

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 Editors, and left at No. 47, Calle del 25 de Mayo, or at this Office, where Subscriptions are received.

No. 70.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1827.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

We have read attentively the projects of law presented to the Junta of the Province, relative to modifying the Bank. The importance of the question, to which the most precious interests of society are allied, obliges us to venture some reflections on the proposed innovation. We shall be perhaps accused of letting ourselves be carried away by national prejudices; and may be told that we speak of the Bank of Buenos Ayres, as though we were treating of the Bank of England,—an establishment which, as it regards its organization, is founded in reason and public utility.

The Bank of Buenos Ayres has now existed about two years: its charter insures it ten years. This is the fundamental principle that must be kept in mind, in any discussion upon the question. The act for its establishment is a solemn contract during the time stipulated for its existence. It is as much under the protection of the legislative power, as the Civil List, of the King of Great Britain. It would be an error to consider an establishment of this nature as a direct emanation from the public authorities, as an effect of the productive power of the government. It is the result of an agreement of a number of citizens among themselves, and of them with the legitimate authorities. The projected improvements affect not only the holders of bank actions, but likewise the government and public. To augment, on one hand, the interest on discounts, and diminish, on the other hand, that which the government pays for its debt, are two such important alterations, that we know not how the equilibrium can be kept up in the circulation, if they be admitted. The commercial world will complain, and compare its situation with that of the government; and while the evils of the war weigh equally on both, the one receives an alleviation.

The Bank had its authority regularly constituted, and sanctioned by the laws. This authority was formed by the share-holders themselves; nothing more just. In questions affecting particular interests, the parties concerned have an undoubted right to choose those who shall direct them. The project annihilates this simple structure; submits the negotiations of the Bank to a strange body; forms a junta which is to command the main-spring of the commercial world; lays open to the eyes of the profane the secrets of a sacred institution; and perverts all the ideas in which establishments of this nature have hitherto been founded: as if it was

necessary to introduce into a company of merchants, the same discipline that is expected in a company of grenadiers.

The project orders the progressive amortization of the notes, until the Bank shall be able to pay in specie. But does it state how the Bank is to be enabled to effect this? Does it determine the epoch, and the quantity of bars of gold and silver by which the notes are to be replaced? From the text of the projected law we might infer, that the amortization of the bank notes is sufficient to create positive riches. It is forgotten that the circulating medium, as fast as it is withdrawn, requires that its place be filled up by some other means; and that to decree the amortization of the notes, it is necessary to have in hand the specie which is to fill up the void.

The Bank is the depository of public confidence,—it is the principal link in an immense chain of interests, and the only support of credit: innovation may affect the whole mass of society.

A Correspondent has called our attention to the Bank Meeting to be held on the 10th instant, and sent us extracts of a correspondence written at different periods, in order that by taking an impartial and correct view of affairs as they transpired, it may elucidate the causes which have produced the great inequality now existing between the value of bank notes, and the price of the precious metals; conceiving it may correct many erroneous impressions, which, if not removed, will be of serious consequences to the State, and to the property of private individuals.

The correspondence is too long to insert. The purpose of it is, the disgraceful rage for speculating; the employment of brokers for the purchase of gold and silver, one bidding over the other; the over-anxiety of the merchant to remit money to England; that efforts have been made to depreciate bank paper by fabricated reports, and even by intimidation, to further which design, combinations have been formed to raise the price of specie, and to give out that the notes of the Bank will eventually become totally worthless, &c. The letters then allude to the effect such language must have upon a people naturally tractable and unwary, and therefore easily made the dupes of designing men; and that a false impression thereby takes root.

Our correspondent asserts, that the above are the ostensible causes of the grievances complained of; and furthermore

British Commercial Review

takes up the argument, that if the precious metals have advanced in price, it does not follow that the Bank paper is depreciated, and neither can it be so while it is made a legal tender.

LEGATION OF THE U. S. OF N. AMERICA.

Buenos Ayres, 3d December, 1827.

After more than twelve months of almost hopeless bodily suffering, which no medical aid can relieve, the undersigned Chargé d' Affaires of the United States of North America, finds himself under the necessity of separating himself from this capital, as he hopes, only for a few weeks, in quest of health in a temporary change of climate. He regrets that the state of extreme debility under which he labours, renders it impossible for him personally to express to any of his many friends those sentiments which necessarily result from an uninterrupted interchange of the best feelings, during more than seven years. He counts on the indulgence of all; and will permit himself only to add, in great sincerity, that his first wish is that the country may enjoy honour and prosperity: the second, that he may soon return to see it in the full possession of those great national blessings.

