

# British Packet,

AND

## ARGENTINE NEWS.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

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(Vol. I.)

## GREAT BRITAIN.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York died on the 5th of January, in the 64th year of his age. His funeral was conducted with all possible pomp and splendour. He was heir to the throne, and next brother to the King, and Generalissimo of all the land forces of the Empire, &c. The noble Duke had been married to a princess of Prussia, but left no issue. The Duke of Clarence is the next surviving brother of the King. The loss of his influence in the House of Lords will probably tend, on the next agitation of the Catholic Question, to clear the way for the advocates of emancipation. His Royal Highness had always opposed with firmness, what he believed to be pregnant with danger both to civil and religious rights.

Portugal still continues to occupy universal attention, though the expedition which was sent thither had not, at the sailing of the Packet, commenced active operations. Marshal Beresford has taken the command of the troops in Portugal, who were in full preparation for chastising the rebels and invaders. The effects of the arrival of the British troops are most sensibly displayed in the spirit and animation which have been excited in the friends of the Constitution, and the fear and dread with which it has inspired the enemies of liberty and order. At the commencement of their career they were intoxicated with a few partial successes gained over those who were astounded and disheartened by the perfidious conduct of the abettors of the rebellion; but it appears that the government has taken heart at the appearance of its faithful and well-ried allies, and that many of the insurgents had retired to the frontiers. It would seem that the weak and despicable poltroon and traitor Ferdinand, however his wishes and disposition may prove, will find himself under the necessity of assuming a more honourable line of conduct, to prevent the visitation of a people independent at his violation of their rights. He has begun to tamper with the demands of foreign courts, by discharging the Swiss garrade which occupied Madrid, and by publishing a manifesto, and circulating it as from the Minister of War, to the different Captains-General of Spain, expressing pacific intentions, and a formal resolution to abstain from all hostile acts towards Portugal. He probably hopes, by this measure, to avert the punishment which he so richly merits; but every one knows his own worth, and no one will trust either his word or his honour, unless it is supported by some more tangible pledge of the sincerity of his intentions. It is not enough for the satisfaction of offended honour and vindication of independence, that they retract his own orders, or deny the independence of the nation, or that he fabricate a circular, or dismiss his Swiss garrade, or send the garrade to the frontiers with the body of observation, or that he has committed a crime, or that he has only made amends for the injury and evil which that crime has caused, but he must give ample security for his future good conduct. Mr. Lamb, our ambassador at Madrid, is occupied in attempting to induce Ferdinand to accept the ultimatum which our government has proposed, as the only means which can prevent the continuation of arms for arguments. This ultimatum requires the dismissal of his Ministers, and the punishment of the Captain-General of the frontier provinces, and the immediate acknowledgment of the Regent of Portugal by the sending of an ambassador to Lisbon. This double-tongued and hypocritical being, in attempting to stand the justice and moderation of those demands, rejects the first, and only half complies with the last by sending a subordinate agent to Lisbon; and through the whole course of

his proceedings, although professing desires of peace and of making satisfaction, appears either labouring under the infatuation of a weak pride, or following an ambiguous policy that is fomented by some second party.

England appears with the scales of equity in one hand, and the sword of justice in the other. She promises the culprit to sheathe her sword if he make reparation; if not, she threatens to wreak her vengeance on his guilty head. We hope that neither the tears of a false contrition, nor the chicanery of the Spanish cabinet, will balk the hopes of Portugal to see her wrongs redressed, or compromise in any degree our national honour.

France still expresses her disapprobation of the conduct of Ferdinand, though M. Villele, under the tutelage of the Jesuits, seems to offer but a poor guarantee of those professions. The Prince de Polignac, the French ambassador at St. James', has left rather suddenly. His departure is attributed to a variety of motives: some have viewed it as a symptom of rupture between France and Great Britain; others believe it to have for its object an effectual co-operation for the purpose of obliging the delinquent Ferdinand to satisfy the demands of the British cabinet. If so, it is to be expected that this question, which has engaged the attention of the world, will be finally settled, and Europe still continue to enjoy a state of peace. Portugal, under the influence of a liberal constitution, will assume a very different character: it now depends on herself whether she will evince to the world a capacity for rational liberty and its blessings, and thereby serve as a luminary to the south of Europe; or, by the abuse of the benefits which freedom bestows on man, she will set the veto on future attempts to plant the tree of liberty in those regions which are groaning under the blighting influence of despotism. The experiment has been partially tried in Spain, but not under such favourable auspices as strengthen the hopes of Portugal. Her alliances with England promise well; but her proximity to Spain bodes ill to her peace. This very cause, however, which in the outset is unfavourable, will, if she succeed in establishing her charter, be a collateral agent in diffusing its principles over her unhappy neighbours. The solution of the problem must be left to time,—it is impending with eventful consequences to the Old World, and will form an era in the history of political institutions, as novel as it is important. It will be a brighter period in British annals, than that in which we have witnessed the nations of Europe against the colossal march of the great military king-maker, and will redound much more to our glory than our having contributed to place the crown of France on the head of a Bourbon.

