

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 78.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1828.

[VOL. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

THE packet *Hope* will convey to Europe a mass of important information relative to the actual state of the war, the blockade, &c.; and the greatest sticklers for the latter must surely be convinced of its abuse, and failure in the grand object proposed;—that from necessity the major part of the foreign mercantile body in this city have hitherto been passive spectators, quietly waiting the course of events. But such endurance has been carried to extremes. Others have profited by Brazilian imbecility, engaged in speculations which have yielded considerable advantages.

The destruction of the Brazilian Uruguay squadron, and occupation of the island of Martin Garcia by the Republican troops, have given security to what may be called the "coasting trade" of Buenos Ayres, except from trifling captures made now and then by privateer boats.

Where, then, is the boasted power of Brazil,—the energy of the Emperor,—that was at a single blow to annihilate his puny antagonist? The energetic mind of Don Pedro, so much lauded by his admirers, has at present been evinced only in the reviews of troops at Rio Janeiro,—speechifying to them upon their embarkation: but he has not ventured to head them, which was promised at the commencement of the war. The courage of Napoleon, whom he affects to imitate, did not consist in frothy speeches. It was expected that Brazil would bring a veteran and numerous army to the field; but how powerless has been that description of force! Bentos Manuel, the Rio Grande chieftain, was held out as being the first cavalry officer of this southern hemisphere; and that when charging at the head of his Rio Grande men, he would prove a second Prince Rupert, or Murat.—The battle of Sarandi has settled that question.

The navy has been the arm upon which the Emperor chiefly relied to bring the war to a successful conclusion: and its exertions have dwindled even below contempt. The expenses of that service have been enormous. It is in vain he possesses fine and numerous ships,—he cannot inspire the necessary enthusiasm. Most of the foreign officers in his fleet are aware that public opinion sets strongly against them and the war in which they are aiding; and it is not too much to suppose that it has the effect to damp their ardour in the cause. They must know that the war is unjust, and carried on for the personal ambition of a violent and obstinate man.

Brazil possesses great resources, and is a powerful Empire; but its present ruler cannot avail himself of it. His subjects are generally averse to the abominable and ruinous war in which he has involved them, and from which no benefit can accrue, even should he succeed in retaining the points now in dispute.

The "*Critical Observer, and Rotten-Row Gazette*," written at Rio Janeiro by the captain of a detained British brig, contains some excellent hits at the Brazilian prize-court, and on other matters. The following are extracts:—

"The brig *Stag* was condemned by a majority of one soldier!—God help the sailors when they have a casting vote! besides, poor devils, they would wish to live on better fare than jerked-beef and farinha.

"N. B.—This Court is composed of five stupid lawyers, and six hungry soldiers.—A pretty Admiralty Court! The ignorant blockheads have so jumbled the cases together, that they condemned the *Stag* on the evidence of the brig *William and Henry*. To sum up their character in a few words, they are more ignorant than the savages who range the forest: and if they possess any other propensity, it is villainy."

"FOR SALE.—To be sold by Private Contract, the consciences of ten judges."

SONG.

(TUNE,—*Nae luck about the house.*)

"In many climes and ports we've been,
Frae England far awa;
But o' a' the places e'er we've seen,
There's nae like this' awa.

"There's nought but brutes, an' filth, an' smell,
On shore where'er you go;
Though filthy too, you'll honour find
'Mong ships in Rotten-Row.

"When prisoners here, and hard our fate,
Few merchants do us know,
Because nae *five per cent's*, they get
Frae ships in Rotten-Row.

"But after that we once get clear,
Wi' bows and scrapes so fine,—
My friends you'll come—be sure you come
'This day wi' me to dine."

"Excuse me, Sir, you're very good,
You're very kind I trow;
But, Sir, your face I dinna ken,
I'm no in Rotten-Row."

British Commercial

Room

THE BRITISH PACKET, AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Of the Public Stocks and Sinking Fund, from its establishment on the 1st Jan. 1822, to 31st Decr. 1827.

PUBLIC STOCKS.

	4 per cent.	6 per cent.	
DE.			
To created by law of 30th October 1821, of 23d Nover her 1823, 10th November 1824, and 14th December 1825.....	2,000,000	5,360,000	
To ditto by law 29th September 1827,.....		6,000,000	
	2,000,000	11,360,000	
CR.			
By payments and transfers in circulation,..	1,446,285 5	10,135,395 4	
Out of circulation, belonging to corporations and pious establishments.....	260,693 8½	268,822 6¼	
Redeemed,.....	282,623 2¼	950,121 6¼	
Balance,.....	10,397 6½	7,659 7½	
	2,000,000	11,360,000	

CASH ACCOUNT.

