

THE
British Packet,
AND
ARGENTINE NEWS.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

☐ This Paper will be published every SATURDAY, with the exception of an occasional irregularity which may arise from the arrival of the British packets. The Subscription for three months, \$3. All communications to be addressed to the Editors, and left at the Printing-Office, No. 17, Calle del Peru, where Subscriptions are received.

No. 1.)

BUENOS AYRES, FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1826.

(Vol. 1.)

TO OUR READERS.

No Prospectus of this Paper having hitherto been printed, we think it proper to explain the views and expectations which have induced us to publish it.

We have calculated on receiving encouragement in the establishment of an English Newspaper from three classes of persons.

1.—From British residents in Buenos Ayres, and perhaps hereafter on the coasts of the Pacific.

2.—From Natives of Buenos Ayres, and foreigners acquainted with, or desirous of attaining our language.

3.—From persons in Great Britain connected with Buenos Ayres.

We have imagined that it may be acceptable to British residents in Buenos Ayres, by furnishing them with a general summary of English news, and that it may be read by natives of Buenos Ayres, and sought for by persons in England, for the intelligence it may contain relative to this country, its institutions and progress. To meet these objects, it will be divided under two heads;—the one dedicated to extracts from English papers as they may be received by the packets, or other opportunities;—the other, to events passing in the United Provinces, or neighbouring Republics, worthy of attention, especially such as the enactments of Congress,—the general progress of the country,—information which may be interesting to the Commercial Body, and to Emigrants,—fluctuations of the public Funds,—prices of the articles of consumption, &c. &c.

The summary of our news from Europe will seldom require comment from us; but that respecting this country being partly intended for persons at a distance, will lead to occasional remarks and observations, for the better elucidation of such articles as we may give under that head.

With respect to our political opinions, we shall say but little. The chief standard by which we estimate the merits or demerits of any political measures, is their propriety and policy, independently of systems or theories, which we feel no anxiety to defend or oppose, more than the experience of the past, or present circumstances recommend. Our main object is to convey political information, and to explain it, when necessary, to the best of our abilities. With this view we solicit, and shall receive with thanks, any communications from our friends tending to the promotion of our purpose; but party spirit, personality, and religious controversy, will be carefully excluded from our pages. We shall not omit opportunities for the introduction of occasional varieties which may be agreeable to some of our readers. The present size of our paper is not such as we could wish; but, should it meet with sufficient patronage, as soon as circumstances will allow, we promise to avail ourselves of them by publishing it on a larger

sheet, and thereby to extend the range of our articles, and afford room for the insertion of English Advertisements.

GREAT BRITAIN.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

The Earl of Aberdeen presented a petition from a person in the county of Essex in favour of the Greeks. This was the first petition which had been presented on this subject of very universal interest. He did not know what were the intentions of His Majesty's Ministers respecting the Greek cause, and did not mean to inquire; but it would be a mistake to suppose that the people of this country did not feel a deep interest in it. If the public had hitherto abstained from petitioning on this subject, it was probably for the same reason which induced him and others to leave the question entirely in the hands of His Majesty's Government, whose sincerity and zeal there was no reason to doubt.

Mr. Hobhouse, on a subsequent petition, did not despair of the Greek cause, though Missolonghi had fallen. If Napolia di Romania defended itself with half the courage, it could hold out a long time. The French government had played an unfair part: they had encouraged the Turks against the Greeks. He had a list of French officers on half-pay now serving the Pacha of Egypt, and of Austrian vessels that regularly aided the Turks.

A Bill has been brought into the House of Commons for remedying the delays and inconveniences of the Court of Chancery, the result of a report of the Commissioners appointed for that purpose.

The Corn Laws are to receive important modifications. The reason for these concessions to the demands of the manufacturing interests, may be found in the depression which the latter have recently suffered.

There is but one object of importance which principally occupies the public mind, and that is the dissolution of Parliament, which, at the departure of the packet, was expected to take place about the 1st of June.

