

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1827.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

THE interval between the death of Mr. Canning, and the nomination of his successor, was one of awful expectation for the civilized world. How many nations had, at that moment, their future destiny pending on the lips of one man! Fortunately for humanity, that man determined on retaining his post at the head of the wise and the liberal part of mankind; and preserving his country in that elevated situation in which her institutions, her riches, and her influence have placed her. It is irrevocably decided that the English ministry shall continue animated by the same spirit which has directed its last acts. Be it known, then, to the schemers of the Holy Alliance,—the oppressors of nations, and the assassins of liberty,—that the shade of their most talented and determined enemy presides over the councils of Great Britain.

Suppose, for an instant, that His Majesty's resolution had been different from that which the nation naturally expected from the elevation of his character: suppose he had called to the helm the men of the old school,—Lord Eldon, with his unconquerable attachment to power and routine; Mr. Peel, with his intolerance; and Lord Londonderry, with the continental ideas of his late relative;—what a reaction would then have taken place in all that is good and generous! What joy would have shone in the countenances of Metternich and his august master! With what ardour would the stupid Miguel have pricked on his post horses, in order to complete the sacrifice of that unhappy nation condemned to see him in its bosom! Ferdinand would have breathed more freely, as though a ponderous weight had been removed from his heart; the inquisitors would have hastily prepared their fires; and the sonorous echoes of the jesuistical *Te Deum* would have been interrupted only by the cries of the victims!—But Providence has preserved us from this horrible visitation.

Let us be thankful to the illustrious genius who laid the foundation of that system of politics, under whose influence religious persecution and despotism must sooner or later fall to the ground. Let us return thanks to the man who nobly placed himself on a level with the spirit of the age, without awaiting the severe lessons which this age has given to his predecessors. An undertaking of this importance is equal to

the discovery of a new world: it in fact changes the face of the moral and political world, as the discovery of Columbus changed that of the commercial and scientific one.

And let it not be said, that the progress of knowledge and the weight of opinion, drag along with them the men who govern. No such thing. We see the contrary every day. Rulers are like those men who, in their aeronautical expeditions, use every means to prevent the balloon from taking its course. They struggle to arrest the progress of society, fearful of precipitating themselves with it into an abyss. The great merit of the illustrious man whose loss England now deploras, was that of placing himself in the front rank of that immense phalanx now marching in the road of improvement. He chose rather to give lessons, than receive them: he did not choose to follow, but direct the movements of his contemporaries. For this, it was necessary to enter the Holy Alliance, and he therefore opened for it the sepulchre: he sent the British troops to Portugal, to succour an ally, and to throw into the scale a weight that should counterbalance the despotism of Europe; and he gave political life to the American republics. These acts alone are three lights which will never be lost sight of by the pilots who direct the vessel of the State. They are alone sufficient to place the name of Mr. Canning among those of the most illustrious benefactors of the human race. During his short but brilliant administration, we have seen none of those ridiculous artful fallacies, none of those hypocritical demonstrations, which stain the pages of modern diplomacy. For the first time, the operations of the cabinet have been placed within the reach of the most common understanding; for the first time has a power professedly friendly, been spoken of by a Minister of State as a secret enemy.

This noble frankness produced the effect that was to be expected; and to it, rather than to his sublime combinations, we attribute that unexampled popularity which Mr. Canning acquired in the few months of his administration. The people cannot dissimulate; and when they saw a minister who used no dissimulation, they welcomed him as a blessing, and admired him as a prodigy. His measures excited the eulogiums of the skilful; his speeches are models of eloquence; but the enthusiasm, the fondness, the sincere affection, have been paid neither to the orator nor to the negotiator,—they were paid to **THE MAN OF THE PEOPLE.**

B. P. Room

British Commercial Room

We have been favoured with the perusal of a copy of an Edict of the Dictator of Paraguay, ordaining the confiscation, or, what a modern Guarani amounts to pretty much the same, the sequestration of Buenos Ayres property, ostensibly until this Government shall deliver up the person of D. J. T. Ysasi. As a specimen of the system of government of this celebrated ruler, and the means by which he has riveted the chains of the Paraguayans, an extract from it may not be unentertaining to our readers:—