DR.			
To received from the Exchequer for the payment of interest,	2,185,200		
Ditto ordinary sinking fund,.....	344,200		
Ditto extraordinary ditto.....	74,775 4¼	618,523 4	
Interest, from the capital redeemed,....	199,548		
For expenses of management,.....		7,326 7	
<i>N. B. — Besides the expenses of management paid as above—</i>	<i>dollars.</i>	<i>7,326 7</i>	
<i>The General Treasury has paid in salaries, 35,949 7</i>			
		43,276 6	
			2,811,050 3

CR.

By interest paid, } 4 per cent..... 457,763 1 } 2,000,185 6			
} 6 per cent..... 1,542,402 5 }			
Redemption of Stocks,			
Year 1822....	4 per cent. 65,544 6	6 per cent. 161,010 4	Cost. 72,608 4
" 1823....	65,002 7	114,226 6	63,424 4
" 1824....	60,652	146,969	123,798 6
" 1825....	37,640 7	115,552 2	103,110 5
" 1826....	53,179 4	169,733 5	111,775 5
" 1827....	10,703	242,629 3	143,801 4
TOTALS...	282,623 2	959,121 6	618,519 5
Expenses of management,.....			7,326 7
By balance,.....		By interest,..... 185,014 1 }	185,018
		Sinking fund,..... 3 6 }	
			2,811,050 3

HEDEFONSO RAMOS MEXIA, Secretary and Accountant.

Buenos Ayres, 31st December, 1827.

We are happy to inform our Readers, that the Government in conjunction with a number of merchants, have fallen in with a proposition of Mr. Bevans, the Engineer, to form a line of Telegraphs from this place to the mouth of the Salado, passing through Ensenada, and by Point Indio; by which infinite facility will be given to the communication between those places and this city. It is a scheme which Mr. Bevans has long wanted to carry into execution; but not coming directly within his department, he could not bring it officially before the Government. He could only hint it to those whom he thought would be likely to take it up.

The Telegraphs are to be upon the principle invented by Sir Home Popham, and for which invention he received the gold medal of the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, in London, in the year 1816; and as Mr. Bevans

was an active member of that Society, he had a fair opportunity of ascertaining the value of the invention.

It is presumed that twenty stations will be sufficient to communicate from the Salado to this place. The distances between the stations will vary according to circumstances, from 6 to 10 miles. If the stations are properly attended, the communication between the Salado and this place ought to be made within a few minutes; from Ensenada, it ought not to be more than two minutes. The plan is such, that there can be upwards of 3,000 signals; and the Government, and each merchant who is a shareholder, will be able to have communications through their agents, without any persons but those concerned knowing what is the subject of the communication.

When completed, it will tend to remove some of the evils of the blockade, as vessels bound up or down the river will be able to ascertain the situation of the enemy's vessels; besides which, they will be able to communicate the circumstance of their coming up to the owners or persons concerned in this city, by which means much may be done towards securing their safe arrival. In fact the advantages are so numerous, and of so much value, that we extremely regret two years of blockade should have passed without such a powerful counteracting establishment.

A meeting took place at the Sala Argentina, on 31st ult., when the following gentlemen were appointed to act as a Committee for the above undertaking: — Messrs. Ramon. Larrea, Francisco Wright, Vincenti Casares, Duffy, Harratt, and the General of Marines, Señor Irigoyen.

The following letter has been received from the Consul of the United States at Valparaiso: —

“Valparaiso, 1st January, 1828.

SIR,—It is with heartfelt satisfaction I inform you, that the dawn of New Year (of which I wish you many happy returns,) has brought to this port, safe and well, Mr. Pomeroy and the five men supposed to be lost near Staten Land, from the ship Star of Philadelphia, on the 10th of October last. The sealing brig Alabama Packet, Captain Pendleton, of Stannington, took them off the Island in five days after their disaster, and treated them with the utmost kindness.

“Be pleased to apprise Commodore Biddle of this circumstance as early as possible, as also our Consuls at Monte Video and Buenos Ayres, to whom I had written requesting them to interest the humanity of those bound round Cape Horn to seek for the sufferers. If any opportunity bound home, please convey this information to the Press.

“With great respect, I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

“MICHAEL HOGAN.”

“To the Consul, or Public Authority of the U S at Buenos Ayres.”

