

# 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. 29.) BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1827. (VOL. 1.

### EXTERIOR.

#### CHILI.

On the night of the 24th of January, a revolution took place in Santiago, promoted and realized by Colonel Enrique Campino, at the head of the civic troops and the veterans of the garrison, who appeared early in the morning in the principal square. Their object was to depose the President of the Republic, and to appoint another in his place. On the night of the 24th, Colonel Campino personally arrested the Minister of the Interior, of Foreign Relations, of War, and several private individuals. The 25th, in the morning, the Congress assembled, at the bar of which Colonel Campino presented himself, followed by several officers and troops. There he intimated the necessity of appointing another President and Vice-President of the Republic, as he had sent Señor Eizaguirre to his house. Very few deputies spoke on the occasion, with the exception of Señor Montes, who showed himself highly disgusted; and Don Diego Benavente, who began to censure with energy the conduct of Colonel Campino, and continued in the same tone in spite of the insults which he received from the latter, who even went so far as to order the soldiers to fire upon him, which they did not do although they presented their pieces, perhaps to be attributed to accident. After this, Campino retired from the bar, and assembling the troops, he withdrew to the barracks, a little distance from the city. The Congress then resolved to name supreme chief, *ad interim*, the Captain-general Don Ramon Freire, who was a short time ago President. General Freire having accepted the office, attempted to induce the officers and troops that were in the barracks to obey him; but having gained nothing, notwithstanding great solicitations, he remained all night on guard in the city, with several of the neighbouring residents. The 26th, at day-break, Colonel Campino returned into the city with his troops, and General Freire retired to the country to assemble the militia to operate against the revolutionists. All this day Colonel Campino with his forces kept the command of the city, and on the 27th he was made prisoner, with several other officers, by means of a counter-revolution brought about by the conspirators themselves, who have acknowledged General Freire as chief.

### INTERIOR.

#### ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

##### BULLETIN NO. 3.

At the pass of Tacuarembó, the burning of the country and the change of position had made it necessary to give some rest to the troops. The corps of the army did not move until the evening of the 14th, on which day the third corps marched for Caraguatay, followed by the second corps at sunset. Both encamped at night between the Rio Negro and Tacuarembó, having marched two leagues during a heavy and continued shower. The army was now within the enemy's territory, and the General-in-Chief for that reason addressed to the army a proclamation.

On the 15th ultimately the first corps was on the Yaguari; the division of Gomez, belonging to the same corps, observed the movement of the enemy at Santa Ana, after having carried off from the banks of the Rio Negro above 7000 head of cattle, which were for passing the desert. The second corps continued its march, and the third; and

the banks of the Caraguatay, near the lakes of Paracaja, the mire banks of which caused great difficulty to the horses, which had neither eaten nor drank during the whole day, in the midst of insupportable heat, and in a moment they rushed into the water.

On the 16th the first corps was at Yaguari; the division of Gomez caused the enemy to retire from several of his posts, taking a few prisoners. The second and third corps crossed the heights between Caraguatay and Rio Negro, and after a continued march from day-break until two o'clock in the morning of the 17th they encamped on the banks of this river, near the lake, without finding water in any direction, meeting with nothing but a desolate country. On the 18th the second corps marched, following the windings of the Rio Negro to the Cañada de Acequa, where it encamped; while the division of commandant Oribe covered its right flank, and the first and second corps occupied the positions of the preceding day. Three deserters from the enemy presented themselves this day to the advanced piquets of the army: the same day also a house was seen by the vanguard, which was a sign of having passed the desert, leaving in their rear a vast and unhabited extent of country which they had travelled over, reaching from the pass of Bustillos in the Rio Negro to the place where they were then encamped. Having seen, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, a party of the enemy on the left margin of the river, an attack was made, which ended in their dispersion, losing 2 killed and 3 prisoners. The latter stated, that Bento Gonzalez, ignorant of the march of the Republican army, was encamped on the Yaguaron; that this party, a quarter of an hour only previous, had discovered the second and third corps by their scouts; also, that captain Martinez was retreating with a detachment, driving before it upwards of 400 horses. On this, two parties were sent in pursuit, one of the 8th regiment, and the other of dragoons (*Liberators*). Lieut. Basilio overtook and surprised them early on the 19th, and carried off their horses. The second corps remained the whole of this day in its position, and was joined by the third corps in the evening; the first corps remained at the bank of Carpinteria. On the 21st and 22d, the first corps was occupied in sending detachments against the enemy's army from its position, having its attention directed also to Las Puntas de Cuñapiru. The appearance of commandant Gomez at this point, had made the Imperial General believe that the mass of the Republican army followed the same march, with the intention of attacking in front his posts at Santa Ana, and in consequence sent the whole of his cavalry in that direction; but meeting the forces of the first corps, they returned, and on the appearance of fresh troops near Cuñapiru, the whole army of the enemy was put in movement, believing the advanced lines of the first corps to be the body of the Republican army, while, in fact, the principal mass was in a different direction. The Imperial commander was undeceived when on the 19th he heard that the latter was encamped on the right margin of the Rio Negro; he then marched to El Hospital, intending to place himself between the Republican army and the village of Balles. The Republican General, to avoid losing the advantage of manœuvring on the left flank of the enemy, and always keeping in view his chief object—that of intercepting the communication with Rio Grande, and to occupy Balles,—re-passed the Rio Negro with the second and third corps, and encamped on the left bank on the evening of the 21st. On the 21st, he followed with the second corps as far as the pass of Cerro del Acequa, where he encamped. The division of Oribe was stationed behind the Cerro, and the third corps of the army kept its position. On the 22d, the 3d corps was

