

THE  
**British Packet,**  
AND  
**ARGENTINE NEWS.**

This Paper will be published every SATURDAY. The Subscription for three months \$ 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. 62) BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1827. (Vol. 2.

**BUENOS-AYRES.**

The meeting of a legislative body, composed of deputies from all the Provinces which lately formed the Argentine Republic, appears to be the only means of re-organizing a nation, whose common ties have been broken; notwithstanding, that this resource has not the test of experience in its favour; a thousand times have we seen, in the new states of South America, these grand assemblies of public men

— Sitting in the council house  
Early and late, debating to and fro;

But they have only produced new convulsions and new uncertainties. There is no reason for believing that the convention proposed by Cordova will have a more solid and satisfactory result than those which have preceded it. On the contrary, we think we see in its proposed elements the precursors of a complete dissolution.

In the first place, after a civil war, such as the genius of discord provoked against the national government, all equivocal symptoms, all appearance of rivalry, ought to disappear. Cordova was, of all the Provinces of the Union, that which most obstinately and inveterately opposed the National Congress and government; it was not, therefore, for her to propose the means of conciliation; and much less to dictate its conditions; for it must be presumed that she is an interested party, and her hatred is of so late a date, that it is impossible all the bitter sentiments consequent to such a state of things can be already extinguished.

And, in fact, if you examine the terms of the convention, you will instantly perceive that there reigns in it a strong feeling of enmity against Buenos Ayres. For its riches, for its public establishments, for the civilization spread amongst its inhabitants, this is the only city in the Argentine provinces worthy to be a point of union of all interests and of all opinions. Legislative bodies are influenced in their actions by the atmosphere which surrounds them. The English House of Commons receives, in Westminster, impressions very different from those it would receive in a Welch village, or in one of the Western islands of Scotland; and if the French deputies were to hold their sessions in the mountains of Cevennes, the ministers would not experience much resistance in the opposition. The public, in these cases, is a powerful guarantee; not only as an obstacle to corruption, and to the influence of party, but as an active stimulus to the eloquent and the learned. And what public will surround the new legislators in the places mentioned in the project of Cordova? why, *gauchos* and *pulperos*; or at best, some respectable *estanciero*, honest, without doubt, and a patriot if you will; but accustomed to live among his cattle, and understanding

more of *rodeos* and of pastures, than of laws and of motions. How can the deputies, in difficult questions, consult with men of learning and experience? Where will they search for books, which the man engaged in public business requires at every step? And above all, who, in their sittings, shall represent the opinion of the public, that true thermometer of legislative bodies, without whose sanction they are in danger of forming systems about as applicable as the republic of Plato, or the Eutopia of Sir Thomas More?

*Cruise of the National Schooner of War, Sarandi, Admiring Brown, Captain J. Ribelo.*

Sailed on 24th Sept. from Martin Garcia, and proceeded down the river, the following vessels in company: brig schooner 8th of February, captain Espora; brig Balcarce, captain F. Segui; schrs. 9th February, Rosales; Maldonado, Toll; and 20th June. On the 25th Sept. the last named vessel was sent back, being a dull sailer.

