

THE
British Packet,
AND
ARGENTINE NEWS.

This Paper will be published every SATURDAY. The Subscription for three months 4 dollars. All communications to be addressed to the Editors, and left at No. 47, Calle del 5 de Mayo, or at this Office, where Subscriptions are received.

No. 79.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1828.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES.

REPUBLICAN ARMY.—CAMPAIGN OF 1828.

FIRST BULLETIN.

THE operations which have occupied the enemy for the last four months, led to believe that they intended seriously to maintain the line of the Yaguaron, and to cover exclusively Rio Grande; as he had occupied the forts of San Miguel and Santa Teresa, provided materials to repair them and to fortify Rio Grande, uniting all his force in the post of the Cerrito, and likewise collecting great and abundant stores of provisions.

Notwithstanding, on the 10th January, at 3 in the afternoon, we learned with surprise at Head Quarters, from two Argentinos who came from the enemy's territory, that on the 8th they had abandoned the position of the Cerrito, withdrawn all their posts from the Yaguaron, and that the inhabitants on the left bank of that river had fled, leaving their houses and property, and that the enemy were marching towards Candiote or Veleda, to unite with the army of the Visconde de la Laguna, (Lecór.) We know not to what to attribute this unexpected movement, which abandons to the discretion of the Republican Army, inferior in numbers, so rich and important a portion of their territory, and leaves insulated and without support the points of Santa Teresa and San Miguel.

The enemy's army made this retreat when all was in readiness in the Republican army to advance upon the Cerrito, and to shut up the enemy upon this point, to cut him off from his cavalry which was on the Piray more than thirty leagues distant, and to oblige him to a decisive battle. The orders sent to General Laguna to make forced marches having been miscarried, retarded for three days this decisive operation. General Laguna did not put himself in communication with Head Quarters until the 9th. On the 10th, when the retreat of the enemy was known, the Commander-in-Chief immediately ordered a strong column of cavalry to advance upon the Yaguaron, to approach the enemy, learn his route, discover his projects, and occupy the important line of the Yaguaron.

On the 11th, at 5 in the morning, some regiments of cavalry marched to occupy the left bank of the Chuy. On the 12th at 5 in the afternoon, the Commander-in-Chief, and General Paz, chief of the Staff, arrived at this point. The battalions

of infantry, the regiments No. 4 and 8 of cavalry, the park of artillery, baggage, and hospital, remained in the Cerro Largo under the command of General Martinez. On the 13th at day break, a column of 2000 cavalry, composed of the regiments Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 16, the colorados, a squadron of cuirassiers and of the escort, and four pieces of artillery, began to march. At 9 they encamped upon the rivulet Malo, distant 4 leagues. At 5 in the afternoon they incorporated themselves upon this point with Latorre's division, composed of the dragoons libertadores, the militia of San José and Mercedes, 800 men. They met with two deserters from the enemy, who confirmed the news of his retreat in the direction of Candiote. The same day, the division under the command of General Laguna began their march from the Convents, in a convergent direction. This division consisted of 700 men.

On the 14th the column encamped at 10 in the morning upon the rivulet de las Cañas, after a march of 4 leagues. At 11, the corps of oriental dragoons under comandante Arango joined Latorre's division.

From the 9th, we had in front of the Cerrito a flag of truce; his stay obliged us to make slow and short marches. On the 15th the column remained at the same point. At 5 in the afternoon the flag of truce returned, and in the evening we raised our camp, and halted at 11. At day-light of the 16th passed the river Sarandi, and our column shewed itself on the heights of Yaguaron at 5, and at 7 encamped near the river, on the pass of the Sarandi. Latorre's division passed to the left bank. A scouting party of 15 men of Latorre's division discovered some scouts of the enemy; they charged and dispersed them, killing one man.

On the 15th, the division under the command of General Laguna had arrived at the Potrero de Francisquito. On the 16th his scouting parties met with some of the enemy's, which they beat off, killing 2 men, taking 2 prisoners and 12 saddled horses. It was known that the enemy's army had all united, and encamped 8 leagues distant, in the neighbourhood of the village del Yerval.

The 17th our scouts advanced to the rivulet de Tello, one league distant from the enemy's encampment, and fired upon his advanced guards. The party commanded by Ensign Cabrera, of the dragoons libertadores, succeeded in taking from the rear of the enemy's advanced posts more than 400 horses in good condition, and killed 2 men; our loss was only one sergeant slightly wounded. He sent to Head Quarters 2

British Commercial Row

inhabitants, whom having interrogated, we placed at liberty to return to their homes.

The 18th our advanced parties took an express, with letters for the enemy's army: he had left the Cerrito the day previous, in the afternoon—Private letters from Bahia, dated November 1st, and directed to some officers, speak of disturbances in said city which held them in alarm, and obliged them to extraordinary exertions and precautions. We entreated several families who were getting away in carts, to return to their homes. An artillery soldier, deserter from the enemy, came over to us. At 5 in the afternoon a division composed of the regiment No. 2, and colorados, commanded by General Paz, chief of the Staff, marched for the Cerrito. Latorre's division marched in the direction of Yerbal, to serve as a support to the advanced parties, and to act against the enemy.

