

THE

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. 72.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1827.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

THE packet *Sphinx* has brought London newspapers to 20th October. — In Great Britain and France there is nothing politically new. The dispute between the latter country and Algiers, it is thought will be adjusted: a skirmish had taken place between the French blockading squadron, and eleven Algerine vessels of war, off Algiers. Spain is still in a miserable state: king Ferdinand had gone to Catalonia. The following is from a London paper:—"Affairs in Spain are in a very embarrassed state. The insurrection in Catalonia is a mystery we cannot fathom: whether it receives encouragement from France or Ferdinand; or whether, in fact, it is disavowed by both, and is a mere ebullition of servilism on the part of the Spanish nobles, Jesuits, and Priests, we are at a loss to understand. From Portugal, the accounts appear to be equally distressing: the Constitutional party can with difficulty raise its head in this country, and seem rather looking for protection to the English army, than to the popularity of its own cause. The French government will listen to no application to withdraw the French troops from Spain, until England shall also recall her own army from Portugal. — Is there to be a perpetual military possession of the Peninsula by France and England?"

Turkey refuses to listen to the proposals for the pacification of Greece, and has put forth some well written State Papers, which many advise should be answered by instant war; conceiving it a disgrace that the ambassadors of Great Britain, France, and Russia, should dance attendance at the barbarian Divan of Constantinople. They who counsel to "cut short all intermission," make no account of the enthusiasm with which the Moslems may be inspired should war take place, especially if the Sultan, as he promises to do, should unfurl the standard of Mahomet: the age of the Crusades will be revived. Lord Cochrane's career in the Greek service has been any thing but brilliant: he has hitherto met with nothing but disappointments, from the jealousies and dissensions of the Greeks.

The official intelligence of the rejection of the Treaty signed by Mr. Garcia, arrived in England on 26th September, by the frigate *Blanche*, from Rio Janeiro, and it caused considerable sensation. Subjoined are extracts from London papers upon the subject:—

(From the Times of 28th September.)

"Many individuals, when they were first given to understand the nature of the Treaty negotiated ostensibly by Señor Garcia, and signed at Rio de Janeiro on the 24th of May, by Don Pedro, were undoubtedly disposed to think, either that Buenos Ayres had been more roughly handled in the contest than any previous account from South America had taught the English public to infer; or that the terms agreed upon by the Republican Plenipotentiary did not well correspond with the relative positions of the parties. It appears that the treaty, as signed by the Emperor and M. Garcia, secured Monte Video to his Majesty, as also the evacuation by the troops of the Republic,—that is to say, the cession to Brazil, of the whole of the Banda Oriental. Now, these two cessions, in fact, comprehended the entire subject of the war, and implied either that the war itself was admitted to be unjust, or that the Republic was reduced to the last extremity. That the latter was the fair conclusion, on a *prima facie* view of the case, must be obvious when we look at the map, and find that Monte Video, and the Banda Oriental, constituting the left bank of the river Plata, from the Uruguay to the Atlantic Ocean, have an absolute command over the trade of Buenos Ayres, whence not a merchantman can put to sea to the eastward without being snapped up by privateers or ships of war stationed off the harbour of Monte Video, which forms thus the key of her existence, to a State, either maritime or nothing. Had the Government of the Republic ratified this treaty, so unfavourable or rather fatal to her interests, and so flattering to the pride, at least, of Don Pedro, if not sensibly advantageous (which perhaps it was not) to the general prosperity of Brazil, we might have felt some delicacy in arraigning such a compact. The chief ground, indeed, on which it had been held desirable that a peace—nay, *any* peace—should be concluded between Buenos Ayres and Brazil, was the relief from his distractions in another hemisphere which it would operate on behalf of Don Pedro, and the opportunity which it would have afforded him of appeasing, by his immediate presence in Portugal, the troubles which devoured his native kingdom, and threatened, as they have since destroyed, her nascent liberties, the creation of his own manly spirit. It appears to have been by a unanimous and inartificial movement of contempt, that the young Republicans dismissed the negotiator and disclaimed the treaty: and who can blame them for being true to themselves? Who can murmur at

