

# 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. 30.)

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1827.

(VOL. I.)

### GREAT BRITAIN.

*The King's Message.—House of Lords, Monday, December 11.*

Earl Bathurst brought down a Message from His Majesty, which was read by the Lord Chancellor to the House:—

"C. R.

"His Majesty acquaints the House of Lords, that His Majesty has received an application from Portugal, claiming, by virtue of ancient treaties of alliance and amity, that support which is stipulated in the said treaties. His Majesty, ever hostile to the aggression of Spain, has exerted himself, in conjunction with his Allies and France, to prevent such an aggression; and repeated assurances have been given by the Cabinet of Madrid, of the determination of His Catholic Majesty to maintain pacific relations. But His Majesty has learned, with the greatest concern, that hostile aggressions have been committed by Spain on Portugal. Portuguese regiments, which deserted into Spain, have made hostile attacks, commanded by Spanish authority. His Majesty makes this communication to the House of Lords, and His Majesty feels confident that the House of Lords will afford to His Majesty their concurrence and support in maintaining the faith of treaties, and in supporting the safety and independence of Portugal, our Most Faithful and Oldest Ally."

The motion for an humble address to be presented in answer to His Majesty's Message was postponed until the following day, when it was moved and carried, *non. dis.*

*House of Commons, Tuesday, December 12.*

Mr. Canning moved that the Order of the day be read, for taking into consideration the King's Message. Mr. Canning then rose and spoke at considerable length. We shall give a few extracts:—"In proposing to the House of Commons to acknowledge His Majesty's most gracious Message, and to reply to it in terms which are an echo of its sentiments, and a fulfilment of its anticipations, he felt that, however confident he might be in the justice, and however clear as to the principle of the measure which the Message embraced, it became him, as a British Minister, in recommending to the House of Commons any step which approached even to the hazard of war, to use the language of sorrow and regret. He could assure the House, that there was not within its walls any set of men more deeply convinced than His Majesty's Ministers, nor any individual more intimately persuaded than himself, of the vital importance of the continuance of peace to this country and to the world. But he felt that which had been felt by the best Statesmen of the country, and by the Parliament by whom those statesmen had been supported,—he felt that there were two causes, and but two causes, which could be neither compromised nor adjourned.—The causes of National Faith, and of National Honour. Among the alliances by which at different periods the country has been connected with the other nations of Europe, none is so old in faith, or so constant in duration, or so precise in obligation, or so interwoven in our history and its most brilliant periods, as that which has connected Great Britain with Portugal. To that alliance we have ever been faithful. It had been sometimes broken, and sometimes renewed, but it had never been entirely severed."

ent treaties which made it incumbent on England to grant assistance to Portugal in case of foreign aggression, at the demand of the Portuguese authorities, he proceeds:—"No difficulty as to the course which should be pursued under these treaties presented itself. On the 3d instant he received from the Portuguese Ambassador the direct demand of assistance. The answer given was this, that although rumours on the subject had reached Ministers through France, and from other parts of the Continent, yet they had not that accurate information, that official intelligence of any precise fact, on which they could properly found a formal communication to Parliament. That precise information arrived on Friday night. On Saturday the decision of His Majesty's Government was sought and taken. Sunday that decision received His Majesty's sanction. On Monday it was communicated to Parliament; and at the hour in which he had the honour of addressing the House, the troops were on their march. He felt it right to be perfectly assured, before a British soldier put his foot on Portuguese ground, nay, before he left this country, that the call of the Executive was sanctioned by all the authorities who had a right to be consulted on such an occasion. The intelligence which he had this day received with respect to the proceedings in Lisbon, he would read to the House." He then read an extract of a despatch from Sir W. A'Court, dated Nov. 29. The day after the news arrived of the entry of the rebels into Portugal, the Ministers demanded from the Chambers an extension of the Executive powers, and for permission to apply for foreign assistance. That authority was given by the Chambers with acclamation. The greatest spirit was manifested on this occasion. In the Chamber of Peers they rose in a body from their seats, they expressed the utmost devotion to their country, and declared that they were ready, if necessary, to give their personal assistance in repelling the invasion. The Duke de Corvalho, the President of the Chamber of Peers, was the first to make this declaration, and the Minister who described this proceeding to me, said it was a moment worthy the good days of Portugal. "Further intelligence had been received of more than one irruption on the Portuguese frontiers, by troops arranged in Spain. One irruption might be without authority; but attacks all along the frontiers must be by consent. The Portuguese rebels were armed and supported by Spain,—the mercenaries were got from Portugal; and would it not be a pretty quibble to say that this was not foreign invasion?" Speaking of the Constitution, he proceeds: "It was thought that that measure was the offspring of British advice; but it was no such thing. Not because we were called on to approve or disapprove of that Constitution; but merely because it was no part of the duty of British Ministers to interfere with the internal institutions or regulations of any State whatever. That Constitution was brought to Europe by a gentleman of high trust with the British government. He alluded to Sir Charles Stuart, who was then resident in Brazil, and on his return home the Emperor of Brazil requested him to be the bearer of the new constitution. The Government of this country had no fault to find with Sir Charles for the part which he took; but it was immediately felt, that if the messenger and that which he bore were not directly separated, it might appear in the eyes of Europe that England was the contriver and imposor of that constitution. Sir C. Stuart was directed to return to England forthwith. With respect to that constitution, he had neither the intention nor the right to offer any remarks upon it. Privately, as an individual, he had certainly formed an opinion on it; but, as a Minister, he had to say was,—May God prosper this attempt at con-

