

THE

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1827.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

THE domestic news of the week presents but little variety. On the 18th instant, two deputies were elected in this city, to represent the Province of Buenos Ayres at the ensuing Convention, to be held at Santa Fé, or San Lorenzo. The gentlemen chosen are, Don Domingo Victorio Achaga, and Don Vicente Anastasio de Echevarra, both Doctors of Civil Law, and avowed supporters of the present Government, or in other words, "ministerial men." The election was conducted in good order, and every precaution taken to ensure the peace of the city; as, after the late ebullitions, some disturbances might have been apprehended.

If the progress towards the highest state of civilization is denoted by the degree of wisdom exhibited in the formation of laws, that towards perfect freedom is only when the community respect the laws which themselves have formed, and it beholds every individual to aid and support them when made. It is this universal feeling of respect for the law which really constitutes a free State, and creates that love of country which enables a nation to make a firm stand in the hour of difficulty and danger. When every part of society assists the authorities of the State, it is a sign that the people duly appreciate the share they have in the legislation. Miserable is that country where the laws are not respected, and offenders suffered to set them at defiance. Laws once formed, ought to be supported and looked up to as the voice of the people, through their representatives. If the latter act contrary to the views of their constituents, good policy dictates the waiting until another election, in order that other men may be returned to the senate. Once elected, their acts ought to be binding, except under very glaring misconduct. If the electors have been careless, and not attended to the character of their representatives, they have committed an "error in judgment," and made a bad bargain; but rather than have recourse to violence, they should watch the opportunity, and legally correct the abuse.

In a Republic with the system of universal suffrage, this duty becomes more important; and should the Government act incorrectly, the power of petitioning exists, and the Press is open to give publicity to the desires of the people: redress, sooner or later, will follow. A Government constantly thwarted, cannot legislate for the public good. They will be continually ruminating upon what will be the effect of such

and such measures,—how will their opponents act, and in what manner can they be counteracted. A nation fallen thus backward in the career of civilization,—caring only for themselves, and nothing for the community or the government, must quickly descend to anarchy.

It is utterly impossible for a Republic, or any other form of government, to act for the good of the governed, unless the laws of the land are respected, and strictly enforced; every citizen feeling it as a duty to lend his assistance in the enforcement. The Argentine Republic is not at present reposing upon a "bed of roses." Their inveterate foe, under the disguise of Constitutional Emperor, acts, as it regards the war, almost uncontrolled; assuming in his own person the power of King, Lords, and Commons. The Brazilians will support him not only from the grudge they bear the descendants of Spaniards, but from inherent vanity; and their pride receives a vast addition, when they pompously set forth the great Empire, the august Emperor, &c. They know that Buenos Ayres once stricken down, and the balance of power no longer exists in this portion of the southern hemisphere.

We are so impressed with the perils of the conflict, from the vast disproportion that exists in the means possessed by the combatants, that we view with infinite regret any occurrence that tends to disunite the Republic. It affords an accession of strength to an enemy already too strong. With a united people, the Republic need not dread the issue of the war: let us leave, then, party disputes to times of peace; and be the exclamation now like that of the English Admiral Blake:—"We should fight for our Country, in whatever hands the government may be placed."

It appears that all does not go on so smoothly in the Senate of Rio Janeiro as some people imagine. A proof of this is the following extract of a speech of a member, relative to the war:—

Mr. Custodia Dias—"Respecting the continuance of the war, although the committee insists that justice and knowledge preside in the Council of the Emperor, are we well informed concerning the justice with which it is carried on? Brazilian blood is shed, and I don't know whether unjustly; the national honour cries for protection,—the deficit in our finances augments daily,—immorality appears in its highest pitch,—in fine, the dissolution of the State is close at hand, and her enemies within arm's-length. And must we say that knowledge and justice guide the decrees of Go-

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vernment, as the committee elegantly asserts, under a flattering supposition? Only in the effective and practical execution of the Constitution can we save the State, which already totters to ruin; and whether this crisis is far or near to us, it is impossible for me to say. Every appearance announces the fall of the nation; and if we do not apply the remedy that is in our power, it will be inevitable. To this end we must make a trial to use our inviolability, even were it possible to be chastised for speaking of what is offensive to the nation, which is oppressed. And who but this Senate, is the legitimate organ of her sentiments? It is through us that Brazil must manifest to the other nations, that she shall maintain no war but such as is founded on justice: if there is justice when force decides the question, and when, unfortunately, sometimes the one does not go hand in hand with the other. * * * It is necessary to notice, that our enemies have always been generous with their prisoners, and that the way in which we treat ours, as I have been informed, is far different: consequently we must remind that depraved Minister (since the misfortunes of Brazil keep pace with the measures he has taken,) not to compromise the nation with so near neighbours, with whom it is the natural order of things to treat in time for a peace so much aspired to."