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the resolution of a brave people, let them be ever so poor or weak, to fight to their stumps for a point in which depends the sovereignty and security of their commonwealth,—their future peace and independence? Even had the treaty been negotiated, which, so far as it regards the terms, we trust it was not with the connivance or under the auspices of the British Cabinet, we can not say a word in disparagement of the spirit which has induced the Republic to renounce that treaty. What may be the consequences, no one can foresee. The animosity of the two Governments against each other may be aggravated, (though Governments have no business to love or hate a neighbour); but if we should feel thence inclined to prognosticate a lengthened war, where are the sinews of war to be provided? Buenos Ayres is at the end (they say) of her pecuniary resources; and though great things have been accomplished formerly, and more recently, by engaging the enthusiasm of a powerful nation in the support of any conflict, even take the enthusiasm of a petty people, like that of Buenos Ayres, for a datum, and it must, as an instrument of military and political action, find its limits after a few weeks or months: on the contrary, in Brazil there will be no enthusiasm to supply the want of credit; and no credit, we believe, to make up for the absence of popular excitement."

(From the Times of 3d of October.)

"Señor Garcia quotes instances in which other diplomatists transgressed their instructions as well as himself; but he forgets to show that in doing so they compromised the honor or the interests of their country: and that asserting that in the circumstances of the Republic peace was necessary, the Government which directed his mission was to be presumed the best judge of this necessity, and their agent was not at liberty to find out a cause for alarm, of which his Government did not seem to be aware."

(From the Sun, October 13.)

"General Brandt (Barbacena,) will not be able to recruit the Brazilian army any further by men from Ireland, who, under the specious plea of emigration, are eventually intended to form a reinforcement to the army. We apprehend that his Imperial Majesty will find the war with Buenos Ayres more ruinous and unfortunate, than his Constitution to Portugal. He is waging an impolitic, if not an unjust war, and deserves little sympathy."

(From the Morning Herald of October 3.)

"The Emperor, as usual, talks very largely of what he will do against the Buenos Ayreans; and if big words were as effective in warfare as hard blows, there could be no doubt as to the result of the contest: Don Pedro is by far a more wordy hero than any of the Buenos Ayrean leaders. He seems to feel the full force of that maxim so exultingly put forth by our third Richard, which, however, did him but small service when he put its truth to the test of experience,—

"A King's name is a tower of strength,
Which they upon the adverse party want"

The Emperor has addressed the Senate for a supply of men and money. It was reported among the merchants that he expected to be able to raise a Loan in England. If his conquest, however, of the Buenos Ayreans depends upon his raising money here, the Republicans are safe: nobody in England will lend him a thousand dollars."

Although the greater part of the British Gazettes, in treating of this unequal war, write in the above style; yet there is one of a different opinion, which thinks it would be best for the Republic

to "bend low, and in a bondman's key, with bated breath and whispering humbleness," sue for peace. The *New Times* has the following, which we copy from the *Courier* of October 5.

(From the New Times.)

"Republics and Empires which have still all to learn, are much more inconsistent in their conduct and impatient of restraint, than old established Governments. Buenos Ayres affords us a striking exemplification of this at the present moment, and is, we fear, risking her national existence from a want of the most ordinary political foresight. The chief, if not the only guard against such a calamity as a complete dissolution of the union, and the destruction of the Republic, seems, in fact, to lie in the almost equal want of good policy which governs the Councils of the Emperor of Brazil; for there is no doubt that he possesses both means and power sufficient to crush Buenos Ayres, if he knew how to bring them effectively into action. It will be seen by the following letter, that a peace not less advantageous than necessary to their independent existence, has been rejected through the influence of individual interest alone:—

"Buenos Ayres.—The rejection of the preliminaries signed by Garcia, has been entirely the result of a political trick of Rivadavia's. His obstinate and absurd policy had brought all the provinces about his heels; and but the day before the arrival of the Convention from Rio, he had good reason to expect that if he did not retire of his own accord, he would be kicked out of the Presidency *vi et armis*. He saw in the Convention a means of raising a hue and cry about national honour, with which he cloaked the fact of his apparently voluntary resignation, and under which he hoped to retire with a false credit. He raised the cry which, with all the papers in his pay, as well as all the employes of Government, he had it in his power to turn whichever way he chose. He destroyed all immediate hope of peace, so essentially necessary,—he gratified his personal jealousy of Garcia, by stigmatising him as a traitor,—and he then left to others the task of extricating the Government from the difficulties in which his policy had involved it. But people will do Garcia justice; and as they open their eyes, they will discover the farce, and the reaction of public opinion against the author, is already rapidly developing the truth. As in many other small communities, private influence and interests have much greater weight than the public weal, the loudest advocates for war are persons more or less concerned in shop-keeping or privateering. As long as there is any thing left in the shops, the proprietors wish the war and their high prices to continue; and those who have shares in privateers get their livelihood by it. The war, in fact, has lasted long enough to make a numerous body interested in its continuance."