26th. Twelve miles below Colonia—Brazilian squadron to leeward; in the evening finding the other vessels could not keep company with us, we made signal to rendezvous off Monte Video, made all sail, and on the morning of the 27th at 5 o'clock, were close under the mount of Monte Video, American colours flying, blue Peter at the fore. Observing a brig at anchor outside, the other vessels stood towards her; she got her anchor up, and afterwards hove too inside the Piranga frigate; our squadron being in sight, tacked and stood towards them; saw a boat coming from the American sloop of war Boston, and hove to for her. The brig above mentioned, (supposed the 29th August,) stood towards us; we were becalmed under the mount, she having a breeze, came up with us, and when within gun-shot opened a smart fire; we hoisted our National flag at the peak, and Admiral's at the main, and returned the fire; after receiving a few shot the brig sent a boat on board the Piranga, wore, and stood towards the port. We followed, and continued firing at her, until within gun-shot of two Brazilian frigates at anchor—an amusing sight for the Imperialists; an 18 gun-brig chased under their own batteries by a small schooner. We again tacked, and stood up the river, having joined our squadron, and immediately followed by the Brazilian frigate Isabel, brig 29th August, 2 brig-schooners, 2 schooners, and a gun-boat; we were a second time becalmed, and the frigate carried the breeze as the brig had before done, and came up so fast, that the Sarandi took the 8th February in tow, as did the 9th February the Balcarce, and we put out our sweeps. The frigate on getting within gun-shot was becalmed, upon which she opened fire, the shot going over us; the calm continuing, we gained ground; night coming on and a light breeze from the S. E., we lost sight of them; the frigate Piranga was likewise under weigh, and in chase of us. At 8 o'clock boarded a brig-schooner at anchor; she was from North America, bound to Monte Video.

28th. Close in with Colonia batteries; fired upon us; we fired the long gun, and hoisted our flag. At 5 o'clock P. M. anchored

off Martin Garcia with the squadron, none of us having received the least damage.

A Brazilian schooner, during Admiral Brown's late visit off Monte Video, was reported to have conducted herself with more than ordinary courage for *Brazilians*. Upon inquiry we find there was nothing very conspicuous in her behaviour; she was not at any time more than half gun shot from the frigate; she had, however, a fine long gun, and her shot flew repeatedly over the national squadron; one shot grazed the rigging of schooner brig 8th of February. Some have thought that had not the frigate Isabel got becalmed she would have effected serious mischief to her opponents; the reverse of such an event would probably have been the case, and to quote an expression of one of Brown's officers, "Had the frigate chased upon us, be assured we should have taken the rust from her." Besides it is not the first time this frigate has been shy; she chased the corvette Chacabuco (the latter a fast sailer,) and came up so fast that captain George Bysson finding no retreat bore too to fight, at the same time firing several cannon shot at her pursuer; the gentle Isabel immediately retired. In sailing qualities the Isabel has no rival, and the "forte" of her commander, Beaurepaire, is as we mentioned in a former number, that of running after privateers and recapturing prizes; captain B. formerly commanded the Maria de Gloria, 32 gun ship, and in the different battles off this port, and in "deep water," as Norton would say, there was nothing to call for particular observation as to prowess.

An unpleasant occurrence took place during the late cruize of Admiral Brown's squadron: the Sarandi had parted company on the evening of 26th ult.; the rest of the vessels, whilst proceeding down the North Channel on the same night, observed a frigate at anchor off point Santa Maria, (the British frigate Thetis, captain Bingham, at single anchor, watering,) thinking her Brazilian, some shots were fired at her from schooner-brig 8th February, schr. 9th February, and schr. Maldonado; one of the round shot, and some grape and cannister shot, passed close to the frigate. The captain of the latter was in bed at the time, and came instantly upon deck; both jibs were run up, the vessel got under weigh, the men at quarters, and strict orders issued not to fire. Lieutenant Bolton was despatched to demand an explanation, which was given, we understand, to the effect that, being night the frigate was taken for an enemy, and having a force of only a few small vessels, they could not take the usual precautions on such occasions. An account of the affair has been sent to Admiral Otway, and this government will probably institute some enquiry. The frigate had her fore-royal, back-stay and stay-sail hallyards shot away; no other damage. Few officers would have had such forbearance as the captain of the Thetis; he could have sunk several of his assailants, but as no one was hurt, he generously preferred explanation; his conduct has been noble, and it is from such traits we discover the truly brave man; retaliation could not be blamed, yet, under the actual circumstances of the case, few would have applauded such a proceeding.

An officer of the privateer schooner Triunfo Argentino, late Montezuma, has sent us the following detail of the action she had with the Brazilian brig of war.