Don Pedro appears to have decided on giving up the crown of Portugal, and to content himself with that of Brazil. The fate of the dog in the fable, who let go his beef for a shadow, may probably await him. Portugal is a valuable possession for a man of his political stature; it is a pedestal proportioned to the statue. Brazil, threatened by a variety of evils, may slip from under his feet when he least expects it. The English papers speak of a large colony from Ireland, which is at present traversing the ocean in the direction of Brazil. — Poor fellows! the *musquet*, and not the *plough*, awaits them there! How often, when eating the beef of Rio Grande without bread or salt, will they regret the *potatoes* of the "Emerald Isle."

Nov. 17.—Wind W. S. W. In the afternoon the blockading squadron, under Norton, *paraded* in line towards the American sloop of war Boston, and afterwards made sail to the eastward. In the evening they were not visible from the town.

18.—Wind S., blowing strong. At day-break the National schooners of war Jucaza, Captain Coe, and Sarandi, Captain La Rosa, were observed at anchor in the Outer Roads. They had been three days in the river; saw the blockading squadron on the evening of 17th near Colonia, and passed without impediment. Norton, we presume, thought it useless to chase these 'crack' schooners. At half-past 8 in the morning they anchored in the Inner Roads; and Admiral Brown went on board. At 9 o'clock they fired a salute, which was answered from the Fort.

The Sardinian brig Viva Genova, left the Inner Roads, and anchored in Three fathom Hole.

Nov. 19.—Wind E. N. E. Arrived, a boat with the prize crew of a *zumaca*, prize to the privateer schooner Rayo Argentino, and laden with timber. The recapture was made by a brig (supposed the Caboclo,) and a schooner of war, near Cape St. Antonio, on 15th instant. The crew took to the boat and escaped. Did not see any vessel in their passage to Buenos Ayres.

Nov. 20.—Wind N. N. E. Several small craft arrived yesterday and this day, from the northward. In the afternoon, two Brazilian brigs were in sight, reconnoitring.

Nov. 21.—Wind N. N. W. During the last night some Brazilian schooners were in the Outer Roads, and their signal lights distinctly seen from the shore. The Sardinian brig in Three fathom Hole, got under weigh and anchored close in shore, near the battery at the Retiro. At day break the blockading squadron were in sight at anchor, viz.—2 corvettes, 3 brigs, and 5 schooners

and gun boats. In the course of the morning they got under weigh, and anchored nearer to the Outer Roads. At dawn of day a cutter and a boat were close to the Inner Roads: they instantly made for, and soon joined the Brazilian squadron.

22.—Wind W. Sailed, last night, privateer schr. General Dorrego, Captain Dupuis. She has 2 guns, and 47 men. The night was dark, and the report of 3 cannon, and musquetry, was heard about 1 o'clock in the morning. The Sardinian brig off the Retiro, had hailed a vessel passing her, and receiving no answer, she fired a musquet. The stranger returned it with a cannon shot, which passed over the brig; the latter fired about 30 musquet shots, and 2 cannon shots. The strange vessel is supposed to have been the General Dorrego privateer.

Sailed, Gun Boat No. 7, and a convoy, to the northward.

23.—Wind S. W. The Sardinian brig Viva Genova again anchored in the Inner roads.

24.—Wind W. Sailed, two *zumacas* to the northward.

Accounts from Monte Video to 15th instant state, that the frigate Piranja was about to sail to Rio Janeiro for repairs. Admiral Pintos Guedez has hoisted his flag on board the frigate Princess Imperial. The frigate Emperatriz was cruising. The British frigate Thetis, and brig of war Cadmus; American frigate Macedonian; and French corvette Isis, were at M. Video. Three schooners, three gun-boats and some launches, with troops on board, having been some time in preparation, sailed on 15th inst., for the avowed purpose of making an attack upon the Salado. Monte Video is described as being very triste: the shopkeepers can effect few or no sales. Beef, however, is plentiful at 20 reales the arroba. Broom, it is said, took the command at Rio Janeiro of the new corvette from North America, and sailed in quest of privateers. A ship and brig were in sight of Monte Video on the 16th; the ship supposed to be the British surveying ship Adventure.