After enumerating various high crimes and misdemeanours committed by said Ysasi,—“having carried out of the province specie to a large amount; having caused secret places to be made in his vessel for that purpose; having sent goods for himself, instead of sending them for the state, neither sending back the men that came with him nor going himself,” &c., it states,—“And these robberies and crimes were one cause of detaining the persons who came in the vessel from Salta; and for the same reason it has been found convenient and necessary to suspend the return of produce, amount of the goods imported by the masters of vessels D. Juan Friay, D. Manuel Silva, and D. Josef Diaz; and to sequester the same, until the Government of Buenos Ayres delivers up to me the above-mentioned insurgent Ysasi, who has taken refuge there with so much ill-acquired property, of which he ought to render accounts, and for which he is responsible: it being understood, that immediately after he is given up, the said effects will not only be restored, but all those who came in the above-mentioned vessel from Salta, will be allowed to depart. I would not shelter any such public robber and outlaw, who, having committed equal robberies and clandestine exportations, and practised similar deceits upon individuals as well as the state, in other countries, should come to take refuge in Paraguay; but would have him secured and given up immediately.”

The same dark policy which tries to extend the terrors of its reign beyond the bounds of his dominions, has dictated such treatment of the Chaco Indians, as renders it certain destruction for any Paraguayan to take refuge amongst them: we have been also told of an officer who for some offence had absconded, and before the expiration of forty-eight hours after his flight, all his relations, including his father and grandfather, were prisoners! thus inverting the commandment, by visiting the sins of the children upon their fathers. Such is the present state of a province the richest, in natural productions, of all those whose shores are laved by the waters of the River Plate.—We know that Ysasi's purse was always open to his countrymen, even to his own injury.

Nov. 24.—Arrived, Gun-Boat No. 12, with a convoy from the northward. Four Brazilian schooners under weigh, steering N. N. E.

Sailed, at 9 o'clock at night, the Sardinian brig Viva Genova, Viale, for Gibraltar.

25.—Wind W. The Brazilian squadron at anchor, including the four schooners which sailed yesterday.

26.—Wind N. Arrived National brig of war Balarce, Segui, and Gun-Boats No. 7 and 13, with a convoy, last from Martin Garcia. A schooner and some balandras joined the blockading squadron this day, and three boats left the squadron in the evening, supposed to cruise.

27.—Wind N. N. E. Arrived, an American brig, from Monte Video 23d instant, cargo Yerba, Sugar, Rum, Dry Goods, &c., to Dana & Carman. Saw a brig 30 miles south of M. Video, standing up the river, and a balandra near Colonia. Passed the blockading squadron without impediment.

At 2 o'clock the privateer El Bravo Coronel Olabarria (late Union,) fired a salute, having on board a party of gentlemen from the shore.—The corvette Liberal and a schooner under weigh this evening.

28.—Wind E. S. E. Several small craft sailed to the northward. The corvette Liberal and schooner which sailed yesterday, returned to the blockading squadron this afternoon. At 7 in the evening several guns were heard in that direction.

29.—Wind E. S. E. At 9 o'clock, A. M., the three-masted schooner arrived, and anchored with the blockading squadron. The latter almost immediately got under weigh, and the wind being contrary, beat down the river. In the afternoon they returned, escorting the British barque packet Rinaldo.

Arrived, six balandras from the northward. They had been captured by a red Brazilian whale boat, and retaken by the Gun-Boat No. 1, Captain Castelli: the boat escaped. The Gun-Boat has likewise captured a balandra going to Santa Fé.

Arrived, British barque packet Rinaldo, Captain Moore; from Falmouth 21st September; Rio Janeiro 15th, and Monte Video 29th ultimo. Passengers from England, Sr. Quintana, and Mr. Place: the former had permission to proceed to Buenos Ayres; the latter was left at Monte Video. Passenger from Rio Janeiro to Monte Video, a Brazilian officer; and from M. Video to Buenos Ayres, Mr. Bellamare, his two sisters and servant, and a clergyman. The Duke of York packet, from this 24th July, had not arrived at Falmouth: the Zephyr, from this 16th October, sailed from Rio Janeiro for Falmouth 13th November. The Sphinx is appointed the next packet for this. The House of Assembly had broken up at Rio Janeiro. The Brazilian officer passenger from Rio Janeiro to Monte Video, came on board at 11 o'clock at night, and is to return in the same packet: he has brought despatches. The French corvette Isis, has sailed from Monte Video; the British frigate Thetis, brig of war Cadmus, and U. S. frigate Macedonian were there.

