

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

This Paper will be published every SATURDAY. The Subscription for three months 4 dollars. All communications to be addressed to the Editor, and sent at No. 47, Calle del 25 de Mayo, or at this Office, where Subscriptions are received.

No. 67.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1827.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

IN the European papers brought us by the last packet, peace between this Republic and the Brazilian Empire is spoken of as certain. Vessels have been freighted for this port, and some have even sailed; thus condemning us to the torments of Tantalus. Whilst in Europe they consider that the monster, War, has no longer power to vex us; we feel that the demon still exerts his sway, and, from present appearances, is likely to do so for a lengthened period. Whatever effect it may have upon the other parts of the community, it has thrown a dark cloud over the mercantile interests of the country. This contrast between the belief of the Europeans in the peace, and our certainty of war, is rendered more provoking from the probability that the merchant vessels destined to this port on the faith of peace, will fall into the hands of the blockaders.

We have heard some favourable accounts of the National Army in the Banda Oriental; and have seen a letter from an officer possessing good information upon these affairs, in which he describes the state of the army, as it regards discipline and numbers, to be far more favourable than generally imagined. We know that a different tale is told in Rio Janeiro; and it has great influence upon a cabinet so constituted and self-conceited as that of Brazil, especially when the reinforcements of men recently arrived from Europe, are viewed through the magnifying-glass of Don Pedro, and converted by his ardent imagination into phalanxes as numerous as those of the great Persian monarch. All this is nothing, or would be nothing, if the Republic forget domestic quarrels, and unite heart and hand to strike at their oppressor. It is this we have ever wished strongly to inculcate; and it is the want of it which at times really disheartens us. Political divisions there always will be: but let them not go to the extent to throw the whole weight of the war upon the province of Buenos Ayres. Yet with all these difficulties, they have gained the battle of Ituzaingo,—foiled and beaten, time after time, a naval force twenty-fold superior,—and have inspired the Brazilians with respect, if not another sentiment, for the Republican warriors. However, as it regards the assistance of the provinces, we are promised better things: and Heaven send these hopes may be fulfilled!

People ask, how is the Treasury of the Republic to be fed without foreign trade? and smile at the idea of imposing taxes

upon a people unaccustomed to such a system. Absurd as it may now appear, recourse must be had, sooner or later, to internal taxation; the greater part of which taxes, by measures of economy, after peace may be repealed. North America, in the late short war with England, was obliged to act in that manner; and five years after peace, the necessity for the extra taxes ceased.

National wealth depends more or less on the exchange of produce with foreign countries: and in a country whose small population does not permit it to dedicate many hands to manufactures, and whose productions are limited to a small number of primary articles, foreign labour seems essential. The foreigner, from the present circumstances of this country, is the greatest sufferer; the victim in a manner sacrificed, he it is that sustains the principal loss. The people themselves hardly complain of the war: the stranger sees the fruits of his economy and industry evaporate, and future hopes dissipated. This state of things, we trust, will soon take a more favorable turn.

War may protract the moral improvement of the country; but the progress of civilization in the age in which we live is so rapid, that the nation which does not follow it step by step, will want those fixed principles of politics, which are every day receiving new sanction and new applications. Notwithstanding that some of our politicians give a dark colouring to the state of the country, there are others who think it contains within itself resources more than sufficient to continue the contest for an indefinite period, provided that skilful hands direct the helm.

“From Heaven descends the flame of genius.”

A fracas happened on the afternoon of the 9th instant, which has caused the interference of the magistracy; and at first threatened serious consequences, one person having been wounded. The dispute took place in the Cafe del Sol, and in that of Victoria, relative to some articles which have appeared in the newspapers of this city. Fearing a revival of the disturbance, the Government ordered the Theatre to be closed on the evening of the 9th, and a piquet guard of cavalry militia patrolled the streets. Every thing has since remained perfectly tranquil.

This trifling affair will be made a great deal of at Montevideo and Rio Janeiro, and has given to the friends of the country infinite pain. The present is not a period to

manage private and domestic quarrel." The following Proclamation was issued upon the occasion:—

The Governor and Captain-General of the Province of Buenos Ayres.

INHABITANTS OF BUENOS AYRES!