On the 16th instant, at 7 o'clock in the morning, seven sail of Brazilian vessels came in sight of the Salado, viz.—1 frigate, 2 brigs, and 4 schooners and launches: one of the schooners is the Grenfell, two top sail schooner, in appearance like the M. Klouado. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon they opened fire, chiefly upon the prize ship Santista then aground, and the shot came near. The ship returned the fire, until from her position on her beam ends she could no longer do so. At 5 o'clock the crew set fire to her, having previously put the guns on board a *zumaca*. The latter fired until her stern-frame was broke away, and Brazilian launches within musquet shot. The brig Ororáo and battery fired: the shots from the latter fell short. At sun-down the Brazilians hauled off to their anchorage.

On Saturday morning, 17th inst., at day-break, 4 schooners anchored within grape-shot range of the brig Ororáo, then aground outside the harbour, and commenced firing. In the meantime boats were employed in taking out many valuable articles from the brig, anchors, rope, sails, cables, &c. The fire was returned, but having no stern ports, the stern frame being blown away, it was discontinued. Three balls went through the hold; grape-shot cut away the rigging; one shot in the fore-castle; and round shot fell thick alongside, splashing the water about the vessel. At 9 in the morning the brig was burned. The 4 schooners then proceeded to the schooner privateer President, aground upon the north bank, and the balls fell around her: one of them cut away the fore-top-gallant mast of an American ship near the President. At half-past 10 o'clock the Brazilian commodore fired a gun to cease action: they then hauled off. No person was hurt on the side of the Republicans. A Brazilian schooner is stated to have received five shots from the President, which passed through her hull, and the waist cloths were seen to fall; she hauled off before the signal of

recall. Report states her to be commanded by a Scotchman named **Truxton**, and having on board 45 Englishmen. Some launches approached the schooner: the battery fired some well-directed shots at them, as did also the President, obliging them to retreat. None of the shots reached the shore; some fell in the mud close to the battery. The Brazilian squadron steered to the southward, and were soon out of sight. The late National Gun Boat No. 3, taken at Colonia, was discovered amongst them. The prize-ship drew upon her arrival at the Salado, 16 feet 8 inches water, and measured 410 tons: the brig 15 feet water, and 350 tons. Every article of value was taken from them previous to their being burned, and both vessels were worth about 30,000 dollars. Eight days since the *Piranga* and *Emperatriz* frigates, a brig, and three-masted schooner reconnoitred the Salado; the *Santista* fired some shots at them.

On Sunday morning last the schooner privateer *Vencedor de Ituzaingo*, Captain *Costa*, (late *Bolivar*), arrived at the Salado, with a prize *zumaca*, cargo timber and yerba, which she found abandoned: probably the same vessel taken by the *Rayo Argentino*. The *Vencedor de Ituzaingo* has made several prizes, and has been to *St. Thomas's*, &c.

The vessels lately at the Salado were, frigate *Emperatriz*, brig *Crboclo*, three-masted schooner, and 4 schooners. On the 22d, no Brazilian vessels were in sight of that place, and the American ship which arrived there on the 10th inst., had got into harbour.

It would seem that the coming up of the U. S. sloop of war *Boston* from *Monte Video* to this port, had nearly produced a rupture between that vessel and the Brazilians. Several reports are in circulation with respect to this affair; but the most current, and, we believe, the most authentic, is the following:—

The *Boston* being about to sail for this, Commodore *Biddle*, of the U. S. frigate *Macedonian*, waited upon the Brazilian Admiral, *Pintos Guedez*, to acquaint him of the circumstance, in order that he might avail himself of the opportunity to forward any communication he might have to make. The freakish old gentleman received the information with the highest displeasure, and formally protested against what he feigned to consider a breach of the blockade. In vain did Commodore *Biddle* remonstrate with him, referring to the fact of British men-of-war having come up here: the gallant Admiral continued inflexible. Finding it impossible to reduce him to reason, Commodore *Biddle* finally told him, that “the *Boston's* orders were positive, and that nothing but force would compel her to desist from executing them.” With this the interview ended; and the next day the *Boston* got under weigh for her destination, followed by the Imperial frigate *Emperatriz*. Captain *Hoffman* ordered every thing to be got ready, apprehending, from what had taken place, an attempt on the part of the frigate to prevent the prosecution of his voyage. This vessel, however, was soon after lost sight of. On arriving near the blockading squadron, a boat, with an officer from the corvette *Carioca*, was sent on board the *Boston*, to inform the commander that the blockading Commodore had orders not to permit any vessel to pass. Captain *Hoffman* replied, that he knew not what orders had been given to the blockading Commodore, but that he (Captain *H.*) had received directions to proceed to *Buenos Ayres*, and that he was determined to comply with them. The boarding officer departed with this answer, and the *Boston* was again got ready for action. Shortly after, *Norton* himself came on board, and appeared somewhat surprised (not to say terrified,) on seeing the various preparations that were going forward,—every man

being at his station as in time of action, several rounds of shot on deck, and the matches lighted. He affected a sneering tone, saying,—“You’re not going to shoot us I hope, Captain *Hoffman*.”—“Oh no, Commodore *Norton*,” replied the American: “that depends upon you, Sir, altogether.” *Norton* then repeated what the boarding officer had reported; and seeing that Captain *Hoffman* was not to be shaken in his resolution, he made a protest similar to that of Admiral *Guedez*. After this he took his leave, apparently not a little chagrined at his disappointment; and the *Boston* continued on her voyage without interruption.

