

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 71.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1827.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

"THERE are certain maladies in life, (says a celebrated physician,) which can only be cured by rubbing the eyes. One minute the unhappy being appears suffering under the effects of disease; and the next, having cleared his sight by a gentle rubbing, the malady disappears."—In our opinion, the blockade of Buenos Ayres by the Brazilian forces, belongs to this class of pathology. The Brazilians say they are blockading us; their vessels are laying in front of the town:—now, let us rub our eyes a little and we shall see that this blockade does not exist. Neutral vessels enter the port almost when they please; the receipts at the custom-house are very considerable; and the intrepid blockaders, notwithstanding their active exertions, have hardly succeeded in detaining a single vessel destined for this port, and not one that has sailed from it. A strange man is this said Emperor of Brazil:—he blockades whole rivers, as Don Quixote routed numerous armies. But if the knight of the woful countenance, with the aid of a broken-down horse and a half-rotten lance, succeeded in obliging some honest traveller to turn tail; his Imperial Majesty has the faculty of incommoding the commerce of the whole world by his pompous declaration. We would like to know how long he will be permitted to inflict so severe a punishment with so weak an arm.

International laws, whatever vicissitudes they may have suffered from the delirium of different cabinets, have been constantly founded on this philanthropical principle:—diminish the evils of war, and, above all, preserve neutrals as much as possible from feeling its direful effects. Hence arises the necessity of restraining hostilities within certain bounds, and limiting them to the real physical power of the combatants. Now how this can accord with the power conceded to a squadron of annihilating commerce, when this squadron possesses no other faculty than that of locomotion, is an anomaly which we cannot explain.

Don Pedro can, if he pleases, wear a small hat like Napoleon's; ape the manners of that conqueror, when reviewing a couple of hundred Germans; and in his proclamations imitate the phraseology of those of the army of Italy: but to copy the decrees of Milan and of Berlin, he should be possessed of the means of the colossus who emitted them, and be able to dispose of a force equivalent to that by which he

was enabled to indemnify himself by land, for the losses the English occasioned him by sea.

There is, in reality, no blockade; and it is painful to see the most civilized and the richest part of the globe believing blindly in its existence, and being made the dupe of this shameful humbug.

If the Brazilians wish to blockade us, let them do it effectually; let them take the trouble of seizing the vessels that may attempt to come to Buenos Ayres. But when all those who wish it, enter the port; and if more do not enter, it is because they will not make the attempt; it is highly ridiculous to say in Europe that the River Plate is blockaded.

But truth, if tardy, is not less certain. She will penetrate into the cabinets of nations; and in an epoch when the commercial interests are the vital springs of society, no wise governments will permit so barefaced an infraction of that respect which is due to them. *De facto* the blockade does not exist; let us hope that it will soon cease to exist *de jure*.

On the 10th instant, the Meeting of the Stockholders of the Bank took place, to the number of 100; to whom, on the opening of the debate, the statement of the Directors was handed. The discussions, which lasted five hours, referred exclusively to the consideration of the two following questions, viz:—

1. "Whether the charges brought by the representative of the Government against the conduct of the Directors, in having exceeded their faculties by excessive issues of notes, should be entertained, and an exhibition of those issues required?"—*Negatived*, by 98 votes to 2.
2. "Whether a Commission of Five, from among the shareholders, should be named to uphold and defend the charter of the Bank, and to resist all steps tending towards altering and infringing it?"—*Affirmative*, 98 votes to 2.

Individuals Named.

J. M. CORONEL.

MARCELINO CARRANZA.

ANGEL MOLINO TORRES.

TOMAS DUGUID.

CONSTANTIN.

