

THE

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1827.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

THE Argentine Nation is certainly in a very extraordinary position. After so many years of revolution,—after having passed through all the vicissitudes of popular commotion, we now find them obliged to discuss the first elements of those vital principles without which there can exist no civil liberty. But it appears that the public mind has not had time to fix itself on any one of them; and far from discovering in the people invariable rules of political conduct, we only find a kind of darkness visible,—a chaos of unconnected ideas, exposed to take contrary directions, according to the events which occur, and the men who present themselves on the public scene.

Sincere friends to this country, and warmly interested in its glory and its felicity, we deplore this uncertainty in which the minds of the people wander; and shall make every effort within the reach of our resources, and the line of impartiality we have traced for ourselves, to contribute to root out an evil which we fear will be fruitful in most disastrous consequences.

It is, above all, painful to us to see that first of public institutions, the elections, abandoned to the irregularities of a casual legislation, and destitute of that firm basis which could alone assure its permanency. We know that the law leaves a great void in this most important branch: but that which the law has not done, opinion should effect. If the people were enlightened on this question, we should not now see a new torch of discord thrown among the parties.

The representatives of the people are *the nation*. This single idea suffices to show how sacred every thing that concerns them is, and ought to be. But of all that concerns them, nothing is so sublime as the act which gives them existence: and this act ought to be as pure as truth, as inviolable as justice, as free as reason. If it be obstructed by puerile chicanery; if it be suffocated by a criminal influence, or vitiated by useless impediments and formalities, it is no longer an election; the people are despoiled of their most valuable prerogative, and the national representation ceases to exist.

The manœuvres made use of to deteriorate, mislead, or suffocate the right of elections, are as detrimental to those who govern, as to the represented. The former create a machine whose springs are too violent to be of any utility to

them: the latter see the organs of power multiplied by the same means which ought to neutralize them, and find new tyrants where they ought to find protectors. By this means liberty perishes by the hands of those entrusted with its support; the most sacred ties of society are dissolved; the names remain, without the things: and from all this results a régime infinitely worse than tyranny, because to all its excesses it adds the hypocrisy of forms, and the scandal of a perpetual falsehood.

In England, the necessity of contending with a power that disposes of one part of the elections, has obliged the people to watch, with singular care, over the other part which remains free. When the nation has been in danger, that has always been the anchor that has saved the grand interests of the community; and in the time of Charles II., when the first moment of enthusiasm produced by the return of a monarch so persecuted, had passed, the nation would confide its interests to none but men of experience and integrity. "Thus it was, (says a modern writer,) that persevering in a conduct which the circumstances of the times rendered necessary, the people baffled the acts of the government, and Charles dissolved three successive parliaments, without any other effect than that of having those same men re-chosen and set again in opposition to him, of whom he hoped he had rid himself for ever."

But the effects of an election are greater and more important, when treating of a people new in the career of liberty. In those cases, every thing is to be created; and an act so solemn not only requires integrity and patriotism, but also knowledge and experience. The spirit of party, employed as an electioneering arm in a crisis so delicate, is a deadly instrument that nips in the bud all the sources of public salvation. The smallest evil becomes then an inexhaustible source of calamity; as the least dislocation in the pieces which have to compose the constitutional machine, vitiates for ever its play and its operation.

In England, hardly can an electioneering law be said to exist. A few legislative arrangements, the major part of them very old, and many of them municipal, form all the code of that important operation. But custom, and the practical knowledge the English possess of the forms and requisites of an election, make up most advantageously for the silence of the law. In the new Republics of America, this cannot be expected, as they are in want of those recollections, of

that practical knowledge; and reference to days of yore: they have no other resource than the written law; and this law ought to foresee every thing, and entirely to close the door against arbitrariness, error, and doubt.

We cannot but deplore that this Republic should, after so many years of agitation, be in want of a safe rule by which to regulate their elections. The existing law is too laconic, vague, and imperfect; and thus it is that in a recent epoch we have seen all principles confounded, all theories called in doubt, and the primitive foundation of the republican system exposed to a subaltern decision. The result is, that the national representation is not complete, and that they know not what steps to take for resolving the questions to which the last elections of Buenos Ayres and the Baradero have given rise. No one will deny that this is a great evil.

