

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 5 de Mayo, or at this Office, where Subscriptions are received.

No. 77.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1828.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

"BELLIGERENTS have not with neutrals any greater rights than these have towards them. If neutral nations are to keep themselves within the limits of a perfect neutrality, preserving the same relations with the belligerents which they maintained previous to the war, without taking any part in their quarrels: the belligerents are to preserve towards them the same consideration respecting the rights of neutrals, that they may not offend theirs. And if under any circumstances it be requisite, for their natural defence, or for self-preservation, to encroach on the rights of neutrals, reason demands, justice admonishes that the neutral shall without delay be indemnified."

These are the words of a celebrated writer, and they are worthy of attentive perusal. It will be evident to the most humble individual, that the doctrine thus laid down is founded on the "eternal principles of natural reason, and the inviolable maxims of universal justice." With this doctrine, how shall we reconcile the commercial blockade of Brazil?—was it instituted for natural defence, or for self-preservation?—We answer that it was not so, but for the ambitious object of conquest. We ask, then, to what other great measure of military operation did it subserve? and the reply insensibly arises,—that it was itself the main weapon relied on for accomplishing the objects of the war. If any other measure have accompanied it, it has been that odious one of spreading disunion and corruption to undermine the efforts of the well-intentioned in the defence of their country. Such a blockade, we affirm, is not to be justified either by the laws or the practice of nations. Blockade was heretofore directed against fortresses, against naval depots, against the combination of squadrons. Napoleon, in 1806, at the head of an immense army, promulgated his decree of blockade from the palace of his enemy.—The navy of Great Britain could defy the world, and her Government was called upon, by some stretch of power, to ward off the blows aimed at her existence by her inveterate foe. If the rights of neutrals were infringed, they had first been trampled on by the enemy; and by neglecting their duty in reclaiming those rights, they became mutually prostrated. The terrible decrees which were issued at this period, were founded not in international right, but in retaliation. These times, and the measures of this uncommon era, can serve as no precedent for Brazil. Are the circum-

stances of Brazil in any way similar?—Is the Emperor at the head of an invincible army, crowned with victory and glory? or does he boast of a navy that can put the world to silence? Nevertheless, his obnoxious decree is carried into execution with all the arrogance of a conqueror, against naval powers that with the slightest exertion could extinguish his squadron.

The United States of North America consented to so much of this blockade as would check the commerce of rival nations, and confine the trade to their adventurous people. They have ever been the opposers of commercial blockade, and they have derived this satisfaction, that the countries who advocate the right, have been receiving chastisement from their own scourge. If the great powers of Europe propose to weave this right into the code of maritime law, by conceding it to Brazil, it is an error they will not fail to discover.

Whenever commercial blockade be resorted to, it must be justified as it was by Napoleon, not with the twisting of words, or the pages of Grotius, but by the sword: and by yielding such a right to Brazil, more has been done to call it in question and to undermine it, than could have been effected by the most arbitrary act of a powerful country. What before was formidable from its violence and despotism, is now ridiculous and despicable.

The retrospective action of blockade augments in no small degree, its severity and injustice. Grant that war confers the right to the belligerent to excommunicate his weaker enemy; that neutrals are to give up their trade until the object of the conqueror be attained:—But shall their past and pending transactions be involved? Shall they not say— "let me leave this devoted country before the ban of excommunication goes forth, and save that which my past labours have accumulated, that I may fulfil my engagements, and seek my fortune in more peaceable countries." In vain does the neutral merchant combat with falling markets, with doubtful recovery of debts, with uncertain laws. These, the natural adversities of business, sink into insignificance when compared with the interdiction fulminated by one of the most modern and powerless of States. Let it be recollected, that this evil was set on foot, this stone was first set a rolling, by those very troops which England created, paid, clothed, and fed, to expel the enemies of Portugal, to save the dynasty of Braganza,—those troops that were denied to share in the memorable field of Waterloo: and now are the people and the trade of England suffering. Let it be recollected, that