on the right bank of Rio Negro, near the pass of Lenus, and the second on its march. At 6 o'clock in the afternoon, the advanced piquets despatched about 50 men of Bento Gonzalez, who were coming to pass the Rio Negro to join the Imperial army. The General-in-Chief immediately advanced, placing himself at the head of the piquets to reconnoitre the enemy's force. He then ordered several detachments under commandant Oribe to charge, and called out the 8th regiment to support them; but the enemy retreated with precipitation, and it was impossible to overtake them, although they were pursued upwards of two leagues. Notwithstanding, the result of this movement was to prevent the junction with Bento Gonzalez, which was attempted by this detachment, and if realized, would have endangered the first corps of the Republican army, the whole of the enemy's cavalry having marched to Las Puntas del Piray, and the body of the army having left El Hospital to take Cuchilla Grande and occupy Balles, and so to anticipate the Republican army. The same day the third corps followed the movements of the second. On the 23d, General Lavalleja entered the village of Balles, the neighbourhood being in possession of the advanced guards of the enemy, who abandoned their positions two hours afterwards, and the second and third corps arrived at the pass of Valiente, the whole of the Republican army being united at this point. On the 24th General Lavalleja reconnoitred the village and vicinity. The division of Gomez was formed in a line of battle to the right of the village, while a column of the enemy, whose depth it was impossible to reconnoitre, was at the distance of half-a-league upon a height. After having reconnoitred, the village was abandoned.

At sunset of the 25th the whole of the army was put in movement, in three columns. The second and third passed the right bank of the Rio Negro, at night they followed their march, and on the 26th, at sunrise, they came upon Balles, leaving the village and the heights to the right, and marching in a parallel line, the first and second corps, with the third in reserve, for a rapid change of position. The 2d, 3d, and 5th battalions of light troops were appointed to march across the mountain, fall upon and occupy the village. The enemy's cavalry, to the number of 4000 men, under the orders of Brigadier Barreto, covered the left bank of the Piray, a league and a-half from Balles. Commandant Gomez was despatched with part of the first corps to repulse the advanced troops of the enemy: at sunset they were retiring, commandant Gomez having attacked the rear-guard; 1 officer and 6 men were killed, and 6 prisoners, without any loss on his part. The infantry of the Republican army had taken its position in the village; and the divisions of cavalry belonging to the second and third corps of the army, occupied the left flank and vanguard, while those of the first corps occupied the station which the enemy had just left.

NAVAL VICTORY.

DESPATCHES.

"Brig of war General Balcarce, Feb. 9th, 1827, Isla del Fucaul.

"He who subscribes has the honour to remind His Excellency the Minister of War and Marine, that it is twelve months to-day since our first naval combat in front of the capital of the Argentine Republic, though without success; but, in the present, the enemy has been completely conquered. Although all have not yet surrendered, the third Imperial division has been entirely destroyed, and its commander, Don Jacinto de Sena, is in our power. The vessels which have surrendered are, the brig *Januario*, the schooners *Oriental* and *Veteova*, the latter equal to our schooner the *Malienado*. The remainder were attacked by a tremendous fire, and pursued by our division, and, before five in the afternoon, it had taken another schooner. To-morrow they must fall, and then I shall have the honour to inform Your Excellency, as also to present a detail of so glorious an action.

