

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1828.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

THE unexpected proclaiming of the Infanté Don Miguel, as Regent of Portugal, is not a singular or extraordinary event. It ought not to be considered as an under-plot. Its influence is not confined to one nation, or to one dynasty: on the contrary, it is the complete developement of a vast system of policy, the prelude to vicissitudes of the most important nature. It is a melancholy blow given to a sacred cause; and its consequences may be felt in all parts of the world.

The occupying of Portugal by a division of British troops, and the manner in which this measure was announced in Parliament, demonstrated to the friends of oppression that the Peninsula henceforward would not be what they expected, that is to say,—the great laboratory of their machinations and chains which they were preparing for the liberal part of mankind. The blow was mortal,—was decisive; and did not leave a single resource to the malevolent genius of the Holy Alliance. The presence of the British was sufficient to check the hostile spirit of Spain, and to inflame the minds of the Liberales of that country.

The friends of just and liberal sentiments were delighted at the aspect which this combination had given to public affairs: all hoped that fear and reflection would by degrees undeceive the deluded Portuguese; and that in Spain, the supporters of libercide and fanatic ideas, would every day become less. But the scene has changed. A plan not suspected, and against all political calculations, has taken place; and Don Pedro who appeared to fix his glory in the constitution given by him to Portugal, has confided its execution to its most avowed and implacable enemy, and appears resolved to destroy by another hand, what himself had created. If the matter related to one country alone, the evil would be of little import: but the question is of much wider extent. In monarchies, the parts are distributed as in a company of dramatic performers, according to the talents of individuals. Many of these are fitted to extend the sphere of their power, to overleap the barrier of the laws, and to centre in themselves all the energies of public authority; descending even to hypocrisy and conspiracy, oppress from the throne, plot in the cabinet, and associate with the meanest orders of society. To this last class of the crowned race, belong Philip the Second, and Ferdinand the Seventh. El Infante

Don Miguel promises to complete the triumvirate; consequently, the enemies of liberty on the Continent of Europe could not have chosen a more proper instrument to carry into effect the schemes which had been checked by the policy of Mr. Canning. No great efforts will be necessary for Don Miguel to give in Portugal a preponderance to the oppressive party; and those who know the hatred that he bears to the English, must see the possibility of a conflict between the British forces and the apostolicals.

The Spaniards, in the meantime, will not be quiet. Their natural petulance may lead them, on the slightest occasion, to one of those great measures which the insurgents of Catalonia think necessary for the establishment of the altar, the throne, and the inquisition.

These plans will have to encounter great resistance; and it will be curious to note what part the French troops in Spain will take under such circumstances.

The Decree exacting bonds at Monte Video that neutral vessels shall not proceed to any port of this Republic, is such a barefaced infraction of the laws of nations, that the Emperor cannot expect it will be tamely submitted to. It exposes at once the impotence of the blockade. Several meetings have taken place of the British merchants in this city upon the subject; and the application which they have made to the authorities of their country resident in Buenos Ayres, has proved most satisfactory. Of all the mercantile body, they have been the greatest sufferers by passing events. Every appeal to the justice of the Emperor has failed: the time will come when he must listen to force. It is cruel to think that the vagaries and injustice of one man, should have the power to injure the fortunes of so many individuals.

The bathing season having commenced, the following article taken from a Work on bathing, may not be unacceptable to our readers:—

Persons of a delicate or feeble constitution, should not bathe early in the morning. Cold bathing should never be employed unless the temperature or heat of the body is, by exercise or otherwise, somewhat increased; or even when slight perspiration has begun. When the body has been exposed to exertion and fatigue, or after profuse sweating, when lassitude, debility, and chilliness prevail, the use of the cold bath should be dreaded and avoided. When the body is in a proper degree of heat, bathe as quickly as possible.