Jan. 26.—Wind N. Arrived, No. 8 Gun Boat, with several small craft under convoy from the Parana —Sailed, at 8 o'clock P. M., National schooner of war Sarandi, Captain George Bynon, upon a particular service.

27.—Wind N. Arrived, 2 zumacas and a balandra from the northward.—Sailed, at 8 o'clock P. M., American schooner Sailor's Return, Burch, for Gibraltar, with cargo.

28.—Wind N. W. Arrived, at 5 A. M., the armed whale boat lately captured by Admiral Brown's squadron, and now commanded by Miguel Suarez, with a launch containing 6 Brazilian officers and 5 sailors, which she met with and captured at half-past 7 A. M. on the 27th instant, off the Paloma Island in the

Parana. They made no resistance. The master of the launch offered 1000 dollars to let them escape. The officers are, Don Germano Macsimo de Sousa Araña, second in command of the Brazilian squadron which was taken or destroyed in February 1827, in the Uruguay; lieutenants Augusto Wenceslao da Silva Lisboa, Don Francisco de Silva Lobon, Robert Steel; pilot, Don Francisco Antonio de Santiago; captain of artillery, Manuel Dubal Freire de Andrade. They all belonged to the above squadron, and after its destruction took refuge in Gualeguaychú: they then passed to the Bajada, from thence were sent by the Governor of Entre Rios to Santa Fé, and then to the Indians. From such treatment they made a representation to Señor Sola, and had permission to go to the Bajada. They escaped, and agreed with the master of the launch to give him 600 dollars, on condition that he conducted them to Colonia. During their peregrinations, they have lived chiefly upon horse flesh, so that their condition as prisoners of war is probably preferable to the sufferings they have endured.

When the British frigate Forte was in the Outer Roads in July last, one of her boats picked up a Brazilian officer almost exhausted; he and seven men, late of the Uruguay Squadron, had escaped in a canoe boat—it had upset, and all perished save himself.

Arrived, Gun Boat No. 10, Silva, with convoy from the Caracoles.—Sailed, lugger-boat Martin Garcia, to the northward; she is now schooner rigged, with a gun at the bow.

29.—Wind E. N. E. Sailed, at 1 P. M., British ship packet Hope, Wright, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro and Falmouth, with several passengers.

Sailed, Gun Boat No. 5, Captain Muiñoz, for the Salado.

The pilot of the American schooner Sailor's Return, landed at 2 P. M. Left the said schooner at day-break on the morning of 28th, off Point Indio, with a fair wind. Did not see the blockading squadron, or any other vessel.

30.—Wind N. E. Arrived, sloop balandra Hermosa Colonense, Joaquin Ximenes master, from Colonia on 28th. She is a *pasado*, or in other words, a runaway; and has been employed between Colonia and the blockading squadron as a floating grog shop. Wishing perhaps to improve the concern, and to get customers of a higher quality than Brazilian sailors, she came hither, and brought not only the stock in trade, but the landlord, (a sergeant named Manuel Luis,) the waiter, pot-boy, &c. Six Gun Boats were in Colonia.

Arrived, a boat from Monte Video.

31.—Wind variable with rain. The schooner of war Guanaco joined the flotilla in Three Fathom Hole from the Outer Roads. In the afternoon the wind settled to the S. W. and being a full river, the blockading Squadron, viz: 2 corvettes, 5 brigs, and 5 brig-schooners and schooners, approached and anchored about 12 miles S. E. of the town.

February 1.—Wind W. S. W. and high tide. The blockading Squadron under weigh steering for Three-Fathom Hole. At half past 7 A. M. a brig and brig-schooner being within gun shot, opened fire; the National Flotilla returned it, slowly retiring towards the land. At 9 A. M. the Brazilians retreated, and the National Squadron stood towards them. The above is one of the ridiculous displays with which the Brazilians now and then amuse the town; one of their brigs and a brig-schooner behaved very well, and did not retire until they felt the effect of being too near. The corvette Carioca kept aloof, perhaps drawing too much water. The Liberal came in and fired several

broadides: she had the Commodore's flag at the main, and was the first to tack—(John Boots is degenerating.) Two Gun Boats left the Inner Roads, and fired at three or four gunshots distance; this proceeding was copied by several Brazilian vessels. Admiral Brown was not on board when the action commenced—he embarked from the Mole about 7 A. M. At 1 P. M. the Brazilian Squadron out of sight—the National Flotilla at anchor in Three-Fathom Hole. Admiral Brown, Captains Espora, Granville, and Doctor Johnson landed at 3 P. M. The squadron had not any killed in the action of this morning—two slightly wounded on board the schooner Maldonado. Some of the vessels sustained trifling damage in the sails and rigging.

