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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1827.

(Vol. I.)

INTERIOR.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNT

OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CAPTURE OF THE BRAZILIAN FORCES SENT AGAINST PATAGONES.

Most Excellent Sir,

On the 27th of February this commandancy received information from the officer in charge of the battery, that two corvettes, one brig, and a schooner, were approaching the bar of the river. I thereon immediately despatched Colonel Pereira with the infantry, to occupy that point. The commanders of the privateers *Hijo de Mayo*, *Hijo de Julio*, and *Oriental Argentino*, with their crews, took upon themselves to serve the artillery. The signal of alarm was made, and fifty of the cavalry were sent under the orders of the said Colonel, together with the *baqueano* Molina, and twenty-three men of those who offered their services; the whole force being in a state of readiness to go to any part which necessity might require. The 28th, at six o'clock, the brig and a corvette, after having taken on board a number of men from the other vessels, gained the entrance of the bay, and were met by the fire of the battery, and the corvette *Duquesa de Goyas* got aground on the rocks, which by the day following she was a complete wreck, and the troops on board were saved, with the exception of those who were drowned. The rest were taken up by the *Sancti*, which then passed the bay under the command of Colonel Pereira, in consequence of the loss of the *Duquesa*, and a detachment in the *Bella Flor*, while the rest of the privateers supplied themselves to the works of this fortress, in which operations the corvette *Chacabuco* particularly distinguished herself by her activity, and who, notwithstanding the rain which fell upon the batteries and necessary stores: this activity enabled them until after midnight. The 29th, the *Bella Flor*, commanded by Captain Pedro Domingo, with the *Emperatriz* by the Captain *Hijo de Mayo*, and the schooner *Chiquita*, the second officer of the *Sancti*, Don Joaquin Sulen, in place of the first officer, was not notwithstanding the activity with which they were not ready until the corvette had floated, and prepared to receive them. On the 30th the corvette entered the bay, and landed part of the troops to the south, on which the *Sancti* was also landed, but the former abandoned her anchor, and part of the troops marched to the shore, and the *Sancti* fired upon the corvette, which in pursuance of the orders of the commandancy, by sending fire to the boats. The 31st, the *Sancti* burned the battery and the guns. On the 1st of March they re-embarked, and the brig and schooner set sail, but they had not proceeded further than three leagues and a half from the establishment when they disembarked, and taking a few men from the estancia of Don Juan Real, again embarked. On the 2nd, the commander of the infantry and the commanders of the vessels having held a council, the opinion offered by the Captain of the *Chacabuco* prevailed, which was to attack the enemy in their position, by marching a few infantry and cavalry to that point, to observe his movements; but the intelligence brought

by one who was sent to reconnoitre this position, stating that it was impossible to attack them with more than one vessel, put an end to the design for that day. On the 6th, the intrepid Captain of the *Chacabuco*, after having examined himself, and being convinced of the incorrectness of the previous statement, resolved in consequence to carry the design into effect. For this purpose the vessels at sunset set sail, and at a short distance from the mouth of the river the smack cast anchor, to wait for the *Oriental*, which had grounded. At this moment the commandancy received information that the enemy had landed on the northern side, although the number was not stated. On hearing this, the vessels remained in their station, and the land forces were prepared to receive the enemy. The commandancy also received advice that another division had landed towards the south, and had sent a flag of truce, requesting the sale of fresh beef. The division of the enemy marched all night by a circuitous route in the direction of the town, and at six o'clock on the morning of the 7th, it appeared on El Cerro de la Caballaria within gunshot of the fortress. There they were incommoded by the artillery of the vessels, and skirmishing parties of horse; the fire of the former killed the Chief of the expedition, in whose pocket was found the document the original of which I have the honour to enclose. It was owing to the death of their Chief, or the surprise occasioned there by our state of defence, which doubtless they did not count on, the enemy began to retreat from the position he occupied, and was harassed and pursued steadily by our cavalry, under the orders of the adjutant of this commandancy, Don Sebastian Olivera. While the enemy was thus pursued on land, our vessels made sail to attack the brig and schooner. The smack *Bella Flor*, under the Captain of the *Chacabuco*, with the activity and bravery which are his characteristics, advanced alone, and taking his position alongside the enemy, plied her so effectively that in a short time the brig surrendered. The schooner then cut her cable, and ran for the corvette, which was at the mouth of the river; in the attempt she ran aground, when her people endeavoured to save themselves in case of launch, but the swift schooner *Emperatriz* gave chase, and she surrendered immediately. The land division, fatigued with marching on a hard road during the night, and with the excessive firing of the day, augmented by the firing of the country, which had been directed in different parts to harass them, and, above all, distressed by thirst, they could oppose but little resistance. In this situation they were required to surrender, informing them at the same time of the capture of their vessels. They then surrendered, to the number of 306 privates and marines, with 11 officers; having experienced previously the same fate, 107 privates and 11 officers, who were taken in the brig and schooner. These vessels, if manned, they ran down to the corvette, which surrendered at 10 o'clock at night, with 100 soldiers and sailors, and 9 officers prisoners. So terminated the brilliant action of the 7th of March, on which day the arms of the Republic added new glory to that which already adorns them.—*Fuerte del Carmen, 20th March, 1827.*