Should the war, as is not impossible, be averted, the different powers of Europe will, all likelihood concur to shorten that long term of suffering which the unhappy Greeks will otherwise be doomed to undergo, and join their efforts to effect what Turkish apathy neglected, when couched in the mild language of persuasion. They, unfortunately, like almost all those nations who merge suddenly from the gloom of oppression to the dazzling glare of unknown liberty, have only added another example of the weakness of our nature to resist the intoxicating effects of a new and unusual draught at the fountain of freedom; and they, too like others, have almost burlesqued the sacred struggle for independence, into the squabbles of party contending for domination and power, and converted the animation and ardour of patriotism into the lawlessness of banditti and the sanguinary fury of merciless pirates: but we hope that this is confined to a few, and that their original aim will again assume its importance, and be crowned with success.

INTERIOR.

ENTRE RIOS.

The government of this province has transmitted to its deputies in Congress the following resolution of the provincial legislature:

"The honourable Congress of Entre Rios, considering, that it cannot separate itself from the expressed will of its constituents without betraying their confidence and interests: that the universal, constant, and decided vote of the people whom it represents, is to concur to the compact of national association under the form of Federal Republican government alone: that this opinion has been manifested freely by the people in all the departments, as appears by the acts celebrated in April last, by order of the preceding legislature: that, finally, the adoption of institutions that are in contradiction to the general wish of the country, however wise, liberal, or beneficent they may be, must necessarily produce the unhappy results exhibited by experience. For which reasons, the said honourable congress has resolved and decreed:—

"Article 1.—The province of Entre Rios does not accept the Constitution sanctioned by the National Congress on the 24th of December last past, and directed to this corporation by its President, with a despatch of the 23th of the same.

"2.—The powers of the deputies of this province are suspended in the Congress, immediately on their receiving this communication from the Executive power.

"3.—The president of the Junta will transmit to the president of the National Congress a copy of this Decree, as an answer.

"4.—The province is disposed to sustain to the utmost, the war with the Emperor of Brazil, and offers to the other Argentines its friendship, and active co-operation in favour of their independence and common liberty.—  
Parana, March 8, 1827.

"EDUARDO GONZALES, President."

What we stated in our last number under the head of Entre Rios, respecting the improbability of her admitting the Constitution if examined at present, has been verified. If we may judge from the style and tone of the preceding resolutions, we should certainly receive them as the legitimate expression of the popular sentiments and wishes, and, therefore, not very likely soon to be rescinded. However unfavourable these resolutions may be to the views of those of a different opinion, there does not appear any thing to object against the manner in which they have been formed; and had the other provinces acted similarly, instead of recurring to the use of arms, the country, if not constituted under the consolidated system, would at least have made some preliminary and useful steps towards its organization under the federal form. Such a line of conduct would have spared the blood which might have been shed in a better cause, and would have spared the future historian the pain of recording deeds which blot the pages resplendent with the glorious victories of the Uruguay and Itzaingo.

SALTA.

About the middle of January last the symptoms of a revolution began to appear in this province, which, until then, had been free from those disorders that have afflicted their neighbours for several months past. The Chief of the party which has risen in opposition to the government of General Arenales, is Don Jose Francisco de Gorriti, we believe an officer also in the same province. According to a diary of his operations, published in Cordoba, there have been a series of engagements between the two parties. The first engagement took place on the 26th of January, between a party of militia returning from Tucuman, who had accompanied Colonel Bedoya, and a body of grenadiers and gauchos under an officer of the name of Matute, by whom the former were beaten, with the loss of 40 killed. Another skirmish on the 30th, left eight dead on the field. Next an engagement, in which there were 20 killed. On the 2d of February, the insurgents were outside the town of Salta. On the 3d they received intelligence that Bedoya was on the march from Tucuman, for the purpose of attacking them; on which they retired to Punto de los Cerrillos. After several slight engagements with different detachments of the forces belonging to, or acting with Bedoya, the latter officer sent, on the 6th of February, a flag of truce to Gorriti, offering to the officers and men every guarantee if they would join themselves to his forces. This proposition was rejected. On the 7th, Bedoya marched for Chicuaana, a small town several leagues distant from Salta, and was followed thither by Gorriti, who then made preparations for attacking the town. The number of the forces must have been considerable, as the latter commander had under his orders a body of reserve amounting to 200 men, with no other arms than knives. A short time previous to the attack, Bedoya

