

**COSTA RICA AND NEW
GRANADA: AN INQUIRY INTO
THE QUESTION OF BOUNDARIES,
WHICH IS PENDING BETWEEN THE
TWO REPUBLICS AFORESAID**

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Costa Rica and New Granada: An Inquiry Into the Question of Boundaries, which is Pending
Between the two republics aforesaid by Felipe Molina

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FELIPE MOLINA

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COSTA RICA AND NEW GRANADA.

AN INQUIRY

INTO THE

QUESTION OF BOUNDARIES,

WHICH IS PENDING BETWEEN THE

TWO REPUBLICS AFORESAID:

WITH A MAP FOR THE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBJECT, AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT

OF THE

ANCIENT TITLES OF COSTA RICA :

TO WHICH AN APPENDIX HAS BEEN ADDED

CONTAINING A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE QUESTION BETWEEN

COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA,

BY FELIPE MOLINA,

**ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY OF COSTA RICA AND
GUATEMALA, NEAR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

WASHINGTON:
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1853.

PREFACE.

It is certainly a great misfortune for a State to be involved in disputes with its neighbors; especially when the latter happen to be comparatively more powerful or when they are not very considerate in their dealings. The little Republic of Costa Rica finds herself in this disagreeable, and on her part, unsought for predicament, having boundary questions, both with New Granada on the South, and with Nicaragua on the North.

The main object of the following pages, was originally to elucidate these questions with regard to the former; but on further reflection, it seemed advisable to subjoin a brief notice, in reference to the latter, in order to present to the reader, in a single pamphlet, a condensed account of all that pertains to Costa Rica.

But before entering into the subject, we beg leave to offer a few remarks:

The cause of Costa Rica has hitherto been laboring under great disadvantages before the American public, in consequence of the incorrect and extensively circulated statements of biased writers. Her claims have never obtained a dispassionate consideration, owing to the false impression, that that Republic was protected by Great Britain.

But if such were the case, it is obvious that Costa Rica would not have been under the necessity, of solicit-

ing the friendly mediation of the United States for the settlement of her difficulties with Nicaragua, as she has been doing for the last three years.

That Costa Rica is on good terms with Great Britain and has been spared the contentions that other Central American Governments have had with that Power, is a fact very easily explained. Possessing, as she does possess, an efficient organization, Costa Rica has exerted herself to meet all her public engagements in a prompt and honorable manner. After having discharged her share of the debt contracted by Central America with British Bondholders, and after having settled, on her part, other liabilities, belonging to the late Federation: being entirely free from foreign creditors or claimants, she has had the good fortune to avoid every cause of misunderstanding with other nations.

Forced into a separate political existence, through the unwillingness of the other States to maintain the old confederacy, and their inability to frame a new one, she has, nevertheless, endeavored to arrange amicably all the points at issue with New Granada and Nicaragua, by offering to the Governments of those countries, respectively, very liberal compromises. But her overtures, not having been accepted, Costa Rica is bound to insist on the maintenance of her claims, which it will be seen on examination, are not mere questions of abstract rights, but of positive and vital importance to the security and development of the Country.

Entertaining, however, a full confidence in the validity

and paramount force of her titles, and being duly impressed with the wisdom and impartiality of the American Government, Costa Rica has been, and is prepared to submit the decision of all the pending questions, on either side, to the sole arbitration of the United States.

This proposal has been eluded on the part of Nicaragua, who pretended to confine the arbitration to some of the disputed points only, and to take others for granted, in favor of that State, as not liable to be questioned.

The representative of New Granada, in this country, has given a similar answer to the Representative of Costa Rica, when the latter invited him to appeal to the judgment of the United States, alleging that the claims of Costa Rica are groundless and the rights of New Granada indisputable.

We shall not close these introductory observations without stating, that Costa Rica has been willing to facilitate the enterprise of the Ship Canal by granting every thing in her power that the American Government has deemed advisable to demand for the accomplishment of that great object.

Let these facts speak for themselves.

And let it be borne in mind, that Costa Rica is particularly entitled to the sympathies of all civilized nations, as an industrious, peaceful, rising community, remarkable for the morality of her people and the liberality of her institutions, where perfect freedom of worship is actually established, and where settlers from any quarter of the world, are sure to meet with a hearty welcome.

