

THE

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1827.

(Vol. 2.)

BUENOS-AYRES.

The chief arguments issued against the system of Republics is, the party spirit to which it gives rise; its uncertain tenure, and the tyranny consequent thereon.—“Better have one tyrant than many.” The monarchs of the continent of Europe, forming the late compact of the holy alliance, dreaded that spirit of republicanism so prevalent on the continent of America, and are rejoiced to see a monarchical government like Brazil formed in its very centre, trusting that if it cannot annihilate, it may at least serve as a counterpoise.

Great Britain, secure within herself, has nothing to fear from the spread of republics; and in that respect essentially differs from the other monarchies. Possessing a form of government nearly republican, and the enjoyments of social happiness and rational liberty in a high degree, the great mass of the people dread a change, and are content to put up with the abuses that may have crept in, and perhaps, the rather too expensive manner in which the government is administered. Therefore, the prosperity of other republics, especially those of South America, is to the interest of Great Britain; setting aside the feeling which the people of the latter state have for all that concerns liberty.

The dissensions which have prevailed in the new republics have excited regret and astonishment; religion in other climes formed a pretext for rancour; in England the puritans were arrayed against the cavaliers; in South America, which has few or no sectarians, confusion has prevailed, as if south of the line the demon of discord had liberty to roam “ad libitum.” North America abounds in different sects of religion, yet the state machine goes on regularly and prosperously. In Buenos Ayres, although party spirit is at times carried to excess, we no longer dread revolutions.

Notwithstanding all that has been said of public commotions under republics, monarchies have been as much subject to seditions. Rome was free from sedition when the people came to have a share in the government, so that from the 467th year of the city, to the sedition of the Gracchi, in the 620th, Rome enjoyed a profound quiet and tranquillity, an example of domestic peace which the history of later ages cannot parallel.

A treaty has been entered into between this province and Cordova, the principal stipulations of which are: that the two provinces agree to support each other mutually, to defend their present institutions, and cooperate in carrying on the war against the emperor of Brazil; the province of Buenos Ayres to send two depu-

ties to the convention to be held in Santa Fé or San Lorenzo; who shall depart for their destination as soon as the province of Cordova shall make known the day on which they are to meet, and the place of meeting, according to the majority of votes of the different provinces; the instructions which the two provinces shall give to their deputies, shall be directed to the following objects: to name a provisional national executive, for the objects of peace and war, and foreign affairs; fix the form of government, which must be, (according to the determination of the provinces already expressed,) the federal form, &c.; the province of Cordova to send a regiment of 600 men to be employed in the war; the expences of the equipment, &c. of the men, to be paid by the government of Buenos Ayres, from the funds destined for carrying on the war; and the province of Buenos Ayres to make every effort for sending as many recruits as possible to increase the ranks of the army, and to carry on the campaign with vigour, as she has hitherto done.

The 12th day of October is an important epoch in this part of the world; it is a “Red-letter day” (nuestra señora del Pilar,) Recoleta fair, “Fiestas de primavera,” the anniversary of the battle of Sarandi, and the birth day of the Brazilian Emperor. After a suspension of three years the fair was revived upon its ancient site at the Recoleta at the request of numerous individuals, and by permission of the competent authorities, and we are glad of the revival, being great opposititionists to any thing that curtails the innocent amusements of the people, and viewed our magistrates at home as little less than Goths when they suppressed the pastoral fairs of Camberwell, Peckham, Brook Green, West End, Fairlop, &c. Saint Bartholomew, however, was not to be frightened, and backed by “Lady Holland’s mob,” fought nobly for the honours of “Bartlemy Fair,” which still continues in all its vigour.

In the year 1815 the fair hitherto held at the Recoleta was transplanted to the Retiro, but it did not flourish in the new soil; the motives assigned for the removal were, that being near the public cemetery, it might inspire gloom, or offend the shades of departed spirits. In 1826 privations caused by war was made a pretext for the non-celebration. In 1827 it re-assumed its dominion upon the old “Champ du Pataille,” in spite of war, or of those entombed

“Where all the kindred of the Capulets lie.”

War was scarcely spoken of, and if now and then the subject gained attention, it was more in the style of the famed recitative poet of Astley’s Amphitheatre, yelped “the water gruel poet,” than any thing of fear.

“For now ’tis war, and glorious war, say I;
That man’s unfit to live, that is afraid to die.”

