

THE
British Packet,
AND
ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 61.) BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1827. (Vol. 2.

BUENOS-AYRES.

If the Argentine Republic had an enemy of a different stamp from the Emperor of Brazil, it would be difficult to conceive how, in the city most exposed to the disasters of the war, and which has supported all its weight, they should enjoy a tranquillity which, one would think, could only be experienced in a time of profound peace. How many vulnerable points has she in her territory! How many circumstances in the interior favourable to the enemy! What vacillation in the structure of the body politic! And notwithstanding, with all these inconveniences, no one speaks of the war, no one thinks of the enemy, except when the presence of his vessels makes us smile at the remembrance of his triumphs; and few would consent that the sacrifices caused by the blockade should be redeemed by a degrading humiliation; by an abdication of the glory the Republic has acquired. Far from this patriotic spirit growing cold, the last unfortunate events in the Banda Oriental have increased the sympathy that had been excited in the breasts of the Argentines by the fate of that unhappy province; and notwithstanding the pains they have taken to persuade the public that the province of Buenos Ayres is an isolated state; they can make no one believe that this can extend to those brave orientalis, whose cause has become that of the state which was, a short time since, the head of a vast union. Political combinations are not so strong as opinion; and opinion is weaker than the affections. The ties which exist between Buenos Ayres and the Banda Oriental merit the latter name; and moralists have observed, than when the strong protects the weak he conceives a sentiment in his favour which partakes of the intensity of paternal affection.

This is one of the motives which have so much interested the public in favor of the two magistrates, whose case has occupied all the periodicals of the capital. All have discussed this affair with more or less wisdom; with more or less impartiality; but we do not think that any of them have considered it under this point of view, or have indicated the true origin of the alarm produced by an act of authority which it is not for us to define. That which is certain is, that from all parts have resounded the accents of compassion rather than indignation; as if it were painful to see augmented the evils that press on that valiant province.

Certain words in the message of the government, relative to the conduct observed by the national troops, have had the same effect. The public have observed a respectful silence; as if they wished to throw a veil over what they disapprove in the authorities. This is an act of patriotism; as whoever loves his country, will fear to envenom its wounds; especially when they have been inflicted by a friendly hand.

The action off Ensenada, and the loss of the Brazilian vessel at Patagonia, are mentioned and commented upon in the London newspapers. The Times says:

“The disastrous result of the emperor's warlike operations, both naval and military, is fully established; which would, however, be of less importance to the creditors here, did it press on his mind the necessity of making peace. The efforts making by the republic of Buenos Ayres are, in proportion to its resources, truly gigantic; and must call forth the admiration of every part of Europe where they are understood and appreciated.”

It is gratifying to observe the interest which our countrymen at home take in the success of the Republic. Even the Monte Video correspondent of the Morning Chronicle, in spite of his great admiration of the emperor and devotion to the Brazilian cause, finds considerable difficulty in proping his friends, especially Norton. In the Morning Chronicle of July 12, under date of Monte Video, April 20, in relation to the affair off Ensenada, we read the following:

“A very determined resistance was made by the Buenos Ayreans, and their rapid and steady fire did considerable damage to their opponents. At length the admiral sent for Norton, requested him to leave his frigate, and join the smaller vessels, and to get closer in. He went accordingly in his boat; but took upon himself to order his first lieutenant to bring in his frigate as near as she could come. He went on board, and took command of each of the smaller vessels by turns, and anchored them so that they could smell fire a little closer. Still, however, the enemy's balls continued very destructive, and several of the Brazilians begged permission to retire. One had expended all his powder; another had suffered much damage, &c. &c.; there was nothing for it but to get the Paula up to the attack of these poor vessels; and Norton, half ashamed, (as well he might be) “anchored her in her own depth of water, and brought four of her tremendous guns to bear, and presently after her broadside. One of the brigs soon sunk; the other the enemy themselves set fire to with her colours flying.”

After mentioning the escape of the Congress and the Surandi, the letter states:

“Ninety-eight prisoners were taken. All the officers except one were English. They declare, that had not the frigate, contrary to all expectation, succeeded in getting up, nothing would have been done; as they had only one killed, and five slightly wounded by the long-continued fire of the other vessels.

“The Buenos Ayreans, however, are safe, as matters now stand. Their city is impregnable by sea, and they and their little fleet may laugh in security, like the ass in the stable, at the lion outside.”

