I believe that the labor required to clear-up sufficient land of the underbrush to enable a person to live from it, (If he could live from any amount of land,) if that labor were applied to five acres of land in rendering it fertile and devoting it to gardening purposes and fruit near here, it would make a man independent. I think a person is far better off who is working on a farm at fifty cents a day and his board, than he would be at Nicaragua with a thousand acres of land. After they have got the land in their possession, if they live long enough to build a house, they will find that the labor of clearing land enough to raise an acre of corn will be more than they can endure. The land is covered with an almost impenetrable underbrush, which forms the retreat of countless snakes and scorpions. Numbers of farmers who have gone out for the purpose of taking up land, were in Granada when I left, some dying, some sick, and others without the means of getting away, discouraged and disheartened. I took much pains to test all the tropical fruits of the country, and would not give our apple and peach for the whole catalogue.

The inducements to mechanics are but little better if any. Mr. Squires, the carpenter who went out on the *Northern Light*--who had a good chest of tools and was an excellent workman--was making from \$3 to \$5 per day; but he told me that this could not last more than a few weeks, as there was nothing in his line to do except repairing windows, small jobbing and making an occasional store-counter. A young man, also a carpenter, who went out with his brother, was employed by the Government in making coffins, which is the most lucrative employment in the place. He was taken sick at 6 o'clock in the evening and at 4 the next morning he was dead, and that day he was buried in a coffin which he had made himself. He was perfectly temperate in his habits and in excellent health up to the moment when he was taken sick. His brother came home in the *Northern Light* a few days since,

sick with the fever, and it was only by careful nursing on the voyage that he was enabled to reach his home alive. Mr. R. T. Starr, for many years cutter and foreman in the tailoring establishment of Wm. T. Jennings & Co., of Broadway, is the only person in Granada who is making money at his trade, he having the patronage of the Government as well as nearly all the private citizens. Many mechanics, unable to find employment, get out of money, have no means of living, and are thus forced to leave the country.

There is still another class of emigrants who are fired with military enthusiasm, and to them I have but little to say. Generally they have no honest employment here, and do not want any. At least six of this class who left New-York on the 24th of January died the next day after their arrival while on their way from Granada to León, where they had been ordered to march, musket in hand, under a scorching sun. I did not learn how many more died before reaching León, but was informed that the captain of the company, mounted on a mule, went on to León for a physician. The filibuster leaves New-York in high spirits, but when he gets into Gen. Walker's power he will be as tame and submissive as a sick lamb. In walking around among the troops I have seen them in tears over their desolate situation, it being impossible for them to leave the army. Walker lets off no man, however urgent the necessity may be. I have seen a very worthy young man plead the sickness of his mother and her destitution as a reason for his return, and the only answer he got was a peremptory order to go back to his company. There are very worthy young men in the army, but among all there is a general dissatisfaction and disappointment. Their food is very poor, and their pay is barely enough for their washing expenses. The captains receive only six dollars per week, and sickness prevails in the army to an alarming extent.

For laboring men to emigrate the inducements are quite as few. One man, who left Granada on the day I did to return, was seized with the fever on the way down the lake. At Virgin Bay he was treated by a physician, who thought that he might venture to start for home. He did so, and on the second

day out from San Juan he died, and his body was thrown overboard. I understand that he was formerly a policeman in this city. Two Irishmen, brothers, went out in the *Northern Light*, but one became discouraged on arriving at San Juan and returned. His brother, however, went on with me to Granada. He got employment at a dollar and a half per day at driving the Government cart. He was a healthy and strictly sober man, but one week after his arrival was seized with the fever and died. It is impossible for an American to work in that climate, particularly those from the Northern States. They become debilitated and weak, and those who are in the habit of drinking sufficiently to irritate the stomach almost invariably die. Granada is the great deadhouse of the country. Three miles from the city is a pond which, in the dry season, becomes putrid, and the wind, which almost always blows from that direction, sends a miasma over the city; and this, with rum and dirt, is the cause of the unhealthiness of the place. When I left, there were about 400 Americans in the city, and they were dying at the rate of five per day on an average. It is said that León, a place 100 miles above Granada, and reached by mules, is much more healthy. Virgin Bay, Castillo and San Carlos are comparatively healthy.

I now come to my own experience again. Two weeks after I arrived in Granada, about the 21st of February, I was seized with the fever. I refused the usual treatment--*bluemass and quinine*; received every attention from the members of the Young America Club, which was formed on the *Northern Light* on my passage out; and had it not been for this I should not have been permitted to leave the place. As it was, I left against the advice of physicians and friends, who told me that it was impossible for me to live on account of my inability to keep any nourishment in my stomach. But as I persisted in my intention to reach San Juan in time to take the *Northern Light* on the 5th of March, the captain of the port sent round the government cart at my request, (which cart is the one used to convey corpses to the burial ground, and was the only one in the place), in which I was carried down to the freight boat which was to leave at four

o'clock that day for Virgin Bay. I was too weak to stand alone, and had to be carried aboard of the boat. We arrived at Virgin Bay on the following morning, where I had the good fortune to meet Dr. Cleveland of New York, who, with the assistance of another gentleman, carried me to the California House, where by the kindest attention and good nursing, I was enabled after three days to go on my journey, on the arrival of the passengers from California. From that time my health continued to improve more than anything else, I am satisfied, through the kindness of Dr. Blakesley, the steward of the *Northern Light*, who was unremitting in his attention to the sick. To him I think I owe my life.

I am respectfully yours,

WILLIAM D. SNYDER.

New York, March 14, 1856.¹

¹"The Truth About Nicaragua," *New York Tribune*, 3/17/1856, p.5, c.1.