The Recoleta fair is not, however, like Bartholomew fair, Donny Brook fair, or any other fair that has fallen under our notice; half a dozen booths, rompe cabezas, and a lottery, constitute all the extraordinaryties. It may be called a promenade, to

which the population of this city, high and low, resort to see and be seen, and nothing to offend the most rigid moralist. It commenced on the 12th instant, and is to continue for eight days. On Sunday afternoon, the weather being fine, the city and its environs poured forth its swarms of all nations and languages, carriages, calle coches, gigs, equestrians, pedestrians, forming a "grand mass," and forcing one to conclude that Buenos Ayres is a very leading city in the Southern hemisphere. Above all, the attention was attracted to the groupes of lovely females attired in the peculiar elegance of their country, and wanting "no more diamonds than their eyes can give." It is a pity they should ever grow old, and that unrelenting time will so soon rob them of their graces.

The slave girls and servants decked out in silk stockings and silken veils, and following in the train of their mistresses, formed no unimportant part in this annual jubilee—which, from its orderly compartment, might serve as a model to polished Europe.

We regret the duty imposed upon us to record a melancholy and diabolical transaction. It will be recollected, that the schr. of war 29th of December, captain Archibald Smith, sailed for Santa Fé to receive a contingent of seamen from that province; it appears that most of them were deserters from the national squadron, and soon after they were taken on board, captain Smith was knocked down, and stabbed with a boarding pike. Captain George, of the schooner 18th of January, was laying near, (off Rosario,) and observing boats lowered from the 29th December, he suspected mischief, and went to the schooner, but before he got on board, the mutineers had all escaped, except a corporal and 2 black men, having forced the original crew away; four of them, it is said, had joined them. An armed felucca is in pursuit, and it is thought, many will be taken; three were picked up on the river, and sent to Buenos Ayres; they were found floating on the trunk of a tree, endeavouring to get to the Banda Oriental. Poor Smith had been for several years in this country, for which he had the most ardent attachment, and was a faithful and good officer; he formerly commanded the ship *Primero*, in a voyage with mules to the isle of France, and latterly the brig *Juliana*, seized by the Brazilians at Paraguaná.

Admiral Brown, in the boat *Martin Garcia*, returned from Ensenada on Sunday last; in going to that port, they passed within a few gun shots of the Brazilian squadron; they did not appear to notice the boat. The *Martin Garcia* has 50 feet keel, and sails admirably.

It is rarely we have seen so great a crowd of ladies in the streets of Buenos Ayres "shopping" as on Saturday evening last. The calle de la Victoria at one time was almost impassable; the night was serene, and Sunday being gala-day at the Recoleta, may account for the concourse.

Broom, Carter, and several of the Brazilian officers who lately made their escape from Patagonia and Caquel, went to Rio Janeiro in the last convoy from Monte Video; their pay was several months in arrear, and the treasury at Monte Video drained; at which the escaped officers expressed great regret, mingled with dissatisfaction, and are gone to Rio to seek relief. If the emperor begins to falter in his payments, the war will soon have a conclusion; few serve him from affection; he has been a liberal and punctual paymaster, and whilst that continues, he will always find individuals to take his money; but the moment it is discovered "a screw is loose," (as the knowing ones say,) his present obsequious adherents will follow the general custom, and "cut him."

Three balandras and a schooner have been lately captured by Brazilian launches; they are becoming very daring; their point of rendezvous is at Colonia.

On 14th inst. a Brazilian boat with lateen sails, and having a large Buenos Ayrean ensign, came towards the Salado, boarded and took away with them, the American brig *Tusculoosa*, then laying 4 miles from the port receiving cargo, and having on board about 800 quintals of beef; no opposition could be offered, not having any vessel of war at the Salado, except the privateer *Triunfo Argentino*, and from the low tide she was aground.

Now that every house in this city has its number painted in front, and the streets regularly named, a "two penny post office" would be a most convenient establishment, and make an addition to the revenue; it would, likewise, save us a world of anxiety; we could then send our subscribers their "British Packet" regularly; the present delay, and uncertain mode of delivery avoided, the post office becoming responsible; what an excellent conveyance for love letters; the enamoured girl no longer having to dread the prying curiosity of servants or slaves.