After some lines of compliment to the emperor, a dissertation on the resources of the Brazil, and their mismanagement, it goes on:

“The point of honour is not amongst the Brazilian officers; neither have they that admiration for valour and enterprize which men of their profession ought to have; on the contrary, they think

it a mere *égarement d'esprit* if a man run his head too closely into the fire. They like fighting by certain comfortable rules of their own.

As valour does not receive its proper meed, so neither does cowardice. We have observed remarkable instances of both here; and besides the peculiar apathy I have mentioned, interest and intrigue have ample power to sully the reputation of the brave, and to cover the shame of the pusillanimous. The latter then panegyricizes the British navy, its stern and implacable punishment of treachery and cowardice, which nothing ought ever to atone for but death; the rewards bestowed upon distinguished services; and concludes with:

"Until somewhat of this spirit and system is introduced, the navy of Brazil will continue a mere unsubstantial pageant."

The writer of the above has certainly made a most unfortunate simile respecting the ass in the stable; for, according to his own showing, the ass is outside, and the lion stalks aloft in his "impregnable city."

He will likewise find it difficult to instil his enthusiasm into Brazilian officers: one half of them are ashamed of the cause in which they serve, and the other half are only fit to serve in such a cause.

On the 30th ult. a national schooner of war was in sight to the northward, and 4 Brazilian schooners standing north. The gun-boats Nos. 6 and 7 stood out, and the Brazilians retired. The schooner proved to be the *Juncal*, captain Coe, from Valparaiso 38 days, with arms, and Mr. Pepper, nephew to colonel O'Brien, passenger. She had left four men on shore near Cape Corrientes, not being able to wait for them. It is supposed they had wandered to an estancia in that neighbourhood. The *Juncal* was off the *Salado* two days, intending to land cargo there, but as no vessel went off from the shore to assist, not knowing how near an enemy might be, and having a fair wind for Buenos Ayres, she made sail. Near the *Salado* she chased the privateer schooner *Triunfo Argentino*, taking her for a Brazilian, and had every thing ready to board; got amongst the blockading squadron on the night of the 29th inst. Six of them got under weigh, including a brig, chased and fired: the *Juncal* fired one gun, and soon left them.

Captain Coe landed on Monday morning, and was met at the mole by a number of his friends, and the captain of the port, L. Francisco Lynch. He afterwards, in full uniform as major, paid his respects to the governor at the fort.

We congratulate the country on the possession of an officer so highly qualified as Captain Coe. On the 1st instant the *Juncal* fired a salute, which was returned by the fort. She was dressed out in colours and signal flags, and had a new national jack at the bowsprit. The flag (a sun worked on a blue ground) is handsome. The schooner, one of the Patagonian prizes, is a fine vessel of about 130 tons, mounts 5 guns, viz., one long 18 pounder and 4 12lb gunnades. She has a good crew of 62 men, 50 of whom are English and North Americans, and they are in excellent order. A very proper precaution is taken to keep them from the shore for the present. The *Juncal* drew 11 feet water when she came into the inner roads, and sails well. She was 3 days off Cape Corrientes. Her arrival at Valparaiso caused considerable curiosity, and boats crowded to her, expecting that she had brought news of the frigate *Buenos Ayres*. She remained at Valparaiso 28 days, and during her stay a Brazilian merchant brig came in. When the flag was discovered, the *Juncal*, it being calm, swept out to attack her; but she had got under the protection of the guns of the fort. Captain Coe, in answer to some friendly representations from the shore, declared he would attack his enemy wherever he found him, so as not to violate neutral rights.

On leaving the harbour of Valparaiso, mutual salutes from the fort and the *Juncal* were fired.

The British cutter *Fifeshire* had been purchased, in order to take in a cargo of arms, &c., for this. Her sailing had been coun-

termanded by fresh instructions from Buenos Ayres, and we believe she has been resold. The *Fifeshire* was formerly a *Leith* and *Berwick* smack; a fine vessel of 200 tons, and would mount 14 guns. The Mexican line of battle-ship *Congreso* (late *Asia*) is stated to have 700 men.

The *Juncal*, in her passage to Valparaiso, spoke off Cape Horn the American brig *Audes*; on her return voyage saw several vessels, but did not speak or show her colours to them.