The news from Rio Janeiro comes down to the 19th ultimo. On 12th ult. arrived at that port the British packet Frolic, Barron — Mr. Canning died in London on 8th August, in the same house in which the celebrated Mr. Fox expired: the immediate cause of his death was an inflammation upon the kidneys. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, by the side of Mr. Pitt. The funeral was intended to be private; an immense concourse of people, however, followed the remains of the deceased statesman to the grave. Viscount Goderich (late Mr. Robinson,) is appointed Premier, and first Lord of the Treasury; Mr. Huskisson succeeds him as Secretary of State for the Colonies; Mr. Charles Grant is appointed President of the Board of Trade, and the Duke of Portland, Lord President, in room of the Earl of Harrowby, who retires; Mr. Hervies is to be one of the Lords of the Treasury. These are the only changes which have taken place in the ministry. The Duke of Wellington, it was thought, would reassume his office as Commander-in-chief of the Army; and that the King would not deviate from the line of politics he has lately pursued. No other political news of importance in Europe. Some vessels were laid on at Liverpool for Buenos Ayres, on the supposition that the preliminaries signed at Rio would be followed by a definitive treaty. — At Rio Janeiro it is said that trade is reviving; the war scarcely mentioned, and therefore likely to continue for a long period, unless Buenos Ayres submits unconditionally to the Emperor's terms; the Emperor very popular; and a number of *et ceteras*. The British frigate Forte, and brig of war Beagle; American frigate Macedonian; a French frigate and schooner, and a Brazilian brig, constituted the vessels of war at Rio Janeiro: the Brazilian frigates Isabel, Paraguassu, and brig Spark, were on a cruise. 600 Irish emigrants, 300 Dutchmen, and 250 Dutch women and children had arrived. The National brig of war Congress, Fournier, had been several times close to Rio, and skirmished with the steam boat. The latter had one man wounded, and was proceeding to the wreck of the frigate Paula, in order to take away the crew. The frigate Paraguassu hove in sight, and the Congress hauled off: she is known to have taken 14 prizes, but supposed of little value, and a number of the prisoners have been landed at Rio Janeiro. The British surveying ship Adventure, had sailed for Santos. Two bomb vessels were about to be launched. Lobo and Brito were both at Rio. The frigate Nitchteroy is at Pernambuco; Maria de Gloria at Rio, wanting repairs. Exchange upon England at 34; Doubloons, 22 milreas. Pepa Onzas and his companions, were on board the Forte, waiting the arrival of Admiral Otway: it was thought they would be sent to England for trial. The

National schooner-brig Patagones, of six guns, Captain George Lewis Love, was taken on the 23d September, off Bahia, by the Brazilian brig of war Imperial Pedro, after an action of an hour and three quarters. Captain Love was killed in an attempt to board the enemy. The Patagones had only 25 men on board, the rest being absent in prizes. She had taken two valuable vessels, (one of them the Bahia Packet,) and remained, it was said, too long off the port, which brought out the Brazilian brig of war, (a new vessel, built in Bahia.) This is the first capture they have made of a national vessel; and the flag of the Republic, against great odds, has been honourably sustained. The late Captain Love was a native of North America, a brave man, and an excellent officer and seaman. He was formerly first lieutenant of the privateer Lavalleja, and upon his return from Patagonia he entered the national service, and was in most of the battles fought off this port. His name will be enrolled with honor amongst the heroes who have died in the service of the Republic.

Extract of a Letter from an officer of the schooner privateer President, Captain Allen, dated on board prize brig Ororão, at the Rio Salado, November 1st, 1827.

"The President left the Outer Roads of Buenos Ayres at seven o'clock in the evening of 22d ult., in company with the schooners of war Sarandi and Juncal; passed through the enemy, and on 23d had ran both the above schooners out of sight. We had light and variable winds. At day-break on 26th, saw a brig, and gave chase. She proved to be the Orpheus, of and from London, bound to Lima. She was short of water; we supplied her with 90 gallons. She had a number of passengers, including several ladies, and being in a distressed state, has proceeded for M. Video. At 2 o'clock on same day saw a ship and a brig standing westward. Stood towards them, Brazilian flag flying; they had the same. At 4 in the afternoon came up with them, hoisted the flag of the Republic, which the brig answered by a gun, and both her and the ship hove to. We commenced action; within pistol shot for an hour and 40 minutes; but we found her guns too heavy for us, and hauled off to prepare for boarding. We ran her alongside, boarded, and carried her, without the loss of a man. The President has got seven men dangerously wounded; the Captain slightly. I had a pistol-shot through my hat, and two through my jacket. The brig being now in our possession, the schooner hauled off to repair damages. I made sail upon the brig, and went in her to take the ship. We boarded and took possession, placing Mr. Clements as prize master. The ship, brig, and privateer have arrived at the Salado. The brig is called the Ororão; the Captain, (a Brazilian, killed by the boarders,) was a very brave man. She mounts six guns, viz. 2 long 9's, and 4 12lb. carronades, with nearly 50 men, 12 of whom were killed and as many wounded, in the action. I don't know the ship's name: she has a general cargo of merchandize and Government stores, and a quantity of ammunition, besides copper money to the amount of 50,000 milreas, intended to pay the troops in Monte Video, for which port the prizes were bound. You will say we have done pretty well for a six days' cruise. The brig is the same that had the action with the privateer Triunfo Argentino, off Santos, on the 14th September last, and has since bent off two other privateers."