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and immerse it in the water: remain a very short time in the water, not exceeding a minute or two, and during the whole time keep the body under the surface. On coming out, quickly resume the ordinary dress, and use moderate exercise to promote the return of the heat of the body, if chillness be felt. Take breakfast after bathing in the morning; or in the forenoon, some warm soup.

Dec. 29.—Wind N. N. E. Sailed, at night, American schooner-brig *Fidelity*, Knight, for Gibraltar; and privateer brig *Niger*, Coe, on a cruise. The *Niger* mounts 10 guns, (medium twelves,) abundance of musquetry, and 130 men, English and Americans, including marines. Few privateers have left the port under such advantages, both as it regards her superior sailing, and selection of officers and crew.

30.—Wind S. Seven of the blockading squadron stood down the river; and in the course of the day the remainder followed. Accounts received state that the privateer schooner *Constante*, last from the *Salado*, had got aground three leagues below *Ensenada*.

31.—Wind S. S. E. Blockading squadron not in sight. Arrived, privateer schooner *General Dorrego*, Dupuis, from a cruise. Made no captures, and returned wanting repairs.

Arrived, a boat from *Ensenada*.—The American schooner-brig *Fidelity*, was chased into that port: the privateer *Constante* had got in. A brig had been aground below *Ensenada*; some Brazilian vessels approached her; she got off again and made sail, the Brazilians in company.

Sailed, two *zumacas*, to the northward; and at 7 p. m. the privateer *Federal Argentino*, captain Gerald Fisher, (late *Union Argentino*,) fired a gun and sailed on a cruise. She is rigged as a *mystico*; has a long gun, small arms, and 32 men, chiefly English and Americans.

The pilot of the privateer brig *Niger* landed at 4 o'clock, p. m. Reports, that said brig left *Three-fathom Hole* on the night of 29th December, at 12 o'clock, (moonlight); passed through the blockading squadron without notice. At day-break on 30th nothing in sight, except schooner-brig *Fidelity*; at 9 a. m. lost sight of her. Saw the privateers *Constante* and *General Dorrego*: chased the latter; she would not shew her colours, or trust to the *Niger's*, but ran on shore; crew landed, and did not return until the *Niger* was at a considerable distance. At 11, a. m., a Brazilian brig seen to leeward, abreast of the *Atalaya* church: at 12, Rio schooner to windward; had hopes the latter would chase. In the afternoon, saw a schooner-brig and a schooner. Came up with the former; she proved to be the *Hannibal*, from *Portsmouth U. S.* 102 days, with an assorted cargo, to *Sutton & Co.* Chased the schooner, she sailed exceedingly well, but not equal to the *Niger*. Observing an opening between the privateer and the land, she endeavoured to escape in that direction, but was cut off. Found her to be the *Shelalah*, from *Baltimore* 65 days, with an assorted cargo to *Sutton & Co.*; and stated that an English brig was on shore near the *Embudo* trees. The *Niger* continued her course, and at sun-set saw a boat from the schooner *Rio* set fire to the English brig. The privateer being off *Point Indio* at 12 o'clock at night, wind N. E., the pilot quitted her, and arrived a little before day-break off the *Embudo* trees: found the brig burned to the water's edge, and the *Rio* schooner near her. The pilot boat pulled towards shore, to gain information respecting the brig, when two musquet shots were fired at the boat from behind a bush; at the same time heard several persons on the shore

conversing in English. Stood for *Buenos Ayres*: off *Ensenada* saw two Brazilian brigs at anchor.

The burned brig is described as having a beautiful keel, and about 190 tons burthen. The two American vessels were doubtful whether it was peace or war, until they arrived in this river; both have been probably sent to *Monte Video*. A Brazilian brig was seen to board the *Hannibal*.

