

# British Packet,

AND

## ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1828.

[Vol. 2.]

### BUENOS AYRES.

In another column of our paper we give a translated copy of the Decree requiring bonds from neutrals on leaving the port of Monte Video. We recommend it to the perusal of our readers. It is dated in Rio de Janeiro, the 6th of November; and it is issued from the department of the Empire, and not from that of Foreign Affairs. We have sought the publication of this decree in the Rio Janeiro Gazette, but have not found it; and we have every reason for supposing that its promulgation was not intimated to any of the foreign Ministers resident at the Imperial Court. Such irregularities could only be induced by a desire of gaining time, and of taking an unfair advantage of neutrals: for we are aware that the right of exacting bonds to enforce the blockade has already been remonstrated against, and that it was conceded by Brazil. It is natural to presume that similar remonstrances will again be made, and that they will be followed by concession. In the meantime, however, the decree has its operation, and Brazil the benefit of an efficient blockade: an advantage they have found it hopeless to obtain by the vigilance of their navy,—the only legal means by which blockade can be enforced. But who shall indemnify the neutral merchant for his demurrages and losses? To look to such governments as that of Brazil, is but a forlorn consolation. We trust that Neutral Powers will find in this proceeding a sufficient motive for wresting from the hands of this incipient but arrogant Empire, a weapon that it is both unable to wield, and unfit to be trusted with.

The language of the decree is equally proud and illegal:—"His Majesty the Emperor wishing to put an end to the abuses practised by foreign vessels." And what, let us ask, are these abuses?—That they are desirous of following up their trade with a friendly nation; friendly to them, but hostile to the Empire. And is this a sufficient motive to deprive that nation of their communication with neutral people? Is it a sin of such magnitude that they deny to Brazil the possession of a territory that does not belong to it, separated from it and allied to this Republic by the remarkable characteristics of habits, language, and relationship? But how shall it be called an abuse that neutral vessels attempt to pass the blockade?—The penalty they incur by the attempt is ascertained; and it is no less grievous than the confiscation of property. Let not then the violence of

blockade founded solely on force, be vindicated also by the imputation of a moral stain. Such a principle never was admitted, and it is only started by a country ineffective in means, but presumptuous in words.

The courtesy of the great maritime powers to this blustering Emperor, has been most extraordinary. They have permitted the detention of the vessels of their citizens; submitted them to all the chicane and ignorance of infamous tribunals; the detention of a large property in its transit, and of other property equally considerable in this place, accumulating expenses or depreciating in value by the fall of the currency. Evils so great, besides the suspension of trade for more than two years, sustained by unoffending and powerful neutrals, called for commiseration and acknowledgment. But far from it: Imputations and measures of increased rigour.

And shall this courtesy never have an end? Shall Governments never awaken to a sense of that paramount duty,—protection to their own citizens? Are our suffering countrymen to lay for ever at the feet of this heartless, ill-taught Sovereign, whilst he pursues an ambitious project which he possesses no direct means to accomplish?—It cannot be: reason and a sense of justice repel the thought.

If blockade be founded in force, let us investigate the character of the Brazilian navy. The number of vessels infer adequacy; but is the inanimate material an indication of force? What are the officers and crews?—people of all nations and all colours, of principles unknown to each other, without confidence or attachment to consolidate: An undisciplined incongruous mass. In their combats with the puny squadron of this Republic, they have failed in courage and effectiveness: with unarmed neutrals, and with passengers, female as well as male, they have displayed their authority; but against the enterprising undertakings of the citizens of the United States of North America, their blockade has utterly failed. Shall such a navy, then, confer the right of claiming the most haughty attribute of the belligerent, a right depending solely on power? Surely not: and much less so, when we consider that it is the almost sole weapon resorted to by Brazil for accomplishing the objects of the war.

If we proceed to consider the expediency of the measure, we could shew that the privation of revenue to this Republic has fallen far short of the expenditure of the blockading squadron: we could prove that it has been the means of bringing to this country adventurous people and warlike

*British Commercial Lion*

*B. C. Lion*

vessels; that it has forced men devoted to peaceable occupations, to seek their livelihood in occupations of war; that it has left the Brazilian coast unguarded; that it has encouraged privateering, by giving augmented value to prize cargoes; and lastly, we could demonstrate that maritime blockade, however efficacious against fortified cities invested by land, or distressing to populous countries whose extent of population admits of no check to their industry,—is comparatively inefficacious when directed against a new country, thinly populated, falling with severity only on the neutral merchant.