It is said that the American seamen expressed an ardent desire to have “a brush” with the Brazilians, notwithstanding the fearful odds they would have had to contend with.

It is uncertain what day the corvette *Boston* will sail: a week from this date has been mentioned. Colonel *Forbes* goes passenger in her to *Rio Janeiro*, not upon any political mission, but merely to recruit his health, and expects to return in a few months. The *Boston* is perhaps the most powerful vessel of her class ever launched. She has a round stern; 35 feet beam; and mounts 24 guns, viz.—twenty 32lb. carronades, and four long 24 pounders. Officers and crew consist of 205 persons. We believe she came to *Buenos Ayres* respecting the detention of the American brig *Ruth*.

The prisoners of war from *Patagonia*, were landed at 11 o’clock on Sunday morning last; they came on shore with Admiral *Brown*: Captains *George Bysson*, *Coe*, &c. A great crowd had collected at the landing-place. Captain *Eyre* seemed very much depressed: *Patagonia* has indeed proved “a rock ahead of him.”

Captain *George Bysson* excited considerable curiosity: his appearance denotes the brave and active sailor. He came on shore in uniform, the National cockade in his hat; and from the talents and courage he has evinced in the service of the Republic, he will be looked upon as one of their most cherished officers. Admiral *Brown* paid him considerable attention.

The Brazilian prisoners of war Captains *Eyre* and *Ready*, and *Mr. Galway*, have been paroled; their residence to be at *Chascomus*.

We have received a communication from the Brazilian prisoner of war Captain *Wilson*, dated “Public Prison, Nov. 22, 1827,” in which he states, that the Government having been informed that he had attempted to bribe a sentinel whilst in the *Cuñá* prison, have in consequence removed him from thence, withdrawn the parole they had before granted, and placed him in confinement with criminals. Captain *W.* solemnly denies the transaction which led to this removal,—requests that the soldier to whom he is reported to have offered money might be confronted with him,—and that he (*Wilson*), is incapable of seducing any one from his duty.

Captain *J. G. Bynon* has been appointed, by a Decree of the Government dated 22d inst., second in command of the National Squadron.

Buoys are ordered to be placed near the wrecks of the ship *Twenty-fifth of May*, and brig *Florida*; it being found impossible at present to raise the said wrecks.

Two hundred recruits left *Mendoza* for this city on the 9th inst. Two hundred more were to follow shortly.

The schooners Juncal and Sarandi sailed from this on 22d, and arrived at Patagonia 27th ult. On their passage spoke the American brig Ontario, from Nantucket, upon a fishing voyage. Not being aware of the catastrophe which had happened to the Brazilian squadron in those seas, every precaution was taken, and a boat despatched from the Juncal to reconnoitre the harbour of Rio Negro. The battery fired two guns, and the corvette Chacabuco was then made out. Captain Eyre, and the Brazilian officers, were prisoners in the fort, having been marched up from San Blas. Only three Brazilian vessels were engaged in the expedition, viz.—corvette Maciaco, brig Independencia ó Morto and Caboco: the two former were lost, and many things saved. Captain D'Autant, of the ship Gaviota, took a number of the men from the wrecks. The prisoners consist of about 80 persons, and it is thought from 50 to 60 were drowned. Very few Englishmen were in the squadron; five of them volunteered for the National service. Those of the Brazilians that got on shore, surrendered to the soldiery and gauchos.