Dec. 15.—Wind N. E. At 10, A. M., a Brazilian boat was discovered to the northward, with a prize balandra in tow. The schooner Maldonado pursued them, and recaptured the balandra: the boat escaped. Had not the squadron been stationed in Three-fathom Hole, the prize would have been carried clear off. Some of the blockading squadron under weigh during the morning. The American schooner Alexander anchored in Three-fathom Hole, from the Inner Roads.

16.—Wind N. The packet Rinaldo left Three-fathom Hole for the Outer Roads. The weather rainy all day. At 10, P. M., wind shifted to S. W., with a violent squall, rain, thunder and lightning; during which the American schooner Alexander sailed from Three-fathom Hole, and the American schooner Homer anchored there from the Inner Roads.

17.—Wind W. Sailed, British barque packet Rinaldo, Moore, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro, and Falmouth. The American schooner Alexander returned, and anchored in the Outer Roads: some Brazilian schooners under weigh, but did not chase. At 4 P. M., the schooner Maldonado, Admiral Brown; do. Ninth February, Captain Rosales; do. Juncal, Pepper, got under weigh and cruised in front of the Brazilian squadron. At 6, a strange ship was seen amongst the latter, which, standing towards the Outer Roads under studding-sails, was made out to be the British packet Sphynx. She anchored in the Outer Roads at dusk.

Sailed, gun-boat No. 13, with a convoy, for Caracoles. Arrived, three balandras from the northward.

Arrived, British ship packet Sphynx, Passingham, from Falmouth 22d October; arrived at Rio Janeiro 1st inst., sailed from thence 4th; arrived at Monte Video 14th, and sailed from thence 15th. No passengers from England: from Rio Janeiro to Monte Video, three Portuguese lady passengers, (officers wives). Saw two Buenos Ayres schooner privateers,—one near Rio Janeiro, the other off Rio Grande; and the Rinaldo packet in the course of the day: no other vessels in her passage from Monte Video, except the blockading squadron. The Hope is the next packet appointed for this. The Duke of York packet, from this 24th of July, arrived at Falmouth 1st October: the Dove, from this 23th August, had not arrived.

18.—Wind N. E. Captain Passingham, with the mail by the Sphynx packet, landed this morning. In the afternoon the packet anchored in Three-fathom Hole.

Arrived, four zumacas from the northward. Sailed, at night, from the Outer Roads, American schooner Alexander, Thompson, for Monte Video.

19.—Wind E. N. E. The blockading squadron under weigh, viz.—2 corvettes, 3 brigs, 2 brig schooners, and 2 schooners. They approached the Outer Roads, and afterwards made sail out of sight of the town. In the afternoon they returned, and anchored nearly in the position they had quitted in the morning. At 10 A. M. the packet Sphynx fired a salute of 21 guns, which was answered by the Fort.

20.—Wind E. The National schooner of war Sarandi, (having been hove down, and her sheathing examined and repaired,) fired a gun this morning, preparatory to joining the squadron in Three-fathom Hole.

The American schooner Joseph Meads, left the Inner Roads for Three fathom Hole.

21.—Wind N. E. At 9 A. M. the National schooner Maldonado, in Three-fathom Hole, fired a gun. — Nothing arrived or sailed.

The privateer brig Niger, Captain Coe, fired a salute at 1 P. M., upon the occasion of the brig for the first time hoisting the flag of the Republic. Captain Coe has leave of absence from the National service for six months.