These considerations we cannot expect will enter the mind of a headstrong Sovereign and divert him from his favorite measure: our hopes must be placed on the full information and daily accumulating experience which the British and other enlightened governments are acquiring; and that, convinced of the great abuse of the right of blockade, as enforced by Brazil, they will take measures, however tardy, for relieving their citizens from an oppressive and unjust tyranny.

COPY OF THE DECREE.

"Most Illustrious and Excellent Sir,

"His Majesty the Emperor wishing to put an end to the abuses practised by foreign vessels, who with despatches for other ports, seek that of Buenos Ayres, wherein many have entered, elding the blockade, is pleased to order that Your Excellency despatch the necessary orders that no foreign vessel, during the present war, sails from your province without first giving sufficient bond not to enter into any port of the said Republic: which I participate to Your Excellency for due execution.—God preserve Your Excellency.—Palace of Rio Janeiro, November 6, 1827.

(Signed,) "VISCONDE DE SAN LEOPOLDO.

To Sr. D. Tomas Garcia de Zuñiga."

The accounts from the Army are gratifying: the campaign is expected immediately to open. Several Official Documents have been published, from which we make some extracts:

A despatch from General Lavalleja, dated "Head Quarters, Cerro Largo, Dec. 28, 1827," states his arrival at that post, his interview with General Paz, chief of the Staff, accompanied by the officers of the army, and that he had received an address from them, congratulating him upon his arrival. The address asserts, that "the cause of liberty, the Republic, and the army, will triumph when directed by Lavalleja." General Lavalle and the officers are praised for having set the example to the soldiers in enduring all sorts of privations. "The army have never forgotten that they are Argentino's; and with such good dispositions who can doubt (it asks,) but that they will give new days of glory to the country?"

On the day following, the division at Cerro Largo formed in parade order; and a Proclamation was addressed to them from the General-in-Chief, Lavalleja, nearly as follows:

"Soldiers, and Companions in Arms!

"When the Government confided to me the charge of the army, I felt it as a weight and responsibility too great for me; but recollecting your virtues and constancy under so many privations, I did not hesitate to accept it. Chiefs, and Officers,—I speak with all,—all who compose the gallant army of the Republic; the presence of men who have evinced such a superiority, will make the tyrant that insults us tremble. Very soon, comrades, we shall crown ourselves with laurels; and the mercenary slaves

of the Emperor will fly before you, as darkness at the approach of light. SOLDIERS! I request obedience and subordination to your officers. The moment to seal the liberty of America is at hand. *Viva la Patria! Viva the Government* charged with the direction of the war! *Viva the Army!*—December 26.—Signed," &c.

A communication from Lavalleja, dated "Melo, December 27," mentions that the army was in the best order, its discipline and moral entirely reestablished, and all anxious to open the campaign. Another despatch, from Lavalleja, dated "Cerro Largo, Dec. 28," relates that 6 German soldiers came over from the enemy on 17th, and more on 18th December; that the Germans in the service of the Emperor expose themselves to all sorts of danger in order to desert. Every precaution is taken to prevent it, such as mustering them four times a day, and not employing them in any service far from their quarters, or letting them approach the river.

Another communication from Lavalleja states, that on 19th December, at night, a piquet from the 8th Cavalry, some Colorados and Militia, 47 men, commanded by Don Valentin Calderon, passed the left bank of the Yaguaron, and on the morning of the 20th attacked the posts of the enemy, dispersed them, killed 4, took prisoners 2 corporals, 3 soldiers, 2 negroes, 4 children and a woman: all but the soldiers were released. "This trifling affair (it adds,) has had the effect of showing the spirit and discipline which prevails among the Republican troops." General Paz examined the prisoners, and the account they gave of the enemy's army, nearly coincided with that which we had heard from other quarters.

A private letter states that the army is full of confidence: no desertions take place; but it is far otherwise in the enemy's army, especially with the Germans. It adds, "When the campaign opens the flag of the Republic will fly triumphantly in Rio Grande. The activity and zeal of the Government has given us all confidence."

Jan. 5.—Wind W. S. W. with rain and thunder. The National flotilla at anchor in Three-fathom Hole: the blockading squadron anchored about 13 miles E. of the town; a brig schooner, American flag at the peak, seen amongst them.

Twelve sail of small craft arrived from the northward, under convoy of a Gun Boat; and a boat containing the crew of a zumaca which had sailed from the Salado for this in ballast, had been chased and run on shore near Colonia, and was burned by the Brazilians.

