

THE

# British Packet,

AND

## ARGENTINE NEWS.

This Paper will be published every SATURDAY. The Subscription for three months 3 dollars. All communications to be addressed to the Editor and left at No. 47, Calle del 25 de Mayo, or at the State Printing Office, where Subscriptions are received.

No. 60.) BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1827. (VOL. 2.)

### GREAT-BRITAIN.

London papers to the 20th July have been received by the packet Zephyr. They contain no very important intelligence. Parliament was prorogued on 2nd July, by a very short speech read by the Lord Chancellor; it states the probability of a continuance of peace, as it regards England, and that efforts are unceasingly directed in conjunction with his Majesty's allies, to the termination of existing hostilities and to the maintenance of general peace. That employment has gradually revived in the manufacturing districts, and that, in respect to the corn laws, his Majesty hopes that some arrangement will be adopted in the ensuing session to satisfy all classes.

Russia, France, and England have signed a treaty for the purpose of bringing about peace between the Turks and Greeks. The following is copied from a London Paper on this subject.

"The Greek provinces are, it seems, to choose their government; that is to say the internal order and administration of affairs are to be left to the Greek States themselves. But the paramount, and as it were feudal rights of sovereignty, are to be preserved to Turkey. The Porte is to have a veto, or power of prohibition, upon the composition of this new Greek government, and the persons who are to be at the head of it. In other words, the government is to be assimilated as nearly as possible to that which prevails in the Turkish provinces of Egypt, Wallachia and Moldavia. Greece is to be internally independent: externally subject to the sovereignty of the Turks, and liable to pay a kind of tribute to the Porte. If the Turks shall not consent to this arrangement, what is to be done? The secret articles of the treaty stipulate between the contracting parties, that if Turkey will not listen to the accommodation proposed, they will compel her by arms. Each of the great powers is to furnish a contingent force, and the Greek provinces will, in that event, be altogether emancipated from the Turkish sway."

Buenos Ayrean and Brazilian stock were at nearly the same price in London, viz, 59 and a fraction.

Lord William Bentinck is appointed Governor General in India in the room of Lord Amherst.

The Marquis of Lansdowne is secretary of state for the home department.

Lord Carlisle is appointed lord privy seal, and Mr. Sturges Bourne succeeds Lord Carlisle as first commissioner of woods and forests.

In the other branches of the administration there has been but little alteration. It is supposed that in the course of next year the Marquis of Angelsea will be appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland.

### BUENOS AYRES.

When the flag of truce was seen standing towards the inner roads on Saturday afternoon, it caused but little sensation. Its purport was supposed to be an exchange of prisoners. About nine o'clock in the evening it was whispered in the theatre during the opera that a lieutenant of the British frigate Thetis had landed. Then began the anxious enquiries, as to what could be the mission. Was it peace? "and Yamen's visage grew blanker and blanker." It was evident that such an event was viewed with alarm by a great portion in the house, or rather that the theatre contained some heavy Bulls: nay we have heard that contracts of buying and selling took place the same evening. On Sunday the bustle increased; and that part of the town in which it was likely to obtain information was thronged with the speculating world. Each had a tale to tell. One asserted that the emperor had offered to treat with the Banda Oriental separately, but that the insidious proposal had been referred to Buenos Ayres as the head-quarters of the nation to which they belonged; that his Majesty, on hearing this, got into a passion, declaring he would never treat with such a rascally set of republicans as the Buenos Ayreans, except they submitted unconditionally to his terms: no, amigo; we shall have no peace in this, nor perhaps in all next year. But the lieutenant brought on shore a large balija, crammed with despatches for Lord Ponsonby. — Si, señor, es verdad; reclamaciones, nothing more. Our corsarios, at least some of them, have become rogues, and the balija contains an inventory of plundered cargoes. The English officer was sought for to enquire if any vessel bringing dispatches had arrived at Monte Video from Rio Janeiro, but he was not to be found. Some said that, aware of the persecution he was likely to endure, in answering the numerous questions, he had determined, with good advice to imitate Lord Buteleigh, and keep all state secrets, secret.