The intelligence from Rio Janeiro is not in accordance with the Emperor's Message on closing the Chambers: nothing is said of peace. The Ministers have been changed; they are now composed as follows:—Don Pedro de Arango Lima, Minister of State; Marquis de Aracatey, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Don Miguel Calmon de Pina Almeida, Minister of Finance; Don Lucio Soares Teixeira de Guevara, Minister of Justice; Don Diego Jorge de Brito, Minister of Marine. Only two or three Brazilian vessels of war were at Rio Janeiro. The Nitchteroy frigate, in company

with a transport conveying troops, and the bomb-ketch Nineteenth October, sailed from Rio for Monte Video 14th of November.

Some of the Brazil Gazettes state the following:—"It is currently reported, that two privateers have been captured; one by the brig Cacique, the other by the corvette Maria Isabel. The British brig Ann, from Liverpool, arrived at Bahia 16th November, from Maciaco and Pernambuco, and reports the capture of a Buenos Ayres privateer by the brig Cacique; also, that she had on board 20,000 dollars when taken, and that the Cacique has escorted her to Maranham.

"On 21st November, at 8 o'clock at night, at a place called Caveire, S. W. part of the banks of St. Thomas, near Cape Frio, the Buenos Ayres privateer Oriental Argentino, Captain Bibois, ran on shore. She is a brig, armed with a long gun on a pivot, and 8lb. carronades. Her crew consisted of 62 persons, of which some belonged to our vessels lost at Patagonia, and were forced to serve; but on the brig's grounding they rose on the rest of the crew and made them prisoners. The captain and five men effected their escape in a boat, and have landed at Point St. Thomas; but orders have been given to apprehend them.

"The British brig Daphne, captured by the Vencedor de Ituzaingó privateer, Captain Costa, and sent for Patagonia, having, it is stated, arms on board on account of the Brazilian Government, has been carried into Rio Janeiro by the prize crew."

The *Gaceta do Brasil*, under date of 24th November, expresses a hope that peace will be concluded very soon.

It is certain that 3000 Irishmen are under drill at Rio Janeiro, and that a Colonel, likewise an Irishman, and who has served in the Peninsular war, is to command them. By the terms of their contract, they were to be drilled and serve as militiamen, in common with the rest of the subjects of Brazil; but it is now fully understood that they are to act as regular troops, and that their coming out as agriculturists, &c. is all a farce: indeed the disciplining them in Rio Janeiro, instead of the place of their domicile, conveys that idea. The British Government may probably look into the affair, and not suffer British subjects to be kidnapped and hired wholesale, like the troops of the petty States of Germany heretofore, and made a belligerent in the war.—The above 3000 Irishmen are described as well-looking, fine healthy fellows.

The Marquis Barbacena has arrived in London, from Rio Janeiro, in order, if possible, to negotiate a loan: twelve millions of dollars is the sum mentioned. It is not thought he will succeed, notwithstanding the sacrifices the Emperor has made in paying the dividends in advance, which has given to Brazil stock a better standing than any of the South American securities. Upon the result of this mission will probably depend, in a degree, the question of peace or war. The loan obtained, and peace will be very distant. The contrary may force the Emperor to succumb a little, and exclaim with Shakspeare's Apothecary,

"My poverty, but not my will, consents."

Barbacena has got a letter of credit on a house in London, for a considerable sum of money, and no doubt will find himself more at ease amongst the fashionables at the west end of the town, and make a better figure there, than when combatting with the sturdy soldiers of this Republic, in Rio Grande. But the fame of the Marquis has reached London before the Marquis himself.

The Marquis Barbacena has now a divided title.—Some time since, a splendid undress military coat and cocked hat, belonging

to the said Marquis, was taken out of a prize bound from Rio Janeiro to Rio Grande. They have now and then served as a sort of masquerade dress to a gallant naval officer of this Republic, and this circumstance has procured for him in Buenos Ayres, the appellation of 'Marquis Barbacena.'

(Extract of a Letter from Rio Janeiro, dated Dec. 3.)