In the afternoon it blew a gale of wind from the southward. The National schooner of war Guanaco parted her cable, and drove on shore near the Conchas. The crew, consisting chiefly of men from Santa Fé, deserted her. The Captain was on shore. The first-lieutenant (Peterson, a German,) in endeavouring to prevent the desertion, was killed. The deserters took away with them a very fine large boat, and are supposed to have gone up the river.

6.—Wind S. E. Sailed, schooner of war Eleventh June, Captain La Rosa, and Gun Boat No. 11, Captain Castelli, to search for the deserters of the Guanaco.

Arrived, two zumacas from the Parana.—The wind blew fresh all the morning, and in the afternoon increased to a gale, S. E.

7.—Wind S. E. strong breeze. Arrived, No. 12 Gun Boat, Captain Balcarce, conveying some small craft; amongst them three recaptured balandras, last from Martin Garcia. The blockading squadron not in sight.

8.—Wind E. N. E. Arrived, No. 13 Gun Boat, with three balandras recaptured in the Caracoles.

Arrived, two boats from the Banda Oriental. — Strong wind all day.

9.—Wind N. E. Blockading squadron in sight at anchor, hull down from the town. The schooner privateer El Bravo Coronel Olabarría, anchored in Three-fathom Hole from the Inner Roads. Nothing arrived or sailed.

10.—Wind E. Arrived, a boat with passengers from Las Vacas, and a balandra from the Parana

11.—Wind E. Arrived, and anchored in the Inner Roads at 2 o'clock this morning, privateer schooner Sin Par, King, from a cruise of 73 days, having sailed from this on 30th October last. On 9th instant, saw a Brazilian brig and a schooner cruising near the Salado. On 10th saw a schooner-brig, which hoisted American flag; Sin Par did the same; no chase took place. Did not see any other vessels in the river. The Sin Par has been repeatedly chased during her cruise; once by the frigate Maria Isabel and a 74 gun ship, off Bahia. Had a combat with a schooner-brig, in which she had 2 men killed, and 2 wounded. Spoke the privateer Esperanza, (since taken.) During the cruise she has taken 5 vessels: 2 sunk, 1 given to prisoners, the cargoes not worth the risk of sending in; 1 zumaca, arrived at the Salado as before reported; and a brig, under Portuguese flag, but Brazilian cargo, from Oporto bound to Bahia. The prize brig had 60 persons on board, including a number of passengers: 40 of them were sent on shore in the launch, and not having an opportunity to send the remainder, they have been brought to this port, and are chiefly passengers: amongst them a Portuguese lady, her daughter, and servant, from Oporto. The Sin Par is stated to sail admirably, and soon distanced the vessels that chased her. She fired a salute at 10 A. M.

Two hundred troops from the Provinces, embarked this day for the Banda Oriental.

The blockading squadron under weigh. Three brigs came near the Inner Roads, apparently to reconnoitre, but soon returned.

The schooner of war Juncal, Fournier, anchored in Three-fathom Hole from the Inner Roads. At 4 P. M., several of Admiral Brown's division got under weigh from the latter anchorage.

12.—Wind S. E. Arrived, and anchored near the Recoleta, at 2 o'clock this morning, British brig Minstrel, Moore, from Liverpool 18th November, with a general cargo, consigned to Tayleure, Cartwright & Co. Saw seven of the blockading squadron. Was chased by a brig and schooner; they fired five shots.

A British corvette arrived at Monte Video on Monday last, from England, by way of Rio Janeiro.

The English, French and Russian fleets had attacked a Turkish squadron in the Mediterranean, and destroyed them.

Sailed from the Salado, a few days since, the National brig Rio de la Plata, Harman, for London.

On the 9th instant, 1 frigate, 1 brig, and 2 schooners, were off the Salado.

Accounts from Monte Video to 2d instant, mention the arrival at that port of the French brig General Foy, and Swedish brig Swallow. Both vessels had been taken away from off the Salado by the Brazilians. The zumaca El Sol Dorado (said to be a prize of the General Mancilla privateer,) had likewise arrived.

A letter from Rio Janeiro states, that the schooner privateer Esperanza, Captain Mateo Pavoli, which sailed from this 8th of November, was captured by the corvette Maria Isabel, (formerly the Fulton,) and arrived at Rio Janeiro. She was a prize schooner of Fournier, taken in the cruise he made in the brig Florida; and was, at the time of her capture, called the Esperanza. She had 50 men, of all nations, on board.