Arrived a fleet of small craft from the Northward under convoy.

Letters from Monte Video dated 23d ult., state the arrival of a Colombian brig from Lima; passenger, the lady of W. P. Robertson, Esq., of this city. American schooner-brig Sally, and British brig Ann; the latter 48 hours from Rio Grande. The advices from the Brazilian army in that quarter are far from being favourable.

Accounts from the above port have been received to 26th ult. The Brazilian frigate Nitchteroy, Norton, had put back to M. Video, rudder damaged. The Brazilian frigates Princess Imperial and Emperatriz, the British line of battle ship Ganges, brig of war Cadmus, American frigate Macedonian, and a French brig of war from Rio Janeiro, were likewise there.

The American sloop of war Boston, arrived at Monte Video on the 16th ult. and sailed again on the 24th for the same port.

Two Whale Boat Privateers had taken five small craft from Santa Fé, off the Baradero. A man jumped overboard and escaped to shore. Some armed men collected, and opened a fire of musquetry from the shore, upon the privateers; upon which they abandoned their prizes, and made off.

Three Portuguese soldiers were lately taken by the piquets of the National Army in Rio Grande, clothed in the skins of the Chanchó Jabali, (an animal of that province.) They had been in the battle of Ituzuingó, and since that period have wandered about the country, not caring to join either party, especially the Patriots, as the Brazilian officers had informed them that they (the patriots,) gave no quarter.

The second division of troops of the contingent from the province of Mendoza, arrived in this capital on Sunday last. They will be immediately incorporated with the army now in active service.

An officer late in the Brazilian navy, has arrived in this city, having left that service.

In No. 1257 of the Gaceta Mercantil appears a translation of some documents taken from a prize by Fournier during his late cruise: they are in the shape of letters from Antonio de Silvas Caldeiro, the Brazilian Consul at Oporto to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Rio Janeiro. The first, from Oporto, August 4th, states that Captain José Pinto de Souza, of the Brazilian brig Suceso from Rio Janeiro, had been to the Consulate and made the necessary oaths that the property was Brazilian, but as they sometimes present themselves as Brazilians, at others Portuguese, just as suits their convenience, determined him (the Consul,) to make strict inquiries. He wrote to Lisbon for that purpose, and found that the brig had a Portuguese register.

The second letter, dated August 8th, expresses the Consul's determination to be very vigilant; that every register should pass through his office, to prevent Brazilian vessels sailing under the Portuguese flag.

The Republic has now got a small squadron on the Lake Mirin, in Rio Grande, consisting of 2 diates of one gun each, 1 schooner of 3 guns, (the above captured from the Brazilians,) 2 armed whale boats and 2 launches, belonging to Centopé. Captain Silva is about leaving Buenos Ayres to take command of the whole.

In No. 72 of the "Semanario" of Monte Video, is an account (burlesque enough in all conscience, although not intended as such,) of the fetes given in Colonia upon the anniversary of the Emperor's coronation. A play was "enacted" by the officers of the garrison; but they forgot to give a title to it, therefore whether it was "Tom Thumb," "Qui potest capere capiat," or any other name, we are at a loss to determine. It was preceded by an allegorical piece, the *dranatis persone* being the Genius of Brazil, the Geniis of Buenos Ayres, and the goddesses Fame and Fortune. That of the great Empire had, of course a "long yarn" to tell to the Republican heroine upon their different claims; and as the Brazilians are not accustomed to give fair play, they made Mesdames Fame and Fortune to take the part of Brazil, and despatched the Genius of the Argentine Republic to the regions below, with the usual escort or body-guard of devils, flames, &c. The Plaza was illuminated by the soldiers, and after the fireworks were over, they danced country-dances dressed in Chinese fashion. — The fashionables of Pekin and Canton will be highly indignant at this assumption. The dress is probably the same as the Indians called Chinos wear in the Banda Oriental.

All these fetes received great lustre by the attendance of that great and valued Champion of the Empire, and Hero of the River Plate, — Commodore Norton.

There is a good deal of poetry made upon the occasion; but it appears such fulsome stuff as not to be worth translating.