January 1, 1828.—Wind N. N. E. The blockading squadron in sight, consisting of 13 vessels, viz.—2 corvettes, 4 brigs, three masted schooner, 6 schooner brigs and schooners. They anchored in the evening, nearly hull down from the town. In the morning, one of their brigs came close to the bank, apparently to reconnoitre the *Inner Roads*, as men were observed upon the cross trees. She afterwards stood away, and hoisted a flag of truce at the fore on the commodore's corvette firing a gun; she then steered towards *Three-fathom Hole*. The *Resguardo* boat was despatched to her; and at half-past 2 p. m. returned and landed *Lieutenant Charles H. Paget*, of the British ship of war *Ganges*, 84 guns; which ship (*Admiral Otway* on board,) arrived at *Monte Video* on 29th ult. from *Rio Janeiro*. *Lieut. Paget* brought despatches for *Lord Ponsonby*, and came from *M. Video* in the Brazilian three-masted schooner.

The lugger boat *Martin Garcia* came into the *Inner Roads* from the National squadron in *Three-fathom Hole*. The British packet *Sphinx* left the latter anchorage, and anchored nearer the *Outer Roads*.

2.—Wind N. The blockading squadron not in sight. Arrived, a gun boat, with a convoy of small craft from the northward. The packet *Sphinx*, in the *Outer Roads*, fired a gun at 9 a. m., and hoisted a blue peter. The troops of the *Mendoza* contingent (from 2 to 300 men,) were embarked in 4 *zumacas* and 2 *balandras*, and sailed in the evening for the *Banda Oriental*, under convoy. *Admiral Brown* went on board the squadron this morning. In the evening, the blockading squadron in sight under sail.

Accounts have arrived that the *mystico* privateer *Federal Argentino*, Fisher, had, on Tuesday night, struck upon a wreck near *Ensenada*, received considerable damage, and was burned by the crew on the approach of the Brazilians.

Intelligence has been received that the *General Mancilla* *zumaca* privateer, *Captain Henderson*, had been burned off the *Magdalena* church, on Sunday evening, by her own crew, under the following circumstances:—in her passage up the river, she had been repeatedly chased, and near the above spot was in a manner cut off, upon which she was run on shore. The guns were afterwards thrown overboard, and efforts made to get her off, without success. Fire was placed to her, and she burned to the water's edge. The crew, consisting of 22 persons, (several of them negro prisoners,) got to shore. The privateer had no cargo, and nothing was saved but few cartridges. The Brazilian vessels did not fire at her. During her cruise she has captured five vessels, viz.—*Hamburgh* ship *Matilda*, with Brazilian cargo on board, arrived at the *Salado*; a Brazilian ship with a general cargo, bound from *Pernambuco* to *Rio Janeiro*, taken off *Cape Frio*; and a brig schooner, with hides, beef, and tallow,—the two latter despatched for a port; 1 *zumaca* given to prisoners, and 1 *zumaca* destroyed.

The report that a British brig was burned near the *Embudo* trees is not correct: it was the privateer *General Mancilla*; and the crew on shore fired two musquet shots at the pilot boat, thinking she was a Brazilian. The American schooner *Shelalah* certainly informed the privateer *Niger* that an English brig had got

ground near the Embudo's, and Captain Coe, in a letter to Buenos Ayres, has written to that effect. It is stated that Brazilian launches are constantly cruising between Point Indio and the Magdalena church, and that the crews often go on shore at night.

3.—Wind N. A Brazilian boat seen N. N. E., a balandra in company, supposed a prize. In the evening, twelve sail of small craft (including the 6 vessels with troops,) got under weigh and steered to the northward. At the same time the following vessels of the National Squadron were under weigh :

Schooner	Maldonado,	Admiral Brown,
Do.	Sarandi.	Captain G. Bynon,
Do.	Ninth of February,	Captain Rosales,
Do.	Eighteenth January,	Captain N. George,
Do.	Guanaco,	Captain Chambers,
Do.	Uruguay,	Captain Martinez,
Do.	Thirtieth July,	Captain Maximin,
Do.	Twenty-ninth Decr.	Captain Hidalgo,
Do.	Eleventh June,	Captain La Rosa,
Schooner-brig	Eighth February,	Captain M. Martinez,
	And four Gun-boats.	