Sept. 14th. Hazy weather, Santos W. S. W. distant 8 leagues, saw a brig having the appearance of a man-of-war, and which evidently had the intention of closing with us; she had a light breeze; we were becalmed, but used sweeps, and pulled towards her; some of our seamen declared her to be the late Pampero, now American brig of war; lost sight of her in the haze; we still continued sweeping, and soon after discovered her within musket shot; hailed her in English, she replied, brig Americano, from Rio Janeiro; hailed again, and told her to send a boat on board, which not being done, we fired a shot over her; she returned it by a blank musket; brought our larboard broadside to bear, again hailed her to send a boat immediately, or we would sink her; a

reply was given "if you wish me to send a boat why fire into me," and concluded with some indecorous language. She kept under sail, as if to pass us unnoticed, when an order was given, and we discharged a broadside at her; she returned it with three guns and musketry; we answered with three cheers, and viva la patria. The action was now become general; she had 8 guns on each side, but not so well served as the musketry and pistols; very few shot hit our hull; our 12 pounder on the quarter deck broke down; in fact, there was considerable mismanagement; instead of 50 we had only 5 muskets at play. We were ordered to board, which the brig avoided, by keeping away, and for the remainder of the action she plied us well with grape and cannister. At 9 o'clock our captain ordered the firing to cease, sweeps out, and to pull away from our opponent; she fired four guns at us, but made no attempt to follow. In this skirmish we had one man dangerously, and three slightly wounded; 1 9lb. shot in the bowsprit, 3 grape in mainmast, 1 in fore-gaff, 2 sweeps cut nearly in half, some rigging cut away, 111 shot through the sails, and 9 small shot in the hull. Our ship's company, including many of those that commanded, were not of the first quality, except about 30 of the men.

The blockading squadron got under weigh when the tide made on Wednesday morning, and proceeded further down the river. They must be heartily tired of their occupation, from which neither honor nor profit can accrue; and no prospect appears of a speedy termination to their labours; three or four month's blockade neither has or will "settle the business," as was so confidently predicted at the commencement of the war. The Emperor is deceived, and is entailing great future misery upon the country he rules; animosity has been engendered which it will take years to efface; Brazil will be looked upon as the "natural enemy" of these provinces, and must endure continual warfare from a people who have proved themselves warlike. Don Pedro doubtless dreads a republican government so near his dominions, and had hoped to annihilate Buenos Ayres, or at least, to render her impotent, and he still flatters himself with the vain hope of success; it would be better for him to put up with the "first loss," and that some friend would inform him that his enemy is not quite so insignificant as he imagines.

Accounts from Monte Video overland to 2d inst. state the arrival of three English brigs with salt, viz: Jaue, and Thomas Peel, from Cape Verds; and Hercules, from St. Ubes; likewise, 2 Sardinian brigs.

The Brazilian frigate Isabel, a brig, and some other vessels, had sailed with a convoy of 50 merchant vessels of all classes for Paragua, St. Catherine's, Santos, Rio Janeiro, &c.

The Piranga frigate had gone to Maldonado, Emperatriz cruising; only two or three gun-boats were in Monte Video. The brig that engaged the Sarandi had three shots in her hull; they have not publicly acknowledged any killed or wounded. Captain Gordon, late of the Cadmus, is promoted to the Menai 26 guns, at present in the Pacific, and went to Rio Janeiro in the Brazilian frigate Isabel; and from thence proceeds to join his vessel. Capt. Thompson, of the Cadmus was promoted from the Ganges 84 guns. Broom, the escaped prisoner of war, went to Rio Janeiro in the Isabel. Usher is at Monte Video. The British sloop of war Columbine, one of the experimental vessels built upon captain Symon's plan, is expected from England upon the Brazil station. The British frigate Doris is to sail immediately for England from the Pacific.