The beautiful evening of Sunday last attracted a crowd to the Alameda. This promenade is totally unworthy a Capital like this, or to receive the numerous elegant and lovely females that honor it with their presence. The Porteña lady should have shady walks like those of Kensington Gardens to wander in. — What an admirable 'Vauxhall' might be formed in Buenos Ayres, for which climate, and other advantages, so peculiarly adapt it.

THEATRE.

A full house was attracted on Monday evening last, to Cossio's benefit.—The comedy of the "Barber of Seville" performed, and other entertainments.

On Tuesday, the Opera of the "Italiana en Argel." Few persons knew of the performance, as no announcement took place in the Gazette of the day; and the house was not so full as generally witnessed on Opera nights. Doña Angelita, from that or other causes, did not sing so well as usual. Rosquellas and Vacani exerted themselves: the latter was exceedingly humorous. The second act is dull; the author has done nothing to assist the composer, as in "El Barbero," "Otelo," &c. The finale to the first act is really beautiful. The attire now assumed by Doña Angelita and Rosquellas in this piece, although very becoming, is not in strict costume. The latter, personating a slave of a superior cast, and dressed as a British Colonel of Infantry, is rather out of the way.

The "Italiana" is a great favourite at Rio Janeiro, chiefly from the singing of Madame Barbieri; and printed hand-bills are circulated in that city, eulogizing the said Opera, and the lady. We give some extracts relative to the Overture.—

"Musical authors differ upon the plan of an overture. Some say that it ought to express the most notable facts of the piece, — others, that it should lead to prepare our minds towards the plot. Rossini follows the first: he attracts our imagination to a point from which we are enabled to form an opinion of the events we

are to see afterwards. On this account we will analyze the Overture to the 'Italiana en Argel.'

"This Opera of Rossini's is a worthy production of so great a master. Some authors have remarked, that the arias sung by the secondary characters are insipid, not recollecting that their parts are all unimportant. The commencement of the overture is truly sentimental. It appears as if Rossini wanted to express the affliction of the Sultana, and it really runs in a sorrowful strain. The Alegro is a little too military in the beginning; but we are soon attracted by the melodiousness of the music, which brings to mind the entreaties of the Sultana not to be abandoned; and in order to make us perceive that her supplications are without effect, and that the Sultan hates her, the Overture concludes with all the strength of the orchestra.

"Madame Barbieri sings extremely well; her fault is that she does not keep time. Señor Piacentini, in the duet of "Ah! capricci de la sorte," made us regret the loss of Vacani.

"The finale to the first act is perhaps one of the best that Rossini has composed."

DIED,

On 27th ultimo, of a nervous fever, after a short illness, Mr PETER GEORGE DURNER, aged 57 years, many years managing clerk in the house of Messrs. W. P. Ford & Co., of this city. His funeral, on 28th at the Protestant burial-ground, was attended by more than 80 persons. The deceased had endeared himself to all classes of Society, and his loss will be severely felt.

On 29th ult, Mr JOHN O'REILLY, late a store keeper in this city.

RALPH HALL,

Hair Dresser, No. 25, Calle del 25th de Mayo,

RETURNS his most sincere thanks to the Gentlemen of Buenos Ayres for the liberal support with which they have favoured him since his commencement in business; and begs leave to assure them, that every exertion shall be made to merit a continuance of their kind patronage.

N B.—Gentlemen attended upon at their own houses with the utmost punctuality, and on moderate terms.

For Sale,

THE Barraca of the late Mr. JOHN DILLON, situated at the corner of Calle de Europa and Calle de la Universidad; also, a Piece of Ground adjoining the same. Apply to Mr. Joshua Thwaites, No. 105 Calle de Belgrano.

British Chapel.

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

N B.—The seats below the arch are free

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublons, 69 to 69½ dollars each.
 Spanish Dollars, 312 to 316 per cent. premium.
 Plata macaquina, 270 to 275 per cent.
 Gold in bars, 23 to 24¼ reals per quilate.
 Silver do. 22 to 22½ reals per dinero.
 Exchange on England, 11½d. to 12d. per dollar.
 Do. United States, 400 per cent.
 Do. Rio Janeiro, 140 per cent.
 Do. Monte Video, 250 to 255 per cent.
 6 per cent. Stock, 46 to 47.
 Rate of interest per month. 2½ to 3 per cent.

With this number concludes the sixth quarter. Owing to an imperfect List, there are several of our Subscribers who have not been applied to for the Fifth Quarter's Subscription, due on 3d November last;—they are respectfully requested to pay it at the Office, and for the future such irregularities will be avoided.

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No. 75, Calle de Cangallo.