Electioneering is likely to receive a vigorous impulse, from the peculiar situation of the Empire at the present time; more particularly on the part of those who are ever ready to attribute those partial evils which are inseparable from the fluctuations of a great commercial and manufacturing nation, to the operation of legislative enactments; and we have no doubt there will be considerable changes in the members of the lower House.

Preparations for the general election are making in every part of the kingdom: and we never remember any occasion on which there were more spirit and activity in all the populous towns and boroughs. In Preston the business has begun merrily, and it is a general expectation that Cobbett will be returned for that

borough. An election to a country town or borough, is like courtship and marriage to a lady. It is all hope and expectation on both sides,—each is satisfied with the other,—and neither know what kind of a match they are about to make till the business be concluded, and they come to the experiment in fact. At present, the electors promise all the candidates very fairly; and, if we may judge by the reciprocal promises of the candidates, we shall have such a new Parliament as we have not seen since the days of Alfred;—all independence and purity on one side; and all patriotism and devotion to the public service on the other.

“Mr. Brougham will contest it in Westmoreland against Lord Lonsdale, and with prospects of success.”

The Duke of Wellington has returned from Russia. The *Times*, speaking of the effects of his Grace's agency at the court of St. Petersburg, says,—The Duke, with respect to Greece, succeeded in a manner the most absolute and complete. The independence of Greece was secured by his representations to the Russian Cabinet. Her release from Turkey was not left contingent on the precarious issue of her own military resources and exertions. Her fortresses might be captured, and her brave men slaughtered, and legions of Arabs might over-run the fields of the Morea;—but the resolution was announced by England, and Russia concurred in it unequivocally, that Greece should no longer exist as a slave to the Turk. Let, therefore, the friends of general liberty dismiss their fears for the result of this sanguinary conflict,—Greece will ere long be free,—and, instead of the future being rendered more doubtful by the fall of the fortress recently captured,—an event calamitous only for the innocent blood which it has cost,—we are inclined to think that the moment of liberation to the Greeks will be hastened by it, rather than retarded. Turkey will become more insolent and unsparing;—England therefore must, for the sake of honour and humanity, be more prompt in the development of her policy, and more vigorous and peremptory in its enforcement. We regret that the object which has been attained with Russia by negotiation, has not been more energetically followed up, and realized in favour of Greece, by our diplomatic agents at Constantinople. Though the end may be the same, a frightful mass of intermediate suffering has already flowed from the vain attempt to apply the instrument of reasoning, where cannon balls only were likely to obtain a hearing.

The Duke of Devonshire succeeds as Ambassador to the court of St. Petersburg. He has already sailed. His outfit cost upwards of £30,000.

LORD COCHRANE.

(Extract of a Letter dated May 21.—Dartmouth.)

“You will be glad to hear that our gallant countryman, Lord Cochrane, is proceeding to the deliverance of Greece. One of our boats has spoken a vessel from Flushing, having his Lordship on board. The information obtained from one of the crew was, that they landed him at Weymouth a week ago, and then proceeded to Torbay, where he re-embarked on the 20th, and immediately proceeded to sea.”

It is understood that it is in contemplation to place a statue, as a national monument, to the memory of the great circumnavigator, Cook, in the hall of Greenwich Hospital. The execution to be confided to Chantrey.

Formerly about 700 guineas were coined daily at the Mint: at present, owing to the improvement in machinery, one million sovereigns are coined in a week.

In May, Mrs. Windsen, an actress at the Bath Theatre, was suddenly taken ill while performing, and on being conveyed to the Green-Room said, “I am dying,”—and shortly after expired.

In the General Assembly of Scotland, a discussion took place relative to Gretna-Green marriages. The strongest disapprobation was expressed of the county Magistrates, and the borough Justices, who allowed them to be attested in their presence, and a committee was appointed to inquire into the best means of preventing them. Should the committee succeed, fewer post-chaises and four will drive to the North with heiresses and boarding-school Misses.

The last Lottery that ever will be permitted in the United Kingdom is now on sale. There are six prizes of thirty thousand pounds, all drawn on one day.

The distresses which lately afflicted the manufacturing classes, particularly the silk and cotton weavers, we are happy to say, are abating; and it is probable that in a short time the reaction to which the sufferings of the latter class may be attributed, will have spent its force. The silk business is improving gradually and steadily, and numbers of the weavers are now employed, who, a short time ago were unable to procure the least occupation.