MARTIN LACARRA.

To His Excellency the Minister of War and Marine.

The success which has attended the Republican arms in Patagones, is of all others the most complete, the least expensive, and the most unexpected, of any that has been obtained during the whole course of the war. The establishment of Patagones is only an insignificant colony, with a small military force stationed there for the protection of the inhabitants, engaged chiefly in pasturage.

Spang

INTERIOR.

IMPORTANT VICTORY AT PATAGONES.

On the 7th of March a Brazilian squadron, consisting of four vessels of war, and manned with 654 men, attacked the small establishment of Patagones. The inhabitants of the town, the crews of the privateers in the port and their commandes, together with the small military force at the Fuerte del Carmen, immediately took the most active measures for repelling the enemy, and succeeded in obtaining a more decisive victory than any which the whole war has hitherto afforded. They took three of the vessels, and the remaining one got aground at the entrance of the port, and went to pieces, with 35 or 40 of her crew, who perished. The names of the three prizes are as follows:—the corvette *Itaparica*, mounting fourteen 24 pound carronades, six long 12's, two of the latter of brass: the schooner brig *Escudero*, one 24 pound swivel, and four 12 pound carronades: the schooner *Constancia*, mounting one 18 pound swivel, and two carronades. The vessels are in good condition, having suffered little or no damage. The loss on the side of the Republic is but trifling: one officer of the privateer *Hijo de Julio*, 1 rifleman, and 2 seamen killed; 5 officers, 8 seamen and soldiers wounded. The enemy had 13 killed, and 6 wounded; among the former, Captain James Shepherd, the Chief of the Brazilian expedition, and among the latter Don Clemente Pautier. The director of the Republican forces at Patagones was James George Bysson, Captain of the *Chacabuco*, laid up in that port. On the body of Captain Shepherd was found a document, which informs us of the object of his visit. It was an address to the inhabitants of the colony, demanding the delivery of the vessels, property, and prisoners who had been brought thither by the privateers of Buenos Ayres and Banda Oriental. It concludes, (after assuming as a merit their having abstained from committing hostilities and having respected the property of the inhabitants on each side of the river,) with threatening, if the said vessels were not delivered up, that he would burn their dwellings! This was never said, but the threat was attempted to be executed, which ended in his own death, the loss of four vessels of war, and upwards of 600 men. Of these, 200 are Englishmen, who have offered their services to the Republic, so that all that is requisite to bring these vessels into useful action is a number of good officers. The Republican Squadron will then receive an addition of very considerable importance, most particularly in the *Itaparica*, a regular built war vessel, mounting 20 guns, and well found in ammunition and small arms. We have not the details of this engagement; but judging from the number of the enemy, the nature of the circumstances in which the people of Patagones were placed, the small number of the killed and wounded on both sides, and the decisiveness of the victory, there must have been displayed an uncommon portion of skill and manoeuvre on the part of the garrison. Perhaps the surrender of the Brazilians with such a slight loss, may be attributed to their commander soon after the commencement of the

of the population which extends between Santa Maria and Tacuarembó have returned to their dwellings, and have been placed in possession of their property. This part of the continent, which is one of the richest because of the abundance of cattle, has been divided into four military commandancies, which are governed by four of the principal inhabitants, and every measure in the power of the General has been taken, to assure order, and respect for the property of the people. After marches so painful, the army required a few days repose. The horses were greatly reduced; the destructive drought which had continued all the year, had entirely dried up the pasture, and it became absolutely necessary to scour a vast tract of country in different parties, to supply the army with horses. Some of these parties had penetrated as far as La Picada de San Martin, others have passed Casa-paba, and others the town of Labras, rich in mines, and which is situate on the coast of Camacuá. The people of the continent, fluctuating as the waves of the sea, and obliged to fly from the Republican Army by the tyrannical orders of their general, found that in all parts they were met with, equally as soon on the mountains as on the banks of the rivers; sometimes among the woods of a river were seen hundreds of families hiding themselves, and others sheltered among rocks. The plains were covered with the rich spoils abandoned by their owners, their immense establishments open and deserted, the desolation of the continent at its height, and the inhabitants cursing the cruelty of a government which obliged them to obey its severe orders, without protecting them from the Republican arms, which are the owners of all these riches.—Head Quarters on Arroyo de los Corrales, March 26, 1827.