J. M. FORBES.

Dec. 1.—Wind N. W. The schooner-brig San José left Three-fathom Hole, and stood down the river. Two Brazilian vessels hove in sight, and she returned to her former anchorage.

2.—Wind N. The blockading squadron not in sight. A boat arrived, and two zumacas from the northward. The former brought intelligence that two Brazilian frigates sailed from Monte Video on 30th ult.

The weather, which had been sultry all day, changed in the evening to a thunder-storm, with lightning and rain. The wind came off the land, and the schooner-brig San José, Auld, sailed for the Havannah.

3.—Wind W. The national schooner Federal left the Inner Roads in the evening, and made sail down the river.

4.—Wind S. W., and hazy. At day-break the schr. Federal was seen returning. She anchored in the Outer Roads, near the Boston sloop of war; having fallen in with the blockading squadron. At 8 A. M. the latter came in sight. The Federal proceeded to Three-fathom Hole, and the Brazilians stood down the river, out of sight of the town.

Sailed, eighteen sail of zumacas, balandras, &c., to the northward, under convoy of two Gun Boats, No. 8 and 13.

At 6 P. M., wind E. N. E., sailed National schooner Federal, Mickle, for London; and during the night, the British brig packet Osborn, Leslie, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro, and Falmouth.

The pilot of the San José returned to Buenos Ayres this day, and reports, that she sailed from Three-fathom Hole at 9 o'clock P. M. of the 2d instant, did not meet with any Brazilian vessels, and passed point Memoria with a fair wind, at 10 A. M. of the 3d; and that the San José sails extremely well.

5.—Wind W. N. W. The national schooner Feliz left the Inner Roads, and anchored in Three-fathom Hole.

6.—Wind E. S. E. Sailed, several zumacas and small craft, to the northward.

Colonel Forbes, the American Charge d' Affaires, embarked at half-past 7, A. M., to go on board the U. S. corvette Boston, in the Outer Roads. Several of his friends attended him to the Mole, and when passing near the Inner Roads, the American ship Co

lumbia fired a salute. The Boston fired a salute at half-past 11, on receiving Colonel Forbes on board.

The pilot of the schooner Federal returned to Buenos Ayres, and reports, that she passed in-shore of the blockading squadron, consisting of 12 sail, and stationed off Ensenada, at 10 o'clock on the night of 4th instant. They did not appear to notice her. The schooner passed Point Indio at 3 o'clock on the morning of 5th inst., with a fair wind. The Brazilian squadron was off Ensenada when the boat which brought back the pilot passed that port.

The American corvette Boston, for Monte Video, got under weigh at 1 o'clock, P. M., but from contrary wind anchored again in the afternoon.

The blockading squadron, consisting of 2 corvettes, 3 brigs, 2 brig schooners, and 3 schooners, came in sight this afternoon. In the Outer Roads they tacked, and the wind blowing fresh from the eastward, beat further down the river, and anchored about 12 miles E. of the town.

7.—Wind N. W. Sailed, at day-break, the American corvette Boston, Captain Hoffman, for Monte Video. The blockading squadron likewise got under weigh, and proceeded down the river.

Arrived, a balandra from Monte Video, with a general cargo; and Gun Boat No. 7, from Martin Garcia.

The brig of war Congress, Captain Fournier, and a prize-brig, got aground at Point Lara (Ensenada,) at 6 o'clock in the evening of 6th inst. Some schooners fired at them, without much effect. The Brazilian squadron which got under weigh this morning, steered towards Ensenada.

Sailed, at 2 o'clock P. M., for Ensenada, schooner of war Maldonado, Admiral Brown, Captain Toll; do. Uruguay, Captain G. Bynon, Captain J. F. Segui; do. Guanaco, Captain Espora; do. Juncal, Captain Coe; 4 Gun boats, Captain Rosales in No. 7, Captain La Rosa in No. 9.