Extract of a Letter from Captain King, of privateer Sin Par, dated off Point Indio, October 31.

"We were closely chased down the river the night we sailed.

from 10 o'clock until 1 in the morning. Every credit is due to Mr. Thomas, the pilot. I am quite proud of the *Sin Par*; she sails finely. Two schooners chiefly chased us, and fired three shot; one fell alongside, one astern, and one went over us."

IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE.

We stop the Press to announce, that the schr.-brig *James Laurence*, which arrived at the *Salado* on the 30th ult., brings intelligence that the brig *Caboclo*, (one of the vessels which composed the expedition to Patagonia,) had arrived at *Monte Video* in a damaged state, and reported that the remainder of the squadron, consisting of 2 corvettes, 1 brig, 1 schr.-brig, and 1 schooner, had been lost in a gale of wind. Nothing said of the crews.

Since writing the above, we have seen a letter from *Monte Video*, which confirms this important news, adding, that only the crew of the brig *Independencia* 6 Morte, and 20 men from the corvette *Massiao*, have been saved. It was in the Bay of *San Blas*, in an attempt to cut out the ship *Gaviota*, that the gale overtook them. Captain *Eyre* is among the missing.

Oct. 27.—Sailed, the lugger boat *Martin Garcia*, Captain *J. Segui*, in search of a privateer boat said to be in the *Caracoles*. Report of cannon heard in the direction of *Ensenada*, supposed from the blockading squadron in chase.

Oct. 28.—No Brazilian vessels in sight: *Sin Par* privateer proceeded some miles down the river, but the wind being ahead and blowing fresh, she returned.

Oct. 29.—Sailed, national brig of war *Balcarce*, Captain *F. I. Segui*; schooner do. Eighteenth January, Captain *N. George*; No. 4 Gun Boat, Captain *Collins*, and No. 12 do. Captain *Balcarce*, for *Martin Garcia*, to relieve the vessels stationed there.

Arrived, an American schooner-brig, with a cargo of sugar, tobacco, paper, and dry goods, to *Daniel Gowland*; ten days from *Rio Janeiro*. Saw no vessels on her passage except the blockading squadron: they did not chase.

Arrived, mystico *San Ramon*, from the Bay of *San Blas* (Patagonia,) on the 20th ult.; and reports, that on the 18th two Brazilian corvettes, two brigs, one schooner-brig, and one schooner, appeared off *Rio Negro*: on the 19th, one corvette, two brigs, and one schooner-brig were off *San Blas*; one corvette and a schooner remained off the *Rio Negro*. The *San Ramon* escaped in the night; she was chased for half-an-hour by the schooner-brig. The national ship *Gabiota* (late *Condesa du Ponte*), made an attempt to get out; but the wind being contrary, she did not succeed. From the weather which the *San Ramon* experienced on the coast, it was thought the Brazilians would not attempt any operations for some days after the 20th ult.

Oct. 30.—Arrived, an American schooner-brig, from *Rio Janeiro* eleven days, with a general cargo to *Don Felix Alzaga*. Saw two Brazilian brigs off *Ensenada*, but was not chased.

Arrived, national schooner-brig of war *Eighth February*, Captain *Espora*; schooner *Ninth February*, Captain *Rosales*; ditto, *Thirtieth July*, Captain *Maximn*; No. 6 Gun Boat, *Hogden*; No. 7 do., *Nogueira*, from *Martin Garcia*.—The boat *Martin Garcia* has recaptured a *zumaca* in the *Parana*.

Sailed, privateer *Sin Par*, Captain *King*, on a cruise. She has been rigged as a schooner-brig, and not only looks more warlike, but sails better than heretofore. Her crew consists of 70 men, English and North Americans; and she mounts four guns, viz.—1 long brass 18 pounder, 1 long 6, and 2 long 4 pounders; with musquetry, &c. for every man on board.

Oct. 31.—Arrived, lugger boat *Martin Garcia*, from *Martin Garcia*.