The statement referred to in the above, is nearly as follows:—

That, by order of the Directors, an extraordinary general meeting had been convened, in consequence of the projects

which the Committee of Finance had presented to the Honorable Sala of the Province; and considering the fundamental law of the Bank threatened, they had petitioned the Executive of the Province to interpose with the H. S. to suspend the sanction of both projects, until the Stockholders had met to consider upon those measures which might best secure their interests. It is satisfactory that the Executive, in their note of reply, affirms having resolved to make the same request to the H. S., accompanying it with that of the Directors; and from the manner in which the Government expresses itself, a belief is entertained that their opinion is not favourable to the extension of the projects, and it affords matter of congratulation that the Executive watches over the rights of the Bank. Notwithstanding which, the Directors, feeling the weight and importance of the subject, urge the immediate adoption of those means best calculated to protect the rights and privileges of the parties concerned; and recommends them to take the same steps as the late Discount Bank in the regulation and settlement of their affairs, up to their incorporation with the present National Bank, in the last year of 1826; such as the appointment of a Committee, with full powers from their own body to inquire and avail themselves of every means which the circumstances may render advisable.

We mentioned in our last, that the National brig of war Congress, Captain Fournier, and a brig her prize, had, on 6th instant, got on shore near Ensenada, and that they were attacked by Brazilian vessels and burned. We have since collected a few more particulars:—

The tide was high when they struck, leaving them shortly afterwards with only seven feet water alongside. It had been their intention to proceed to Buenos Ayres, and the Congress had the prize-brig in tow, which she cast off on the Brazilians coming in sight. On the morning of the 7th, eight Brazilian vessels, chiefly schooners, were firing at them within pistol shot; and the grape-shot fell so thick upon the deck, that Fournier collected a quantity and fired them again at his enemies. The latter solely directed their attention to the Congress, although the prize-brig kept up a constant fire from four long 6 pounders, the only guns she had on board. The Congress was not able to bring more than two guns to bear; was likewise short of powder; shot, in plenty. The crew behaved with great spirit. At 10 o'clock in the morning of the 7th, the vessels were abandoned, and several wounded men left on board: the rest of the crew got into boats, or jumped overboard and swam to shore, (amongst the latter were three negro girls,) the distance not being more than half a-mile. The Brazilians immediately took possession, fired three musquets, hauled down the flag of the Republic, and hoisted that of Brazil with shouts of "Viva el Emperador!"—a glorious achievement, certainly, to call forth such joy. A number of Brazilian boats were employed until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, taking out cargo from both vessels: about that period Brown's squadron (4 schooners and 4 gun-boats,) hove in sight; and yet, with such a superior force, and prizes containing valuable property, the Brazilians declined defending them. Fire was placed to both vessels: the Congress blew up about 10 minutes afterwards; the prize-brig burned to the water's edge. The report is still current that some of the wounded were put to death by the Brazilians, with the addition, that the sufferers were those suspected to be deserters. We do not attach the least credit to the statement: the Congress had, at the time of the accident, 150 persons on board,

60 of whom were negroes captured during the cruise, and employed as sailors: it is supposed that about 30 were killed and wounded; most of the latter fell into the hands of the Brazilians; more than 100 of the crew were afterwards mustered at Ensenada. Early on the morning of the 7th, boats were occupied in landing cargo from the prize, and a considerable quantity was saved.

The Brazilian grape-shot flew about in all directions upon the shore: some went over the house of Don Francisco Wright, and the wood in that vicinity. Four men were thus slightly wounded; and a soldier, seated near the beach, was wounded in the leg by grape-shot, and was not conscious of the wound until the bystanders, observing the blood, informed him of it. Three or four field-pieces on the beach would have kept the Brazilian squadron at bay, and in all probability saved the vessels, at least until Admiral Brown's escuadrilla could have arrived. As it was, not the least opposition was offered from the shore.

The prize-brig was bound from Rio Janeiro to Monte Video, and had a valuable cargo of arms, ammunition, dry goods, silks, &c., which is stated to have cost one hundred thousand hard dollars at Rio Janeiro. The Congress, during her cruise, had captured 33 vessels; 9 of which have been despatched to different ports: of the remainder, some were burned close to Rio Janeiro, and others sunk at sea. She had an action with the steam vessel, and a running fight with a frigate (supposed the Isabel,) from 8 o'clock at night until 2 in the morning; besides other skirmishes. She likewise sent some boats on shore for water, at the village of Santa Rosa Amazon, and with the intention of trading with the inhabitants. They appeared to be few in number, and nearly all of them ran away up the country. The watering party were fired upon by those that remained, and one sailor wounded; upon which the village was burned to the ground.