Castelli, who brought Lieut Fitzroy on shore, was then interrogated: he said he recollected the said lieutenant when midshipman in the frigate Owen Glendower, and that a great scarcity of fresh provisions existed in Monte Video: but all this had nothing to do with the object they wished to ascertain. It was 'cold news,' or, indeed, none at all to anxious men. "If it were peace, would not a vessel of war have conveyed the officer hither, instead of troubling the Portuguese?" To this was answered, that statesmen were obliged to be mysterious. It was fully to depend on outward outward appearances when politics were in question; and that John Lump's homely observation applied equally to the political machine: "Never trust a man that deals in horses: that I learnt in York." And all agreed that it was best to be prepared, as peace might come like a thief in the night.

In the want of official intelligence, rumour states that the despatches brought from Monte Video relate to the conduct of the privateers.

It is said that several boats are fitting out in Monte Video, to act as privateers in this neighbourhood.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

Buenos Ayres, September 22 1826.

The government of the province of Buenos Ayres considering that the non-fulfilment of a contract is a violation of that good faith which is the principal basis of commerce and of all social intercourse; that to authorize it is to commit a breach of morality and to protect fraud; considering that the decree of the 10th of May, 1826, given by the president of the republic; by which it is enacted that all contracts, of sale, lease, loan, or any other whatsoever, which shall contain a stipulation to pay at a certain time a sum in specie, shall be legally fulfilled on paying the said sum in the current money, and that any stipulation in a contract which shall exclude the intervention of the current money for making effective payments shall be considered as null and void, not only propagates these vices, but destroys that right which every man has to dispose of that which belongs to him as shall best suit his purpose, so long as he act not in opposition to the laws, and public order; and that instead of making men moral and virtuous, it opens the door to bad faith; that since the publication of said decree, many actions have been entered which serve only to occupy the attention of the tribunals, and to involve individuals in enmity and discord; and lastly, seeing that the national executive had not the power to abolish the laws which regulate the nature of contracts and the mode of their fulfilment; has accorded and decreed:

Art. 1. The said decree of the 10th of May 1826 shall be considered as null and void in the territory of the province; and are consequently in force the laws which regulate contracts, and the mode of their fulfilment.

2. The minister secretary of government is charged with the fulfilment of this decree, which shall be transmitted to all whom it may concern, and inserted in the Official Register.

DORREGO.  
*Manuel Moreno.*

PROCLAMATION.

*The government of Entre Rios to its inhabitants.*

Countrymen! Forty-three militia men, headed by captain D. Tomas Coseres, abandoning their homes, and joining in the woods of Montiel have risen against the authorities. The group they form is despicable in every sense; but the act is scandalous.

Citizens! The government, in making known to you this contemptible event, assures you that every thing is disposed for the pursuit and extermination of these rebels, who have dared to disturb your tranquillity; and at the same time counts on your noble efforts in the support of order, the laws, and the legitimate authorities. Paraná, September 15 1827.

*Mateo Garcia.*  
*José Maria Echandía.*  
A true copy. *Pereira.*

Letters up to the date of the 21st state that the insurrection had taken an alarming appearance; but that, notwithstanding, they were in hopes soon to be able to reestablish tranquillity.

We are glad to observe that the readings from Dr. Brown's lectures continue to be so well attended, not only by the European youth; but by the *hijos del pais*. Indeed we were convinced from the outset, that neither of them would allow such a favourable opportunity to pass, without becoming somewhat acquainted with the beautiful philosophy and the inimitable composition of such a master. We attended the lectures on Friday evening, and we have seldom or never, we must confess, return-

ed from any intellectual junta more soothed or mentally gratified. They are surely mistaken who assert that no good can emanate from these lectures: they may call them abstruse—abstract, and metaphysical—but the very *assertion* betrays an ignorance of the science in question. It by no means follows, (as too many imagine) that because the whole lecture may not, or cannot be comprehended, that no good can arise from it. The youngest *tyro* in the philosophy of the mind is fully aware that a train of thinking, and consequently a useful enquiry, (for the end of all enquiry is truth,) may be created by a single new idea brought vividly before the "mind's eye;" and for producing these it cannot be denied that the science of the mind excells all others.

As the manuscript Spanish translation of Brown's lectures was found to be imperfect and indistinct, a new course has been adopted from the *Moral Universal*. These were read by el Señor Lagosta in a very able and feeling manner.