"Of peace, or of its prospects, I can give you no certain intelligence: but you may rely that the Emperor will not give up Monte Video, and if the Buenos Ayreans are determined to continue the war until they get it, you may set fire to all your Bank paper. On the receipt of the news of the non-ratification of the Treaty, the exchange fell from 39d to 30d in London on this place. A brig which arrived on the 1st from Bahia, brings news that all the shops were shut, because the shop-keepers would not take the forged copper money. We go on here as usual, your privateers appearing frequently off the harbour. The Emperor and Mr. Gordon have lately had a serious quarrel, but I fancy the affair is made up. The Emperor having lately purchased Mr. Gordon's house at Bota Fogo, sent to say that he wanted it for a bathing-place for his family. Mr. Gordon sent back an answer, that he would only leave it by force; and if forced to leave it, he would go on board a British ship of war. A day or two afterwards he called upon the Emperor on business, who immediately attacked him, and spoke to him in very harsh terms, such as—'If he were not the British Minister, he would break every bone in his skin; that there were many Mr. Gordons, but only one Queen of Portugal,'—alluding to her being ordered to bathe."

Another letter states, that the Emperor has asserted that ere he would give up Monte Video, he would sacrifice his life three hundred times, if he had it. The letter adds, that Pintos Guedez and Tomas Garcia have instructions to open negotiations for peace with Buenos Ayres, but that nothing is expected from it.

Another letter from Rio Janeiro, in allusion to the privateers, makes the following whimsical remark:—"No sooner have we got rid of the Congress, than a great big fellow makes his appearance off the port; and being a ship, and our frigates badly manned, they do not like the idea of attacking him."

From the above extracts, the Emperor appears to be getting into a passion; and a combatant worked into a passion, is more than half beaten. We have before heard that Don Pedro is a great admirer of the "Fancy," and, like his brother Miguel, has some pretensions as a pugilist; and being in person broad and thick set, he is admirably qualified to figure in the "Fives Court." But threatening to thrash Ambassadors is contrary to all etiquette; and the British Government may, in future, find it necessary to have recourse to the "Prize Ring," in order to select a Minister for the Court of Rio Janeiro. The Emperor will then be cautious how he insults the "Majesty of the British People," before such representatives as Mister Tom Crib, Mister Jack Gulley, Scroggins, or the Gas-Man.

An order has been received from Rio Janeiro, exacting bonds from vessels leaving Monte Video, that they will not proceed to Buenos Ayres, or any port of the Republic. We question if neutral powers will submit to it. It is, in fact, a re-enactment of a former decree, which the Brazilian Government found it necessary to repeal a few months since; and conveys, besides, a tacit acknowledgment of their inability to enforce the blockade. Vessels with cargoes in value perhaps one hundred to one hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling, would find it difficult to obtain bondsmen for their good behaviour.

The following Brazilian vessels of war were at Monte Video on the 15th instant.—frigates Piranja, Emperatriz, Princess Imperial, Nitchteroy; brigs Caboclo, Twenty-ninth August; some schoo-

ners, and a bomb vessel, lately arrived from Rio Janeiro, called the Nineteenth October: she has two mortars. Her captain is named Boldt, a Dane: he was captured in the Maria Teresa by Admiral Brown, but afterwards escaped.

Two more bomb vessels were expected from Rio Janeiro.

Eighteen hundred infantry marched out of the town on the night of the 7th instant, to forage; they were attacked by some cavalry, and returned, having lost several men.

The British ship Melpomene, Johnstone, from London, and two American brigs from Baltimore, had arrived at Monte Video. The American brig Pioneer, was shortly to sail for New York. The British frigate Thetis, and brig of war Codrus, had sailed on a cruise. The American frigate Macedonian remained.

Norton had returned to Monte Video. The blockading squadron is now commanded by Clare.

A schooner-brig, with Yerba, Sugar, and Lumber, bound from Parnagua to Monte Video, and taken near the Castillos by the schooner privateer Triunfo Argentino, arrived at the Salado on Sunday last. The privateer sailed only a few days since from the Salado, upon her cruise.

The American schooner Margaret, Marsh, from this 1st July, was spoken on 7th September, within two days sail of the Havannah. — The British brig Betty sailed from Liverpool for the River Plate on 2d October.

No certain intelligence has been received of the escaped prisoner of war, Jacinto Pereyra. Without doubt his plans have been for some time arranged. It is thought he has proceeded up the Uruguay, as he is well acquainted with every part of that river.

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 FAUNCH'S HOTEL,

For the purpose of taking into consideration some proposed amendment to the present Regulations
F. VINCENT, Secretary.

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N.B.—Mr. WOODLEY applies Leeches, and performs operations on the Teeth.

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PRINTED BY STEPHEN HALLET & CO.

No. 75, Calle de Cangallo.