Accounts have been received from Montevideo to Monday last. On 29th ult. admiral Brown, in the *Sarandi* schooner, came in sight of the port, passed inside the American corvette *Boston*, and anchored close to the battery. On the following morning, at day-break, hoisted the American flag. When discovered to be an enemy the *Piranga* and *Isabel* frigates, brig 29th of August, and some gun boats went out. The *Twenty-Ninth* of August shot a-head, and some smart firing took place between her and the *Sarandi*, all the Brazilian vessels likewise opening fire. During the action, the other 4 vessels of Brown's squadron appeared at a distance. The Brazilian squadron chased, but returned on Sunday morning, not having found their enemy.

The battery at Monte Video fired some guns when the *Sarandi* was near; and it is stated that before her nation was discovered, the visit boat was about to leave the shore to board her.

The Emperor of Brazil cannot conceal his chagrin at the non-ratification of the late treaty; and has observed that independent of giving the *Banda Oriental* to the Brazils, it would have rescued Buenos Ayres from the hands of the demagogues. All this is very kind and considerate; but whom does she think to deceive by this jargon. He doubtless clings to the hope of civil commotions in Buenos Ayres; but people are now wiser, and have too much to lose by such an experiment.

A French gazette, (and we really thought they had been better informed,) has given a pompous and ludicrous description of the emperor's resources. We copy the following from the *Gazette de France* of 7 July 1827.

"The Emperor is getting together a new army in the island of St. Catherine's, composed of the divisions of the north of Rio Grande, Paraiwa, Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio Janeiro, and Paruty, which, united with the divisions already in south Rio Grande, will form a total of 25 or 30,000 men. A considerable force for that hemisphere. It is believed that the success of the emperor against the pirates (*forthans*) of Buenos Ayres is certain; and as the people of Peru are in a state of anarchy, it is possible that, after a first victory, the population of these countries will seek refuge under the Brazilian flag. Such an event is much to be wished: the Monarchical system would be a gainer by it. Paraguay, at present, does not seem to play any part in the political events of South America. She is on good terms with the Brazils, that power having given up to her the city of the Apostles. Paraguay, on her part, has given up the possessions she had seized at Malogroso.

Dr. Francia laughed at the proposals made to him by the Republic of Buenos Ayres, to engage him to form a federal Republic. Although his government preserves at present the most perfect neutrality, it is not doubted, should circumstances authorize it, but the maritime forces of Paraguay will unite with those of Brazils, to act in concert against the Republic of Buenos Ayres. There is no doubt that this determination, which must be known to the emperor, has engaged him to recommence hostilities. If as every thing seems to indicate, the points in dispute cannot be arranged.

(*Memorial Bordelais.*)

The French and Algerines are at variance, from some depredations committed on French commerce. A French squadron is off Algiers.

THE BRITISH PACKET, AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

On the 28th ult. the packet *Zephyr* fired two salutes: one to the fort, and one to the national squadron; she was answered by the fort and ship. 25th of May. On the 29th the said packet left the outer roads and anchored off the Recoleta; and on the same day the British schooner brig *Liberator* left the inner roads, and has sailed some distance from the outer roads. The Brazilians coming in sight, she tacked, and anchored in three-fathom hole.

A British brig from Liverpool and an American brig from Salem arrived at Monte Video on Sunday; and a ship, apparently Dutch, entered that place on Friday last.

The privateer schooner *Triunfo Argentino* (late *Montezuma*) engaged on 21st ult., off Santos, a Brazilian man-of-war brig, for 2 hours. She had mistaken the brig for a merchant vessel. The action was discontinued "by mutual consent." The privateer had one man wounded, the sails damaged, and the main-mast slightly wounded, and has entered the Salado to refit. She had not taken any prizes.

The privateer *Bonarense* has made 8 prizes in her cruise, viz.; a brig, 6 *zumacas*, and a launch. The brig and 2 *zumacas* have been despatched to different ports, 1 *zumaca* and a launch given to prisoners, and 3 *zumacas* sunk. She has on board yerba, planks, and other effects, and 6 negroes and 2 mulattoes of the prisoners. She has brought Rio Janeiro gazettes, and a quantity of private correspondence.

She spoke the privateer brig *General Brandzen* on 9th July, and supplied her with provisions.

The vessel detained by the blockading squadron on 24th ult., and which was supposed to be Brazilian, proves to be the American schooner brig *Hannah*, from Portsmouth N. H.