It is said that ten thousand hard dollars were paid to the captain of the frigate Forte by Lloyd's agent at Monte Video, as salvage money for the Liverpool brig Anne, rescued from the pirates. No British vessels of war were at Rio Janeiro 24th ult. except the surviving vessels Adventure and Beagle. The Ganges 84, Admiral Otway, was at Bahia.



## THE BRITISH PACKET, AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

The national schooner *Caroline*, for the Havannah, (late *Robert Armstrong*) which sailed from this on the evening of the 10th inst. passed point *Indio* with a fair wind on the morning of 11th inst. at 3 o'clock; did not see any vessels.

Accounts from the *Salado* to 9th inst. state, that a brig and a schooner, outward bound, had got aground in going out of harbour, but floated again, and have proceeded on their voyage.

The British brig *Florida*, (whose loss we have mentioned in another part of our paper,) was taken from the Spaniards during the last war with England off the Bahama's; it is not known if she was built in Bermuda or in Spain, or when built; she has proved latterly a most unfortunate vessel, first as it regards *Fournier's* seizure of her, and her present misfortune. We sincerely regret the anxiety and trouble to which her captain (*Hastings*) has been exposed, and which no exertions on his part could have prevented. The *Florida* belonged to Mr. *Bennett*, of London, who, it is said, is the owner of more than 60 vessels, the greater part of them engaged in the South Sea trade.

Some of the Brazilian Gazettes, which we have lately perused, deplore the wickedness and immorality that exists in Buenos Ayres; perhaps they mean to be ironical, or have been reading *Doctor Cantwell* in the Hypocrite.

October 7th. Arrived, British Brig of War *Cadmus*, captain *Thompson*; sailed from Monte Video at 3 o'clock on the morning of 6th inst. Arrived, national schooner of war 11th June, *Hidalgo*, from *Martin Garcia*. It blowing a gale of wind, the above vessels had no communication with the shore all day.

Oct. 8th. Arrived, No. 5 Gun-boat. A cutter, (tender to the Squadron) and some balandras from *Martin Garcia*.

Arrived, American brig *Ruth*, of and from Philadelphia, with flour and other effects. Called at Bahia, and sold part of her cargo; was bound to Santos, and off that port on 26th ult. detained by the schooner privateer *Rayo Argentino*, part of the cargo being thought Brazilian property. The *Ruth* passed the blockading squadron without impediment; the Rio and another schooner were under weigh, cruising. The privateer spoke the National brig of war *Congress*, *Fournier*, off Santos on 26th inst. The *Ruth* came in with the *National flag at the peak*, and the American flag at the fore.

Oct. 8. Captain *Thompson*, of the brig of war *Cadmus*, landed with despatches for Lord *Ponsonby*, brought to Monte Video on 4th inst. by the French corvette *Isis*, 10 days from Rio Janeiro. The *Cadmus* met a schooner bound down the river; the masts of the burned brig *Brutus* drifted by them.

October 9th. The wind blowing fresh off the land, and an extraordinary low river, a number of persons were on horseback upon the bank that divides the Inner from the Outer Roads, and carts to take away any articles that might be found. The remains of the ketch *Zephyr*, wrecked in the year 1815, and American brig *Delaware*, wrecked in 1811, were very conspicuous, as also of the brig *Ebenezer*, burned in 1820. All the vessels in the Inner Roads were aground, having only about 5 feet water; the British brig *Florida* being deeply laden, strained to that degree that the bilged, and afterwards sunk; a small part of the cargo has been taken out in a damaged state; the remainder may possibly be got out by cutting a hole in the weather side of the brig.

October 12. Arrived, national schooners *Sarandi*, *Ribelo*; *Maldonado*, *Toll*; No. 6 gun boat, and a balandra from *Martin Garcia*.