The scandalous conduct of a few individuals, appears to have given occasion to alarm, and dread for the interruption of public order. The Government has always considered it as a sacred duty incumbent on it, to preserve, even unto sacrifice, individual security, tranquillity, and justice: it has always thrust the impartial hand of the law in the heat of the passions. But peace, and the safety of honest citizens, require no less its vigilance. The Government will not permit the respect due to order in a civilized nation, and to the constituted authorities, to be disregarded; and whoever attempts to reproduce in our country the commotions and disorders which heretofore sullied its history, shall suffer the weight of the law. The Government reckons upon the support of the good; and whilst it watches over the observance of the laws, after having taken efficient measures to contain any excess to which the spirit of faction and licentiousness might precipitate itself, it exhorts the worthy inhabitants of Buenos Ayres to repose on the confidence with which the zeal and firmness of the Authority ought to inspire them.

MANUEL DORREGO.

Buenos Ayres, Nov. 9, 1827.

We believe the following to be a tolerable correct account of the late disputes. We have divided them into three Counts:

First Count.—On the 7th instant Señor Ponce, the printer of the 'Granizo,' was questioned by a person who conceived himself satirized, and who demanded the names of the Editors of said print. Ponce replied that he would not inform him unless legally forced. On the following night he received a note, purporting to be signed by Señor Herrera, the Commissary of Police, desiring him to go with the bearer (stated to be a police officer,) to answer a complaint made against him. Ponce observed, that the order was not to arrest, but merely to summon, therefore he should attend at his leisure; and after some altercation the man departed. Having finished his occupation, and not in the least suspecting the order to be a forgery, he went to Señor Herrera. The latter denied having issued such an order. On his return, Ponce was attacked by several men masked and armed with various weapons, and severely wounded.

Second Count.—Two military officers in the Theatre Coffee-House, were conversing upon the merits of the newspapers of this city. They asked the waiter to bring the 'Granizo,' and it is said some pointed allusions were made upon the 'Atalaya.' A reply was given by others in the Coffee-Room. A quarrel ensued, and the officers were roughly handled. They were sent for by the Government, and in the end ordered on board the Ponton.

Third Count.—At the Victoria Coffee-House, on the 9th instant, Señor Rico accused Señor J. C. Varela, one of the editors of the 'Porteño,' and a contributor to the 'Granizo,' with having threatened to chastise him; and brought Señor Marquez, editor of the 'Atalaya,' as a witness, demanding an explanation. A scuffle ensued; and as some of the bystanders were armed, Señor Varela, supposing violence was meant, drew out two pistols: a person behind him snatched one of them away. Varela, alarmed for his personal safety, fired the other, which slightly wounded Colonel Rodriguez. A great crowd had collected, and strong language

used. Señor Varela with difficulty made his escape: he has since been committed to prison, where he now awaits his trial.

The 'Granizo' has given notice that, in consequence of the assault made upon the printer, it is for the present suspended. The other newspapers, during the week, have been chiefly occupied in remarks upon the late squabbles, and in "fending and proving." Don Juan C. Varela has issued a paper, containing a statement of the share he had in the transaction; and comments upon the conduct of his opponents; which has been answered by the 'Atalaya.' The 'Porteño' (of which Señor Varela is part editor,) is suspended from events arising out of the late quarrel.

A long letter, signed "An Englishman," appears in the *Morning Chronicle* of 15th August, relative to the late Treaty negotiated by Mr. Garcia, upon which it is very severe. The writer is evidently well acquainted with this country, the state of parties, &c. Some of the remarks probably partake of too much asperity. The letter observes:—"Let Lord Dudley, or whoever is Mr. Canning's successor in office, look in time to this affair, which is of more importance than he may perhaps be aware of; let him keep the character of the English government from being mixed up with the cession of one foot of the Banda Oriental to the Portuguese, which would bring on us the hatred of all South America." After giving a sketch of the manner in which the Banda Oriental came into Portuguese possession, it states, "That the Brazilians can retain it for any length of time, I consider impossible: it must be the source of interminable wars, till the right owners regain it. The whole continent is deeply interested in the affair,—Chili and Peru, to the Equator. The Banda Oriental is the key, the only high road, to countries larger than the half of Europe, spread over 40 degrees of latitude, from Cape Horn to Cuzco. What those people at a distance think the ruin of the South Americans, is, in reality, their salvation: namely, their splitting into small governments. It is only in this way that the multitude can have any justice at all: each province, or town, watching the acts of public men, keeps them in order. Buenos Ayres, Chili, and Peru, are already split into petty administrations; Colombia is actually undergoing the operation of splitting; and Mexico must soon follow. The people of Mexico are sadly in want of such relief; no power on earth can prevent it. The friends of liberty need not be alarmed at the present unsettled aspect of affairs in the whole of the new States; freedom will take root," &c.