Every preparation was made by Captain George Bynon, and others, to repel an attack at Rio Negro. Four guns were mounted at North Point: the corvette Chacabuco, privateer brig Oriental Argentino, and the Emperatriz schooner (formerly the Virginia packet), were in the harbour. It was arranged to let the Brazilians pass the bar without opposition; they must then have instantly surrendered, or been destroyed. But we doubt the intent of the Brazilians to attack the posts upon the Rio Negro: they are too formidable, when well defended, for Brazilian enterprise. The Chacabuco has been stripped, and remains as a hulk for prisoners, having two long brass 12 pounders, and a long 18. The ship privateer Gaviota, Captain D'Autant, mounting 8 guns, and 80 men mostly English and Americans, and brig do. Oriental Argentino, Captain Bibois, with eight 12 pound carronades, one long 24 pounder on a pivot, and a crew of 93 men, English and Americans, sailed from Patagonia 23d ult., on a cruise. The Brazilian prisoners of war, Captain Watson, &c. were at Tandil. An old Frenchman (Dupont,) well known in Buenos Ayres, (having formerly commanded the French schooner Louisa, which came from Patagonia in September 1823, and since the war has been twice a prisoner in this city, but managed to escape,) stood pilot to the Brazilian squadron: it will be difficult for Monsieur Dupont again to effect his escape. Two prizes had arrived, viz.: a schooner-brig (lately the Bahia packet,) prize to the Patagones, cargo crockery ware, medicine, and the hold nearly full of straw hats; and a zumaca, prize to the Ituzaingo, cargo brandy, tobacco, &c. The English brig Doris had arrived from Monte Video; the English brig Huskisson is discharging.

The Juncal and Sarandi sailed from Patagonia at 5 o'clock in the morning of 12th instant, and brought 132 men, sailors and soldiers, late of the Chacabuco, with sails, rigging, stores, &c. The officers, &c. passengers, were distributed as follows:—In the Juncal, the late Governor (Roxas,) several officers of the Chacabuco; the prisoners of war Eyre, Read, (the latter was captain of the Maciaco) and Galway, secretary to Captain Eyre. In the Sarandi, Captain George Bynon, Chambers, Doctor Baillie, &c. The schooners came up the North Channel, and when in sight of the blockading squadron near Colonia, the prisoners, we presume, indulged the vain hope of recapture.

Captain Coe merits the highest praise for the complete success attending his late cruise. The Juncal and Sarandi had a fair trial of their sailing qualities, and the result has been, that upon a wind the Juncal is superior, but in light winds the Sarandi would creep

ahead: generally speaking, they sailed nearly equal to each other, so that we are not put out of conceit of our old favorite the Sarandi.

The Patagonians, since the late successes, have become quite proud of themselves, and confidently predict that their country, formerly so despised, will, a few years hence, "cut a figure in the page of history."

On the morning of the 20th instant, José Henrique Rodriguez was shot at the Retiro. He was chief of the gang who attacked the house of Mr. James Bevans on the night of the 8th of May, 1826, in which Mr. B. his wife and daughter, and a person on a visit to the Capitas, were severely wounded; and the house robbed to a considerable amount. Sentence of death upon the prisoner was pronounced on 29th January last, but from various appeals deferred until 20th inst. Mr. Bevans did not know that any person was in custody for the offence: the prisoner had been a servant to Mr. B., discharged for improper conduct; and when proceeding to the place of execution, was accidentally recognized by his former master.

THEATRE.

The Tragedy of Philip II. was performed on 16th instant; the characters attired in appropriate costume. Not so in a Tragedy performed a few nights afterwards, taken from an incident in the reign of Elizabeth of England,—Leicester, Cecil, &c. dressed in modern military uniform!

The favorite comic actor, Felipe David, had a crowded house to his ben fit, on 19th instant. On the 22d a Concert, vocal and instrumental, under the direction of Monsieur Versin, at double prices: the house respectfully attended. It opened with some pretty music from Joconde. Monsieur Versin sang, solos, and in duets, &c. with a good voice, but certainly not adapted for the stage. Vacani is a fine concert singer.—first rate: he and Doña Angela engrossed all the applause. The amusement went off but triste: perhaps the selections were not adapted to the taste of the town. In music, the public of Buenos Ayres are not indifferent judges; on the contrary, they excel in that charming science. The Governor was in his box, attended by Colonel Castañon, Robon, Major Quiroga, &c.

We hear with pleasure, that the suspension of our Opera is nearly at an end,—that Rosquellas returns to the stage, of which, in the musical and directorial department, he is sole monarch. Where can he be so happy as in Buenos Ayres?—Let him leave commerce to those whose profession it is, and "dream away his life in heavenly music."

The officers of the Boston have been constant attendants at the Theatre lately.

On Monday evening next, for the benefit of the scene-painter of the theatre, will be represented, by French Amateurs, the comic Opera, in two acts, entitled, "Adolphi, et Clara."

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doubloons, 66½ to 67 dollars each.
 Spanish Dollars, 280 to 290 per cent. premium.
 Plata macquina, 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 12d. per dollar, nominal.
 Do. United States, 800 per cent.
 Do. Rio Janeiro, 329 reals, or 130 per cent.
 Do. Monte Video, 260 per cent.
 6 per cent. Stock, 48 to 50.
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