Accounts from *Monte-Video* to the 23d ult., state the arrival of the *Hamburgh* ship *Daphne*: she had been detained by the blockading squadron. Two American brigs arrived at that port on Sunday last. A schooner had been lost near *Colonia*,

(*Wilson*, captain,) and not the brig *Twenty-ninth August*, as reported. The Brazilian frigates *Piranga* and *Emperatriz*, corvette *Liberal*, brigs *Twenty-ninth August* and *Rio de la Plata*; British frigate *Thetis*, brig of war *Cadmus*, and American corvette *Boston*, were at *Monte Video*. It was supposed the American brig *Tusculoosa* would be restored. The packet *Zephyr*, from this 16th ult., sailed from *M. Video* on 23d ult. for *Rio Janeiro* and *Falmouth*.

Notwithstanding the notification from the Committee of the "Society for the promotion of General Knowledge," that the delivery of the Philosophical Lectures has been postponed till after the approaching warm weather, we cannot allow ourselves to think that the public-spirited individuals who first projected the establishment of a "British and Buenos Ayrean Philosophical Institution" here, have given up their plan as hopeless or impracticable. We would be truly sorry if this were the case, convinced as we are, that with a few modifications and improvements, the institution would not only be successful, but highly beneficial to this young and rising country. However friendly we felt towards it at its first establishment, we nevertheless, like many others, had our fears and apprehensions that the course proposed to be pursued was too little of a general or practicable nature; and although we did not entirely agree with those who asserted "that the history of philosophy may be described as the history of human folly," still we thought its abstract principles were much easier ruminated upon than digested by the student. We were of opinion, too, that in order to ensure stability and permanency to the institution, whatever might be the course of lectures or illustrations pursued, that the members should have been attached to it by some tie of subscription, however trifling that might be.

As we have no doubt the Committee will carry their proposed measures into effect at the beginning of autumn first, we would beg of them to take into consideration the benefit and practicability of conjoining with the institution, a library of standard books in English and Spanish, treating on the arts and sciences, history, travels, and general literature; every one the least acquainted with lectures being well aware, that their efficiency are of small account if standard works upon the subjects lectured upon are not within the reach of the student, or general reader. In furtherance of this addition to the institution, we should propose that the members of the Committee of Management should draw up, and lay before the first general meeting, the rules and regulations of a subscription library, connected to and forming part of the institution; fixing the amount of entry-money, and rate of annual subscription, that would constitute one a share-holder in the library, as well as a member of the philosophical institution: and looking to the extent of the British population here, and the many *Argentines* that would readily come forward to subscribe, we cannot for a moment suppose, were the rules and regulations of an open, free and liberal nature, alike approachable by the merchant and by the mechanic, that this plan would not meet with an instant and extensive support.

In conclusion, we sincerely think that were this plan, or something like it, adopted, wisely pursued, and not too much aimed at all at once, it might lay the foundation of an institution that, ere long, would be productive of the highest benefits to the country. Surely, when almost every little town in England and France supports its public library and mechanics' institution, the *Mistress* of the *Rio de la Plata* might be able to do so.

In the article of Newspapers, Buencs Ayres at this moment presents a curious spectacle, both from the quantity published, and the peculiar style of composition. Three new Journals have made their appearance this week, viz: *The Atalaya Republicana*, *The Porteño*, and *The Granizo*. The first is ministerial; the second, opposition; and the third publicly avows the intention of being *satirically wicked*, scorning, in this age of free discussion, all subterfuge, or to conceal its attacks like the satirists of old, by statues of Pasquin or Marforio. We wish each party success; that they may be satisfied with themselves; and avoid, above all things, the "flinging dirt to see who can best bespatter." With the exception of England and North America, Buenos Ayres can, in Newspapers, compete with any country or city in the world,—even Paris. The Paris Journals, in size, are inferior to those of this city; and those of Rio Janeiro must hide their diminished heads; comparison renders them contemptible. The Republic "can beat them out of the field" in that description of force.

Let the snarlers say what they will, Buenos Ayres contains within its walls considerable literary talent. Newspapers form an item at the breakfast table, and are looked for with the same avidity as a London news monger waits the arrival of his favorite Journal. The shops, in the morning, have their groups of readers, and an attentive auditory. The "tendero," or his deputy, reads aloud: the keen satire provokes bursts of laughter, and inward gratulation that they live in a country where "men and measures" can be freely canvassed, without fear of brutal violence. What we denominate "a mob," is a creature unknown in Buenos Ayres. The following Newspapers are now published in this city:—

DAILY:

Gaceta Mercantil; *Correo*; *Atalaya Republicana*; *Granizo*;

THREE TIMES A WEEK:

El Porteño.