Monte Video, as it regards commerce, is exceedingly dull; the store keepers have little or nothing to do, except when the navy and army are paid. A store keeper in Buenos Ayres, with all the privations of blockade, is a much more profitable employment than at Monte Video.

The corvette *Liberal* arrived at Monte Video from off this on the 11th inst. conveying the detained American schooner brig *Caspian*; it is said that the sails and theudder have been taken away from the latter vessel. The British brig *Corsair*, from Liverpool, has arrived at Monte Video.

It is supposed that the boat which took away the American brig *Tusculoosa* from the Salado, is commanded by a Chileno, a deserter from Admiral Brown's squadron. At Monte Video a few days since, he expressed his intention to go to the Salado or Buenos Ayres, and offered, (if any one would secure to him one thousand silver dollars) to go into the inner roads, and cut some of the vessels out; he is about 28 years of age, has lost his front teeth, and is represented as a very brave man.

The privateer schooner *President*, Allen, mounts 8 guns, long nines and sixes; is well supplied with musketry, &c.; and has 70 men, nearly all English and Americans.

The ship 25th May still remains bilged; the efforts to right her again have not yet succeeded. Great exertions have been made to get the cargo from the wreck of the brig *Florida*, and a portion of it has been recovered.

The blockading squadron generally hoist the flag of Buenos Ayres when a strange vessel appears.

The warehouse of Messrs. Arriola & Co. in this city, is a perfect bazaar; abundance of prize goods; saunts "en deshabille," cocked hats, &c., &c. the "spoils of war."

In the afternoon of the 18th inst. the Rio schooner approached with a flag of truce; a boat was sent to her, but from darkness and bad weather, returned without meeting her.

October 13. Arrived, national schooner of war *Uruguay*, from *Martin Garcia*.

14. A midshipman, and 4 seamen, viz: 3 Englishmen and 1 Swede, late belonging to the Brazilian corvette Carioca, captain Norton, were landed this morning. They had been despatched to a captured balandra, and deserted, forcing the officer with them, and got on board a gun boat in the Inner Roads on the night of the 18th inst; 400 dollars were given as purchase money for the boat, and equally divided to the sailors. The midshipman's name is don José Manuel de Melho.

16. Sailed, british barque packet of war Zephyr, Church, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro, and Falmouth. She has a number of passengers; amongst them, Sir Edmund Temple, from Chile; Mr. Joseph Thwaites, Mr. John Stewart, Mr. Jackson, &c. &c.

17. It blew a gale of wind from the SSE. all day. The schr. General Brown parted her cable, and made towards the Conchas. The wreck of the brig Florida floated, and immediately proceeded to her companion in misfortune, the bilged ship 25th of May, and finally took a birth alongside of her; the two unfortunates now lay close locked together. A ship with a flag at the mizen was under weigh this morning amongst the blockading squadron; she appeared a merchant ship detained.

18. Arrived, national schooners of war 29th of December; and 18th January, captam George, from Santa Fé and Rosario.

18. At day break this morning, weather hazy and a slight rain, a merchant brig was seen standing inwards; she had a white flag with a red cross in it at the fore; the flag at the peak appeared to be Sardinian; she fired two guns for a pilot. The Brazilian squadron were soon afterwards observed in chase, but at a considerable distance; after passing the 3 fathom hole, the brig got aground; 5 Brazilian schooners surrounded her; 2 brigs were near; the brig floated again, and she was convoyed away, her national and signal flags being previously struck. After a long delay, the national schrs. of war Sarandi, captain La Rosa; Juncal, captain Coe, and No. 1 gun boat, left the inner roads; about 9 o'clock Admiral Brown went on board the Sarandi, and hoisted his flag at the main; at this period the Brazilians were near the outer roads, and steering for the flag ship Carioca, the latter coming up before the wind; the detained brig was sent to meet her, and 2 brigs of war and 5 schooners remained under easy sail. A brig hove too, and about 10 o'clock opened fire, which was returned by the Sarandi and Juncal; an action commenced, very often within musket shot, which continued until past 12 o'clock; the Brazilian schooners kept aloof, and cannonaded with their long guns; the brig certainly evinced considerable spirit; she had, however, the advantage of being to windward, could manoeuvre as she pleased, and always bore away when her opponents showed a disposition to close; she fired several full broadsides with grape and round shot; the other brig did not assist much in the action; in the end, the Brazilians retired towards the Commodore's ship, and the national vessels steered for the inner roads. The Sarandi had one man killed by a grape shot, (an Englishman, stationed in the chains;) none wounded; the Juncal had 2 men slightly wounded by splinters, and both vessels had received a little damage in the sails and rigging. The brig had her quarter boat shot away, which we could observe from the shore, and probably other damage. The combat was very unequal; the Sarandi had two guns only, the rest having been taken out; they had to fight the brig nominally of 18, but really mounting 20 guns; another brig of 18 guns, and 5 schooners with some excellent long guns, in "deep water" too, and yet the Brazilians with such odds, could effect nothing against two schooners fighting three guns.—The gun boat No. 1 was not in action; the President, privateer, was under weigh, but did not join in the combat.