this blockade was decreed by the Emperor only six weeks after his recognition,—that it has brought on his allies the accumulated ills which have been commented upon,—and still, after two years, does he deny them the relief of removing their property: whilst his own officers,—people clothed with authority to represent his Imperial Sovereignty,—are deriving an extensive monopoly, a profitable privilege, from the restrictions and losses imposed on the humble and friendly individual. Brazil is, in fine, totally unfit, from the weakness of her government, the corruption of her institutions, the ineffectiveness of her army and navy, to exercise so terrible a right; and nations are called on to put down this hydra of absurdity—not by the mildness of negotiation, which is but playing the lute to still the roaring of the winds,—but with the decisiveness of power.

Observe how great was the reluctance to interfere in the affairs of Greece; and still, in the end, the civilized powers of Europe have been driven to interpose. Neutral nations wish to keep aloof from this miserable, destructive war; but if the present inefficacious commercial blockade be continued, it will become a bounden duty to interfere: and they will discover in this southern hemisphere, personages, calling themselves Christians, more hostile to the welfare of mankind and more intractable than the Turk.

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

“With regard to peace, I cannot see any prospect of it, unless it comes from your side; as the Emperor has not, I believe, any idea of giving up Monte Video: and such is the opinion of all my friends here, and I think no one has better means of information. The Government is trying hard to get Taylor down to the river as Commander-in-Chief, and he himself has great hopes of going.—Broom, in a new corvette, is expected to sail in a few days for the river: she mounts 24 guns, and has 200 men, English, North Americans, French, &c. &c. His lieutenants have all been mates of English merchant vessels. Revenge, and a desire to signalize himself, are, I believe, Broom’s principal objects.”

The following has been sent to us, and knowing the respectability of the party, we have not hesitated to give it insertion.

To the Editor of the British Packet.

Sir,

The miserable state of our prisoners in Rio Janeiro, can only be appreciated by those who have witnessed it. Cramped into a hulk (an old line of battle ship,) with murderers, robbers, and vagabonds of every description, even to suffocation; covered with filth and vermin; nature barely sustained,—the allowance a little *farina de pap*, a portion of rotten jerked beef that an Englishman would not poison his hounds with, once or twice a week, and rarely a pittance of fresh beef. This, believe me, is not an exaggerated statement of what our brave fellows are suffering. Their reflections are embittered with the idea, that adequate exertions are not made in their country to afford them relief by ‘exchange’ of prisoners, &c.; and think that whilst others are enjoying every happiness in ‘dear, dear Buenos Ayres,’ they, the unfortunates, are quite forgotten. Is it not vexatious that the commanders of privateers who have taken such quantities of prisoners, (amongst them men of the highest rank, members of the Cortes, &c.) have not offered to exchange their captives for their brethren in the dungeons of Rio Janeiro.

The following is a list of some of the prisoners confined in that “sink of Hell,” the hulk above-mentioned; there are about 45

more, that I am not acquainted with:—Captains Bibois, Pavolf, Pinedo, (late adjutant of the port of Buenos Ayres); lieutenants W. L. Anderson, W. L. Murphy, J. A. Almeida, Jas. Marshall, Thomas Buckley, John Kershaw, Thomas Simmons, Peter Cattel, John Vantre, William Pedrick (a youth of 17 years of age, chained to a negro murderer), R. A. Durkey; doctors of medicine, C. Gray, W. Neale, M. Green, A. Ramsay, W. Fleming.

There are about 300 prisoners of the Republic at Rio Janeiro, of the army and navy.

HUMANITAS.

Jan. 19.—Wind E. S. E. Arrived, National schooner Caroline, with rigging and other stores saved from the privateer General Mancilla, burned near Point Atalaya. The Gun Boats Nos 6 and 7, left the Inner Roads and escorted her from Point Quilmes. The blockading squadron consisted this day of 22 vessels, including some store zumacas.

The American schooner Sailor’s Return, anchored in Three-fathom Hole from the Inner Roads.