sent a flag of truce, intimating to the insurgents, that if they attacked the town he would put them all to the sword. It was answered by the others, reminding him of their superior force in comparison of that of his party, offering at the same time, if he saw fit to surrender his troops, artillery, and ammunition, he and all his officers should have sufficient guarantee to retire to whatever part they pleased, but an understanding that if three minutes after the receipt of the answer they did not receive a reply, they would open fire. No reply was sent; and the whole of them, including the body of reserve, attacked the town at once, and the diary states, that in a quarter of an hour there were slain in the town of Chicuaana, colonel Bedoya, lieutenant-colonel Magan, 3 captains, 1 ensign, 171 privates, including 2 sergeants, a trumpeter, and 10 corporals, of 214 men which composed Bedoya's force in the town, the whole of which was either killed, wounded, or prisoners, while the loss on the other side, according to their own account, amounts to 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, and 16 privates, killed; 5 officers and 22 privates, wounded. On the following day, the victors despatched a messenger to the town of Salta, to inform the inhabitants of the object of their movement, which was to save the province of Salta from the oppression which it experienced under the despotic yoke of General Arenales, who, since the legal termination of his government, had appeared as an intruder, contrary to the fundamental institutions of the province, and opposed to its wishes and those of the sister provinces; and intimating that they should depose him from the command, and elect another in his stead, according to law. On the 9th, the army marched for the town, and on its way met the messenger it had despatched the day before, returning with the intelligence that General Arenales had fled in the night, and that the whole of the ammunition, arms, and stores in the town, were at the disposal of the army. He also brought an official document, containing the nomination of a new governor, by a popular junta. On the 10th the attacking army took possession of the town, without disturbing the public tranquillity, and orders were issued at all the commandants of troops should present themselves, with the arms of their respective companies; which had been obeyed successively, up to the date of the diary, Feb. 12, 1827.

TUCUMAN.

Copy of a Decree issued by the Governor of Tucuman.

"The delegate Governor and Captain-General of the province, has received intelligence of the unfortunate defeat which the division of Colonel Don Francisco Bedoya has suffered, in the town of Chicuaana. Surrounded by a numerous force, it has been sacrificed to the fury of those who attacked it, who, not respecting the sacred rights of war, have committed unheard of horrors on the defenceless prisoners, and even on the pacific citizens. The valiant officers and troops have fulfilled their duty, and sustained to the last extremity the honour of the people to which they belonged; but, overpowered by numbers, they were forced to bow the neck to the bloody knife of their pursuers, to whom at length remained the field of battle. After such a lamentable event, and when the Government is informed of the movement of forces for the purpose of watching this province, it is its duty to adopt measures which, by placing it in a strong position, may give it the respectability necessary to secure the honour of the people and the fortunes of the cities. The government is very far from proposing war; but it will charge the sacred duty it has entered upon, and will correct, worthily to the confidence which it has received, it cannot deliver itself up to a dangerous apathy, and is bound to provide the elements necessary to the important object of sustaining the country from the horrors which previously it has suffered. It swears, by every thing most sacred, not to require any sacrifice for the purpose of saving public tranquillity; and still it will know to respect the rights of the citizens, and to maintain the necessary harmony and maintenance of external relations, it will also know how to punish those who may attempt to disturb the interior order, and to second the views of those who labour to alter the dignified march of the virtuous people of Tucuman. Convinced, therefore, of the duty of exerting itself with the firmness proper in the critical circumstances which surround the province, and exercising the extraordinary authority with which it is invested by the honourable Junta, by a decree of the 30th ultimo, it has resolved and decreed the following:—

Article 1. From the publication of this decree, the province shall be considered in a state of war, and subject to martial law.  
2. Every individual residing therein, is bound to concur actively