That the Brazilians should take away the merchant vessel when so near the inner roads, is a vexatious affair; but we will not,

by any remarks of ours, add to the general feeling of discontent. The pilot was despatched early in the morning; finding the brig in possession of the Brazilians, he went on board the President, and afterwards the Juncal, where he remained during the action.

Admiral Brown came on shore at half past 1 o'clock, bringing with him 3 prisoners, taken out of the 29th December, concerned in the murder of captain Smith. The Admiral called a military guard when he landed, and with considerable indignation gave the prisoners into custody; they are miserable looking beings, (gauchos.)

The American brig Ruth will most probably be restored; she was detained upon the interpretation given to the sixth article in the private instructions for the regulation of privateers. We subjoin a copy of that document.

Private instructions to the owners of Privateers, cruizing against the Brazilian Empire.

ARTICLE I.

Every Brazilian vessel, whether merchantman, privateer, or man of war, shall be considered as an enemy of this republic, and as such, can be attacked, taken, burned and destroyed, whenever it may be possible, unless she be the bearer of any person of rank, holding an official character, from the emperor of Brazil; in which case she shall be permitted to continue her voyage without obstruction.

ARTICLE II.

In case of combat, the flag of the Republic shall be hoisted, viz.: white and blue, with a sun in the centre.

ARTICLE III.

An exact log of the daily operations shall be remitted as often as possible, at least monthly; with any intelligence that may be obtained of the state of the country, and whatever other news it may be interesting to the government of the Republic to know.

ARTICLE IV.

Should notice be obtained of any expedition directed against our ports, the first and principal attention shall be dedicated to follow in its course, with the object of cutting off the transports, and taking, burning, and destroying, as many as possible of the enemy's convoy. This service shall be considered the most interesting to the Republic; to which effect, attention is recommended to the articles 11, 12, 13, and 44, of the privateer law of the 15th of May, 1817.

ARTICLE V.

If a Brazilian squadron blockade any port in the territory of the Republic, privateers shall annoy them as far as may be possible without compromising the national flag; and shall take every advantage permitted by the laws of war and general reprisals.

ARTICLE VI.

Considering as in a state of blockade every port belonging to the Brazilian empire; consequently, all provisions of whatever kind, bound for said ports, are contrabandas notified in the before-mentioned law.

ARTICLE VII.

Shall make every endeavour to obtain a true account of the state of the provinces belonging to the empire; of the ideas and

opinions therein prevalent; of any ill-will that may exist towards the government, and of the individuals of weight and character who may be considered dissatisfied; all which shall be inserted in a private register, and remitted to the minister of war by the first opportunity.

ARTICLE VIII.

Considering that the principal object of privateering is to cruise off the ports where Brazilian vessels are to be found; whenever a privateer shall be at the mouth of any of said ports, she shall redouble her vigilance for obtaining intelligence, questioning the neutral vessels that may enter or sail therefrom, with the decorum and circumspection proper to an officer of the navy of this republic; without committing the least extortion, nor violating any of the laws established among civilized nations; consulting, in doubtful cases, the before-mentioned law, in order not to give room for any well-founded complaint, through the imprudence of the commander.

ARTICLE IX.

The commander shall, if possible, through the means of said vessels, communicate with some person of confidence in the Brazilian territory, learn the strength of the enemy's forces by land and sea, and the projects which may be in agitation against this Republic.

ARTICLE X.

By the same, or other means, he shall procure the public papers; and send them, by the first opportunity, to this ministry.

ARTICLE XI.

The captain will be severely responsible to the Republic for the discipline of his subaltern officers, of whatever rank; for the order and interior economy of the vessel; for good conduct to the prisoners, according to their respective classes; and for a generous reception of foreigners or Brazilian subjects who may wish to emigrate to these provinces.