Upwards of £100,000 have been contributed to the relief of distressed manufacturers.

His Majesty, on hearing of the distresses which prevailed some time ago at Macclesfield and Blackburn, was pleased to order £1,000 to be transmitted to each town, out of his privy purse, for the relief of the sufferers in those places.

FRANCE.

The sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, on the 16th of May, was rendered remarkable by two speeches on the state of the nation, and against the ministers, delivered by two royalists. As the members of the French Chambers are precluded from originating any measures of theirs lves, they must take advantage of the law of finance, or the introduction of a petition, to make known their sentiments on subjects which the Ministers decline bringing before them. M. Agier, a royalist, made a lavish use of his privilege on this occasion. Speaking of the state of the French navy, he complained that while the government expenditure was so great, so little attention was paid to this branch of the public service. “But,” added he, “if we do not build ships for ourselves, we build them for the Pacha of Egypt. It is true that he pays for them, and the President of the Council has told us we owe him respect.—I know well that policy has its reserves and its necessities; but are humanity, morals, and religion, entitled to no respect?—and can he be a Christian, who could hear without a feeling of pain, a Minister of the Crown talking of the respect due to the Pacha of Egypt, while thousands of Christians were perhaps falling at the very moment under the sword of the Infidel?”

Accounts from Rouen report the existence of serious disturbances in that city, from the hostility of the people to the Jesuits. These fathers began the work of a mission on Tuesday, May 16, by a solemn procession through the city, headed by the Archbishop, who is both a Cardinal and a Prince. This public ceremony, though viewed with general dissatisfaction, was allowed to pass without positive insult. On the 17th, the Missionaries distributed themselves among the churches, of which the Cathedral was one, and began their public exhortations without expecting any opposition. But on the 18th, when immense crowds had assembled in the Cathedral, the most daring and profane outrages were committed. Explosions of fulminating powder took place; squibs and crackers were thrown amongst the faithful; the chairs which are usually in the churches were thrown about the pavement; the services of religion were treated with sacrilegious derision; and the Archbishop himself, who mounted the pulpit to appease the storm, could not avoid being hissed and menaced. The day following, the windows of the Sacristy were broken, and the people cried out,—“Down with the Missionaries and the Archbishop.”

SPAIN.

The French papers of May 22, inform us, that the Court of Madrid at first refused to acknowledge the Regency of Portugal, and that it was only after repeated remonstrances on the part of

the British Minister, and some military demonstrations on the part of the Portuguese people, that the new government was formally recognized. Ferdinand is stated to be very anxious to have the keeping of his nephew, the hopeful Don Miguel.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

London, 25th May.

An express arrived yesterday from Vienna, in seven days, with letters communicating the important intelligence of the adjustment of the long-pending difference between Russia and Turkey. It appears, that the point on which the latter has so long held out, has been the alleged non-fulfilment by the Russians on their part, of certain provisions of the Treaty of Bucharest. These relate to the occupation of some fortresses on the Asiatic frontier, which are still held by Russia, though a stipulation had been inserted in that treaty for their abandonment. The question involved in this part of the treaty has, it is now understood, been referred to arbitration, and two commissioners have been appointed on the part of the Turkish government, who are to proceed to St. Petersburg for the purpose of settling it, under the mediation of the Austrian ambassador in that capital: and it is said, that as a testimony of the good-will of the Grand Seignor towards the Emperor Nicholas, these commissioners will carry with them a letter of congratulation on his accession to the throne, accompanied with professions of amity and good-will. The evacuation of the provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia, with the appointment of Hospodars under the protection of Russia, are to precede, as the letters state, the departure of the commissioners for St. Petersburg; assurances having been given to the Divan, that the fulfilment of the treaty of Bucharest, so far as regards the abandonment of the Asiatic fortresses, will be strongly urged on the Court of St. Petersburg by the rest of the European Powers.