20.—Wind E. Arrived, schooner privateer Constante, from Ensenada. A Brazilian brig approached the Outer Roads, reconnoitring

21.—Wind E. A Gun Boat sailed to the northward. Arrived, a zumaca from the Parana: Sailed, British brig of war Cadmus, Thompson, for Monte Video: being a head wind, she anchored at sun down near the blockading squadron.

22.—Wind N. Sailed, a Gun Boat for the Parana; a report of several privateer boats being in that river. At 6 p. m. the wind suddenly shifted, and blew a gale from the southward, the air obscured with dust. Several boats received damage, but the shipping escaped.

23.—Wind E. S. E. Sailed, six balandras for the Parana. Several of the blockading squadron made sail down the river.

24.—Wind S. E. Arrived, one zumaca and two balandras from the Parana, and a boat from Las Vacas. Admiral Brown’s escuadrilla changed their position, and anchored nearer to the Outer Roads. A Brazilian brig came up in the afternoon to reconnoitre.

25.—Wind S. S. W. At 5 a. m. the blockading squadron under weigh, and stood down the river. In the evening they came again in sight. At 6 p. m., Admiral Brown’s flotilla took up a fresh anchorage, nearer to Three-fathom Hole.

PRIZES TAKEN BY SCHOONER BRIG PRIVATEER SIN PAR, DURING HER LATE CRUISE.

- Nov 12. Zumaca Cochrane, with jerked beef, tallow, &c. from Rio Grande bound to St Catherine’s; arrived at Salado
- Dec. 4 Brig schooner Velosh, of Bahia; no value, given to prisoners.
- 11. Zumaca Sa Lorenzo Voador, Captain José Gomez, from Rio Janeiro bound to Campos, in ballast; scuttled.
- 16. A brig with salt; scuttled.
- 23. Brig Leal Portuguese, from Oporto bound to Bahia, with wine, and a general cargo, Brazilian property; sent for a port.

VESSELS SPOKEN WITH BY SIN PAR.

- Nov. 3. American brig Massachusetts, Welch, 55 days from Havre de Grace, whaling. 14th Sardinian schooner—brig Cassar. 15th. American brig Patrick Henry, from Rio Janeiro bound to Rio Grande; an American Consul on board for Rio Grande. 25th. American brig Andes, Curtis, from Baltimore to Valparaiso. 26. British ship Dryad, from London, with convicts for Botany Bay
- Decr. 3. American ship Jasper, 50 days from Boston for Rio Janeiro.
- 4th. A brig from Baltimore for Rio Janeiro. 8th. Swedish brig Oscar, Osberg, from Rio Janeiro to Bahia, in ballast. 14th. British brig Hawkinson, from Liverpool. 17th. Swedish ship from Rio Janeiro to Bahia, out 13 days; and British brig Ann, of Whitby, bound to Coves, two days from Bahia. 20th. British brig from Newfoundland, bound to Bahia, out 50 days. 21st. British baque, from London for Bahia. 26th. American brig Maryland, bound to Havre de Grace, whaler.

Mr. William Mason, midshipman of the corvette Ituzaingo, arrived in Buenos Ayres on 22d instant, fifteen days from Patagonia,

with despatches. He came to the Tyru in the American schooner Francis. The Ituzaingó (whose arrival at Rio Negro we noticed in our last, has made 10 prizes, viz :

- Ship Concepcion Feuz, with a general cargo, taken off Pernambuco; stranded in the Bay of San Blas, part of the cargo saved.
- 1 brig taken off Rio Janeiro; arrived at a port, general cargo.
- 1 schooner-brig, do do, do.
- 1 zumaca, taken off Alagon, with cotton, timber, &c.
- 1 do. taken off Bahia, with tobacco and rum
- 1 brig, with wine from Oporto, arrived at the Salado.
- 1 zumaca, with farina, lost off Cape St. Antonio.
- 3 vessels sunk, viz.—a brig transport, a zumaca, and a lugger, with fish.

The Ituzaingó spoke many neutral vessels, and did not see any Brazilian vessels of war during her cruise.