A boat from this bound down the river, has been cast away on the coast of the Banda Oriental: three persons were drowned, and four saved.

The American brig Sicily, Greenleaf, from this 24th July last, arrived at the Havannah 23d September.

The American brig St. Thomas, Saville, from this August 21st, arrived at Havannah the latter end of October.

POLICE.—The chief of this department, Don Juan del Pino, having obtained leave to retire into the country for a few months, on account of bad health, Don Gregorio Pedriel, one of the District Commissioners, has been appointed to fill that office *ad interim*. The first steps of the new Chief have been marked by open hostility against fraudulent butchers and bakers. Some of the former, we understand, have been sent by him on board the squadron, to atone there for their misdemeanours. After having imposed heavy pecuniary penalties on the latter, for deficiency in the weight of their loaves, without succeeding in putting a stop to the fraud, he had recourse, on Wednesday last, to the expedient of confiscating the bread. Near eight hundred dollars worth was seized on the morning of that day, a considerable quantity of which was distributed among the hospitals and monasteries, and the rest bestowed to the poor in the public market-place. This measure had the desired effect, and a prodigious change took place on Thursday in the size of the bread, a medio loaf being nearly as large as a rial one the day before. The zeal of Señor Pedriel did not rest here. We are informed that he has addressed a note to the Government, proposing means to counteract the effect of the monopoly of several articles of first necessity, into which speculation a number of individuals is said to have embarked. The *aguateros* and *lecheros* have yet to come through the new chief's hands, and we hope they will be roughly dealt with.

A Prospectus has been published in this city, of a Subscription in order to found a College for the education of young Ladies. We regret that our limits will not permit its full insertion, convinced as we are of the noble purpose it has in view, and the vast influence such an establishment must have upon the future happiness and prosperity of the nation. We submit a brief extract:

“Desirous to give to the Argentine College all the extension necessary to satisfy the numerous demands for admission which has been from necessity refused, the undersigned proposes a subscription on the following terms:

“130,000 dollars, current money, to be raised in 30 shares of 6000 dollars each. The deposits at three different periods, viz.—2000 dollars in four months, 2000 in one year, and 2000 in two years; to be placed in the hands of a Treasurer elected by the Shareholders. Until the subscription is fully paid, no interest to be allowed; but after that period, 6 per cent. per annum.

“With the amount of the shares, the foundation of a College for 150 young Ladies to be immediately commenced. The plan of the edifice to be approved of by the Shareholders, and to be constructed in the neighbourhood of the Socorro Church, upon the land belonging to Don Manuel Pinto, who, zealous for the propagation of useful and honorable institutions in his country, puts the land at the disposal of the Shareholders, at a fair valuation.

“The young ladies placed in the College by the Shareholders, to be maintained upon the interest of each share; and when their education is finished, the share to be repaid by the Director, or made over to another person; and if this cannot be effected, the interest will continue to be paid.

“The amount of the subscription while unpaid, will be represented by the building, which shall remain mortgaged to that effect.

“The Director of the College will frame and present to the Shareholders, for their approbation, rules and regulations for the interior administration of the same; and when once approved, he will become responsible for their fulfilment.

The names of the 30 Shareholders first subscribing, to be engraved on a marble stone, and put up at the entrance of the edifice; and they will always hold an honorable place in the public acts of the College.

“One share to be held on account of the establishment, the product to be employed in the support and education of one orphan daughter of any officer killed in battle.

(Signed,)

PEDRO DE ANGELIS.

*Cruise of the National Flotilla, (11 schooners and gun boats), under Admiral Brown, on 4th inst.*

At 11, 30, A. M. three leagues S. W. of Colonia, captured the whale-boat privateer Mosquito, Captain Antonio Joaquim de Silva, and at the same time the balandra Laura, with wood, prize to said privateer. The latter left Colonia the 1st instant, on which day the late prisoner of war, Don Jacinto, embarked for Monte Video in a schooner of war. He had been put on board the Brazilian squadron by a Buenos Ayrean boat, and arrived at Colonia on the 26th ult. Jacinto is to proceed immediately to Rio Janeiro. It is confirmed in Colonia that Norton is about to attack the Salado with 27 sail. In the afternoon the enemy's squadron, 2 corvettes, 4 brigs, 1 brig schooner and 4 schooners hove in sight, and at five P. M. exchanged a few shots with us. We did not sustain the least damage. The Sarandi being to windward, with the prize balandra in tow, the patron cut the rope, and she was captured by one of the enemy's brigs. She swamped half-an-hour afterwards, and those on board drowned. The weather being so bad, with a heavy swell, the Escuadrilla could not act. Our friends, however, declined taking advantage of circumstances so much in their favour: they immediately hauled their wind, and stood down the river. So much for the new Brazilian Commodore.