On the 9th instant arrived at Monte Video the British brig Pacific, from Tarragona to Monte Video. The master reports being boarded and plundered in 12. 35. N. lat. 24. 36. W. longitude, by an armed schooner-brig, stated to be the Congress, privateer of Buenos Ayres, commander Jaymen Galat. There is no schooner-brig privateer out from this port. The brig of war Congress sailed from Buenos Ayres the 14th instant. Buenos Ayres will have to endure all the odium of privateer piracies, as every pirate will take the advantage of circumstances, and hoist the flag of Buenos Ayres, and her enemies will not fail to exaggerate each event, however trifling.

The following officers are about to embark to join the army. General Henrique Martinez, colonel of the regiment No. 16, and appointed second in command of the army; commandants D. Jose Olavarría, and D. Vicente Balbastro, besides several subaltern officers.

A *zumaca* with Brazil wood, prize to the *Sin Par*, put into a port near cape Frio (leaky.) The crew were made prisoners. The prize-master's mate has since escaped, and arrived in Buenos Ayres.

September 27. Arrived privateer boat *Adventure*, captain Hugo Campbell, from a cruise; she has been near Mattonado and the capes; but has not made any prizes. Several Brazilian vessels of war were lately in that neighbourhood. Saw on the 26th five vessels, supposed to be admiral Brown's division, steering down the river.

Sept. 22. In the afternoon the Rio schooner approached the inner roads, with a flag of truce at the fore, and fired a gun. The ship 25th of May then hoisted a flag of truce and fired a gun: Lieutenant Castelli, in the *Esguardo* boat, also carrying a white flag at the bow, was despatched to the schooner, then hove to about 2 miles from the inner roads; and from the boisterous weather had great difficulty in getting alongside. At about half-past 8 at night she landed Lieutenant Fitzroy, of the British frigate *Thetis*, from Monte Video 20th instant, with dispatches for Lord Pousonby. The British frigate *Thetis* sailed from Rio Janeyro on the 14th August; touched at St. Catherine's and Santos, and arrived at Monte Video on the 3rd instant; since which she has been on a short cruise.

Sept. 24. A schooner brig was observed to the S. S. E. standing up. The Brazilians got under weigh, and the strange vessel was detained. She is supposed to be a Sardinian; and by coming up in the day time, had probably the idea that the war was at an end.



## THE BRITISH PACKET, AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

September 24th. Sailed from Martin Garcia the following national vessels on a cruise:

Schooner *Seraudi*, admiral Brown, captain A. J. Ribero.  
Schooner brig 8th of February, captain Espora.  
Schooner 9th of February, captain Rosales.  
Schooner *Maldonado*, captain Toll.  
Brig *Balcarce*, captain F. Segui.

The schooner 30th of July, captain Maximin, sailed with admiral Brown, but was ordered back on account of her bad sailing. They are supposed to have gone down the river, as they passed Colonia on the 25th. On 26th, at 8 o'clock in the morning, the report of cannon was heard to the eastward; the blockading-squadron got under weigh, and steered N. E. having probably some intimation of Brown's movements. The guns heard were doubtless signals to the Brazilians from some of their squadron. None of them have been in sight of this since the 26th instant.

Sept. 25. Arrived at Ensenada zumaca privateer general Mancilla, captain Wilder, from a cruise. She has despatched five prizes. One of them arrived in this harbour some time since. One at the Salado, as before noticed, two sent to a port, and one has been given up to the prisoners. She has been repeatedly chased off the Brazil coast: once by a frigate, from which she escaped by running into a Brazilian harbour. The frigate, probably supposing her a friend, hauled off; and the privateer went again to sea. She was chased into Ensenada by a brig, which afterwards sent boats to cut her out. Captain Wilder permitted them to approach, and then discharged his 12lb carroñades with grape and other shot, which was seen to fall close to the boats, and caused them immediately to retreat.