The above vessels sailed in consequence of the brig Congress and prize brig getting aground near the above port. Had a Telegraph been established, they might have arrived a few hours after the accident. We have advocated the measure before in the *British Packet* No. 40, and it may not be inapplicable to repeat the language we then used. It was as thus:—"It does seem strange that the capital of the Republic, having a port only 30 miles distant, must wait a courier's arrival (nearly three hours,) for news that could be conveyed in less than a minute. How many important results might have accrued during the war, had signal stations been arranged, particularly in the late glorious but unfortunate action near Ensenada!"—We are told that a proposition has been made, although perhaps not officially, to fix a line of signals between this and Ensenada, and that it could be easily effected. If so, not a moment should be lost in furtherance of that object.

Accounts from Ensenada to 10 o'clock this morning, (7th inst.) report that the Brazilians began to fire on the brig Congress at half-past 8 o'clock on the evening of the 6th, and continued firing until 12 o'clock. One schooner began to fire at 6 o'clock this morning; others followed, and about 9 o'clock the squadron from off this joined, and opened fire. The Congress could only return it from two stern guns, and it is thought she and the prize brig must be destroyed. At day-break she had landed part of her cargo. An officer from her landed at Ensenada at 3 o'clock this morning, and stated that she had 2 killed and 8 wounded, from the

attack of yesterday. The prize is laying inside the Congress. Thirty-five Brazilian vessels were counted, including several armed launches, balandras, &c.

8.—Wind N. W. The accounts from Enseñada this morning state, that after a most heroic defence, in which they had a considerable number killed and wounded, the brig Congress was burned by her own crew, as also the prize brig. Fournier is on shore wounded; we believe not dangerously. The Brazilian launches took some prisoners; in fact it is said that very few of the crews got to shore, and at the Marine Office it is publicly reported, that the Brazilians wantonly shot with musketry a number of individuals who no longer had the power to molest them. Should this be true, we trust the wretches will be exposed to public scorn.

Admiral Brown's escuadrilla, and the Brazilian squadron, in sight, under weigh.

Sailed, during the night, the National schooner Feliz, Donald Campbell, for Liverpool. The American ship Columbia anchored in Three-fathom Hole, from the Inner Roads.

A zumaca with rice and timber, prize to the schooner privateer Constant, and taken southward of Rio Janeiro, arrived at Enseñada on Tuesday last: prize-master Beard. She had intended to go to the Salado, but when off that port having a fine wind, she stood up the river. A schooner (supposed the Rio,) fired two or three shots at her. The Constant had taken another zumaca in ballast; she was given to the prisoners, after taking out some provisions and other articles.

Arrived, on 3d inst. at the Salado, the zumaca Santa Cruz, from Bahia for Rio Grande; taken off the bar of the latter port on 20th November, by the schooner privateer San Martin. Cargo, wine and salt: prize-master, William Crossdill. The San Martin took a schooner-brig same day, with salt, flour, and provisions for the army, and despatched her for Patagonia.

Arrived at the Salado, on the 4th instant, zumaca Jesus, with rum, tobacco, and coffee, taken on 10th November by the brig of war Congress, Captain Fournier, near Rio Janeiro: Holdridge prize master. Reports that by another prize he had heard that 2000 Irishmen had arrived at Rio Janeiro, and notwithstanding that the Emperor in person solicited them to enter his service as soldiers, they had resisted every attempt. — The same news is confirmed by an American brig which arrived at the Salado on 5th instant, from Rio Janeiro; adding, that a ship under Columbian colours, and mounting 22 guns, was cruising off Rio Janeiro.

The crew of the zumaca prize to the Rayo Argentino, mistook the privateer Vencedor de Ituzaingó for an enemy, and abandoned the vessel. It being calm, the privateer sent a boat, and finally brought the prize to the Salado.

An American brig, from Monte Video, has arrived at the Salado, consigned to Daniel Gowland. The brig from Rio is consigned to W. P. Ford & Co.

The new Commandant at the Salado (Don Felix Olazaval,) is stated to be a good officer, and a very gentlemanly man. Every day proves the importance of this port, and the necessity of confiding its defence to proper hands.

The schooner-brig taken by the privateer San Martin, Capt Adams, and sent for Patagonia, was formerly the Nymph of this port, and then commanded by the same Captain Adams.

Arrived at the Concha's, two lugger-boats, with ammunition, &c., sent by the Governor of Entre-Rios, and destined to act against the Brazilian privateers in this neighbourhood.

