

THE
British Packet,
AND
ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 56.) BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1827. (Vol. 2.)

BUENOS AYRES.

Whatever evils the war may have caused to the internal affairs of the country, the city itself presents no very marked appearance of distress. Many persons, who have returned to it after three or four years absence, speak of the great improvements which have taken place. New buildings erected; elegant carriages, belonging to natives and foreigners, roll through the streets. A short time since, every vehicle of that description was well known, and indeed they were so few and old fashioned, that one might have supposed them the antiques of the "olden times" of Cortez and Pizarro; now it is necessary to enquire the owners; and one often hears the question: "Whose carriage is that?"

Again the tasteful decorations of the different shops, the introduction of confectioners, the improvement in the theatre, especially the establishment of an opera:—Old Spain, when these things are related, will feel some surprise, if not a stronger sentiment.

As it regards the war, we sincerely hope and think the nation has passed the "fiery ordeal." The emperor doubtless expected to effect as severe a blockade as did our Third Edward upon Calais, when the expression was proverbial that "not a rat could enter." This little touch of adversity may bring the country acquainted with advantages which else might have rested in obscurity. Harbours have been, and more may yet be, discovered, in their noble river and on the coast of the province. We repeat, Brazil never can enforce an effectual blockade; and how long foreign nations will suffer their commerce to be interrupted in order to aggrandize or suit the humour of one obstinate individual, we will not pretend to determine: our opinion is that the thread of endurance is nearly spun out as it regards foreign forbearance.

Rumours have been lately in circulation that a negotiation for peace was still going on, and that the Emperor had somewhat abated his high demands upon an opponent whose arms have been always victorious.—These *on dits* we believe to be totally without foundation; and that nothing remains but to continue the contest. The Republic is placed in the same dilemma which our great bard puts in the mouth of one of his most sublime creations;

To be, or not to be—that is the question:

Whether she shall exist as a nation, with those boundaries that Nature seems to have marked out for her; or be a mere appendage to the Brazilian empire; whose vessels, masters of Monte Video, can intercept the navigation of the river at pleasure; and whose bayonets, glittering from Maldonado to Las Vacas, would reflect the ignominy of the Argentines in the very theatre of their glories.

We are not advocates for war; but under present circumstances it is folly to mince the question, or take a pounds-shillings and pence view of it. Peace, any peace, may be wished for by some; but if it should not meet with the approbation of the people, it may for years be the cause of civil war in every part of the republic: therefore it is better to put a bold front upon the business. We wish for a solid, durable peace, which shall not depend on the caprice of a man who, possessing two thrones, both in jeopardy, may probably, at no very distant day, find himself without one.

Six Brazilian prisoners of war have made their escape from Caquel, viz: Captain Broom, 3 English or Americans, and 2 Portuguese. Broom and his companions, we hear, were seen about the Salado on the 22nd ult. attired in gaucho costume, poncho, handkerchief round the head, &c.; their appearance did not at first create particular observation. Broom passed himself off as a Dutchman, and stated that he had been 14 years in this country. He went on board the American brig Independence. The brig had only one person on board, viz, the ship-keeper, and he had been a deserter from the Brazilian service; considerable confidence was however placed in his integrity. The prisoners, in conjunction with this man, ran away with the brig's boat at night, taking with them a compass, a hammer, and a few other things; and it is supposed had gone for Monte Video. They had not arrived at that port on the 25th instant. A gale of wind came on soon after their departure, and the boat was very leaky. The gun-boat stationed at the Salado was aground, but fired two musket shots at the runaways.

It is due to the country that an enquiry should be made into the circumstances of their escape from Caquel. It is said the commandant of that post immediately sent a *chasque* to the Salado communicating the event; and that government has ordered the affair to be investigated.

This is the second occurrence of the sort lately. The escape of captain Anderson we before noticed. Prisoners of war of a certain grade are generally allowed their *parole d'honneur*. To break it subjects the parties to the contempt of every man of honor, and to close confinement if retaken. We know not under what circumstances Anderson, Broom, and his companions were placed. Broom certainly stated in Buenos Ayres that he would escape, if possible, unless the government gave him his parole. A prisoner of war, unless he have passed his parole, is perfectly justified in endeavouring to free himself.