Two corvettes, two brigs, and five brig schooners and schooners, in all 9 vessels (Brazilians), at anchor all day near the Outer Roads. They were likewise under weigh in the evening.

4.—Wind S. E. At day-break the flotilla of Admiral Brown at anchor near the Outer Roads. They shortly afterwards weighed anchor, but from the haze we could not distinguish what course they took, nor see the Brazilian squadron.

A stiff breeze, S. E., sprung up during the day, which afterwards increased to a gale. At 4 p. m. the haze having in part cleared away, Brown's flotilla and the Brazilian squadron were discovered close to each other in the Outer Roads. The large vessels of the latter in such stormy weather, and it being likewise a full river, could act with advantage against the schooner squadron of their opponents. At 5 p. m. a cannonade took place, which was shortly discontinued. Brown steered to the northward, and at evening anchored in Three-fathom Hole with 11 schooners and gun boats : the remainder had gone to Martin Garcia with convoy. The Brazilians beat down the river with a strong head wind.

Sailed, at 9 a. m., British ship packet Sphynx, Passingham, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro, and Falmouth, with several passengers.

Arrived at Rincon de Lopez, (near the Salado,) on 28th ult., the French brig General Foy, from Havre de Grace, with 150 passengers. On same day, the Swedish brig Swallow arrived off the Salado, with spars, pitch, tar, and other naval stores ; bound from Stockholm to Rio Janeiro, and detained by the privateer San Martin : Sinclair, prize-master. On 28th a Brazilian frigate and three schooners came off the Salado, and took away both the above vessels, supposed for Monte Video. Sinclair the prize-master, and the prize crew, (four men,) got on shore. None of the French passengers were landed, except the surgeon. The Swallow drew 13½ feet water. It is supposed that the Brazilians came with the intent to burn the prize ship Matilda : she was luckily in port. Norton, it is said, commanded. The San Martin was left off Rio Janeiro on 7th December ; had made several prizes, but none of value except the zumaca taken of Rio Grandé, formerly reported ; was chased by two 18 gun brigs and a corvette, (late Fulton:) they had a convoy in charge.

In our last, we noticed that several American and French vessels had arrived at Monte Video lately. We can only collect the names of two, viz.—ship Jasper, from Boston 10th October, to James Noble, and brig Margaret from Portsmouth, to Zimmerman

& Co. The Brazilian frigates Princess Imperial, Nitchteroy, and brig Rio de la Plata were there ; and they were caulking and fitting out an old brig, to act, it is supposed, as a bomb vessel. From these preparations one would infer that bombardment is seriously intended, and report places Norton as the commandant of the expedition. He had better leave the River Plate entirely, to avoid meeting further disappointments. The cause in which he serves is bad ; Englishmen ought not to be engaged in it.

Nothing has transpired relative to the despatches brought by Lieutenant Paget. Some suppose it relates solely to the affair of Pepe Onzas ; others, that a negotiation is still going on. It is astonishing the little curiosity which has been awakened ; and we are at a loss to determine whether this be a good or bad symptom in the public mind.

A sailor from Colonia states, that the late prisoner of war Jacinto Pereyra, had arrived at that place, and since sailed for M. Video. His wife and family came to this city about 10 days since from Mercedes : it is therefore evident they were not privy to his escape.

The Brazilian army in Rio Grande is rated at 6000 men. Confidential letters describe them to be in a disorganized state, and desertions frequent, notwithstanding every precaution to prevent it. The discontent in Rio Grande is very great ; the inhabitants complain of having borne the brunt of the war, and their property sacrificed both by land and sea. The Republican army is stated at 7000 men nearly ; 4000 of whom are Porteños, the remainder Orientalists.

Two zumaca prizes were lost on 21st and 24th ult., off Tuyú ; one had been taken by the corvette Ituzangó, the other by the privateer Rayo Argentino.