A brig with salt, prize to the Bolivar, has arrived at Rio Negro. The British brig Doris, and American brig-schooner Velocity, were at that port.

A letter from Monte Video of 19th inst. states, that the Brazilians had ordered the rudder of the British ship Melpomene to be taken away, upon the plea that the said ship intended coming to Buenos Ayres, and that Mr. Hood, the British Consul at Monte Video, had protested in terms so serious, that it was thought the Brazilians would not persist in the measure.

Centopé, with two boats containing 18 men, has boarded and taken the Brazilian diate of war Nineteenth October, in Lake Mini, Rio Grande. She had three brass 12 pounders, and 24 men. They fired fifteen times with grape-shot, without effect, and had 3 men killed and 2 wounded in the assault. She is laden with arms and ammunition.

A report has been current during the week, that an attack is meditated by the Brazilians upon the National flotilla stationed in Three-fathom Hole; that Admiral Brown has received a letter from Monte Video to that effect; and that Taylor is coming from Rio Janeiro to superintend it. How will he evade the charge of quitting the sloop of war Blossom without leave?—The laws of Great Britain are severe: they plainly state he must be tried; and if found guilty, none but the King can pardon.

Taylor has urgently solicited the Emperor (at least so runs the story,) for permission to command in this river: and we hope the gentleman's wish will be granted. He probably expects to annihilate the little squadron of the Republic, and gain a Marquisate, and "lots" of Crosses, "to raise the eye of idiot wonder." Norton, should he go to Rio Janeiro, can give Mr. Taylor some wholesome advice. No one is more competent: and we dare affirm that he (Norton,) has often wished the River Plate at the very Devil ere he had visited it.

The cause in which these Anglo-Brazilian officers are combating is so un-English like, that their natural courage receives a check, benumbed as if from the bite of a torpedo.

The two Brazilian brigs which towed the Republican flags in the water during the late action, are said to be the Piraja and Twenty-ninth of August.—Surely no Englishman could have ordered so pitiful a proceeding. That they should serve in an unjust war is quite enough, without increasing the great dislike which the majority of their countrymen in Buenos Ayres feel towards them. The blockading commodore (Juan de Botas) will, if he is an honourable seaman, instantly disavow the mean act.

The privateer Sin Par was sold at public auction on Tuesday last, for 47,000 dollars.

The schooner privateer President, Captain Prouting, who sailed from the Salado on 15th inst., has on board 117 persons, (English and Americans,) including 16 officers.

A Stage Coach is advertised to start on 28th instant, from the Fonda del Sol in this capital, for the Salado, calling at Chascomus. To contain seats for six persons, at 30 dollars each; and the privilege of carrying baggage, not to exceed 25lbs. in weight. The coach to leave Buenos Ayres every Monday, at 7 o'clock in the morning; and the Salado every Thursday, at the same hour.

It has been asserted, that the harvest this year is likely to prove generally deficient. We have made enquiries of "country gentlemen," and they positively deny the assertion. That to the southward the corn is in excellent condition: northward it may not look quite so well; but altogether it is more than a good average crop.

A report has reached Buenos Ayres, that disturbances have taken place in France: that a great mob assembled at St. Germain's (Paris,) demanding the dismissal of Villele, the Minister, and other concessions; that the military did not betray any eagerness to disperse the people, &c. &c. The above news is stated to have been brought to Monte Video by a vessel from Rio Janeiro. The elections were going on in France, and disputes may have occurred consequent thereon, and the great unpopularity of Villele and the Ministry.

Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 6, 1826.—A Buenos-Ayrean bergantine, Daniels commander, and the Mohawk, Hammond master, lately put into Santiago de Cuba under suspicious circumstances. They were taken possession of by the Government, their cargoes (jerked beef,) sold, and the crews imprisoned.