Accounts from Monte Video to 25th instant state the arrival of American brig *Arethusa*, from Philadelphia. The British Frigate *Forte* and brig of war *Cadmus* were at that port; also the American corvette *Boston*, Brazilian frigate *Isabel*, corvette *Liberal*, brigs *Piraja* and *Caboclo*; the latter under repair. It is said that admiral Pintos Guedez is appointed governor of Monte Video, retaining his command of the fleet in the River Plate; and that Magessi is to return to Rio Janeiro. General Lecor takes the command of the army in Rio Grande. The *Emperatriz* frigate

is cruising to the southward; and several small privateer boats from Monte Video are looking out along the coast for recaptures. It was known at Monte Video that captain Lewis, pilot to the packet Lord Melville, had been taken out by the blockading squadron, and the affair caused considerable conversation in British and North-American societies. The Brazilian frigate Isabel is reported to be in good order and well manned. She and the Forte frigate were under weigh together a few days since; but although the latter is considered a swift vessel, the Isabel beat her.

It has been for some time known and announced in the gazettes, that the squadron at Patagones was ready for sea. It is reported to have sailed about the 12th instant. It is in excellent condition; well found in all sorts of stores, and manned chiefly by English and American seamen. It consists of corvette Chacabuco, 24 guns, 180 men, commodore George Bysson, captain Chambers, (late sailing-master;) corvette Ituzaingo (late Itaparica,) captain Mason; schooner brig Patagones (late Escudero,) captain Love. The above vessels had been cruising outside the bar for some days, waiting to convoy the late American brig Ann, which the government had bought in order to convey 300 prisoners from Patagonica. She had not been able to get out for want of water. The privateer brig Oriental Argentino, captain Bibois, and ditto schooner Bella Flora, captain Harris, are supposed to have sailed. Captain Bysson would not permit any thing to leave the port until after his departure. The prize ship Condesa du Ponte, of 600 tons, was laying in a port on the coast fitting out as a privateer; having been purchased for 13,000 dollars; captain d'Antant to command. No prizes arrived lately. The detained British brig Huskisson was discharging her cargo.

- Willblood is first lieutenant of the Itaparica.
- Rolls, second ditto.
- Livingston, purser of the Itaparica.
- Helmsholdt first lieutenant of the Chacabuco.
- Bailey, Doctor of ditto.
- Atwell, Midshipman of ditto.
- William and Henry Mason, midshipmen on board the Itaparica.

The Brazilian schooners got roughly handled in the attack they made upon schooner Eleventh of June, when aground, and No. 11 gun-boat, on the 23rd ult. They confess to having six men wounded. One of the wounded men had his leg amputated, and another the calf of his leg shot away. A 24lb shot lodged in the mast of one of the schooners, and other damage was sustained. They certainly came off second best in both their late experimental visits.

Captain Coe, in the schooner Juncal (late Camilla,) has been to Valparaisa to purchase arms, and has sailed again from thence.

The Brazilian brig Twenty-ninth of August spoke the Packet yesterday, and left despatches from the British consul at Monte Video for Lord Ponsonby.

The gun-boat No. 3; one of the Brazilian prizes, was run away with from the Salado on the 29th instant, by her crew, 21 in number, consisting of all nations. The captain, Supichaca, was ashore. The general Brown privateer has gone in pursuit. There have been sad complaints relative to the authorities at the Salado. The government has enquired into, and remedied a part of them.

Much indignation has been expressed against those of our countrymen in the Brazilian navy for combatting in a cause so little consonant to English feelings, viz; that the Emperor of Brasils should retain an unjust possession. They have been called mercenaries, and we know not what. Such language is

really unfair: many of them entered that service under very different circumstances, at a time when the independence of Brasil was supposed to be menaced, and now continue in it from necessity. Lord Cochrane wisely withdrew. He well knew that in a war with this republic nothing but contempt would follow his remaining in the service; by withdrawing he left that as a legacy to others.

In Monte Video provisions have lately advanced considerably in price. Fresh beef, on the 25th ult, was at 20 rs. the arroba.

The accounts from Rio Janeiro state that the frigates Nichteroy, Paula, and Paraguassu are employed in convoying vessels. The Spark brig of war is cruising about the coast. In the affair of the French frigate and the privateer, public opinion is decidedly against the French captain.

On 27th instant an entertainment was given on board the schooner privateer Vengadora Argentina. The firing of cannon announced the different toasts.

Dog killing.—Surely some better plan could be introduced than the present disgusting mode of destroying the dogs in the streets of this city. It is familiarizing the younger parts of society to scenes of cruelty, and affording sport to the convicts and others who act as executioners in this disgraceful scene. The valuable house dog, the lady's pet, all fall victims. Cannot a heavy tax or penalty be imposed to diminish their number?