The privateer boat Mosquito had when taken, 10 musquets, 7 pistols, 4 swords, 2 cartouch boxes, 34 packages of musquet and pistol cartridges; and 10 men, including the captain.

We have been informed that the captain of the privateer boat captured off Colonia by Admiral Brown on 4th instant, expressed his regret for not having destroyed the flag previously to the boat's getting alongside of him. The Admiral remarked, that perhaps it had been the gift of his (the privateer captain's) sweetheart: to which he replied, that it was not on that account, but that they had positive orders relative to the flags from the Emperor.

That Napoleon should always recommend, and even order his soldiers never to give up their eagles, and to destroy them in case of defeat, was natural enough. These eagles had long been the insignia of a brave nation, and were carried by a gallant army. — But for the Emperor of Brazil to ape so great a man, brings to mind a fable which it would not be amiss if the Emperor was to peruse. It relates to a certain animal clothed in a lion's skin. However, he need not be so tenacious about his pumpkin-coloured flag: there are plenty of them in Buenos Ayres, captured from his fleets and armies, and may be seen in different pulperias used as awnings and curtains.

It is proved that Jacinto Pereyra has got clear away, although little is to be dreaded from his enterprize. At Monte Video he has been long expected, as a considerable sum of money was employed upon the occasion: and when that is the case, means of escape will not be long wanting. Even in England, French officers escaped from the interior of the country. A smuggler, called "Slender Billy," made a fortune by the trade. He embarked General Desnouette, a favorite officer of Napoleon's who was taken in Spain by Lord Paget (the present Marquis of Anglesea), in a charge of cavalry. Billy was apprehended, tried for the offence, and sentenced to two years imprisonment in Newgate. During his confinement, the forgery of some bank notes was traced to him, for which he suffered death at the Old Bailey.

Captain Espora commanded his vessel Eighth February, in the late cruise off Colonia.

The following occurrence is honourable to General Rodriguez, the present Governor of Colonia, and we feel pleasure in giving it publicity:—

A Brazilian privateer boat, some time since, captured a launch from Las Vacas, on board of which were two or three military officers of this Republic. One of them refused to give up some tea he had for his own use; upon which a privateer sailor struck the officer a violent blow with a rope's-end, and broke his head. On arriving at Colonia it was made known to the Governor, and he instantly ordered the sailor to be well flogged.

## THEATRE.

On 4th instant, for the benefit of Señor Navarro, (the gentleman who presides at the piano in the orchestra,) was performed the first act of the opera of the "Barber of Seville;" after which, a "Concierto" on the Piano, by the said gentleman; and, with the assistance of the orchestra, he accompanied Señora Angelita Tani in an air with variations, as sung by Madame Catalini, in London. An aria by Doña Angelita, and chorus from Rossini's opera of "Celmira," concluded the entertainments. — It was the first time that our charming songstress attempted variations before a Buenos Ayrean audience, and the success was complete. We should like to hear her sing "Hope told a flattering tale," and "Away with melan holy," with the variations. In the first song of "El Barbero" she surpassed herself, and received great applause. The opera is excellently performed at this Theatre: Rosquellas, with his fine judgment, as Almaviva; Vacani, (and who can rival him in the sancy, intriguing Figaro,) Ricciolini, and Vera, likewise make a great figure. The house was extremely full, a just compliment to the talents of the "beneficiado," and the performances. The boxes were graced with beauty, attired in their usual elegant costume, which no Theatre can surpass, and few equal; and in this opinion we are not singular. Audiences so brilliant ought to have a better house. The interior is well enough, and the late decorations greatly improved it; but the lobbies are execrable.

The Governor was in his box, attended by Lieutenant Colonel Castañon, Colonel Rio, and Major Quevado. We are glad to see him at the Theatre, and think it a proof of good taste.

On 7th instant, to a crowded house, for the benefit of Señor Antonio Castañera, the play of "Paul and Virginia," in which the "beneficiado" performed Paul, and his sister the part of Virginia. Felipe David, as Domingo, highly amused the audience: indeed, every time he came upon the stage proved a signal for laughter. There only wanted the song, "From the huts the negroes run, ackee-o, ackee-o," to make the affair perfect.

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