Sept. 26. At 3 o'clock the government received a dispatch from the commandant of the Salado, stating that on the preceding day; at past 8 in the morning, 20 sail of enemy's vessels were off there; of which three launches were standing towards the port. We are informed that, on the instant of receiving the news, orders were given for the *blandenguez* existing in the Monte to repair immediately to the spot, with two pieces of flying artillery; and the third regiment of militia marched immediately in aid of the place; which had already been reinforced with 50 militia-men, and furnished with ammunition. Tuay was likewise reinforced a few days ago.

A person has arrived from the Salado, who left after the government *chasque*. He contradicts the assertion that the Brazilians are off that port. None are to be seen: the commandant mistook the trees at Point Piedras for enemy's vessels.

Sept. 27. Fifty-nine sick and wounded men from the army were landed from *las Vacas* this morning.

Two gun-boats sailed in pursuit of a *balandra*, which appeared to the northward, and was supposed to have been taken by the Brazilians. The *balandra* escaped. On the night of the 25th No. 11 gun-boat chased a Brazilian launch without effect.

September 27. Arrived two gun-boats, No. 1 from Martin Garcia; and No 7 from Caracoles; they passed in sight of Colonia on the 20th, and did not see any thing of admiral Brown's division or of the Brazilians.

Sept. 28. Arrived British barque packet *Zephyr*. Church, from Falmouth 22 July, Rio Janeiro 12th instant, and Monte Video 26th inst.—No passengers from England. From Rio Janeiro Mr. David Price, Mr. J. Myers, D. J. D. Caceres, and servant. From Monte Video Mr. J. Jackson, Doña Ana F.

D. Horne, G. S. Torres, Caroline Arraga, Juana Gattel, two children, two female servants, and one boy. The *Eclipse* packet, from Buenos Ayres 22nd April, arrived at Falmouth 5th July. The *Dove* Packet, from Buenos Ayres 28th August, had not arrived at Rio Janeiro on the 12th instant. The *Lord Melville* packet sailed from Monte Video for Rio Janeiro, and Falmouth 16th inst. She was detained 4 days at Monte Video by bad weather. The packets are ordered not to communicate any information to either of the belligerent parties. It was not known at Falmouth what packet would be the next for Buenos Ayres.

The *Piranga* frigate, Admiral Pintos Guedez, one corvette, and some smaller Brazilian vessels, were at Monte Video. The British frigate *Thetis*, and brig of war *Cadmus*, were likewise there; the *Forte* had sailed for Rio Janeiro. The packet saw the blockading squadron about 30 miles S. E. of this on 27th inst. at 9 o'clock at night.

Arrived zumaca privateer General Mansilla, Wilder, from Ensenada. Sailed last evening and saw 11 sail of Brazilian vessels near point Lara.

Arrived a *balandra* with a general cargo from *Las Vacas*.

The passengers from Rio Janeiro and Monte Video by the packet, came up to Buenos Ayres by permission of the Brazilian authorities.

The capture of the schooner privateer *Estrella del Sud* we before noticed; she was taken on 21st August, near Cape St. Mary's, by the Brazilian gun-boat *Grenfell*. The crew were landed in Monte Video.

The gun-boat No. 3, which run away from the Salado on the 24th August, arrived at Colonia on the 26th. She had on board her second officer Juan Vidal, and 14 men, all of whom are stated to have entered the Brazilian service.

The *Cynthia* packet, captain White, was lost in June last, at the south end of Barbadoes. Crew and mails saved.

The following are some of the arrivals at Monte Video during this month.

Sept. 2. British brig *Pacific*. Mac Gowan, from Sicily, with wine to Mr. Noble.

22nd. Ditto, ditto, *Providence*, Robinson, from Malaga and Gibraltar, with wine and oil.

American brig *Hannah*; Freeman, from Portsmouth, N. V. with lumber.

Sept. 2. Dutch brig *Aimable Pauline*, Lutyez, from Antwerp, with coals, bricks, wine, gin &c., and two passengers.

3rd. French ship *Auguste*, Cutande, from Havre de Grace, with wine, &c. She had got to the Chico Bank, and fell in with the *Piranga* frigate, when she was sent back. She had 31 passengers. Supercargo, Paul Solomon.

Sailed—Sept. 14. Sardinian schooner *Cesar*, San Miguel, for the island of Gorriti, with provisions and three passengers.