The reason assigned for taking captain Lewis from the Lord Melville packet when acting as pilot is, that Mr. Hood, British Consul at Montevideo, had not written to the Brazilian admiral advising him of the event. Captain Lewis has returned to Montevideo in the Dove Packet. Norton treated him with considerable attention.

The following decree was published on the 27th. This measure ought, we think, to have been resorted to 12 months ago.

Buenos Aires, August 27th 1827.

The abuse which the subjects of the emperor of Brasils make of the excessive tolerance which has been accorded them, in permitting them to serve, and even to command, in the national vessels existing in the ports of this province, being notorious—

The government has decreed:

Art. 1. The subjects of the emperor of Brasils, during the present war, are rigorously prohibited from embarking, either as seamen or masters, on board the vessels existing in the ports of this province.

Art. 2. Those who shall be found transgressing, after the expiration of this decree, shall be apprehended, and placed at the disposal of the commandant general of cavalry militia colonel D. J. M. Rozas, to be employed in the organization of the new frontier.

Art. 3. The owners or masters of vessels on board which shall be found, after the expiration of the before mentioned term, any of the individuals expressed in article 1, shall be considered as accomplices in an offence against public security, and subject to the punishment corresponding to such cases.

Art. 4. The commandant-general of marine shall take the necessary precautions for preventing the registering of such Brazilian subjects, and shall furnish the police department with the information and auxiliaries necessary for the fulfilment of the preceding articles.

Art. 4. That this decree be communicated to all whom it may concern, published, and inserted in the Official Register.

MANUEL DORREGO.
Juan Ramon Balcarce.

During the performance of the opera of *Italiana en Argel* a few evenings since, when it came to that part in which the Dey's attendants appear laughing at each other in their burlesque European attire, a sailor in the pit enquired what it meant. On being told, he replied: "I thought it was Brazilian officers receiving crosses."

Two zumacas have arrived off the coast from Patagonia; one, with salt and bale goods, to Mr. Ford; the other to Mr. Arriola. A prize to the brig *Presidente* was dismasted at sea; Mackenzie prize-master. She was met by another prize of same privateer. They took out three of the crew and brought them to the Salado. Mackenzie, and some others, remained in the launch of the prize. The prize that brought the three men was burned by her crew near the Salado, as related in our last, and one of the three men had an arm and a leg broken by a fall from the fore-top.

The officers in the Brazilian armament taken at Patagonia have resided since their capture at San Gabriel, a few leagues from the port. They were afterwards put on board the American brig *Ann*, with the rest of the prisoners, in order to be conducted to the Salado, or some other port, and have probably ere this arrived. The following are the names of some of them. Captains Eyre, Watson, Lisboa, Lieutenants Hayden, Carter, Fitz Costa, Browning, Ousely, and Tupper. Captain Pautier, the frenchman, is in close confinement, for entering the harbour, and firing several shots, the flag of the Republic flying at the peak. Pautier is likewise outlawed by his master, the Emperor, and between the two belligerents he has a poor chance. All the prisoners are represented to be in the best of health, and San Gabriel a Paradise for a climate like that of Patagonia.

The Brazilian brig *Invincible*, prize to the General Brandzen brig privateer, taken off Rio Janeiro, laden with wine, Horn prize-master, has arrived at the Salado.

August 30th; arrived from the Salado a launch: she sailed from thence on the 27th.

A prize zumaca with hides and beef has arrived off the coast, and another with flour and sugar at the Salado; both prizes of the *Sin Par*.

On 27th ult. a zumaca, supposed a prize, was in the offing of the Salado.

On the same day arrived here an American schooner, with a Brazil cargo, and other effects; 15 days from Rio Janeiro. She was near the blockading squadron on the morning of the 27th. The Brazilians had the flag of the Republic hoisted as a decoy, but as it did not succeed they chased, firing several shot without effect. Several Brazilian schooners continued the chase; when the schooners Sarandi, Twenty-ninth December, Eleventh June, and No. 11 gun-boat left the inner roads, and the Brazilians retired, the chase having completely distanced them.

Sailed privateer schooner *Triunfo Argentino*, captain Villiard, on a cruise. She has a crew of 80 persons, chiefly French and Italians, and is armed with one long 18 pounder and six 12lb carronades.

Sailed schooner of war 29th December, Smith, for Rosario. It is reported she has gone to take on board 100 seamen from Santa Fe; sailed also schooner 11th of June, Hídulgo, for Banda Oriental, and two zumacas for the Parana.