LUCIO MANCILL.

REJOICINGS.

Several "Festivities" have lately taken place in different districts of this City, in honour of the two victories, at the sole expense of the inhabitants; affording us some recreation in these "dark" times of a blockaded Port, and a season of Letts. The illuminations and decorations were pretty, especially that in the Calle de la Victoria, on the 27th ultimo.—Flags waving from each house, (amongst them the British and North American, the Brazilian with that of Buenos Ayres waving over it,) the lights and transparencies, as viewed from the Plaza, down the Victoria Street, made a fine "coup d'œil." Inscriptions of Alvar, Breven, Ituzaingo, Uruguay, met the eye in every direction.—Military music on each side of the illuminated roads, increased the effect. The night proved serene, and displayed to great advantage the groupes of elegant and lovely females that thronged the streets, and occupied seats in front of various houses. The scene was altogether pleasing, and years hence may occur to the memory, when the present passing events have ceased to create an interest. To quote a very homely English proverb: "It is a poor heart that never rejoiceth."

The brig Santa Rita has arrived at the Salado. She is one of the prizes of the privateer boat Union Argentinio. Cargo, sugar, planks, cotton, &c. The privateer boat Margaret, Dunlop, had taken a zumaca, which was afterwards burnt. Cargo, rice, yerba, beans.

A fracas has taken place between the American Minister at Rio, and the Imperial Authorities, which ended in the former demanding his passport. It is said to have originated in the seizure of an American armed ship by the Brazilians. The particulars of the differences, or the dispute, we are unacquainted with, and for this reason cannot form any idea of the merits of the case, or its probable consequences on the relations between the two powers.

NATIONAL ARMY.

On Thursday, an officer from the Army arrived with a Bulletin of its operations. The following are the particulars:—The Imperial army have retired to the neighbourhood of Rio Negro, on San Lorenzo, for the purpose of sheltering themselves in the dense mountains and woods which place them beyond the reach of Manuel, who, in consequence of the attack of the 20th of February, and the loss of the Imperial army, with a division of 1000 men, and a considerable amount of stores. In the meantime, Commandant Melon, of the Pasadizo, was ordered with a detachment to take Santa Ana, the last of the Imperial army, a force of 300 men, and a party of 100 men was stationed at this point, since the Imperial army, to guard the stores, provisions, clothing, &c. &c. Commandant Molilla arrived, they set fire to the whole, and retreated precipitately. A few days before, Colonel Manuel Duran had destroyed other depots of the enemy, which were at the pass of La Armada, on the Itchy, so that the whole of the stores which the Emperor had prepared on the continent for his army, and they were sufficient to supply for two years triple the number of men he had in the field, have been entirely destroyed. The battle of Ituzaingo has calmed the fears of the inhabitants of the continent; the whole

On the 19th ultimo, the Constitution was discussed and accepted by the Imperial Junta of the Banda Oriental, and, as appears by the despatch to the Government, out of twenty members, seventeen voted in its acceptance; the remaining three did not object, but wished it to be left to the decision of Congress. Its acceptance has caused great rejoicings throughout the province.—May their present sentiments never be changed.

According to letters from Méndez, Quiroga left San Juan on the 20th ultimo, and has marched to Catamarca.

The provincial legislature of San Luis was to assemble on the 23d ultimo, for the purpose of taking into consideration the Constitution. It is believed, also, that Santiago del Estero is about to follow her example. If it be realized, we may shortly expect that it will go into operation if the legal approbation be obtained, or that a new Congress will be formed, for the purpose of framing one on a different basis.

The President of the Republic has issued a Decree, containing a new body of regulations for the government and conduct of the "Sociedad de Beneficencia," established in this city. According to these, there are three premiums to be awarded in the following manner:—one for Morality; another for Industry; the third for Filial Love. The premium for morality is 200 dollars, and shall be given to the Female who may have distinguished herself most by her morality, and by the practice of the virtues belonging to her sex and station. The premium for industry, 100 dollars, will be given to the Female who may have exerted herself most to acquire honestly, and by industrious labour, the means of subsistence either for herself, or for her parents or children. The premium for filial love, 100 dollars, will be awarded to the