A petition has been presented to Earl Dudley, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from the merchants and manufacturers in the city of Glasgow. The following is an extract:

"The property of British merchants which remained shut up in the port of Buenos Ayres since January 1826, cannot be stated at less value than a million and a half sterling, estimating the dollars at 45d, the rate of exchange in London previous to the war; but were it possible to procure specie and bullion adequate to its transmission to England, not more than 12d. or 14d. would be realized; and even this expedient, ruinous as it would prove, has been cut off by a late decree of the Buenos Ayres Government, which prohibits the exportation of the precious metals."

The blockade is noticed in the petition as being harassing only to neutral commerce: its inefficacy proved by reference to Lloyd's List, of the arrivals and sailings at Buenos Ayres: and a request is made that the British Government will endeavour to obtain the privilege that British vessels may, for a short period, pass to Buenos Ayres in ballast, and thence to bring away, without interruption, the property of British merchants.

A petition of similar import from Liverpool, has been presented to the Foreign Secretary by Mr. Huskisson; and Lord Dudley has promised to take its prayer into immediate consideration, and to see how far His Majesty's Government can interfere in seeking redress for the losses which the memorialists have sustained.

Several of the British ships of war suffered severely in the late attack made upon the Turkish squadron. The Asia 84, and Genoa, 74 guns, lost their mizen masts; and the Albion 74, it is stated, would in all probability have been sunk but for the aid of a French frigate, that took off one of the double banked frigates. The latter may be called ships of the line.

The London newspapers received by the last packet are much occupied with observations upon the policy and right of our attacking the Turks. The ministerial papers strongly defend the measure, and contend that the chastisement inflicted was a just retribution for the barbarities committed by the Infidels. The oppositionists revolt, and deny that the force of the Turkish fleet was so great as stated, and give the following as an estimate:—Combined squadron, ships of the line 10, frigates 10; Turkish squadron, ships of the line (including the double banked frigates) 7, frigates 10. The corvettes are left out of the question, because

it is stated that the broadside of a ship of the line, or of a large frigate, will send a corvette down at once.

The *Morning Herald* of November 19, has the following observation:—"It would not surprise us if the United States people took it into their heads to put an end to the blockade of Buenos Ayres, by an attack on the Brazilian fleet, on the same principle that we attacked and destroyed the Turkish and Egyptian fleet in the bay of Navarino. The United States people would be as justified in doing the one, as we were in doing the other."

Another paper (*The News*,) states, that England, by the battle of Navarino, is placed in a false position, punishing and crippling the very State it is her interest to uphold; and that ere long it is far from improbable we shall be fighting on the opposite side, to support the power we now seek to humble.

The *Public Ledger* of November 21st, contains a long article upon the impolicy of the affair, animadverting upon the conduct of the Ministers in endeavouring to throw the blame upon Admiral Codrington, and attempting to impeach the glory of the battle. That Austria has accused the combined fleet of an unjust aggression, and censure the three Admirals for commencing hostilities without any provocation on the part of Turkey; that Sir George Cockburn and Sir John Gore are to proceed to Navarin to report the circumstances which produced the destruction of the Ottoman fleet; and concludes in stating, that the battle is of the last importance to Europe; "that it was not justified by the law of nations, nor by the treaties entered into for preserving the peace of the world."

Don Miguel is to pass through London, on his way to Portugal, to assume the Regency of that kingdom, which he promises to rule according to the Charter granted by Don Pedro;—and this he will doubtless perform as long as it suits his convenience. Barbacena is to accompany him to Lisbon.

The insurrections in Catalonia have in a degree been suppressed, and several of the insurgents executed.

THEATRE.

Rosquellas had his benefit on 11th instant.—The opera of "Otelo" represented, at double prices. The boxes were elegantly attended, but the pit was not full: the extreme heat of the weather proved a great drawback. This opera, as usual, afforded great delight.