Arrived, American schooner *Joseph Meads*, captain *Austin*, from Rio Janeiro, 29th September, with wine, brandy, gin and tobacco, to Dana and Carman. The schooner came into the river 9th inst.; 10th saw the blockading squadron near *Ensenada*, they chased and fired, at night was close to 10 sail of them; they again chased and fired; approaching *Colonia* they tacked; and the schooner passed between the islands abreast of *Colonia*, the batteries fired, and a logger boat and schooner gave chase. Came to Buenos Ayres in company with the *Sarandi*, *Maldonado*, and No. 5 gun boat. The packet *Dove*, from this 28th August, arrived at Rio Janeiro 20th September; the *Lord Melville* packet from this 11th September arrived at Rio 29th. The privateer cutter *Rapid*, captain *Pinedo*, was taken off Rio Grande by the frigate *Paula*, captain *Brito*, and sent to Rio Janeiro; *Brito* has been ordered to this river to take command of the blockading squadron. The British frigate *Forte*, from Monte Video, arrived at Rio 26th Sept.; British corvette *Heron*, from Bahia, 20th; frigate *Doris*, from the Pacific, about the same period. American frigate *Macedonian*, 2 French frigates, and a brig and schooner of war, were lying there. *Pedro* 1st, 74 guns, was to sail to the northward with convoy; the *Pedro*, *Paula*, and some smaller vessels, were all the Brazilian vessels of war at Rio on 29th instant; they were constructing new gun boats; 2 Dutch transports came in with troops bound to Batavia. The *Dove* packet sailed 28th September, for Falmouth, being leaky she had been detained some days at Rio, and caulked.

October 12. The blockading squadron came in sight this morning, dressed in colours, in honour, it is said, of the Emperor's birth day; although some reported it to be in compliment to the victory of *Sarandi*, of which it was the anniversary; at 12 o'clock the squadron fired a salute, five vessels were in sight at the time, coming from *Martin Garcia*, but the blockaders were probably too much employed in the pageant of the day, and it being fog time, did not care to be disturbed in their devotions and bumpers to the health of *Don Pedro*, coupled with confusion to the Republicans.

October 13. Arrived, national brig of war *Balcarce*, *F. Segui*, from *Martin Garcia*; and privateer boat *General Lavalle*, from a cruise; she has not made any captures.

October 10. Sailed, British brig of war *Cadmus*, *Thompson*, for Monte Video.

A number of small craft from the northward have arrived, and others sailed, during the week.

During the low tide on the 9th, some parts of the Inner Roads had only three and a half feet water; the average depth at sun set was four and a half feet.

October 12. Admiral *Brown's* new boat, called the "*Martin Garcia*" proceeded to *Ensenada* this morning.

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October 13. Arrived, 3 zumacas from the northward. The wreck of the British brig Florida, and the cargo, was sold this day for 3060 dollars, as she is now lying.

A party of gentlemen from the shore partook of an entertainment on board the privateer schooner President, in the Inner Roads; the toasts were given under salutes of cannon.

Captain Arthur Batt Bingham, of the Thetis frigate, commanded the sloop of war Little Belt, in the rencontre with the American frigate President, Commodore Rodgers!

The American schooner brig Caspian, from Monte Video, has been detained by the blockading squadron off this; Norton continues in command of the latter; Lobo is at Rio Janeiro, and we hear nothing of Brito. Beef was 20 reals the arroba at Monte Video; poultry not to be had except at a great price; four 16 dollars per barrel. The town was, however, tolerably gay, and "plenty of Tertulias." On the day that Brown appeared off the port there was a guerilla skirmish outside the town. "Pepe Onzas," and his companions have been taken to Rio Janeiro in the frigate Forte.

The Sin Par privateer parted from her chain cable in the gale of Sunday night, but brought up again without damage. The pilot went off to her on Monday morning.

The ship 25th of May is laying bilged in the Inner Roads; efforts are making by means of water casks, &c. to right her again.

The packet Zephyr is posted to sail on Monday next.

The British brig Pacific, Mc'Gowan, was to sail in about a week from Monte Video for Liverpool.

The following has been posted in the British Commercial Room.