The 11th instant was the day of San Martin, (patron saint of Buenos Ayres,) and it was determined to celebrate that, and *Corpus Christi*, the ceremonies usually observed on the latter day having been deferred on account of bad weather. It was a walking procession; and the Governor, accompanied by the dignitaries of the church, the civil and military authorities, left the Fort about 10 o'clock in the morning for the Cathedral. Cavalry and infantry were drawn up in the Plaza, the neighbouring streets decorated, &c. The weather was unpleasant; a strong wind, dust, and a burning sun. After high Mass (in which some very pretty music was performed,) and a sermon, the cannon at the Fort announced that the cavalcade was about to return; and at half-past 12 o'clock the procession moved round the Plaza. Admiral Brown, Generals Guido, Rondeau, Irigoyen, Colonels Ramirez, Pinedo, Rolon, &c., were in the train; and 26 Franciscan Friars, who from their appearance seemed fast approaching the

"last scene of all that ends this strange eventful history." The spectators at the concluding part of the ceremony were numerous, and the church crowded, a great proportion of the congregation females, attired in the usual costume of sables. In the evening the Governor was at the Theatre, attended by his Aid de-camps, and Generals Rondeau and Irigoyen, Colonels Pinedo and Rolon.

Nov. 10.—The Osborn packet, and Convention National schooner of war, left the Outer Roads, and anchored in Three-fathom Hole. Several small craft sailed to the northward.

11.—A strong wind all day. In the afternoon the blockading squadron appeared coming up under topsails, and a cannonade heard in that direction. The San Martin privateer, which had been anchored about 12 miles east of the town, retired to Three-fathom Hole. The General Dorrego privateer, in the Inner Roads, fired a salute.

12.—Calm, with slight rain. The Brazilian squadron at anchor S. E., distant about 11 miles, and consisting of 2 corvettes, 4 brigs, and 3 schooners. In the evening, one of their armed boats was seen standing towards them from the northward. During the night of the 11th, the Gun-Boat No. 11, which had been destined for the Salado, returned to the Inner Roads, having been chased back, and fired at in the afternoon of that day, by the Brazilians. The Gun-Boat returned the fire, expended all her ammunition, and did not sustain any damage.

13.—Two Brazilian armed boats in sight to the northward. A Brazilian brig and two schooners fired several guns, and steered towards Colonia. The Brazilian lugger boat and a launch left the blockading squadron towards evening, steering to the northward, upon their usual marauding expedition. The boat Martin Garcia, and the felucca of the Resguardo, sailed from the Inner Roads (Admiral Brown on board the latter,) in order if possible to counteract these gentry.

Sailed, soon after dark, the schooner privateer San Martin, (late Duplicate,) Captain Adams, upon a cruise. This schooner leaves the port in most excellent condition; has five guns, viz., 4 short and 1 long twelve; and 60 men, all English and Americans, with musquetry for every man.

14.—Arrived, an American schooner from Monte Video, last from Martin Garcia, at which island she arrived on 7th instant, and was detained there waiting for convoy. No. 12 Gun Boat accompanied her to Buenos Ayres, having on board the prisoner of war, Wilson, late commanding a Brazilian schooner, the particulars of whose capture we related in our last. The American schooner has a cargo of sugar, coffee, paper and dry goods, to W. P. Ford & Co. On her passage up she saw the blockading squadron, and was chased by a lugger and another boat. The schooner had recourse to sweeps, and about five miles from Martin Garcia the pursuit was relinquished.

The National schooner of war Convention came into the Inner Roads from Three-fathom Hole.

A light was placed and remained during the night upon the flag-staff at the Marine Office, as a land-mark to the two boats cruising under Admiral Brown.

15.—Arrived, American sloop of war Boston, 22 guns, Captain Hoffman, from Mont-Video on Tuesday last.