This most desirable arrangement for the preservation of tranquillity on the continent, and for removing from the minds of men of property in all parts of it, a vague apprehension with which they have been long haunted, is said to have been principally effected by the firmness and perseverance of the British Ambassador at Constantinople. The news having travelled with extraordinary rapidity, some days may elapse before it is confirmed by the ordinary channels of information; but the letters from Vienna, on the authority of which it rests, are from a most respectable source. It is said the Austrian Metalliques rose 3 per cent. on this occasion. The Russian Ambassador has expressed his entire satisfaction at the arrangements entered into.

The propositions submitted by M. De Menziacky in the conference of April 5th, relate to the three following points, which were indispensable to the restoration of amicable relations between the two countries:—

1. The perfect re-establishment of the state of things which existed in Moldavia and Wallachia before the insurrections of 1821.
2. The setting at liberty of the Servian deputies, and satisfactory answers to their representations.
3. The sending of plenipotenciaries to the Russian frontiers, to negotiate on all points which were under consideration from 1816 to 1821, and to conclude a definitive arrangement.

GREECE.

Despatches were received May 22, at the Colonial Office, from Major-General Frederick Ponsonby, the Lord High Commissioner, *pro tempore*, in the Ionian Islands. It seems that Missolonghi was attacked on the 22d of April, and fell on the night of the 23d. The garrison having become desperate from the total want of provisions, and the failure of the Greek fleet under Miaulis to throw supplies into the town, determined to retire from the place and made preparations accordingly. A sortie was in consequence made by 800 men, led on by two valiant chieftains, with the hope of gaining possession of one of the batteries on the sea-shore, which was defended by a body of Arabs, and the town was partially set on fire, with the view of directing the attention of the besiegers from the real object of the besieged. It was hoped that by this attack a way would be opened for the remainder of the garrison: but this plan had been foreseen by the Turks, and their posts so strongly reinforced, that after attempting in vain to force a passage by carrying the battery, the body led by the two chieftains dispersed, and endeavoured to save themselves by gaining the mountains. They then forced into the town, and put to the sword, or made prisoners, all who opposed them. The loss sustained by the Turks on this occasion is not reported; but the

obstinacy of the conflict may be estimated by the fact, that although between 2 and 3000 Greeks perished in the town and at the foot of the mountain, only 150 are reported to have been taken alive. Of the women and children, a considerable number are said to have destroyed themselves, or to have been drowned; but above 3000 have been returned as prisoners. The alarm created by their dispersion was quickly communicated to those who were to follow on this hazardous enterprise, who now abandoned their posts, and sought shelter in small numbers in the most tenable places in the neighbourhood of the town. In the midst of the confusion the Turkish troops rushed on from the sea and land side, and took possession of the fortifications, to which, as a signal of victory, they set fire. On the 2d of April the two commanders, Ibrahim Pacha and the Seraskier, had, it appears, sent a summons to the town, with an offer of terms, and a promise to the inhabitants that their lives should be spared on giving up their arms, and that they should be set at liberty to proceed to any part of the Turkish dominions; but these proposals were peremptorily rejected.

BUENOS AYRES.

THE NATIONAL SQUADRON.

There is probably in patriotism no feeling more honourable, than that of sympathy with the valour or sufferings of heroes sustaining the cause of liberty against the injustice or oppressions of tyranny. We confess we have participated of its influence; and seldom more so, than during the conflict which we lately had the pleasure of witnessing; at the same time they have not prevented other sentiments from occupying our minds.

The sights which have recently been presented to our attention on the river, powerfully reminds us of what not unfrequently occurs among a different rank of combatants, where the disparity has been equally as great as between the forces of Brazil, and what is emphatically termed the *Esquadrilla* of the Republic:—we allude to that of a bully, who, previous to a set-to, in the confidence of his strength and size, comes to the *scratch* with all the blustering and braggadocio which characterizes a coward, and retires from it (to use a vulgar phrase,) “with his tail cut;” and sneaks away cursing the “obstacles of nature,”* or the superior bravery and skill of his manly antagonist.

