BOMBARDMENT OF SAN JUAN.

Mr. R. Lord, Purser of the steamship Prometheus, has furnished the N. Y. Express with the account, which will be found below, of the destruction of San Juan by the U. S. war ship Cyane. We forbear to express any decided opinion respecting the extraordinary proceedings of Capt. Hollins, until the facts of the case are fully and officially made known. We presume that the Captain acted under instructions from the administration, and that the responsibility of his acts rests entirely on the government at Washington. It may turn out that the bombardment of San Juan was a proper and justifiable proceeding; but with the lights now before us, we are strongly inclined to regard the measure as one of unnecessary harshness and violence. We have the distinct recollection of the insult said to have been offered to Mr. Borland, and which has been made the pretext for the destruction of San Juan. We read some weeks ago in the newspapers an account of a row between our Minister and the people of the above mentioned town, but we never dreamed that the indignity offered to Mr. Borland, was of a nature to call for the terrible retaliation which has been inflicted by the Cyane. Mr. Borland's constitutional privilege, to difficulties of this sort is well known, and nothing but the clearest and most unexceptionable testimony would suffice to convince us that he was not in a due measure to blame for what occurred.

But admitting that the conduct of our Minister was wholly blameless in the matter, and that the insult offered to him was of the most flagrant character, still it strikes us that our government might have devised some better mode of obtaining redress, than that which it thought fit to adopt. The bombardment of a petty and defenceless town, by a United States war ship is an achievement that will reflect no credit on our country's arms, and in no way exalt our national character. But we abstain from any further remarks for the present. On the return of the Cyane which may be expected soon, the Administration will no doubt make an official explanation of the whole affair to Congress. Here is Purser Lord's statement:

Greytown is no More.—The Prometheus arrived outward on the morning of the 15th, at 8 o'clock, having touched at Kingston for Coals. Found in the harbor the U. S. ship of war "Cyane," commanded by Captain Hollins, which had arrived at San Juan del Norte on the 11th inst., in 21 days from New York, commissioned to settle certain difficulties between American citizens and the local authorities—also to demand a full and satisfactory apology for an insult given a short time since to the Hon. Solon Borland, our Minister to Central America. The authorities and inhabitants of the town refused to make the slightest apology. After giving ample time and no apology having been received, Capt. Hollins, on the 13th issued a proclamation to the authorities and residents, that unless an apology was made before A. M. on the 13th he should proceed to bombard Greytown. No apology came. He in the meantime took possession of the Transit Company's steamers and sent them to the town of Greytown for protection to all persons who chose to accept—and within one minute of the time designated by Capt. Hollins the cannonading commenced and continued with brief intermission until 4 P. M. During the interval no disposition was manifest on the part of the inhabitants to come to terms for the saving of the property. At 4 P. M a party landed commanded by a Lieutenant who burnt the town. San Juan or Greytown on the 13th was entirely destroyed. All of the small buildings in the suburbs remained to mark the spot. No lives were lost. Mr. Scott, agent of the Accessory Transit Company, tendered a free passage by the Prometheus to all who wished to leave—a few accepted the offer. The Cyane sails for Boston on the 17th, and takes Mr. Fabens our Commercial Agent at Nicaragua, Officers and crew all well.

The H. M. Frigate Orpheus, from Bermuda, and West India Company's mail steamer Dee, and a British merchantman, were witnesses of the scene, laying in the harbor at the time.

THE SAN JUAN AFFAIR.

The New York Express recapitulates as follows, the circumstances of Mr. Borland's difficulty with the people of San Juan, which led to the recent destruction of that town by a war vessel of the United States:

A few months since, one Captain Smith, commanding an American steamer, shot one of the natives, who alleged, contemplated assassinating him. Smith refused to yield himself up to the local authorities, who demanded an investigation into the matter—nay, indeed, he would not even give bonds or security to appear at any future time before them. In thus setting the law at defiance, he was encouraged by Mr Solon Borland, who was then at San Juan on his return from his mission to Central America, who jointly with Captain Smith, and other Americans, made armed resistance to the police who endeavored to arrest Captain Smith.—During the progress of the difficulty a missile of some sort struck Borland on the face, though there was no evidence that we could ever discover, that it was purposely directed against his person.—This armed resistance against the local authorities was triumphant, and Captain Smith and Mr. Borland made good their escape in the American steamship.

Borland arrived in New York soon afterwards, and proceeded on to Washington in high dudgeon. It seems that he had an interview with the Administration there, of which we are persuaded, he will not be apt to exercise, and the result was an order from the Navy Department directing the Cyane immediately to proceed to San Juan. And the Washington correspondent at the time wrote prophetically that Borland was to be avenged.

The Express then proceeds with great severity on the conduct of Capt. Hollins, and denounces the whole affair as preeminently unworthy of our national character. We regret the following great and forcible remarks do not appear in the secretary's account:

Between Borland and Hollins, it is clear, that the only way to surrender himself to the legal authorities, in order to justify himself. And when Solon Borland went to Washington to obtain redress, to enable an American officer to make good his escape, it was a bootless errand to find that Solon Borland was laughed to scorn, not as an American citizen, but simply as one of the insignificant wire-pullers who had secured their position in the local administration of the day.

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