The late Ministry issued a decree that beef and bread, from 1st January, 1828, should not be sold at a fixed price, as heretofore. That decree has been annulled, upon the plea that in the present situation of the country, it would create monopoly ; but that one month after peace, the former decree shall be carried into effect.

San Isidro, San José de Flores, the Punta, &c., had, during the Christmas holidays, their portion of visitors. The weather throughout proved most charming,—the Thermometer at the agreeable temperature of 70 to 74. The happiness which seemed to prevail amongst the inhabitants of a blockaded port, would have given Don Pedro the spleen, had he witnessed it. Carriages, calle coaches, gigs, &c., followed in quick succession, (some how or other these vehicles of luxury have multiplied since the war,) and the equestrians were likewise numerous.

On Christmas Eve the streets of Buenos Ayres were thronged with promenaders : the ladies "shopping," and the gentlemen admiring them. The band of the Civicos performed some pretty music opposite to their barracks in the market-place. They gave us arias from "Otelo," and the "Viva l'Amor,"—the latter so delightfully, that a person near us denominated Rosquellas a "public benefactor," in having given the tone and improved the musical taste of the country. It was likewise a beautiful moon-light evening, and this added to the effect.

A new daily paper has been advertised, called *The Independent*. The Editor promises to be impartial, and that he shall on all occasions avoid being an enthusiast.

The funeral of Miss ELIZA BROWN, which we could only slightly notice in our last, was a most impressive spectacle, and the regret and sympathy for the affliction so unexpectedly brought upon the Admiral and his family, universal. It evinced the sincere affection with which our hero is regarded. Nearly forty carriages followed the hearse that conveyed the remains of one so young and amiable to its last abode. The carriage of the Governor, that of Lord Ponsonby, and the British Consul General, were in the train. Two English gentlemen exerted themselves greatly, to keep up the order and arrangement of the procession. The concourse of persons was considerable, of "Hijos del Pais," British, North Americans, and others. The Minister of War, Balcarce; the General of Marines, Irigoyen; the Comissary General, Goyena, and the Gentlemen of that department, attended in full uniform; as did Captains Fournier, Granville, and other naval officers: the Inspector General, Rondeau; Colonel Ramirez, and other military officers, were likewise in uniform: Captain Coe was in plain mourning dress; and a number of civilians likewise.

On the day of the dreadful accident, Admiral Brown was observed to be more cheerful than usual; in the afternoon he went on board the Squadron stationed in Three-fathom Hole. General Irigoyen despatched a letter, not mentioning the exact circumstances, but that an accident had happened to one of the Admiral's daughters. This in a manner prepared his mind for something serious; but it was not until he reached home, late at night, that he knew the extent of his loss. The shock it occasioned to a father so affectionate, may be conceived, but not described; as also the sufferings of the distracted mother. All that friendship could offer, has been administered since the fatal day: friends have flocked to the house, to offer condolence and assistance.

On Wednesday last the Admiral came to town, and in the course of the morning went on board the Squadron. His appearance in deep mourning,—his countenance betraying "the grief that does not speak,"—deeply affected all those who are acquainted with his many virtues.

THEATRE.

The Opera of "Cenerentola" was performed on 23th ultimo, to a full and elegant audience, notwithstanding the heat of the weather, and that the Theatre had been open every night during the week. The London critics speak rather unfavourably of this Opera: here, it is greatly admired; and certainly if light and fascinating music can give effect, it deserves to be so. The finale to the first act is full of variety. Doña Angela Tani sung in her usual delightful manner, and received great applause, particularly for the pathos and judgment which she evinced in the charming air which closes the Opera. Rosquellas and Vacani aided the scene by their fine talents.

Velarde's reappearance in the tragedy of "Lanuza," attracted a very crowded house, and the applause was general,—flowers thrown from the Cazuela, but not in such profusion as greeted the entree of Rosquellas the other evening.