Arrived, National lugger boat Martin Garcia, and the felucca boat. They had been to the Caracoles, and returned without having fallen in with any Brazilian boats. Admiral Brown landed at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Wilson, the Brazilian prisoner of war, was landed in the course

of the morning. Some "Hijos del Pais" expressed regret to see a son of Sir Robert Wilson, that distinguished friend of liberty, under such circumstances, and hoped that for the father's sake every indulgence would be allowed consistent with the safe custody of the prisoner.

The privateer San Martin passed Point Indro, steering out of the river, at 7 o'clock on the evening of 14th inst. The pilot has returned to Buenos Ayres.

16.—The U. S. sloop of war Boston fired a salute, which was returned by the Fort, at 8 o'clock in the morning.

17.—Arrived, 3 Gun Boats, with a convoy from the northward.

The French ship Bengaly, 11 days from Rio Janeiro, arrived at Monte Video on Wednesday the 7th instant. The British ship Sophia, from Tarragona, do. barque Julius, from Bristol, French brig Iris, from Bourdeaux, and Sardinian polacre Aristides, from Genoa, have also arrived at Monte Video.

The Sardinian brig Asunta, detained off this port, has arrived at Monte Video.

The Police has published an Edict, declaring in full force the law of the 21st of December 1821, which forbids the use of knives, daggers, &c., except by those persons whose professions absolutely require it, under pain of severe punishment.

Despatches have been received from Mendoza, announcing the departure of a quantity of gunpowder and musquetry for this city.

Strangers have imbibed an idea that this port presents a scene of confusion and riot, from the number of privateers, &c. fitted out; and are astonished to find the decorum which prevails amongst the maritime part of the community.

The ship Twenty-fifth of May is now entirely lost: the wreck sunk in the Inner Roads in the gale of 11th inst. Scarcely any part remains of the late British brig Florida; fragments of her hull have floated ashore.

A whale-boat from this port, with a crew of four Englishmen, and, we believe, a passenger, sailed for Las Vacas on 26th ultimo, and has not since been heard of.

Vessels captured by the privateer Rigo Argentino, in her last cruise.

Brazilian brig Orestes, with slaves from Angola to Rio Janeiro; sent for a port.

Zumaca Belesario Feliz, from Rio Janeiro to Santos; arrived at Ensenada.

Do. Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, from Rio Grande for Rio Janeiro, with rice, coffee, &c.; sent for a port.

Do. Santa Cruz Brasileira, from Rio Janeiro for Parati; arrived at Ensenada.

De. San Luis Novagante, with timber, from Paragna to Monte Video; sent for a port.

American brig Ruth; arrived at Buenos Ayres.

The Dutch ship Maria, from Amsterdam for Rio Janeiro, with German emigrants, and various articles on account of the Brazilian Government, being in distress and short of water, was suffered to proceed to her destination.

Zumaca Espirito Santo, from Rio Janeiro to Isla Grande; ditto Santo Vicente, from Parati to Rio Janeiro; and 3 others, were destroyed, or given to prisoners.

The *Gazette de France* contains the following, under date of Bahia, 9th May:—"It is singular to observe, that it is chiefly foreigners who engage in the warlike enterprises of Brazil. The greater part of the Brazilian navy is composed of English, North Americans, Portuguese, and French. The army has many Germans; and to them it is owing that all the Rio Grande division was not cut in pieces in the late action. The force of their adversaries is composed of elements just as heterogenous. It results that the respective prisoners enter into the service of the party who may have captured them, and re-enter under their old flag when retaken in another combat. We ask, if the privateers of Buenos Ayres ought not in justice to be considered and treated as pirates, when they come from the United States under the American flag, and only when at sea hoist the flag of Buenos Ayres, and entirely manned by foreigners of the nation from whence they have borrowed the flag? The weakness of the Brazilian navy perhaps alone forces the government to tolerate this abuse, for fear of reprisals. These privateers once out of the United States, and having violated the laws, cannot return: they are forced to sell their cargoes at Cuba or St. Thomas's, and when the term of their cruise is out, it is to be feared they will become true pirates."

In the same paper of 9th August, we read:—"The *Times* relies upon the recent conclusion of peace between Buenos Ayres and Brazil, in supposing that it will be the means of facilitating the voyage of Don Pedro to Europe. That, however, will not be a motive to justify it. A war does not terminate without conditions, which are often in themselves causes of war. If there is a territory acquired or ceded, the furnishing or removing will cause perplexity; besides a multitude of litigious questions, which the treaty has not foreseen. Who will govern Brazil during that long absence? A Council of Regency is always a dangerous form, even under established monarchies: what will it be in a new monarchy beset by a republican spirit, and that spirit, perhaps, predominating?"