The Brazilian privateer launch *Invincible*, captain Francisco Divaldo, and the following *balandras*, her prizes, have arrived at Monte Video. *Luisa*, patron Serafin Bonanio, with wood. San José, do. Agustin Dellin, with wood and charcoal. *Colonense*, Francisco Lopez, do., and Luis Nicolas as passenger. *Carmen*, Mateo Garcia, do., and nutria skins.

The Monte Video *Semanario Mercantil* states, that had the earlier fitted out privateer boats, no small vessels bearing the flag of the republic could have navigated in the River Plate.

It contains a long account of the escape from Patagonia, addressed to the governor of Monte Video from captain Masarredo, one of the prisoners. The number which escaped is stated at 91 persons.

On the 25th ult. sailed from Monte Video the following Brazilian vessels of war supposed for Patagonia, to attack the ship *Condesa du Ponte*, laying in the bay of San Blas: corvette *Macaico*, captain Eyre, brig *Cabocto*, captain Ingles, and a brig supposed the *Maranham*, Anderson. Eyre and Anderson are two of the escaped prisoners of war, and the new expedition is one of the effects of the negligence in letting them escape. The prisoners, on their arrival at Monte Video, reported that an ounce of gold can effect wonders in the territory of the republic. If the Brazilians are gone to the bay of San Blas, they will find some difficulty in their operations. The bay has a dangerous reef at the entrance, which it will require good pilots to avoid, and which they have not got. The ship *Condesa du Ponte* is armed with 6 guns, long twelves, has 40 men, principally Frenchmen, commanded by captain d'Autant. Expecting a hostile visit, a good look out is kept; and the ship can be run further into the bay to render her more secure. Should Patagonia be their object, and that is not improbable, they will unexpectedly find the *Chacabuco* there, and captain George Bys-son will know how to receive them. The capture of the ship is however an important object. She is a fine vessel of 600 tons, and can mount 36 guns.

The British frigate *Thetis*, and brig of war *Cadmus*, were at Monte Video.

The pilot of the British schooner brig *Liberator*, for London, returned to Buenos Ayres 5th instant, and reports that he left the said vessel on 3rd instant off Point Indio, with a leading wind out of the river. On Monday she fell in with two Brazilian schooners and a brig near the Chico Bank. They chased all the day, tack for tack, it being a head-wind, but the *Liberator* outsailed them.

Admiral Brown and his five vessels have returned to Martin Garcia.

It is believed in Monte Video that the Brazilians are about to evacuate the Island of Gorriti, the garrison being rather sickly.

The American brig *Brutus*, Wolfe, from Santos 14 days, to W. P. Ford and Co., got aground near Ensenada on the 2nd instant. The blockading squadron approached, and detained her. On the following day they burned her. The captain and crew were placed on board the Brazilian squadron.

September 30th. Sailed No. 11 gun-boat, Castelli, and a *zumaca*, for the Banda Oriental, with military officers to join the army.

Oct. 1st. Sailed British schooner brig *Liberator*, Mc Gleishen, for London.

October 2nd. Arrived at Ensenada privateer schooner *Bonarense*, Soulin, from a cruise.

Sailed No. 6 gun-boat for Martin Garcia.

October 3rd. Arrived an American brig, with a general cargo, to Sutton and company. She was chased and fired at by the blockading squadron on the night of the 2nd instant.

Arrived No. 11 gun-boat, Castelli, with a cargo from Martin Garcia.

A Brazilian corvette was seen from the town on the 3rd instant; having chased the American brig. The remainder of their squadron is near Ensenada.

Ten sail of Brazilians were laying off Ensenada on Friday, viz.: 2 corvettes, 3 brigs, and 5 schooners.

The Brazilian lugger boat was seen all the day of the 4th instant. She anchored in the afternoon S. E. distant about 10 miles. She was so near the inner roads on the night of the 3rd, that the first lieutenant of the *Juncal* was about lowering boats to attack her, but she pulled off too quick, having taken down sails in consequence of a shot from a gun-boat, which the privateer had mistaken for a *balandra* coming in.

The three batteries at Martin Garcia are represented to be very formidable, and the garrison consists of veteran troops.

The American ship *Columbia* has been hove down in the inner roads, wanting a few repairs.

The loan for six millions of dollars has been contracted for at 52. D. José Maria Estevez is the ostensible contractor. The other gentlemen concerned in the contract are :

D. Braulio Costa,
D. Juan Garcia Parga,
D. Miguel Ambrosio Gutierrez,
D. Pedro Alfalfa,
D. Felix Ignacio Frias.

The omnium is at present at a discount of two to three per cent, chiefly owing to the great scarcity of money, and not from any apprehension of it being eventually a losing concern.