APPENDIX F

RIVAS, MARCH 30, 1856

General Orders No. 68. Head Quarters of the Army. Adjutant General's Office. Rivas, March 30th, 1856.-- There will be a general inspection of arms this afternoon to commence at 4 o'clock . . . Commanding officers and all enlisted men not on guard or specially excused by the surgeon on account of sickness will be required to appear . . . The native troops will be formed for the same purpose on their own parade grounds . . . By command of Wm. Walker, General Commander in Chief.

General Order Book, Nicaraguan Army.

Rivas, April 1, 1856.

. . . This afternoon [March 30th] was devoted to a grand review, and at five o'clock I walked out in the Plaza and counted about four hundred men under arms. They were handsomely put through the usual field tactics by Adjutant Johnson, under the inspection of Colonels Fry, Skerrett and Saunders, and presented a very fine appearance. The General, who had been confined to his room for three or four days, by a painful and unsightly swelling of the face, observed them from his window. Filled with anxious thoughts, he had been pacing up and down, pondering on the threatening combination of the States against him. Restive at inaction, chafing at the misfortunes which obliged him to change all his plans of the campaign, brooding over the shame of Santa Rosa, and fearful it had affected the morale of his troops, he took the sudden idea to address them.

Ordering, them, therefore, to be drawn up in a square before his door, he put on his hat, and, accompanied by General Goicouría, his new Intendente-General, and followed by his staff, he advanced briskly into the centre of the square. The troops at once presented arms, and then having recovered their position, paused in breathless anxiety to hear what he had to say. Surveying them for a moment silently himself, he, in a clear, loud voice, commenced:

Soldiers!— We are engaged in no ordinary war. A powerful combination surrounds us on every side. A hatred to our race has united adverse States and reconciled the most hostile and repugnant factions. The object of this league is to expel us from the land with which we have identified our lives; but through your fortitude and courage the effort is destined to defeat. Invited to this country when it was torn by civil strife, and so exhausted by long dissension that it had no vigor left to reconstitute itself, we undertook the task of its redemption and protection from the encroaching grasp of servilism. In defiance of all obstacles, in despite of armed opposition and regardless of every discouragement in the way of odds, we steadily pursued our purpose; and it is known to you at what sacrifices we have succeeded. The forces of the aristocratic party, which threatened to overwhelm the liberties of the State, were checked and overthrown; the constitutional guarantees of free government were established, and a system of order so vigorous and comprehensive put in operation, that not even the most daring treachery or extended conspiracies have been able to disturb it. For six months a profound peace has been maintained; prosperity has blessed the country; private rights, whether of friend or foe, have been respected, and the laws so justly and equally administered that no man can lift his voice and charge against us a single act of injustice.

Notwithstanding this--notwithstanding all the

sacrifices we have made, all the dangers we have encountered, all the sufferings we have endured--sacrifices not only of our blood in battle, but of our lives to the pestilence--bear witness the graveyard at Granada--are we to be driven from this country, merely because we were not born upon the soil? ("Never!" "never!")

No, soldiers! The destiny of this region and the interests of humanity are confided to our care. We have come here as the advanced guard of American civilization, and I know your hearts respond to mine, when I declare that sooner than retire before accomplishing our duty, we will spill the last drop of our blood, and perish to the last man! (Loud cheers.)

Soldiers, the task that is confided to us is an arduous one. It is full of self-denial, risk and suffering, but it is at the same time full of promise. It spreads beyond the limits of ordinary vision, and comprehends the fate not only of Nicaragua, but perhaps the redemption and proper civilization of all Spanish America. (Enthusiastic cheering.)

Soldiers, this task, as I have said, is an arduous one. Obstacles are yet to be encountered, and difficulties overcome that may try our fortitude and courage by sterner tests than any we have yet experienced. We must content ourselves, too, in performing it alone. Though we should have been encouraged by those who claim to be enlisted in the cause of progress, we have not thus far had one voice to cheer us from the surrounding nations, while that to which we turned at the outset, with an almost filial yearning, stands coldly by. But the nobler for us if we win unaided. The consciousness of our mission is all the encouragement we require, and there is no man here so base as to wish to retire from the task and leave his share of it undone. (Cheers.)

Soldiers, in view of the great trusts confided to you, I need not impress upon you the importance of vigilance and order. To the officers and men alike, I look for the

obedience and discipline which are the chief requisites of soldiers; and with these qualities, and the help of that Power who never deserts the brave and just, "victory and honor will be our sure reward."

The most vociferous cheers were given at the conclusion of this speech, and under cover of the acclamations the General turned upon his heel and retired. The effect was electrical, and the gloom, or seriousness at least, which had been worn upon the faces of the troops ever since the disaster of Santa Rosa, gave place to a bright glow of enthusiasm and of cheerful confidence. The men tossed up their rifles and repeated their shouts as they dispersed in squads across the Plaza; and even the officers, whose business it was to act more gravely, spontaneously shook hands and clapped each other on the back, by way of relieving themselves of their share of the excitement. Nor was I free from the influence myself; and I could not withhold my tribute of admiration for a man who, though surrounded by dangers and complications that would have discouraged an ordinary mind, yet never lowered his audacious gaze from the conquest of a continent. "Surely," said I to myself, "whatever defects of judgment he may have shown in minor acts of policy, he is a man of sublime courage, boundless ambition and elevated soul, and there is too much of him and of his cause to be allowed to go down before the black rabble of this land."

"Our Nicaragua Correspondence," *New York Herald*, May 2, 1856, p.2, c.2-3.