The Brazilian newspapers have lately become very amusing; their columns, formerly occupied by ecclesiastical affairs, senatorial speeches, and panegyrics upon the grand Empire, and their august Emperor, have now taken a more lively turn, indulging themselves in jests upon the supposed instability of our government here, and accounts of the internal state of this city, which would make even Baron Munchausen smile. The Editor of the *Gaceta do Brazil*, is somewhat more facetious than his brethren; we extract the following as a specimen of his sublime wit;—"We understand, from a respectable quarter, that the manager of our Theatre has engaged as clown, Lopez, the late President of Buenos Ayres; and that he has written to Madame Rosquellas to engage likewise, Manuel Dorrego, for the occupation of jailer and slave-driver, as soon as he is kicked out of his present office."

Perhaps no public character has been so satirized and caricatured as the late King George III., yet he took it all in good part. Some individuals once advised him to prosecute the authors of the satires: the King rejected the advice, stating that he was happy in affording his subjects so much amusement, well knowing that though they ridiculed and abused him, they would not permit a foreign enemy to take the like liberty with impunity.

The Parisians are in raptures with a Mademoiselle Taglioni, who has lately made her debut as a dancer at the Opera House of Paris. They denominate her "la Sontas de la danse." A Paris Journal observes:—"The most opposite reports succeed each

other upon the future destiny of the young nymph who has created so lively an impression. Will she remain upon the Theatre the most worthy to possess her, or will she take her flight to other countries? If Voltaire were now living, he would doubtless say to her as he said to Mademoiselle Salié near a century ago,—

"Restez fille de Terpsichore,
L'amour est las de Voltiger;
Laissez-couppier l'étranger,
Brulant de vous revoir encore."

THEATRE.

The performances have not been very attractive lately. Cosio had his benefit on 4th instant, to a full house. On 7th instant, selections from the Opera of 'Cenerentola,' exceedingly well performed,—Doña Angela in fine voice. On 13th inst., the benefit of Señora Ricciolini; a brilliant audience, attended by many of the fashionable fair ones only to be seen on Opera nights. The entertainments were, the second act of 'Henrique IV.' a comic Ballet of action, and second act of 'Il Turco en Italia.' The music of 'Henrique' afforded great pleasure. The air, *Viva Henrique nostra Rei*, which in other climes creates so much enthusiasm, passed off coldly here: often we have seen the brilliant audience of the London Opera rise simultaneously when the Orchestra touched this well known air. The ballet-dance pleased from its very absurdity: Ricciolini and his wife danced with infinite grace, (would the latter could sing as well!) In the Boléro (so admirably executed by Vestris and Angiolini;) they received great applause. A boy and girl, about 8 years of age, figured away with spirit in the Ballet. 'Il Turco' has some fine but sombre music, at least for Rossini.

The box formerly occupied by 'Euphrosyne' was filled with strangers;—on this very day she had "set up her everlasting rest."

The Opera still languishes: it is however said that Tancredi will soon be rehearsed. The winter of 1827, and the pleasing evenings passed at these musical exhibitions, will not soon be forgotten.

The music of the Minuet from Don Giovanni, has become a great favorite with the Porteña ladies; it is now constantly performed at the tertulias. Rossini must take care,—the melancholy Mozart may yet supersede him.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doubleons, 66 to 68 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.
Silver do. 20 to 21 reals per dinero.
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.

DIED,

On the 12th instant, D. JORGE ROBREDO, formerly an Officer of Militia, and Town Major of this city. He was a kind husband, a good father, and has left eleven daughters and one son to de. lora his loss. His funeral was attended by Admiral Brown; the General of Marines (Irigoyen); the Commissary General (Goyena), and the gentlemen of that department; the Collector of the Customs (Lavalé); the Accountant General, &c. &c., and several English gentlemen.

On the 13th instant, in child-birth, DOÑA MAGDELENA HERNANDEZ VIDAL, wife of Don Antonino Vidal. The deceased only 18 years of age, was both beautiful and amiable.—The child is living. Her sister, Doña Marequita, died about five years since under similar circumstances, and left twins, who still survive. Twenty five carriages, including that of the Governor, followed the remains of the deceased to the cemetery of the Recoleta.