We are sensible that we cannot do justice to the Commander and his brave men, in praising the courage and fortitude which they displayed in the actions of Saturday night and Sunday last, in a contest where the odds were so fearfully against them in every part except one, which, without naming, our readers would understand,—moral power, or the merits of the cause; which, though weak without physical force, is almost always finally triumphant, by that inherent principle of expansion and renovation which is particularly its own, and secures its agents by the attraction of its unvarnished character, and the stimulus of heart-felt applause.

The conduct of the Brazilian Commander is a strange chain of irregularities, for which we hardly know how to account. We sometimes conceive him a man of fitful passion, the greater part of his time lulling the stings of wounded pride, which occasionally defy the emollients he applies, and force him to attempt the only cure,—a victory gained over his adversary.—Again, we are unwilling to allow this to be the case, as his native bravery would receive augmented force from the impulses of offended honor.

But the best reason which we can satisfy ourselves with is, that resigned to lethargic inactivity all the week, his spirits receive the stimulus of what is proverbially called “*Dutch courage*,” and appearances bear us out in our inferences, for it is observed he seldom approaches with an intention to fight, save on Saturday night or Sunday,—the exact days on which sailors receive an *extra allowance of grog*.

We give the names of the Brazilian vessels which were engaged on the 30th.

* An expression said to have been used by the Brazilian Commander, when assigning his reason for not having destroyed the fleet of Buenos Ayres.

		Guns.	Commanders.
Frigates.	Metroya, - - -	36.	Norton.
	Nichteroy, - - -	36.	—
	Maria da Gloria, - - -	36.	Beaupaire.
Corvettes.	Mauaco, - - -	22.	Mariato.
	Liberal, - - -	22.	Hayden.
	Itaparica, - - -	22.	Eyre.
Brigs.	Peraja, - - -	18.	Carter.
	Caboclo, - - -	18.	Grenfel.
	29th of August, - - -	18.	—
Independencia ó Morte, 18.			
Schooners, 11, and three smaller vessels.			

The vessels which suffered most were M. da Gloria, Caboclo, and Itaparica. In the Metroya, 6 killed and 20 wounded. The Commander of the Caboclo, Grenfel, has been severely wounded. Norton would not communicate the number killed and wounded on board the other vessels.

Official account of the killed and wounded on board the squadron of the Republic.

25th of May.—14 killed. 23 wounded; of the latter, 3 Officers, the Admiral Brown, Don Thomas Espora, and Lieutenant Brown.

Republic.—1 killed. 4 wounded.
Balcarce.—1 killed.
Congreso.—2 killed. 3 wounded.

Such has been the enthusiasm of the people after the naval combat of Sunday, and public feeling has been so decidedly exhibited, that crowds of persons thronged the shore to receive those who landed from the squadron. But what is more particularly worthy of notice, on the landing of the wounded to conduct them to the hospital, respectable citizens disputed the honour of carrying them on their shoulders: to such a pitch was this spirit carried, that they even entered the water with their clothes on, to obtain their object. This scene, says the *Mensajero*, is so much more interesting, when patriotism, and the acknowledgement of the valour of our brave seamen, was the soul of the whole.

CHILI.

On the 25th of June an expedition sailed from Valparaiso for Chiloe, under the command of Colonel Aldunate, composed of 400 chosen men, between infantry and artillery,—the transports *Acteon* and *Resolution*, and the brig of war *Aquiles*. The brig *Livonia* arrived at Valparaiso from Chiloe the 30th; spoke the squadron, and the captain assured Colonel Aldunate, that his absence had been sensibly regretted by the Chiloes, who, in the interior, solely desired arms to attack the chief, Fuentes; and that the Assembly convoked by him for the purpose of acknowledging the government of O'Higgins, had resisted, and declared that they obeyed no authority but that to which they had sworn allegiance. This news confirms the official communication, directed to the Ministry by the Governor of Valdivia, which repels on the part of himself, and all the Valdivians, those insinuations of insurrection made by Fuentes, who asserts, that O'Higgins calculates on all the means and interest of Peru for the conquest of Chili.