In point of sailing, the Congress did not answer the expectations entertained of her: she rarely went more than 9 knots per hour, even with a stiff breeze. A considerable number of neutral vessels were spoken with during the cruise, especially of Rio Janeiro. The assertion that Captain Fournier was wounded, is untrue: he returned to Buenos Ayres on Saturday last in perfect health, as did likewise many of his officers.

Thus has ended the cruise and career of the brig Congress. She has occasioned great losses to the Brazilians, and perished through an unfortunate accident, or, perhaps, oversight of more parties than one. — She sailed from this on 14th September last.

Dec. 8.—Wind N. W. About mid-day the hostile squadrons came to an anchor; that of Admiral Brown, consisting of 4 schooners and 4 gun-boats, off Point Quilmes; the Brazilians, 2 corvettes, 3 brigs, 2 schooner-brigs and 3 schooners, East of the town. The latter had wind and tide in their favour, and could have attacked their opponents within grape-shot range, and in three fathom water. In the afternoon, both squadrons got under weigh: the Brazilians stood away, not offering the least molestation to the National Squadron, which steered for Three-fathom Hole. The schooner Juncal outsailed her companions, was alone, and at one time very near her enemies. The signal flag of Fournier, with his name in it, was observed in the course of the day flying at the fore of a Brazilian schooner brig: this trophy, taken from a vessel aground and defenceless, would not, we think, under the circumstances of the case, have been displayed by any other nation.

In the evening, a strong wind from the S. W., with thunder and lightning.

9.—Wind W. N. W., with slight rain. Admiral Brown's flotilla dispersed and at anchor. They got under weigh, and anchored in Three-fathom Hole, where they were joined by schooner brig of war Eighth February, and three gun boats, from the Inner Roads. The American ship Colombia had been under weigh, and came to anchor amongst them: the packet Rinaldo at anchor near them. The Brazilian squadron anchored in sight, east of the town, and hull down.

Arrived, a boat from Monte Video.

10.—Wind S. E. Both squadrons in the same position as yesterday. Sailed, a fleet of small craft to the northward.

11.—Wind S. S. W. Sailed, several small craft to the northward.

12.—Wind N. Arrived, gun-boat No. 13, with a convoy from the northward. Several of the blockading squadron under weigh. At 12 o'clock the National schooner Maldonado (flag vessel,) fired a gun: blue peter at the fore.

13.—Wind N. Arrived, two balandras from the Parana.

14.—Wind E. S. E. Nothing arrived or sailed.

15.—Wind N. E. The blockading squadron, during the week, have been in sight at anchor, hull down from the town; and the following 11 vessels of the National Squadron, remain stationed in Three fathom Hole:—schooners Maldonado, Eighth February, Ninth February, Juncal, Guanaco, Uruguay; gun-boats, No. 6, 7, 9, 12, 13.

The Ponton (formerly the Dutch brig Eugene,) broke from her moorings in the Inner Roads, during the strong wind of last night, and drove on shore.

Arrived at the Salado, on 5th instant, *zumaca* Cochrane, with hides and beef; Frazier prize-master: taken off Rio Grande on 12th November, by the Sin Par privateer; to which date she had not made any other capture. The privateer had spoken a French ship (whaler), and the prize saw an American ship, and some other vessels.

Arrived, on 6th instant, at the above port, the Hamburg ship Matilda, Captain Abendroth, with Yerba and Sugar, stated to be Brazilian property; taken of Parnagua 25th November, by the General Mancilla privateer; Green, prize-master. The General Mancilla, in her passage down the river, had a skirmish with the three-masted schooner and another schooner, 20 miles below M. Video. When within grape-shot distance the privateersmen ran up the rigging and gave three cheers; the pursuers hesitated, and it being calm, the privateer put out her sweeps and escaped.

Accounts from Monte Video to 7th inst. state the arrival of two American brigs at that port, viz.—Oliver, from Portsmouth, (N. H.) 120 days, to James Noble, with lumber; and a brig from Baltimore with flour, supposed the Clara. The Brazilian frigate Princess Imperial, and brig Caboclo, were at Monte Video: the other foreign men-of-war as before. The packet Osborn is said to have sailed for Rio Janeiro and Falmouth on the night of the 7th instant.