"This day, Sir, is memorable also, because on it the fortress of Martin Garcia is finished, and, with a proper garrison, is impregnable. It is called the *Fortress of the Constitution*.

"After so much glory, I should be wanting in justice if I did not recommend highly to Your Excellency the bravery and valour which all the commanders, officers, and crews of the several vessels displayed. On our part the loss is small compared with the triumph. He who subscribes has the honour of saluting Your Excellency with all consideration and respect.

WILLIAM BROWN

"Brig of war General Balcarce, February 10, 1827.

"I have the honour to continue, in the best manner possible, the relation of the events which occurred on the 9th instant, that without loss of time Your Excellency may be informed concerning them. In a despatch dated yesterday, I stated to Y. E. that immediately that the rest of the division retreated, I despatched a division to take the hindmost vessels of the enemy. It gained in part its object, having captured two galboat schooners, of two guns each, of 12, 18, and 24 pound calibre. They were unable to accomplish any thing further, because the vessels grounded, and yet continue so, though without danger. The captured vessels are, six of war, and one merchant vessel. I have not been able to follow the enterprize further, being obliged to repair the prizes, together with the damages sustained by our vessels.

"The boat by which this is sent, carries also as prisoner Don Jacinto Roque de Sena Pereyra; and in relation to him I transmit the correspondence which passed between us, consisting of my note demanding an explanation of his conduct in reference to his treatment of our officer and flag of truce, in making him a prisoner, and his reply; of which His Excellency the President of the Republic will judge. The correspondence of the enemy will go by a different channel to the hands of the superior authorities.

"Captain Coe, who went as truce bearer, and was detained prisoner, is in our power, and has taken the command of his former vessel the *Sarandi*.

"The enemy's division which is in the canal of Martin Garcia, below, is threatening. Heaven grant they may come on I and then Most Excellent Sir, the glory will be greater. Several boxes of instruments, the greater part belonging to Colonel Trobe when the schooner *Rio* was captured, are on board my vessel, at the disposal of the superior government. The circumstantial detail of the operations against the enemy on the 8th and 9th, shall be rendered in due time to Your Excellency. I am fully occupied in regulating the command of the captured vessels in the best possible manner, together with their crews, which I hope will be satisfactory to the authorities. Two boats, with 47 sailors, are joined to the line. I am just informed that of three guns which were spiked on board the captured brig, one only has been unspiked; for the other two, it will be necessary that Y. E. order a boner to be sent me as soon as possible.

"In the despatch of yesterday, by an involuntary neglect, I forgot to inform Your Excellency, that notwithstanding the bad conduct of the Brazilian commander, now prisoner, towards our flag of truce, his brave and intrepid defence in the attack, places me under the necessity of recommending him highly to Your Excellency, considering him as a companion in arms.

"The undersigned salutes His Excellency the Minister of War and Marine, with all consideration and respect.

WILLIAM BROWN

ANSWER OF THE IMPERIAL COMMANDER, EXPLAINING THE MOTIVES OF HIS CONDUCT IN DETAINING THE FLAG OF TRUCE.

"Excellent Sir,—In answer to your respectful note, dated to-day, I state that three motives induced me to detain the captured flag of truce: first, having presented himself without being received as a flag of truce; second, my suspending the signal to be yours, as I was informed that Captain Norton had received a communication signed by your Excellency, when you had left the Rio de la Plata in the *Sarandi*, and, moreover, I also had intelligence that Your Excellency had sailed to meet the British squadron, it being impossible to all appearance that you could be at that time in the Uruguay; third, because Your Excellency had opened fire on the same day, the 29th of December, 1826. The officer will affirm that he never was considered as a prisoner, but rather as being detained. The forces separated, and could not meet again until the 8th of the present month, from which has resulted what we are witnessing. I am persuaded that I have not violated the right of nations nor of war, which I affirm upon my honour. I acknowledge the distinction with which Your Excellency treats me, and I have every confidence in the generous character of Your Excellency, whom may God preserve many years.—On board the schooner *Oriental*, 10th February.

"Jacinto Roque de Sena P.

M. E. W. William Brown, Admiral of the Republic of B.

he had long been representing the... in a... way