30.—Wind W. The packet had anchored last night at some distance S. E. She got under weigh at day-light, for the Outer Roads. The captain came on shore in the morning.

At 5, P. M., the weather looked threatening, and as usual on such occasions, the Brazilian squadron got under weigh, and were soon out of sight of the town.

Norton is still in command of the blockading squadron.

The English newspapers received by the packet Rinaldo, are very barren of intelligence. Mr. Herries has received the seat as Chancellor of the Exchequer; the Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of War, and for the Colonies. Rumours were afloat in London, that the Preliminaries signed at Rio Janeiro would not be ratified at Buenos Ayres; in consequence of which, the Bonds of the latter fell to 55,—Brazilian 63½. The province of Catalonia, in Spain, was in a disturbed state, the effect of ultra-royalism, the insurgents insisting upon the establishment of the Inquisition, &c. Portugal is not free from discord: a London paper observes,—“In Portugal, the growing disgust to Don Pedro's new constitution, is likely to throw the whole country into rebellion: it seems to have no support there, but what it derives from the presence of the English army. We always pronounced this free constitution of Don Pedro's, a mere piece of quackery. He had no other means to preserve his authority in Portugal, but by tossing this apple of discord amongst them. He has abdicated his natural sceptre. Portugal has been in a state of complete anarchy, and she will continue so until left to herself. It is said Don Miguel

is about to occupy the Regency, in place of his sister Isabella." In France, and other parts of Europe, nothing of importance has occurred. Turkey threatens not to accede to the propositions made for the settlement of the affairs of Greece. — 3 per cent. Consols, at 87.

In the London Gazette of 11th September, are some Orders in Council, from which we extract the following:—

"His Majesty, by virtue of the powers invested in him by the Acts above recited, and by and with the advice of his Privy Council, is therefore pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that from and after the date of this Order, vessels of the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata, of the State of Colombia, and of the United States of Mexico respectively, entering the ports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in ballast, or laden direct from any of the ports of Rio de la Plata, Colombia, and Mexico respectively, or departing from the ports of the said United Kingdom, together with the cargoes on board the same, such cargoes consisting of articles which may be legally imported or exported, shall not be subject to any other or higher duties or charges whatever than are or shall be levied on British vessels entering or departing from such ports, or on similar articles when imported into, or exported from, such ports in British vessels; and also that such articles, when exported from the said ports in vessels of the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata, of the State of Colombia, and of the United States of Mexico respectively, shall be entitled to the same bounties, drawbacks and all wances that are granted on similar articles when exported in British vessels."

The brig Friends, Jones, arrived at Jersey from Rio Janeiro, which place she left on 22d of July, and brought the news that the Treaty had not been ratified. A private letter contained the following passage:— "The obstacle to the ratification of the treaty between Buenos Ayres and Brazil, is the Banda Oriental. The Buenos Ayreans are determined not to cede that territory, and the Brazilian Government is equally resolute in demanding it."

An Order has been issued at Rio Janeiro, that all duties upon goods are to be paid when they are despatched, or to pay interest at three and six months. Formerly the duties were paid at 3 and 6 months bills.

The despatches brought by the Brazilian officer to Monte Video by the Rinaldo packet, are supposed to be of importance.

A letter from Rio Janeiro states, that an expedition is fitting out to bombard Buenos Ayres, and that several vessels intended for that purpose are ready to sail.

A privateer has fired into the British brig of war Cadmus. The latter returned the fire, and the privateer sheered off.

Nothing can be more contradictory than the accounts from Rio Janeiro. Some depict the war as a trifle, only thought of when a few patrons of captured vessels bewail their loss in the streets of Rio. — Brazil has had 21 vessels of war, mounting 115 guns, taken from her in fight; and 18 vessels lost by wreck, or events consequent upon the war, carrying 250 guns; nearly 300 merchant vessels captured, which have enriched many individuals in this city. Yet all this is, of course, a mere bagatella!

Brazilian Senators, who know something of the "under plot," tell a different tale. Buenos Ayres, however, must (according to Rio accounts) yield the contest in three or four months more. The same language was used at the commencement of the war; and it would perhaps be so, if any analogy existed between this country and the states of Europe. But years of blockade will render the Emperor's prospects as unsettled as ever. The weight of war has fallen upon strangers: the mass of the people have at present scarcely suffered from it.