ARTICLE XII.

Whenever, and in whatever latitude, he may fall in with a neutral or friendly vessel, bound for an American port, he shall, conformable with these instructions, send a copy of his log, and any other news he may have obtained; recommending the captain on his arrival at his destination, to send them to this ministry by the most speedy and safe conveyance.

ARTICLE XIII.

It is recommended, in the most positive manner, to the prudence and honour of the captain and officers of a privateer, to use the greatest circumspection and delicacy in the fulfilment of these instructions; and to keep on the most harmonious terms with the vessels of friendly or neutral powers, so far as may be conformable to the rights of war; and without prejudice to general reprisals; leaving always an honourable and decorous opinion of the government of the republic; and to this end, he is enjoined to observe most punctually the stipulations of the law concerning privateers, to which he is bound, &c.

ARTICLE XIV.

As in the system pursued by the cabinet of Brazil, during the present war, they have neither respected, nor respect, the property of the subjects of this republic; every thing belonging to individuals of that nation that may be found aboard neutral or friendly merchant vessels, after a most careful investigation of the papers, shall, and ought to be, reputed as lawful prizes; to which end, it shall be taken out of said vessel; the captor giving her commander the corresponding document specifying the nature and quantity of the goods taken; and the captain of the privateer shall enter

the transaction in his log book; and shall give an account thereof to the government, or to its consuls, &c. Buenos Ayres, &c.

The French historians, Messieurs Rengger and Longchamp, in their account of Paraguay, are rather facetious upon Dr. Francia's hypochondriacal disposition. They observe,

"There would not, perhaps, be in all the world a country so wisely governed as Paraguay, if the wind blew from the South West all the year; that wind would be, to him, equivalent to an excellent constitution; for as long as it continues, the conduct of Francia is irreproachable; all the decisions he makes, all the orders he gives, are conformable to the rules of the most strict equity; added to which, he then possesses a charming gaiety, and all those who go to see him, return from his palace enchanted with the good reception he has given them, and the amiability of his manners; informers alone are badly received; he never fails, (as we have heard,) to give them 50 blows with a stick, and that, of course, discourages them a little. Unhappy for him, and for those who approach him, when the wind begins to blow from the north west, Doctor Francia is then hardly to be recognized; he discharges his ill humour on all about him; officers, soldiers, are equally mal-treated; he menaces his enemies, real or supposed; orders arrests, and inflicts the most severe punishments; therefore, those who have any business to transact with him, must take care to observe which way the wind blows.

Strangers who arrive in Paraguay by a north west wind, he always suspects; the "Savans" even, who are only there for innocent researches, are the objects of his jealousy, and when he has once got hold of them, he will not release them easily.

Francia has taken effectual means against the abuse of the press - by not having a single printing press in all his dominions, and we might say, with reason, that it is an absolutism the most pure; but, I repeat it, Paraguay is tranquil, and in a little time, I doubt not, will serve as a place of refuge. It will be a very instructive spectacle to see the republicans of South America seeking shelter under the despotism of Doctor Francia from the liberty of Bolivar."

THEATRE.

The unsettled rainy weather has diminished the attractions of the Theatre this week. The fifth temporada commenced on 15th inst. and we did not observe that the boxes had changed proprietors. El Abate Seductor was performed, and Matilda Dias, in her white spencer and Spanish hat, looked very interesting; we admire her taste in dress. El Aviso a los Casados, was represented on 18th inst. The overtures, and symphonies between the acts at this theatre are often worth listening to; the other evening the orchestra gave us, the Overture to the Calife, El Barbero, and an air from the Troubadours.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublons, 68 to 70 dollars each.
 Spanish Dollars 290 per cent premium.
 Gold in bars, 21 a 22 1/2 rs. per quitate.
 Silver do. 21 rs. per dinero.
 Exchange on England, 12d per dollar.
 Do. on Rio Janeiro, 330 rees currency per dollar, (noml.)
 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 24th inst. at 4 o'clock P. M., in the room now fitting up for the use of the Presbyterian congregation, No. 30 calle de a Catedral, next door to Fauch's hotel.

The school is conducted entirely independent of any difference of christian denominations, and all who feel interested in the religious instruction of youth, or desirous of knowing more particularly the arrangement of the school, are invited to attend.

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.