(COPY) BUENOS AYRES, 9TH OCTOBER, 1827.

Sir,—I have much pleasure in being enabled to acquaint you, for the information of the parties concerned, that the application addressed to me some time since by the several consignees of British property deposited in Monte Video (seeking in consequence of the continuance of the war, an extension of the term granted by law for such deposits in the Custom house at that place) having been submitted by His Majesty's Minister at the court of Rio de Janeiro to the government of His Imperial Majesty, Mr. Gordon has been assured, that the Emperor has been pleased to agree to permit the desired extension for a reasonable term.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your very obedient servant,  
**WOODBINE PARISH,**  
H. M. Consul General.

**THOMAS DUGUID, Esq.**  
Chairman of the British Merchant's Committee.

Accounts have been received from Monte Video to 12th inst.; the British brig of war Cadmus, from this 10th, arrived at Monte Video 11th inst. at 10 o'clock in the morning. The British frigate Thetis had sailed, supposed for Maldonado. No mercantile arrivals lately. The Brazilian brig of war 29th August, capt. Wilson, (son of Sir Robert Wilson,) is stated to have been lost near Colonia a few days since, captain and greater part of the crew drowned. A grand ball had been given at Monte Video, and other festivities, upon the occasion of the installation of Don Tomas Garcia Zuniga, as President of the Cisplatina province, (Banda Oriental)

The British brig Jane arrived at Monte Video; spoke the national brig of war Congress, Fournier, off the coast of Brazil; and the American brig Rath spoke the national schooner of war Patagonas, capt. Love, off the same coast in September last.

The tragedy of Macbeth transformed into an opera, the music by M. Chelard, has been performed at the "Academie Royale de Musique" at Paris; the French critics seem delighted with it, and begin to find that Shakspeare was a most extraordinary man; they observe "depuis les Euméides d'Eschyle, la muse tragique n'avait rien produit de plus grandiose ni de plus terrible que Macbeth." In London the Midsummer Nights' Dream, Merry Wives of Windsor, and other of Shakspeare's productions have been lately represented with the aid of music, Miss Foote as Hermia, in the former piece, and in the delivery of the lines

"By all the vows that ever men have broke;  
In numbers more than ever woman spoke."

added to her interesting and beautiful person, made a great impression upon the audience and increased the indignation against the modern Lysander who had so ungenerously deceived her.

### THEATRE.

The opera of the Barber of Seville, so often repented and yet ever new, attracted, (notwithstanding the unfavourable weather) an elegant audience on Saturday evening. Cenerentola, on Thursday, had a brilliant assemblage to its representation, and the delightful tones of Duña Angola again elicited loud applause. Both operas afforded the greatest satisfaction; indeed it is a high treat to the lovers of music, and we feel grateful to those who have promoted the opera establishment, and placed our theatre so many grades in advance.

Moliere's comedy of the school for husbands was performed last evening. Two other plays have been represented during the week to audiences less numerous than usual, on account of the rain and cold weather.

### PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublons, 68 to 70 dollars each.  
Spanish Dollars 285 a 290 per cent premium.  
Gold in bars, 21 a 22 ½ rs. per quilate.  
Silver do. 21 rs. per dinero.  
Exchange on England, 12d per dollar.  
Do. on Rio Janeiro, 330 rees currency per dollar, (nominal.)  
Do. on Monte Video, 270 pr. cent or 216 rees do.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

#### BUENOS AYRES SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The quarterly distribution of rewards to children in this school will take place on Sunday, the 21st inst., at 4 o'clock P. M., in the room now fitting up for the use of the presbyterian congregation, No. 50 calle de la Catedral, next door to French's hotel.

The school is conducted entirely independent of any difference of Christian youth, or desirous of knowing more particularly the arrangements of the school, are invited to attend.  
denominations, and all who feel interested in the religious instruction of The room will be open for religious service at 11 P. M. and half past 7 P. M. on the day above named, and on every following Sunday.