WEEKLY:

The British Packet.

The Constitutional is defunct, and the *Granizo* (Hallstone,) succeeds to the honors of the deceased.

The elements appear to have conspired against the Recoleta Fair: storms have succeeded each other, since the 15th ultimo, with little intermission. Deceived by a few days of fine weather, the Police ventured last week to insert advertisements in the public Gazettes, announcing that on Sunday 28th ult., the grand "funcion" in honor of San Pedro Alcantara, would be celebrated at the Plaza of the Recoleta. The newspapers of Buenos Ayres have sometimes been censured for conveying information which ought to be concealed; and there may be some truth in the accusation, for it is certain that by some means or other *Zolus* managed to get intelligence of what was going forward, and spitefully determined to interfere. The day of Saturday proved very sultry and calm: the opposite coast, Colonia, San Juan, Martin Garcia, &c., plainly seen, which clearly denoted a storm. Dark clouds, filled with electric matter, and vivid lightning, closed the night of Saturday. At 6 o'clock on Sunday morning, came a violent hurricane,—wind, thunder, lightning and rain; absolutely shaking the old mansion in which we reside, and brought to memory the serious remark made to Count Rimaldi in the storm scene of the "Tale of Mystery;" and other important recollections. It rained the greater part of the day, and entirely set aside the honors prepared for San Pedro Alcantara.

The shipping did not sustain any damage. The wreck of the brig Florida, (like a base inconstant,) broke adrift from the good old ship 'Twenty-fifth of May, at whose side she had been reposing since 17th ultimo. The ship Twenty-fifth May still remains in her bilged state.

THEATRE.

Several Comedies have been performed lately, with indifferent success. "La Prueba Caprichosa," (upon which is founded our petit piece of "Is he Jealous?") gave Matilda Diez an opportunity of appearing in male attire as a military officer. She wore an ugly red wig, which, in good taste, ought in future to be discarded: her appearance otherwise was *pasablement bien*.—Some of our readers may possibly recollect Fanny Kelly in the same part, and the symmetrical figure which used to cause the envy of many of our modern dandies. We do not advocate that ladies should "wear the breeches" even upon the mimic scene, except in such bewitching characters as Viola, Imogen, Rosalind, &c. The orchestra performed as a symphony, the air of the "minuet" in Don Giovanni, on this evening.

The dramatic talent at this Theatre is not first rate, (always excepting Felipe David.) There is an originality about this actor, an unceasing attention to the business of the stage, and such a fund of comic humour, that he may with propriety claim fellowship with the Mundens and Listons of the British Theatre. We saw him the other evening in crimson attire, curled wig, frilled shirt, ruffles, huge sword, &c., the counterpart of a Marquis of the old school. It is hardly possible to avoid being diverted with his drolleries.

Our Operatic amusements are still clouded. We have long foreboded such an event, though uncertain from whence the blow would come. On the 29th ultimo, for the benefit of Señora Vaccani, was performed selections from the Italiana, and Cenerentola. Doña Angela sung with exquisite effect; yet something appeared wanting. The house was crowded: the boxes occupied by a considerable portion of beauty and fashion, including many ladies that attend the Theatre only on Opera nights. The Governor was in the state-box, attended by General Rondeau, Colonel Ramirez, and Lieut.-col. Casteñon.

Cannot an arrangement take place, and Ricciolini assume some of the operatic characters hitherto personated by Rosquellas?—The pleasing hours these Operas have given us will not soon be forgotten; remembered, perhaps, in preference to affairs of more worldly importance.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doubloons, 68 4 to 69 dollars each.
 Spanish Dollars, 280 to 290 per cent. premium.
 Plata macaquina, 270 to 275 per cent.
 Gold in bars, 19 to 20 reals per quilate.
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 Exchange on England, 11d. to 11½d. per dollar.
 Do. United States, 300 per cent.
 Do. Rio Janeiro, 330 rees currency per dollar.
 Do. Monte Video, 260 to 265 per cent.
 6 per cent. Stock; 48 to 50.
 Rate of Interest per month, 2 to 3 per cent.

For Sale,

THE Barraca of the late Mr. JOHN DILLON, situated at the corner of Calle de Europa, and Calle de la Universidad; also, a Piece of Ground adjoining the same. Apply to Mr. Joshua Thwaites, No. 105 Calle de Belgrano.

November 3. 1827.

With this number concludes the fifth quarter. The subscription for the next quarter will be FOUR DOLLARS: Single Numbers, 2½ rs. This advance has been rendered necessary from the high price of paper, and every article connected with the Press.

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