prevailing discontent and increasing complaints of the inhabitants of the border territories,—whose commerce has been paralyzed, their cattle carried off to supply the army, and their men forced by the conscription to enter its ranks.

The Emperor has a thorny and dangerous path before him, from which he will find great difficulty in extricating himself;—at the best he will emerge from it, without doubt, considerably scratched and bruised. The mass of his army is composed of very brittle materials, which one rough shock may dash to pieces, and which he would find it tedious to re-model. The Republican army is formed of elements, marked as one common centre of attraction, one general motive of cement. The spirits of the troops are high and elevated, and inspired by an enthusiasm which defeat cannot extinguish, nor obstacles diminish. Many of them have homes, rights, and lives to contend for, which cannot be secured or retained until victory wrest from the hands of their enemy the illegitimate charter by which they have too long been defrauded. With such motives to call forth their military energies, we cannot wonder at the superiority which they have displayed in equal and unequal fights, both by sea and land; and although on the former element their spirit may be said to act by sympathetic communication, the impulse is one which none who participate in the feelings of noble minds can resist,—it is one which has already done much, and, no doubt, will shortly crown the whole by a glorious triumph of rights over usurpation—of liberty over tyranny—and of freemen over the offscourings and refuse of political abjection.

### DESPATCH FROM ADMIRAL BROWN.

Schooner of war *Maldonado*, off Martin Garcia, Feb. 19.

The undersigned has the honour of informing His Excellency the Minister of War and Marine, that, following up the military operations of the 8th and 9th instant, on the 12th he set sail from the mouth of the Guazu, with a division consisting of 19 vessels, (leaving a stronger force for the safety of the island,) for the purpose of pursuing the enemy, who was retreating up the Uruguay. In front of San Salvador we saw the fragments of three vessels, which the enemy had burned because they had grounded. Sailing further up, beyond Puerto Lauda the undersigned was overtaken by a boat belonging to the enemy, in which there were two sailors who had escaped in it, and who belonged to the boat which carried the flag of truce on the 29th of December, and which was detained, together with the boat's crew. The undersigned was informed by these, that the enemy, amounting to five vessels, had entered the Guateguaycho, where they had delivered themselves up, having thrown overboard part of their artillery previous to their entering the river, to enable them to pass the bar. The undersigned also received the intelligence, that two of the enemy's vessels had made their escape through the Parana Gutierrez. He forthwith despatched Captain Espora, with two schooners and a gun-boat, in pursuit of these two vessels. With this object the two schooners remained in the mouth of the Guazu, while Captain Espora in the gun-boat sailed higher up the river, and at the same time ordering the division at the island to despatch five gun-boats to take possession of Caracoles and Palmas, which was immediately executed; but, after so much zeal and activity, the undersigned has learned with pain that it was too late, as they had escaped. The result of this last expedition is our having taken five vessels of the enemy, which had arrived at Guateguaycho, and there remain in the hands of the Government of that territory the prisoners who had disembarked to the number of 500. The undersigned states, also, for the information of H. E. the Minister, that of the three vessels burned by the enemy, various fragments of the masts, &c. have been saved. The undersigned will avail himself of an opportunity to communicate other details of the expedition, and in the meantime salutes His Excellency with all consideration and respect.

WILLIAM BROWN.

To H. E. the Minister of War and Marine.