The serious Opera of "La Vestale" will shortly be produced at this Theatre. The music was composed by V. Pucitta, in London, and the Opera came out for the first time at the King's Theatre in that metropolis, for the benefit of Madame Catalini, on 3d May, 1810. It affords some fine scenes for Doña Angela Tani, Rosquellas, and Vacani. The subject is taken from an event that happened about the year of Rome 269, mentioned in Winkelmann's work entitled, "Monumenti Antichi inedite," under the consulate of Q. Fabius and Servilius Cornelius.

Georgia, a vestal, (called in the Opera, Julia,) fell in love with Lucinius, of Sabine extraction, and admitted him in the Temple one night that she guarded the sacred fire. Georgia was buried alive, and Lucinius killed himself. To bring the Opera to a happy issue, an exception is made to that horrid and inflexible law. The

miracle of the flame descending from Heaven, is one of those denouments which are generally permitted in dramas.

The English Theatre at Paris continued open in October last. Tragedies are the chief attraction; in which, the French say we excel. The Paris Journals have given long dissertations upon English theatrical authors, performers, &c. They are in raptures with Miss Smithson, and enlarge upon her beauty and talents: they designate her as excellent in Comedy, but that in Tragedy she exceeds all imagination, observing—"It will be to an English female of 25 years of age, that we (the French) owe the only perfect imitation of Nature, and of Nature such as it ought always to be on the Stage, free from any thing repulsive, and adhering to truth." In Juliet, when she appeared in the tomb scene with white dress and dishevelled hair, a general exclamation of "Quelle est belle," took place from the audience; and during the whole scene, the French critic states, it presented a perfect picture, impossible to describe.

Miss Foote made her debut as Letitia Hardy, in the "Belle's Stratagem:" the gallant French say she is 'exceedingly lovely.' She has likewise performed Juliet, and much admired, particularly the action of parting the hair from the forehead of the dying Romeo, exclaiming,—“Thou look'st so pale!” “Romeo and Juliet” delights the French: they write of it in the following strain:—"The garden scene is a *chef d'œuvre de naturel*: Stay but little, I will come again, *Quelle naïveté virginale*;" and again, "Sweet, sweet nurse, tell me what says my love."

Altogether, the English theatricals in France have given great satisfaction, and the unequalled mighty mind of our "Immortal Bard," is acknowledged in glowing terms by the French.

A son of Mr. Kean the actor, (16 years of age,) has appeared on the boards of Drury Lane Theatre, in the characters of Young Norval, and Achmet in "Barbaressa." Talent is not hereditary; and young Kean gave but little satisfaction. The elder Kean is engaged at Covent Garden Theatre, and it is said retires from the stage at the end of the present season.

DIED,

Yesterday afternoon, Mr. JEREMIAH SAGENDORF.—His friends and acquaintance are requested to attend his funeral from his late residence in the Calle de la Cathedral, at 4 o'clock this afternoon, without further invitation.

On the 2d inst. Doña MICAELA MARINO, after a short illness.

Wanted to Purchase,

SOME BOOKS upon the Elementary parts of Education. It is not material in what language they may be printed.
Apply at the Office of this Paper.

General Meeting.

THE HOLDERS of PRIZE-TICKETS in the first cruise of the *SIN PAR*, Captain Tibloon, are respectfully requested to attend at Mr. SIMONS' TAVERN, No. 51, Calle de Chacabuco,
On Monday, 7th January 1828, at half-past Seven o'clock in the evening,

To take into consideration the best method of obtaining a settlement of the same.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doubloons, 69 dollars each.
Spanish Dollars, 312 to 315 per cent. premium.
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Gold in bars, 23 to 24½ reals per quilate.
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Exchange on England, 11½d. to 12d. per dollar.
Do. United States, 400 per cent.
Do. Rio Janeiro, 140 to 145 per cent.
Do. Monte Video, 258 to 260 per cent.
6 per cent. Stock, 49 to 50.
Rate of interest per month, 1 to 2 per cent.

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