It is stated, that on the night of the 7th instant a strong division of Brazilian troops marched out of Monte Video, and in their excursion made prisoners Major Aguirre, and Captain Paredes, of the regiment of Colorados.

During the night of 7th instant, Admiral Brown's escuadrilla steered very near to the burned vessels. Their approach on that day had deterred the Brazilians from taking out more cargo, and obliged them to destroy the vessels. Thus some good was effected. Captain Granville was on board the Juncal, Captain Coe, and afterwards in the Maldonado.

The Brazilian prisoner of war, Don Jacinto Pereyra, late Commodore of the Brazilian squadron taken in the Uruguay, made his escape from the Policia yesterday morning, 14th inst. He was in his room at 5 o'clock in the morning. Strict search is making for him, and expresses despatched to Ensenada, and round the coast. From the strong wind of yesterday, he could not have embarked. The Police Officer who had him in charge, has been taken into custody; but it is supposed that he is innocent of the escape, as he made no attempt at concealment.

Norton has sailed from Colonia for Monte Video.

The vessel stated to be off Rio Janeiro under Columbian colours, is supposed to be a Buenos Ayrean privateer from North America. Almeida, the captain, is an old privateersman, and effected considerable mischief upon British commerce during the last war between America and England. Now that the war has taken a decided character, Brazilians will be visited by many privateers from distant nations, who have hitherto kept back from the idea that peace would be concluded. Their operations, even in bringing seamen to this country, will be of some benefit.

A notice has appeared from the Police-Office, stating, that they have repeatedly published the order against galloping on horse-back in the streets; some have pleaded ignorance of the order, and other excuses; that for the last time they give the following notice:—

No excuse or consideration will prevent the horses of those found galloping in the streets, or public places, from being sold at auction. That the proprietors of coaches will incur the same penalty, as great mischief has arisen, principally from horses driven from the box. It is prohibited to break in horses in any public place; it must be done outside the town.

Previously to his departure from Durazno for the Cerro Largo, General Lavalleja revoked the decree by which he placed the department of Canelones under military government, and delegated the faculties of Governor of the Province to D. Luis Et. Perez.

In the year 1824, Don Valentin Gomez was sent by the Government of Buenos Ayres to Rio Janeiro, upon the subject of the Banda Oriental; but the Brazilian Government avoided explanation, and in a manner endeavoured to "play upon" the Republican Minister, asserting, that the uniting of the Banda Oriental to Brazil was a voluntary aggregation, and as such, it excluded all communication; adding, that the province had been an expense to the Emperor of 15 to 16 millions of dollars. The Government of this Republic, it is said, offered to pay any reasonable sum, that is to say, from 6 to 8 millions of dollars, which it was thought would about balance the account, after deducting that which the Brazilians had drawn from the province in revenues, &c.; but all would not do, and Don Valentin returned from a fruitless mission.

Those who have perused the correspondence in the above affair, pronounce it an excellent specimen of diplomatic writing.

BRAZIL.

The following Speech was delivered by the Emperor on the 16th of November last, upon the occasion of closing the Session of the Legislature:—

“August and most worthy Representatives of the Brazilian Nation!

“Full of joy and content on seeing the wise labours of the Assembly during the term of this session, and how much it has availed itself of the two prorogations which I deemed expedient to decree; I cannot forbear congratulating myself on the happy result of the laws enacted during this session.

“The affection which I entertain for Brazil, the political circumstances, and the national interest, compel me to remind you how highly useful it would be that the majority of the members of both Chambers should remain in this Court, since being still at war, and cherishing the hope of celebrating a treaty of peace, it might happen that some article should occur in it relative to the settlement of boundaries which would require legislative interference, and without which the treaty could not be concluded.

“I leave it to the wisdom of every one of the members who compose this Assembly, to deliberate upon this subject, after what I have just set forth; and I have well warranted expectations that the result will evince to Brazil the interest which we all take in her happiness. — The Session is closed.

“Constitutional Emperor, and Perpetual Defender of Brazil.”

The above Speech has nothing of that dictatorial and positive tone which the Emperor has always assumed when speaking of the war, and which his adherents have so closely copied. He wishes the members of the Senate to remain near the seat of Government, in the hope that a treaty of peace may take place:—this looks like negotiation. Again, boundaries are spoken of:—the margins of the River Plate, then, are no longer insisted upon as the southern boundary of the Empire.