August 28th: sailed British brig packet *Dove*, Forster, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro, and Falmouth; with several passen-

gers, including Walter Cope, Esq., appointed British consul to Guayaquil, and his lady.

August 29th: sailed schooner of war Sarandi; admiral Brown, captain D. J. Ribelo, and No. 11 gun-boat, for Martin Garcia.

August 31st. Arrived a Sardinian schooner, with general cargo: she got aground north of the Recoleta. Assistance has been sent; and she will probably get off without damage.

Sept. 1. Arrived schooner of war Uruguay, from Martin Garcia; and a schooner, supposed the General Brown privateer, from the Salado.

The governor of Colonia, General Rodriguez, is at Monte Video, and expected to return to Colonia in corvette *Liberal Magessi* is recalled.

On the morning of the 26th instant, off Monte Video, the British brig *Ann*, from Liverpool, was boarded by privateer boat Republican; and some goods were taken out under pretext that the arms of Brasil were attached to the cockets, and therefore they were a lawful prize. This form is necessary in clearing out from England for any Brazilian port. Two boats from the frigate were despatched in pursuit, and overtook the privateer. The latter fired at the boats, but was boarded; when 2 of the privateersmen were killed, 2 wounded, and 2 escaped in a boat. Sixteen men, including the captain, José Maria Ouzas, (a Catalan,) were taken prisoners, and conducted on board the *Forte*. The privateer likewise is taken. None of the frigate's men were hurt.

There is no foundation for the report that small vessels are fitting out at Monte Video, to bombard this city: there was only one schooner of war in Monte Video on the 30th instant.

The escaped prisoners of war, Broom and others, had not arrived at Monte Video on 30th ult. They have perhaps joined the blockading squadron.

Accounts from Monte Video to 30th ult. state the following arrivals:—British brig *Mary*, from London and Bordeaux; *do. do. Ann*, from Liverpool 12th June; a Swedish ship from the Canaries; a French brig; and the American brig *Niger* from Rio Janeiro.

About six weeks since the corvette *Macaico*, brig *Independence* 6 Morto and Caboclo, sailed together on a cruise, separated, and the *Macaico* has not since been heard of.

The packet *Dove*, from this 28th, arrived at Monte Video on the evening of the 29th.

A schooner from Monte Video, with flour, has arrived at Patagonica. The captain is named Green.

On Wednesday morning last, a brig, having on board nearly 100 of the prisoners, including the officers captains Eyre, Watson, and the rest we have named in another part of our paper, arrived at Monte Video. On anchoring they gave three cheers. We are ignorant of the exact circumstances which have led to this untoward event; but are informed that she was to have proceeded under convoy of the Patagonian squadron; got aground near Patagonia; and the convoy not being in sight, the prisoners rose upon the crew, consisting only of 7 men, and conducted the brig to Monte Video.

The late prisoner of war, captain Anderson, now commands the Brazilian brig of war *Marathon*, of 18 guns, off this port. When he was at Colonia and Montevideo lately he threatened Buenos Ayres most lustily; vowing revenge for alleged ill-treatment whilst a prisoner. He was equally boisterous at Patagonia when captured. Anderson cannot justly complain of ill-treatment: he rode about the country almost wherever he pleased, and had besides, other advantages.

Rose, late of the *Piranga* frigate, is the present captain of the three-masted schooner. It is his own fault that, in his rencontre with the *Sarandi*, he was not transplanted to another soil.

Died on 24th. ult. in this city, Mr. John Handel, aged 47. The deceased was an officer under admiral Brown in the year 1814, and served with him against the old Spaniards off Monte Video and Martin Garcia. He had been fifteen years in this country.

Rio de la Plata Mining Company.

A special meeting of Shareholders was held yesterday at the London Tavern, M. Hathorn, one of the Board of Directors, in the Chair, to receive the Report of the Committee appointed in February last.

The Report detailed the progress of Captain Head's (their commissioner's) operations in Buenos Ayres, and attributed the failure of their plans entirely to the injudicious conduct of that Gentleman, who left the country, according to the Report, at a time when everything promised favourably for the affairs of the Association, and returned without permission to England, leaving things abroad in a most unsettled state. The Report adverted to the loss which the Company had sustained, amounting to 54,000l., but stated that Mr. Bunster, of Santiago de Chili, to whom the Company had advanced the sum of 5000l towards working their two mines in that country, was now willing either to return that sum and work the mines for himself, or give the Association an opportunity to partake, in an equitable manner, of the profits arising from their produce. The Report recommended the adoption of the latter plan, and after enumerating the number of shares on which the second deposit of 2l. 10s. had not been paid, in conclusion stated, that the Directors had given their services gratuitously.