Such are the results of an expedition which, though on a small scale, in reference to judicious and skillful dispositions, and to the firm and resolute bravery which have marked its conduct, and its glorious and decisive conclusion, will not suffer by a comparison with some of the most brilliant actions recorded in naval history. Of the third division of the Brazilian fleet, amounting to 19 vessels, only two have escaped. The rest have been taken or destroyed. In the last action, the inhabitants of that part of Entre-Rios where the five vessels surrendered, behaved in a manner that gives us reason to suspect their patriotism, and might have ended in consequences of a most injurious nature. In other circumstances, their conduct would not be so slightly passed over; and they may thank the superior necessities which impose on the General Government a spirit of forbearance, that their dwellings are not so widely scattered about their coast, and that their property is not visited by that severe calamity which has befallen the coast of the Uruguay. They are not visited by that severe calamity which has befallen the coast of the Uruguay.

We stated in our last, that the undersigned had been appointed to command the expedition, and that he had accepted of the appointment.

and was therefore rejected. A new project was presented by the Commission appointed to deliberate on the subject. This project, after considerable discussion, has been sanctioned by the Congress, the tenor of which is as follows:—

Article 1.—“The General Constituent Congress has agreed to bestow on the Officers and crews who triumphed over the third Imperial division in the Uruguay, a Medal of Honour, which they shall wear on the left arm.

2.—“In the circumference shall be inscribed the following words: *Gloria a los Vencedores en las aguas del Uruguay*; underneath, *9 de Febrero de 1827*; and in the centre shall be engraved naval trophies.

3.—The Admiral, William Brown, shall wear a medal of gold; the Officers of silver; and from the rank of sergeant downwards, of brass.

4.—“The President of Congress, in the name of the whole body, shall present their congratulations to Admiral Brown, and through him, to all the individuals who have taken part in the memorable combat of the 9th of February, and transmitting at the same time a copy of the present resolution. The Executive is authorized to issue the necessary orders for carrying the Decree into effect.—*Zelaya—Dorrego—Arenales—Holguera—Ruiz.*”

The Minister of War attended the discussion, and proposed to defer the consideration of this project for a short time, as the Government had in contemplation to confer a more substantial testimony of the National gratitude on the Officers and crews of the Squadron. This objection to the present resolutions was removed, by the expression of a perfect willingness on the part of Congress to co-operate with the Executive in any future measure which should have for its object the remuneration of the services which had been rendered to the Nation by the naval force of the Republic. This may be considered as a mere complimentary token of the sense which the country entertains of their patriotism and bravery; but by no means the limits of what is to be expected from its generosity.

Admiral Brown, with all his squadron, got under weigh at 4 o'clock yesterday morning from Martin Garcia, for this port. The hermaphrodite brig and a schooner got aground: the latter lost her bowsprit. At 6 o'clock they all anchored again in front of Martin Garcia. They are expected to arrive here some time to-day. The Admiral is on board the *Maldonado*.

Arrived, on the 20th instant, the Packet *Holly*, Captain Wright, from Falmouth 25th of December, from Rio Janeiro 16th instant, and from M. Video 19th. She landed her passengers, amounting to 7, at the latter port. By her we learn, that the continuance of the war is a subject of very general discontent in Rio Janeiro. A statement which was made respecting the disapprobation of the Brazilian Ministers by the Emperor, is confirmed by M. Video there was only one vessel of war, the corvette *Mary*, which was repairing; the remaining vessels of the Brazilian Squadron were cruising. The Packet did not see above board of them, two in Maldonado, and one cruising off Lobos. The Admiral, Under-Commander, speaking of the defeat and capture of the third division of the Brazilian squadron, said it was “a very trifling loss to the Empire, as it consisted of small vessels only.”—“A few more such trifling losses, and the Brazilians will have nothing more to lose; and Pintos Guidez may then tremble for the validity of his newly conferred, and gloriously earned title.”

The following Circular has been addressed to His Majesty's Consul General in Monte Video:—

“In consequence of several persons belonging to foreign nations having arrived here from the enemy's territory, for the purpose of carrying on commercial speculations and transactions which, in their result, may be injurious to the national interests, as well as being injurious in its present state of affairs, and to prevent the assembling together of persons giving cause for alarm, it is my duty to inform Your Honour, that you may apprise those it concerns, that if they are to refrain from disembarking or entering the gate of the City from the enemy's territory; also, that they are not permitted to leave the city by land, excepting only within our lines, obtaining for such purpose the necessary guarantee on the part of Your Honour, until further orders shall be issued.—Government Head-Quarters, M. Video, Feb. 18, 1827.—DANIEL PEDRO MULLER, Brigadier General commanding in the town.”

To T. S. Hood, H. B. M.'s Consul General.

The *Marchioness of Queensbury* Packet, from this the 6th September, and M. Video 12th, arrived at Falmouth 26th Nov. The *Lady Louisa* Packet, from this the 26th September, M. Video 30th, arrived at Falmouth 9th December.

### NOTICE.

The Committee will meet on the 10th inst.