18th. British brig *Idris*, James, for Bahia, in ballast, and 2 passengers.

19. Do. do. *Flora*, Mesurier, for Guernsey, with hides. Do do, *Hermes*, for Gibraltar; and French ship *Mandarin*, for Valparaisa.

Persons who have resided the last winter in Patagonia describe it as a very poor place, but speak favourably of the climate. In all last winter they had only two days of snow, and had in Buenos Ayres experienced equal cold. The population consists of about 600 persons (without including the military.) The town is called *del Carmen*, and is built upon the banks of the Rio Negro, seven leagues from the sea. There are some agreeable promenades and beautiful quintas in the neighbourhood. A quinta lately belonging to Brown, an American, but now in the possession of captain Bibois, is stated to be of a superior description. There are some tolerable houses in the town, but nothing at present in the shape of

new buildings, or other improvements that indicate a rising city. Some respectable individuals are established as merchants, viz.; D. Fernando Alfaro, D. Manuel Alvarez, D. Agustin Murgiondo, and others. Hereafter it may become an important portion of the republic. The bar at the entrance of the harbour is a sure protection, independent of a battery position, which, if properly managed, must destroy every hostile vessel that might attempt to enter; as they must come in a direct line, and within pistol shot.

At high tide there is generally from 12 to 14 feet water on the bar. The Rio Negro supplies the town with fresh water, and is navigable into the interior for 150 miles. Wood is plentiful, but not of the first quality. It can be used for building. The houses are built of unburned bricks. The church is in the fort; it is a miserable building, and has no organ. The south side of the river is flat and muddy. The north side sand hills. Bathing in the river is dangerous, being steep and a strong current. The water rises and falls sixteen feet. Almost every house in the town is a pulperia, and it has only one miserable coffee-house and billiard-room.

A great many gauchos are distributed in the different estancias up the river; cattle and game abound; deer and hares roam about in millions. The hares are the real Patagonians, three times larger than those we have in England, weighing about 25 pounds each, and affording a delicious meal. Bread is scarce, but good; and made from the wheat of the country. The scarcity is owing to the want of mills to grind a sufficient quantity. Specie is the currency. Paper money has lately got into circulation.

There is one doctor in the town, Mr. Harne, an Englishman, lately arrived. It formerly had a French doctor, who has returned to Buenos Ayres; but there are a number of native quack doctors, called *curanderos*. Lawyers it has none; that blessing is yet to come. Pretty girls are scarce. Señor Murgiondo now and then has a tertulia, at which all the beauty of De-Carmen attends. San Gabriel, 5 leagues from the town, is the Richmond of Patagonia. It is an indian village consisting of 30 or 40 huts, and environed by groves of willow trees; a lagoon 2 leagues in length, bounded by hills, and a branch of the river flows up to the village; presenting altogether an English landscape. We presume the accounts handed down to us of the extraordinary height of the Patagonians must have been fabulous, or else a great degeneration has taken place since the days of Anson and Byron.

A tribe of southern Indians of Patagonia may average from 5 feet 10 to 6 feet in height. Their clothing makes them look tatter, guanaco skins sewed together, and reaching from the neck to the feet, and ponchos. In England a giant and a Patagonian are synonymous.

To those of our readers acquainted with London, the following may prove interesting.

"The band on the parade play some of the best pieces of Mozart and Haydn, which the wind carries hither and thither in triumph. Here war is to be seen under its most harmless aspect, with its fringes, its colours, and its gallant sounds. It is all holiday play and gentle service: a business of steppings and salutations. The band-major looks grave and ruling, the blacks toss up their symbols in the sun, the little triangle boys emulate their long legs, the officers step along very gentlemanly, the companies tread solidly at their elbows like bodies with their soul beside them; the young ensign is admired in the middle, carrying his colours like a fluttering heart. Anon the nobler instruments give way to the drum and fife; and the regiment proceeds from St. James's palace in a livelier and more familiar step. During the parade, a trumpet and a stir of cavalry are heard; and a fine troop of horse-guards issue forth on their long-tailed black horses; the trumpeter on his white one blowing his trumpet, which mingles with the instruments of the foot, and creates a gallant confusion. Who would not then be a soldier, and dictate to the world? Certainly if war is a necessary evil, it is pranked up and recommended to us in the best possible manner. Nature will do her utmost to gild her bitterest pills. In one point of view, what can be more silly than these gay and self-satisfied persons, marching away in the long run to have their throats cut on their heads blown to atoms? but in another, what can be more reconciling than its necessity? what more calculated to bring tears of mingled pity and admiration in our eyes? What better way could have been found out to enlist the superfluous part of society in its roughest and most dangerous service?"