Shannon, the pilot of the Sardinian brig Asunto, which was taken off this port, has been imprisoned at Monte Video: he is shortly expected to be released. Admiral Pintos Guedez is said to be an excellent lawyer, and of course will be able to give good reason for this incarceration of a British subject. Lieutenants Ford, Gwynn, and Purser Drury, have been released on parole, some individuals at Monte Video becoming bondsmen for them. The other officers of this Republic prisoners at that fortress, have proceeded to Rio Janeiro in the frigates.

By a decree of this Government, Mr. J. Hullet, consul-general of the Republic to the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, has been removed from that office.

We do not pay much attention to the report that the Brazilians intend to attack Martin Garcia. They probably give it out as a "Ruse de Guerre," in order to keep Brown in this neighbourhood, dreading his excursions down the river. In fact it is this dread, as we have been informed, which prevents their placing some small vessels off the Salado, conceiving they might be "picked up" by their active opponent.

Accounts from the Banda Oriental state the probability that the campaign will soon open, and that three regiments of the National Army have been placed in advance. General Lecor arrived, 20th ult., at the Cerro Largo, on the frontiers, with a small body of troops, perhaps as an escort. The Republicans have to fear him,—not in open fight,—but in the more dangerous operations of intrigue and bribery. Lecor, in common life, has many amiable qualities: his public character is that of an intriguer.

A correspondent to the *Gaceta Mercantil*, in a late number, has called the attention of the public to the state of the Alameda, the clouds of dust which continually overwhelm this public walk, and which might so easily be remedied; and considering that we have in Buenos Ayres three military bands of music, they might alternately amuse the inhabitants on the evenings of "feast-days," when the weather permits, as in other countries: the ombu trees of the Alameda would shelter them from the sun. We hope the proper authorities will notice the affair, and that in due time the spacious Plaza of this city will be paved. Such an undertaking will add to the comfort, and prove an ornament to the capital.

One of the "ou dits" of the day is, that the Emperor of Brazil proposed, a short time since, an armistice: the Republican troops to evacuate the territory in controversy, privateers recalled, &c.; every thing to be left pending; the dispute to be referred to a mediatory Power, supposed Great Britain:—and that this Government assented to the proposed measure, on condition that the Brazilian troops should likewise withdraw from the disputed territory, that is to say, from Monte Video, Colonia, &c. But this did not suit the ideas of the Emperor, and he launched out in his usual invectives against Buenos Ayres. The last letters from Rio Janeiro breathe nothing but war.

A Caricature of the action, off Ensenada has lately arrived in this city, sketched by an Englishman at Rio Janeiro; and if it cannot compete with the Dightons and Bunburys, it may however lay claim to considerable humour. It represents the brigs Republic and Independence aground,—the Brazilian vessels firing at them; grotesque figures of Pintos Guedez and Norton, their persons decorated with emblems, which, from pure kindness to the above personages, we forbear to describe. A sort of dialogue is introduced between Norton and Guedez, as thus:—

NORTON.

The sixteen vessels, Sir, can't take the two;
Damnation seize that madman and his crew!

GUEDEZ.

With the Paula, then, do you bear down,
And put the shackles on that scoundrel Brown.

NORTON.

With your injunction I cannot comply,
He's mad, you know, and that's the reason why:
For should I happen in his deadly spite
To go too close, 'tis likely he may bite:
Then I'd go mad!—next you my teeth might feel
And after you run mad the whole Brazil!

GUEDEZ.

Keep at long balls, then, till you're sure he's dead,
Then bring him here, and I'll cut off his head:
No matter how, so I his body mangle,
I'm sure to get another *dingle dangle*.

NORTON.

A conquest easy when the man dead is,
And truly worthy of the valiant Guedez!

GUEDEZ.

Begone, or else your days I'll shorten,
As sure as your name is Jemmy Norton.

A newspaper in English, (not in printed characters,) has likewise appeared at Rio Janeiro, entitled "*The Critical Observer, and Rotten-Row Gazette*." It abounds with sarcasms upon the injustice and hardships to which the masters and owners of the detained vessels are exposed, and upon the Brazilians generally. The following is one of the paragraphs:—"The aquatic carpenters, (rats and worms,) are working with the greatest zeal for the welfare of the Brazils, on the bottoms of the detained vessels. They will soon save their fellow-workmen the trouble of stripping off the sheathing."

