

**REMINISCENCES OF
THE "FILIBUSTER"
WAR IN NICARAGUA**

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Reminiscences of the "Filibuster" War in Nicaragua by C. W. Doubleday

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C. W. DOUBLEDAY

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BY
C. W. DOUBLEDAY

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PREFACE.

IN this narration of events that, in their day, attracted a large share of the attention of the civilized world, some criticism of the acts of a very remarkable man is necessarily included. Entertaining, as I did, a warm personal attachment for General Walker, whose character was singularly free from the petty traits and vices of ordinary men, and a high admiration for his splendid courage, I was, nevertheless, opposed to the course he adopted in the affairs of Central America.

My own somewhat Quixotic espousal of the "people's cause," as it was called, was prompted by youthful enthusiasm for that most fallacious of human illusions, popular liberty, and antedated Walker's appearance in the field by more than a year. During that time suffering and privation had only intensified my desire to see the people freed from the tyranny of a dominant ecclesiasticism.

iv *The "Filibuster" War in Nicaragua.*

When Colonel Walker's plans—confidentially unfolded to me, as hereafter related—were understood to include the ideas of conquest and absolute empire, I begged leave to withdraw from the enterprise. He persuaded me, however, to accept instead, an indefinite leave of absence. My return to him in his days of disaster only proves that my sympathies were stronger than my ethical sensibilities.

Should my plain criticism in any way offend those survivors of that heroic episode who entertain unqualified admiration for their chief, they will, I trust, after this explanation, credit me at least with honesty of purpose.

As for the opprobrious and unjust appellation "Filibuster," which attaches to Walker's name and to that of his adherents, and which, while denying its appropriateness, I have adopted in these memoirs, I have explained its origin and cause further on.

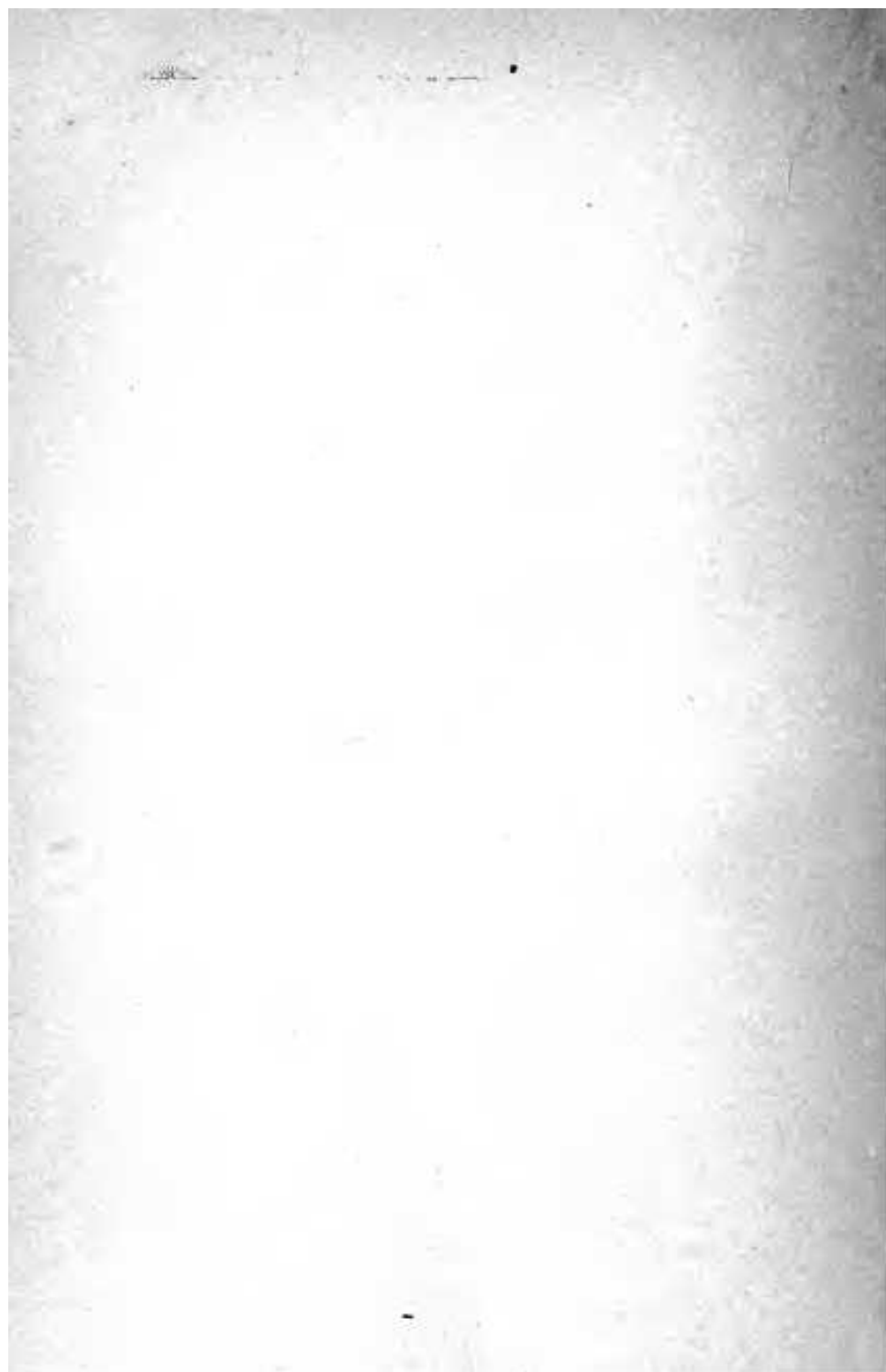
Whatever stigma unjustly attaches to it was shared by valued comrades, whose bones will not on that account rest less peacefully beneath the soil of their adoption. I would not, by seeking to deny the consequences, seem to avoid complicity in their acts, but would rather emphasize, by the adoption of the term, my

preference for an association with the memories of heroes.

The survivors of those who exhibited such courage and fortitude in the "Filibuster" expeditions to Nicaragua, may feel that in connection with a narration of events the names of many who so heroically participated should be mentioned. A just attention to such a claim would, however, convert these personal reminiscences into an historical record, and enlarge the book beyond the limits designed. The attention of the American reader is respectfully called by the author to the substance of his remarks in the appendix ; relative to the desirability of an American inter-oceanic canal across Nicaragua, as a measure equally demanded by the exigencies of commerce, and of the national safety and honor.

C. W. DOUBLEDAY.

CLEVELAND, O., June, 1886.



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