When we inserted in our last, some details relative to the occurrences which took place between the U. S. sloop of war Boston, and the Brazilians, we did not vouch for their correctness, but merely gave them as the report to which we considered the greatest degree of credit was to be attached. We make this statement, because we understand that Captain Hoffman disclaims having authorized the publication of the article alluded to, (as in fact he did not,) and because its appearance has elicited several circumstances that had not transpired, which, although they do not falsify our statement, render it incorrect,—inasmuch as it now appears that Commodore Biddle had not an interview with the Brazilian Admiral respecting the Boston; but carried on a correspondence with him; and that Norton himself visited that vessel before the person whom we called the boarding-officer came on board. There is no other material difference between the report we gave, and those now afloat.

Several Deputies to the Convention have already assembled in the city of Santa Fé. The Government of this province has transmitted a message to the Legislature, urging the necessity of the immediate despatch of the gentlemen who are to represent Buenos Ayres.

A new daily paper, called "El Sol de Mayo de 810," made its appearance in this city on 29th ultimo, with a short address from the Editors, in which impartiality is promised, but at the same time a threat held out, that if provoked, "the Sun of May will veil itself in clouds, and withdrawing its brilliant light, leave those in darkness who dare to launch their envenomed shafts against it; and that a torment shall succeed, which, sending forth vivid lightning, will not cease until it destroys those who vainly endeavour to assail the Sun."

Accounts from Monte Video, overland, to 24th ult. state, that the brig Piraja, three masted schooner, and six schooners and gun-boats, had sailed for Colonia; and it was reported that an attack is meditated upon Martin Garcia.

Brazilian Official Account of the action between the schr. brig Patagonia, Captain Love, and the Imperial Pedro.

Bahia, 24th September, 1827.

"SIR,—I have the honour to inform Your Excellency, that on 23d September, at 6 o'clock A. M., being 45 miles to the southward of this port, I saw two vessels at a great distance, bearing S. S. W., one a schr. brig, and the other a yacht; the former with the flag of Buenos Ayres, the latter with our flag. I chased, and observed that the enemy's schr. brig, after firing one hour, had taken the yacht. I still chased, and at 1 o'clock was within gun shot, and opened fire: the enemy had fired for some time, the shots falling short. At 2 and 45 minutes, that is, after one hour and three quarters fighting, and having received the fire from the yacht which I did not answer, my main object being to take the schr. brig, she struck, after having attempted to board me twice. So soon as this was seen by the yacht, she crowded all sail away: I could not follow her, having to take charge of the schr. brig, and the boats of both vessels being destroyed, with the exception of a small gig of ours. The vessel proved to be the schr. brig of war Patagonia, on a cruise. She has a brass 24 pounder on a pivot, and five 12lb carronades. I had one killed and 4 wounded: the enemy 15 killed (including the captain,) and some wounded. The prisoners consist of 1 lieutenant, 2 midshipmen, 1 prize master, 5 soldiers, and the remainder sailors. We have had some damage in our sails and rigging. My crew behaved well.

Signed, JOAQUIM LEAL FERREIRA, Captain.

Captains Eyre, Read, Wilson, &c., have been, during the week, at liberty in this city, by permission of the Government. In a day or two they proceed to their "domicile" at Chascomus, 90 miles from town, according to the conditions of their parole. — This Government has been most kind to their prisoners of war, and we rejoice that it is so. It offers an example to their enemies.

As a proof of the manner in which the Brazilians conduct their affairs, both military and naval, and the rewards held out to enterprise, we insert the following:—"A general promotion has lately taken place through the navy, the only exception to which is an officer late a prisoner of war in Patagonia, and who mainly contributed to the escape of the prisoners from thence; for which, so far from wishing to reward him, he is almost the only one left out in the list of promotions.

The late expedition to the Salado, we are told, was fitted out by express orders from "head-quarters," and with considerable expectations. The result has been,—two empty prize vessels, of little value, burned by their own crews; and no other loss sustained. The Brazilians have gone back to Monte Video, of course, "covered with glory."

On 23d ult. were at Monte Video the Brazilian frigates Piranga, Princess Imperial, and Emperatriz; brigs Maranh, Piraja, and some schooners: British frigate Thetis, American do. Macedonian, and French corvette Isis. The American ship Shamrock arrived on 16th from Rio and St. Catherines, to Tornquist & Co. A very general report prevailed, that the Brazilian frigate Thetis had been captured off Bahia by the brig Congress and corvette Ituzaingo. Clare has been promoted, and, it is said, takes the command of the squadron off this port, Norton having obtained leave of absence. One or two balandras had arrived, prizes to the lugger-boat Hijo de Julio; and the vessels composing the late expedition to the Salado.