THEATRE.

The opera of Othello, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather and double prices, was well attended on Saturday evening, and went off with increased effect.

The music runs in endless variety of beautiful passages, from the soft strain that ushers Desdemona upon the scene, to that which swells the bosom of the jealous Moor even to murder.

Rosquellas personated the latter with great force and feeling, and deserved the applause he received. Some splendid brilliants glittered from his turban.

Vacani and Ricciolini aided the scene by their fine talents, and even Vera, in very difficult music, and a part not adapted to his voice, got through respectably.

Angela Tani displayed her accustomed skill; she imparted, both in singing and acting, the highest interest to the character of Desdemona.

Señor Vacani sung and gave the recitative with considerable judgment.

The thunder-storm was adroitly managed; and the opera altogether gave great satisfaction.

On leaving the theatre it rained, but there were no hackney coaches, and females elegantly attired were obliged to "abide the pelting of the pitiless storm."

The governor's box has been newly decorated; the decorations are entirely in the republican taste; blue and white silk tastefully arranged as a canopy, surmounted with the Grecian and Roman laurel crown of victory.

Velarde has quitted the theatre, and, report says, assumed the profession of a broker.

Several persons from Rio Janeiro state that the opera there, as it regards principal performers, is far inferior to that of Buenos Ayres. They have nothing to compare to Do. Angela Tani, Rosquellas or Vacani (the only Figaro). That El Barbero, as performed at Rio, will not bear a comparison in point of talent with the excellent manner in which it is represented in this city; and in the audience department, as it regards female beauty, we challenge them to the rivalry. The theatre at Rio is, however, a commodious and beautiful building, compared to which ours is a barn.

Colebras had an overflowing house on Tuesday night for his benefit; a compliment perhaps to the actor; the play was a sentimental French drama, at which one could neither laugh nor cry. Rossini's opera of Tancredi is a rehearsal, and the Gazza Ladra in preparation. If we are to perish in this war, it seems that, like the dying swan, our lives shall end in music.

The opera of the Italiana en Argel, now becoming a stock piece, was performed on Thursday evening, and notwithstanding the threatening appearance of the weather, the house was respectably filled.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublons, 68 dollars each.  
Spanish Dollars, 290 per cent premium.  
Gold in bars 23 rs. per quintale.  
Silver in bars, 21 rs. per dinero.  
Exchange on England, 12d per dollar.  
Ditto on Rio Janeiro, 333 rees currency per pollar (nominal).  
Ditto on Monte Video, do. do.

Notice to British Subjects.

The undersigned, His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, hereby gives notice, that the annual General meeting of Subscribers to the British Church in Buenos Ayres, will be holden on Sunday, the 7th day of October, after divine service, pursuant to act of parliament.

WOOBINE PARISH.  
British Consulate, Buenos Ayres, September 26th 1827.

SELLING OFF.

Calle de la Piedad núm. 95.

Messrs Douville and Laboissiere inform the public they are selling off the stock of their store. The whole must be cleared off by Saturday 7th October. It consists of books of all sorts, drawings, flannel shirts, glasses pocket-books, an assortment of mercery, an electrifying machine, pewter and zinc in sheets, filtering machines, a few arrobas of sugar, some very fine black lace shawls, and two real cachemires, rails for a counting house, a few counters, several dozen pots of pomatum, two show boxes for the door of a soap some trunks, packing cases, &c, hair and clothes brushes, pistols, bottle-stands, knife stands, elegant metal tea-pots, playing cards, engraving tools, with 4 different characters, and every thing necessary for engraving music, a lithographic press, and many other articles. Also the right of receiving six thousand and odd francs which an individual owes to the house, and who offers to pay at so much per month upon the bail of the house of Messrs Mendeville and Lorreille.