Mr. Hill, one of the Committee, moved the adoption of the Report, and a resolution that the Directors be requested to act on the recommendation it contained.

A long discussion then arose between several of the Shareholders on the propriety of proceeding further with the undertaking.

The Report was finally adopted, as was the resolution recommending the Directors to act upon it, without a dissentient voice. The meeting then adjourned.

(*Courier*, June 12.)

Beethoven, the celebrated musical composer, died a few months since at Vienna. He had latterly been in great poverty. George IV. and the Philharmonic Society of London rendered him pecuniary assistance. The oratorio of the Mount of Olives, and the battle piece of *Victoria*, were the most popular of his productions in London. Beethoven had all the prejudices of foreign professors in the idea that English musicians could not effectually perform grand musical compositions. They (the British), said Beethoven, have gained the battle of *Victoria* in the field, but cannot compass it in the orchestra. It was however performed with great effect at Drury Lane theatre, and though occupying more than half an hour in representation, was generally encored. Two hundred and twenty instrumental performers were engaged in it, with two military bands of music of the foot-guards. Sir George Smart was the director, and at the rehearsal addressed the musicians, informing them of Beethoven's assertion. The

piece commenced by the British trumpet sounding defiance answered by the French: the British army advance to battle, their band playing *Ruie Britannia*: the French advance, band playing *Marlbrook*; and the effect of the disjointed notes of the French officers to the latter air, upon the supposed defeat, was really beautiful.

THEATRE.

Ricciolini had his benefit on the night of the 27th ult. The performances were a burlesque musical piece in one act, a comic dance with the gavotte, and the second act of the opera of *Cenerentola*. The house was extremely crowded. The first piece had some pretty music ill bestowed on a very trifling production. The best part of the dance was the music of the minuet from Don Giovanni. *Cenerentola* compensated for all; and the songs of Doña Angeta Tani in the last scenes sent us home, as they always do, with feelings which, like the Baron of Oakland, we "want words to describe." She sung divinely, and the loud applause, so unusual at this theatre, testified how much the audience had been delighted. Many elegant females graced the boxes, presenting a fair specimen of portena beauty; and viewing an audience so splendid a stranger would scarcely believe this to be a blockaded port. Buenos Ayres is not so *triste* as some imagine. Norton parades his squadron to amuse us by day, and at night we have the theatre.

Some good comedies and farces have been performed lately. Matilda Diez should correct that incessant inclination to laugh. Felipe David is the perfection of comic actors, a true Child of Nature, though not quite an Amanthis. Study would spoil him. In a farce the other evening his rogueries and attempt at robbery, the latter quite in the Grimaldi style, convulsed the house with laughter. The opera of *Italiana en Argel* was performed on 30th ult.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublings, 66 to 67 dollars each.
Spanish Dollars, 275 per cent premium.
Gold in bars, 22 rs. per quilate.
Silver in bars, 21 rs. pr. dinero.
Exchange on England, 11d per dollar.
Ditto on Rio Janeiro, 333 rees currency per dollar (nominal).
Ditto on Monte Video, 215 do. do.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

BRITISH PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIBERS and British residents in Buenos Ayres, are respectfully informed that a General Meeting of this Institution will take place (at which their attendance is particularly requested) on Monday, September 3rd, at Fauch's Hotel, at 7 o'clock in the evening; for the purpose of taking into consideration and appointing the time from which the distribution of the funds is to commence, and finally arranging all such business as may give effect to the views of the society.

F. VINCENT, Secretary.

This day is published, price 4 reals, an Essay on the CHRISTIAN SABBATH; being the substance of two Discourses delivered in the Protestant Episcopal Chapel of Buenos Ayres. By John Armstrong, B. A. Sold at No. 43 Calle del Peru.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP.

The friends of religious instruction in Buenos Ayres, are respectfully informed that the *Presbyterian meeting* formerly held in a back room of the house No. 17 calle del Peru, has been transferred to the large sala in the same house, on the left of the first patio: the room formerly occupied having been found too small to accommodate the congregation. Efforts have been made to render the sala comfortable. All who are disposed to unite for religious worship with those who assemble there, are cordially invited to attend on the Sabbath at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M.

The Sabbath school is continued as usual in the same house.

JOHN G. FAY,

PAINTER AND PAPER-HANGER,

Begs to inform the public that he has removed his store to No. 25 calle de la Victoria—All kinds of furniture painted.