The French papers contain remarks upon the English Theatricals, at the Theatre de L'Odeon, at Paris, and candidly avow that they (the French,) have not rightly appreciated Shakspeare, from the difficulty of understanding the English language, which they describe as a mixture of all the "idiomes du nord," frightening by the fantasticalness of its pronunciation, "et par la forme meme de ses caracteres."

On the 7th September, the first English performance took place at the above Theatre: the comedy of 'The Rivals,' and the farce of 'Fortune's Frolic,' to a very crowded house. The Orchestra played Henry IV, and God save the King; and Mr. Abbott spoke an address in French, which highly pleased the Parisians. Liston, as Acres, the "Potier de l'Angleterre," likewise pleased. But not so the comedy: they found it too long, and take credit to themselves in having sat patiently for three "mortal hours," to witness it. They insinuate that Sheridan took the plot from an old German piece of Wasserman's, called 'Die Nebenbuhler'; and hope that the English actors will represent the terrible tra-

gedies of Othello, Hamlet, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Richard the Third, &c.

'Hamlet' has been exhibited: Charles Kemble, the Hamlet; Miss Smithson, Ophelia. The contrast to the French translation of Hamlet, the appearance of the Ghost, &c., is spoken of in terms of panegyric.

THEATRE.

The opera of 'Otelo' was performed on 5th instant, and Rosquellas reappeared after a long absence. It was made a sort of jubilee: the exterior of the Theatre illuminated, and the interior extra-lighted. Notwithstanding double prices, and extreme heat, a crowded audience assembled. The lower boxes on this evening took the lead in BEAUTY. The entré of Rosquellas was greeted with acclamations; bouquets of flowers were thrown from the Cazuela, and strewed the stage. Perhaps that moment was one of the happiest of his life. After so many days of intense anxiety, to receive the greetings of a kind-hearted people, grateful for the hours of delight he has afforded them,—for the establishment of the Opera,—and that Buenos Ayres should thus advance in the career of the polite arts. The Theatre is now the general resort. We have seen the sturdy countryman listen with rapture to the music,

"Since nought so stockish, hard, and full of rage,
But Music for the time doth change his nature."

We trust that Rosquellas will long continue at this scene of his glories: he is still in the vigour of his age.

We have so often commented upon the opera of 'Otelo,' that little remains now to notice. Doña Angela Tani sung (as a French gentleman observed,) "like an angel;" and her acting was equally good: she kneels most gracefully. Señora Vacani deserved praise. Rosquellas seemed inspired with the glowing reception he had received, and gave the first air with great spirit, and also in the duet with Iago. Vacani is a worthy successor to the late admirable Naldi; his manly figure aids the effect, and his singing seems better every time we hear him: few Theatres can boast such an "artist." Ricciolini (the Broadhurst of this Theatre,) is always pleasing. Vera did his best in music not adapted to his voice: we must not be too severe.

The Orchestra of this Theatre is numerous, and has some good performers: the leader is attentive, and the gentleman who presides at the Piano, of first rate talent.

The curtain dropped at 12 o'clock, amidst loud applause and congratulations.—"What we have missed long enough to want it, we value more when it is regained."

The Governor was in the State Box, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Rico, Colonel Rolon, and Aid-de Camp Alvarez.

Buenos Ayrean British School.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Subscribers and Friends of the BUENOS AYREAN BRITISH SCHOOL SOCIETY, will be held at the School-House

On Monday, 10th Decr., at 11 o'clock in the forenoon,

When the Yearly Report will be read, the Accounts of the past year presented, and a new Committee nominated.—An Examination of the Scholars will take place immediately after the business of the Meeting is concluded.

JOHN HARRATT, Secretary.

Doublons,	67 dollars each.
Spanish Dollars,	280 to 290 per cent. premium.
Plata macaquina,	270 to 275 per cent.
Gold in bars,	23 reals per quilate.
Silver do.	22 reals per dinero.
Exchange on England,	11½d. per dollar, nominal.
Do. United States,	300 per cent.
Do. Rio Janeiro,	333 rees, or 140 per cent.
Do. Monte Video,	260 to 265 rees.
6 per cent. Stock,	49 to 50.
Rate of Interest per month,	2 to 3 per cent.

☞ Dry Goods, and Brazilian Produce, are advancing in Price.

PRINTED BY STEPHEN HALLET & CO.
No. 75, Calle de Cangallo.