On the 22d ult. a foraging party, consisting of 13 men and an officer, left Colonia. They were attacked, and all killed except the officer, who has been sent to this city. Three deserters from the Brazilian squadron have arrived at Martin Garcia, with a boat.

The pilot of the Viva Genova returned to Buenos Ayres at 8 o'clock in the evening of 26th ult., having left the brig off Point Indio, at 7 o'clock in the morning of 25th, with a fair wind. She sails extremely well. The boat which brought back the pilot was chased, near Quilmes, by some Brazilian boats. John Gibson, Esq., merchant of this city, and Robert Gibson, Esq., went passengers in the Viva Genova: the former for the recovery of his health.

The second in command of the National Squadron, Captain George Bynon, is a native of Glamorganshire, in Wales. By mistake we have hitherto written his name as Bysson.

Lieut.-Colonel Artayetta is the present commandant of the island of Martin Garcia.

Lieut.-Colonel Quezada arrived here on 28th ult., with despatches from the National Army.

The newspaper 'Atalaya,' published in this city, is discontinued; the object of its publication (as the Editors state,) having ceased: but it is to take the field again, when circumstances render it necessary.

The wits of this city have, through the medium of the public Press, been very satirical upon the Concert given at the Theatre on the 22d ult. In Music, mediocrity (especially in a foreign 'professeur,') will not satisfy the public of Buenos Ayres. They have more knowledge in that science than is generally imagined, and amateurs, both male and female, of first-rate talent.

We have lately seen some printed handbills, written with considerable taste, which have been published in Rio Janeiro, discussing the merits and defects of two female singers of the Rio Opera, (Señora Barbieri and Señora Facciotti,) and upon the music of the 'Italiana en Argel.' That Opera is a great favorite at Rio, from the manner in which Barbieri sings in the duet of "Ah i capricci de la sorte." We do not covet these Rio songstresses: they are welcome to enchant the Imperialists, and leave to us our Doña Angela Tani: the regret is that she has appeared so seldom lately. We have a strong presentiment that Buenos Ayres will, at no distant day, overtop their Brazilian rival in more important things than music, when the advantages of climate, soil, &c. are duly appreciated, and brought fully into action. War is at all times distressing; but it may have its benefits, and prove an important monitor to the country.

THEATRE.

The Tragedy of "La Condesa de Castilla" was represented a few nights since. The second act is full of interest, and had Señora Samaniego appeared, it would have been more so. Cossio, in his Moorish attire, looked fierce and imposing, and the dresses altogether were good.

On the 26th ult., to a very crowded house, for the benefit of the scene painter, 'Adolphi et Clara,' (the English 'Matrimony,') a comic opera in two acts, performed by French Amateurs in a highly creditable manner. Clara and Delaval (we give the English names,) appeared last year upon the stage: they were now perfectly at their ease. The lady sung the first air charmingly. The Baron, and O'Dogherty (Grimgruffuhoff,) had considerable merit. Some new and pretty scenery was exhibited. French music to English ears, in general "pleases not:" that of 'Adolphi et Clara' may be one of the exceptions. In the English piece, two females are introduced, Clara and Lisetta; the latter, many of our readers will recollect, sings the beautiful air,

"My heart breaks to leave you, I no longer
Sweet lady, adieu.

A great portion of the audience were French, and the fervor of their applause formed a contrast to the usual quiet habits of the Theatre.

Rosquellas appears in a few days, in the Opera of 'Othello,' to the great delight of the musical part of the community.

MARRIED,

On 26th November, at the Protestant Chapel, by the Reverend Mr. ARMSTRONG, Captain JOHN FITTON to Miss MARYANN BROWN, a distant relative of Admiral Brown. The Admiral gave away the Bride at the Altar.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublings, 66½ to 67 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 12d. per dollar, nominal.
Do. United States, 300 per cent.
Do. Rio Janeiro, 329 rees, or 130 per cent.
Do. Monte Video, 260 per cent.
6 per cent. Stock, 48 to 50.
Rate of Interest per month, 2 to 3 per cent.