It has been calculated that the expenses and losses brought upon Brazil by the present war, amounts to fifty millions of dollars. The Emperor surely must have discovered that he is “playing a losing game,” and that he never can peaceably retain the Banda Oriental. The people, from difference of language, habits, &c., and the gross deception which led to their incorporation with Brazil, are decidedly hostile, and this under every privation. It cannot be worth while to risk the possession of a rich and splendid Empire, in order to hold a discontented province. A reasonable peace will make the Emperor popular, even with his present inveterate enemies:—a different line of conduct may probably involve him in troubles and warfare for the remainder of his life.

The letters from Rio Janeiro by the last packet, and the preparations in this Republic, are in direct contradiction to any thing like peace.

The publication, in the *Gaceta Mercantil*, of the Emperor's Speech on closing the Senate at Rio Janeiro, created considerable stir in Buenos Ayres. It was at first pronounced as a hoax, until a sight of the original document gave it authenticity. There are many who think it a trick of the Emperor to pacify Brazil under her sufferings, (for suffer she does by the war,) to slacken preparations here, and, above all, to facilitate another loan, for which purpose, it is stated, the Marquis Barbicena has proceeded to England. It is certain that the dividend upon Brazilian stock due in October last, has been remitted to London; and likewise that due in April next, to the amount of 45,000 pounds sterling; as a

sort of “feeler.” At all events, those who know the disposition of the Emperor, look upon his conversion as very suspicious:—

“Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be Ere one can say—It lightens.”

For some time past, the English and Portuguese newspapers have been discussing and hinting the necessity that Don Pedro should return to Portugal, to allay the storm which has gathered there. The rejection of the late Treaty must have caused great disappointment, as they had argued upon that event as facilitating the desired object: whilst, on the other hand, the Gazettes of Madrid regretted the peace. It is likewise said, that Great Britain would gladly seize the opportunity to withdraw her troops from Portugal.

Has any pressing solicitation been lately made to the Emperor upon the subject of his return to Europe?—Such a circumstance is more than probable, and may be one of the causes to incline him seriously to think of peace. Notwithstanding his great love for the “august Empire,” a yearning exists towards the country of his birth; and to visit it, leaving Brazil in a state of war, is rather a dangerous experiment. Besides, he has had two years of expensive warfare; and every day renders success more problematical.

The Government of this Republic (at least so says report,) are firmly resolved not to sign any treaty that yields the Banda Oriental, or any portion of it, to Brazil.

THEATRE.

Various performances have taken place within the week, and nothing to call for remark. The indisposition of Doña Angela, has suspended the Opera. In a few nights, ‘El Califé,’ composed by Rosquellas, is to be represented.

The serious Opera of ‘La Vestale,’ the music by Puchita, is shortly to be put in rehearsal.

Velarde is about to return to the Theatre.

A Wet Nurse.

WANTED—A Wet Nurse, of respectable character, at No. 13, Calle Chacabuco.

British Philanthropic Institution.

THE Subscribers to this Institution are hereby informed, that a GENERAL MEETING will take place

On Monday, 24th inst., at half past 7 in the evening.

AT FAUNCE'S HOTEL,

For the purpose of taking into consideration some proposed amendment to the present Regulations.

F. VINCENT, Secretary.

- Doublons, 67 dollars each.
- Spanish Dollars, 280 to 290 per cent. premium.
- Plata macaquina, 270 to 275 per cent.
- Gold in bars, 22½ to 23 reals per quilate.
- Silver do. 22 to 22½ reals per dinero.
- Exchange on England, 11½d. to 12d. per dollar.
- Do. United States, 300 per cent.
- Do. Rio Janeiro, 138 to 140 per cent.
- Do. Monte Video, 258 to 260 per cent.
- 6 per cent. Stock, 49 to 50.
- Rate of interest per month, 12 to 3 per cent.

☐ The publication of the Emperor's Speech to the Senate, has had a visible effect upon the different markets, which, from looking upwards, have become dull, and rather upon the decline. Very few buyers.

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