A notice has been posted up in the British Commercial Room, for a meeting of the subscribers to said room, on Monday, 8th instant, at 12 o'clock, to take into consideration business of importance.

Admiral Brown arrived last evening in the new boat, built at Martin Garcia, and landed at the Boca. We counted 45 men in the boat, and understand she pulls 20 oars on each side.

A sailor belonging to the Zephyr packet was found dead in the calle de la Plata last night. It is supposed from accident, as no marks of violence are observable on his person.

D. Francisco Marquez, adjutant to general Lavalleja, has arrived from Las Vacas. He states positively that there is a revolution in Pernambuco: that generals Ventus Manuel and Ventus Gonzales have proclaimed the independence of Rio Grande, and that, in virtue thereof, general Lavalleja had accelerated his march for the Durazno; at which place he had called a council of war of general officers for the opening of the campaign; that the 17th regiment of cavalry was already before Colonia, and that coronel Olavarria, and other officers, had already marched to their destination.

It is amusing to observe the different style in which the Monte-Video letters to England are couched relative to the affairs of Buenos Ayres. A few months ago, it was: "Buenos Ayres must instantly and unconditionally submit to her powerful enemy. She is at her last gasp, and has no remedy," &c. &c. Now we read, from the same quarter: "On the whole, it appears that there is not at present any prospect of a termination of this war; the contest by arms is varying and doubtful; and negotiation is said to have failed." We hope their tone will yet be some degrees lower.

In July last the 3 per cent consols in London were at 87. Efforts were said to be making by the ministers and others to get them up to 100, in order to further some plan of finance that may reduce the interest in the public funds. The bank has offered to discount at 4 per cent per annum. Several of the provincial banks propose to discount at 3 per cent per annum. Many augur great mischief from these measures as encouraging accommodation bills and pernicious speculations.

The report that 200 Irishmen have sailed from Ireland for the military service of Brazil is incorrect. They have embarked as emigrants, with the strongest assurances of protection in that capacity. Some of the London papers are very severe upon the Brazilian authorities for their treatment of the German emigrants, and express fears that the Irishmen will be kidnapped in the same manner.

From the many rumours daily propagated in this city, it will in time become necessary to follow the example of one of the Paris papers, in giving the "Lies of the Day".—Last week it was said a Spanish frigate had arrived at Monte Video, with a full acknowledgment of the independence of South America, that 200 men had been landed at the mole, wounded in a land battle. Brown had cut two gun-boats out of Colonia, &c. &c. This week he has captured the frigate Isabel, &c. &c. Likewise that the last flag of truce conveyed propositions, from the emperor inviting Buenos Ayres to treat for peace separately, leaving the Banda Oriental to shift for herself.

THEATRE.

The opera of *Concortola* was performed on Monday evening for Vera's benefit, to a very crowded house. The boxes contained a considerable portion of the beauty and fashion of Buenos Aires. The governor, attended by Colonel Ramirez, aid-de-camps Feutso and Alvarez, were in the state box. We are glad to see the public authorities attend the theatre so often; it is in accordance with good taste, and politically praiseworthy.

The opera gave great satisfaction, notwithstanding some imperfections in the first act, for want of rehearsal. The second act made amends, and, to use an English theatrical phrase, "the audience were in raptures" with the delightful singing of Da. Angela Tani. We never heard her to more advantage, and in the air that finishes the opera she was listened to with breathless attention.

The fine voice and science of Vacani were conspicuous during the evening.

Rosqueilas was, as he always is, gentlemanly and pleasing.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doubloons, 70 to 71 dollars each.
Spanish Dollars, 275 to 280 per cent premium.
Gold in bars 22½ rs. per quilate.
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, 213 ds. do.

Advertisements.

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 a sden on Sunday, the 7th day of October, after divine service, pursuant to act of parliament.

WOODBINE PARISH.

British Consulate, Buenos Ayres, September 26th 1827.

SELLING OFF.

C. de la Piedad, núm. 95.

Messrs Douville and Lubalsiere 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, handkerchiefs, glasses Pocket-books, an assortment of mercery, an electrifying machine, pewter and zinc in sheets, filtering machines, a few arrobos 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 sop 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.