On 15th instant, for the benefit of Señor Pizarro, machinist to the Theatre, a comedy entitled "Los Encantos de Medea." This piece is taken from the story of Jason and the Golden Fleece, and the amours of that celebrated hero with Medea the famous magician, daughter of Ætes, king of Colchis, and Creusa, daughter of Creon, king of Corinth; though little or no attention is paid to "historical facts," the main object being to give a scope for the artist's talents. The curtain rising discovers Jason and his attendant descending in a cloud, their purpose being to rob Jason's two children, by Medea, from their mother, whom he was going to forsake and attach himself to Creusa. Having effected their design, they return by sea. Medea finding out their perfidy, calls to her aid the infernal deities; but at the moment when destruction threatens the vessels, she relents, and consents to the prosecution of their voyage, resolving, nevertheless, to follow them herself. Their arrival and hers is simultaneous, although she did not depart until some time after them. Infuriated against Jason's father, who is said to be the principal cause of estranging her husband's affections, she makes his wife assume her (Medea's) appearance, and the king thinking he has the magician whom he so much abhorred in his power, orders her to be put to death. At the time of the funeral, she converts the coffin into a superb throne, restores the corpse to life, in hopes that Ætes would then desist from his project of marrying Jason to Creusa; but he persisting in his resolution, she makes them return to their former state. The enraged king now hires two men to way-lay Medea and murder her; but when they are going to strike the fatal blow,

a huge giant at her command springs from the earth, and disappears with the two hirelings, carrying them by the hair of the head. They are both shortly restored, one being brought down from the aerial regions by some non-descript animal, and the other vomited from the earth.—The acting of Felipe David in these scenes was highly diverting.—Ætes by some means gets hold of Medea, and orders her to be beheaded: at the moment the executioner lifts the axe to strike, she changes the block into a throne, and appears herself seated upon it in royal robes. Till now, Medea had not been able to practise any thing against Jason, because he possessed a ring which defied all her magic: to deprive him of it, she assumes the figure of his lover Creusa, cajoles him out of it, after which she gives him and his two children a passport for Pluto's dominions, and takes flight herself on a fiery dragon through the air.

The above piece was represented to a house crowded to excess: the lobbies were almost impassable. The decorations were excellent; but the changes of scenery clumsily executed.

On 21st, for the benefit of Señora Funes, a melo-drama entitled "Andromache."—On 23d, the two first acts of the opera of "The Barber of Seville," to a full and brilliant audience; the boxes thronged with fashionable fair-ones. The attractions of this opera continue unabated; indeed there are few Theatres in which it is so admirably represented; every part seems adapted to the talents of the performers. Vacani, as Figaro, might rival Naldi in his best days. Doña Angelita sung charmingly. Rosquellas with his fine judgment, Ricciolini, and the unassuming Viera, gave great satisfaction, and the curtain fell at 11 o'clock amidst loud applause.

Wanted,

GOOD BILLS on England, to the amount of One Thousand Pounds sterling, and upwards, at the Exchange of 11½d. per dollar, by

JOHN JACKSON, Fauch's Hotel.

For Sale,

A CHACRA situate in the neighbourhood of Los Quilmes, on the road to the Salado, containing 500 varas front, and 1258 rear, surrounded by a beautiful rivulet. There are on the premises a considerable number of Milch Cows, Heifers, Horses, Mares, and Sheep; Agricultural Utensils, and every thing requisite for making butter. There are plots of Indian Corn, Melons, and Pompons sown. The whole is enclosed by ditches, with a House, Kitchen, and the necessary Offices. Property indisputable.

Apply to Mr. JACKSON, at No. 12 Calle de la Alameda; or to Mr. MAHIN, on the premises.

Notice,

DOCUMENTS in the SPANISH or FRENCH language, translated into ENGLISH, on moderate terms, at No. 168 Calle de la Universidad.

British Chapel.

PERSONS desirous of SEATS in the BRITISH CHAPEL, are requested to apply to Mr. HELSNY, Churchwarden, No. 45, Calle del Peru.

N B.—The seats below the arch are free

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublons, 70 to 71 dollars each.
 Spanish Dollars, 312 to 315 per cent. premium.
 Plata macaquina, 270 to 275 per cent.
 Gold in bars, 23 to 24½ reals per quilate.
 Silver do. 22 to 22½ reals per dinero.
 Exchange on England, 11d. to 11½d. 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.

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