We have only to hope, that the advanced season may not be an obstacle to the success of an expedition formed under such favourable circumstances, and with the greatest activity. The troops are excellent; they are well paid, and carry 700 muskets, and accoutrements. The Colonel Aldunate is an officer of honor; and if he has been surprised once, he will for this reason know to take better precautions hereafter; besides, he is accompanied by Major Tupper, whose character is well known, and whose valour cannot be better estimated than by these words of our correspondent:—"400 brave soldiers, and Tupper at their head, are sufficient to annihilate all the negroes there may be in Chiloe." Every thing announces formal preparations to secure the Republic against any attack.

The Congress was installed 1st of June, and on the 4th it will begin its sessions; and it is asserted, that the Director, Freire, firm in the resolution of resigning his office at the time appointed by law, will deposit the command in the persons whom the Congress shall elect. The citizens who are pointed out by public opinion as eligible to the office, are Messrs. Pintos, Beraunte, Blanes, and Borgoño.

The Director has deposed from the ministry Señor Noboa.

(Extract of a Letter from St. Iago,—1st July, 1826.)

"On the 28th June arrived at Valparaiso 111 seamen from Calloa, enlisted for the squadron. This is important, and comes most opportunely, giving to the expedition a serious character. From 15th July to 1st August, I fully expect the vessels will sail. They are of the first class, and having expert, valiant, chosen officers, besides from 7 to 800 able seamen.

In a letter dated *Montevideo*, 30th July, it is said, that the siege of Montevideo is now so rigorous, that the Patriots will not permit any thing to enter, and the Portuguese will not allow even the baggage of families to leave the city. The Patriot ranks are daily augmenting. Leonardo Oliveras, with 300 men, arrived lately, and it is supposed that part of the troops of General Rodriguez will leave the Durazno to reinforce the lines.

Other letters contradict the former part of this, relative to the rigour of the siege.

LORD PONSONBY.

We are sorry not to be able to furnish favourable intelligence respecting the mission of Lord Ponsonby. Negotiation is at present closed, though not so completely as to prevent the possibility of a final adjustment. It is uncertain when his Lordship will visit this capital. Should the Emperor persist in his present claims, which we do not think probable, some time must elapse before it can take place.

As some incorrect reports of the cause of the sailing of the Packet have been current in the city, we shall state the particulars.

In the stipulations with respect to her admission during the blockade, it was understood that the Packet should be permitted to land her mail; but that her position was to be outside the Brazilian squadron. In consequence of the general absence of the blockading fleet when she arrived, these regulations have not been enforced. On Tuesday, however, being off the city at the time of her arrival, they required the fulfilment of the above conditions, which she complied with, though the fleet sailed shortly after. Her object in sailing yesterday had reference to her continuance in the same position as heretofore, and not, as has been reported, to the forfeiture of specie which she brought on board.

The departure of the Packet is postponed until *Saturday*, instead of *Friday*, at the request of the Government.

The Amateurs who favoured the public by an exhibition of their histrionic talents a short time ago, have promised, we believe, at the special request of some of the most respectable persons, to renew their claims on the gratitude of their audience, by representing again next week. The day is not yet fixed.

PRICES OF SPECIE.

Doubloons, - - -	\$24 4rs.
Spanish Dollars, - - -	50 per ct. premium.
Quarter do. - - -	30 do. do.
National Dollars, - - -	44 do. do.
Cut stamped silver, - - -	25 do. do.

FUNDS.

Cash on Discount, Bank, - - -	1-2 per ct. per month.
Do. do. private transactions, - - -	1 1-4 to 1 1-2 per do.
Bills of the 6 per ct. - - -	60 per 100.
Do. do. 4 per ct. - - -	proportionably.
Letters upon England, - - -	32 to 33 pence the dollar.
Do. on France, - - -	380 centimes the dollar.
Do. on Rio Janeiro, - - -	11 to 12 discount.
Shares of the Bank, - - -	35 per ct.

Posts set out from this city for the North, and National Army, in August,

Chili, - - -	5, 12, 19, 27.
Peru, - - -	1, 8, 16, 24.
	3, 10, 18, 26.

Wheat is selling at \$12 1-2 the fanega.

As we have received the names of many Subscribers without the number of their residence, we should be glad if those who have not received a copy would leave their address at this Office.