Being at a distance from the lake he has left secure that part of Olivera's division of Maldonado, which, crossing the Chuy, has interposed itself between Rio Grande and Santa Teresa, and has insulated the garrison of this fort, harrassing them incessantly, intercepting their convoys and communications: eight carts carrying wood and other necessaries for the fortress, have fallen into our power. The garrison of San Miguel has abandoned that fort, and retreated to Santa Teresa.

The 19th a party of 50 men commanded by Major Calderon, of Regiment No. 8, who had been ordered to advance by General Paz, was at day-break at the village of Cerrito and prevented the inhabitants that remained from abandoning their houses. At 10 the division of General Paz arrived. According to the information received from this officer, the aspect, actions and language of the unhappy inhabitants demonstrated the terror which the Emperor's Generals had inspired them with, painting the Republican Army as a horde of savages and assassins, who spared neither age nor sex. General Paz found little difficulty in tranquilizing and undeceiving them, and inspiring confidence. The order which the division under his command has observed, so different from those who were destined to defend them, has made them acquainted with the discipline and humanity of the Argentinos.

We have contracted for some articles as rations for the troops, and found a considerable quantity of Indian corn, some farinha and spirits which had been left by the enemy. The greater part of the families of this place have fled to the woods of the rivulet Grande; the same day in the afternoon two of them returned, having received notice of the good order which the division had observed.

This day Gen. Laguna advised that the enemy had moved with two corps consisting of 600 men between the rivulets Tello and Grande, in direction to the rivulet Madre Feliciano. The scouting party of Latorre's division brought in a prisoner.

On the 20th he arrived at Head Quarters, and by him we were informed that the movement of the preceding day was intended to place ambuscades to surprise our piquets, which they had been unable to effect; nevertheless a respectable force of infantry and cavalry advanced this day upon our patroles. We despatched a number of sharpshooters which prevented their advance, and ultimately obliged them to retrograde, and to keep within their own encampment. One of our parties of 15 men moving in the rear of the enemy entered the village of Yerbal, which they found entirely abandoned, without a single inhabitant.

The 21st a sergeant and a German soldier (deserters from the enemy,) presented themselves at our advanced posts. From

them we learned that the baggage of the army had left the encampment for Piratini, leaving only 3 carts with ammunition. The advanced parties took two prisoners, and it appears that the enemy intends to continue his retreat.

The 22d the enemy remained in the same position.

The Emperor's Generals employ every means to give popularity to a war which the inhabitants resist—exerting themselves to rouse odium against the Republican Army, describing them as without discipline, savage and ferocious, and above all, insisting upon the barbarous system of obliging the peaceable inhabitant to fly and abandon all; and as it is not known where they intend to halt and wait for us, neither do the unfortunate families know when will be the termination of their disastrous peregrination. The Commander-in-Chief after the most definite and strong orders to the commanders of the scouting parties regarding respect to the property and good treatment of the inhabitants they may meet with, has invited them by proclamation to remain tranquil in their houses, and not to convert themselves into enemies by fleeing, and he exposed to the horrors of an emigration which must necessarily prove ruinous.

All the despotism of the Government of Brazil has been found necessary to dictate and enforce, without commiseration, an order so unnecessarily cruel, which incalculably augments the evils caused to its subjects—leaving them without protection by inability or impotence, with a force superior to that of the Republican Army, with better and more powerful means and resources, which, in other circumstances and in a better cause, would give them decisive advantages. The Emperor's Generals abandoning the miserable Continentals, instruments and victims of an unjust war which their master maintains, expecting some time or other to obtain from their despair and misery a co-operation and assistance, which interest in a cause that is foreign to them, nor patriotism which is neither found or fostered under a despotic government, can induce them to afford.

(Signed)

FELIX GARZON,
Acting Chief of the Staff.

Conveying news of military operations by means of bulletins, appears a convenient mode of correspondence. It enables a commander to enter more into details. Napoleon when he dropped the bulletin system and addressed his letters to the Empress upon the affairs of the army, destroyed in a great measure the imposing effect which had been created by the former method.

A famous Brazilian guerrilla chief called "Yuca Teodoro," has been taken by a party of the Republican Army in Rio Grande, and his party of 26 men routed, having 8 killed—the wounded escaped, and they could only take prisoner the chief. The Republicans had a sergeant and one soldier killed and two wounded; Lieutenant Berdun received a contusion. Yuca Teodoro is said to be the man who wounded General Lavalie in the last campaign.

A despatch from Colonel Manuel Oribe, dated Manga, 23d January, 1828, states that he has received a communication from Don Leonardo Olivera, commanding the force in observation of the enemy at Santa Teresa, dated Cañada Grande, 21st January.—That the Republican Flotilla had sailed on the 20th; the Brazilians came to reconnoitre, but immediately took to a shameful flight, and continued running away until they grounded. The privateer boat Ituzaingo was then despatched after them, and on getting near she hoisted her colours, fired a gun, drums beating,

See; these martial appearances so frightened the Brazilians, that they set fire to the two vessels, which in a few minutes blew up. At 3 o'clock 200 infantry and 100 cavalry appeared at the pass of the rivulet of San Miguel, and the despatch adds—"We maintained a running fire with them without any loss on our part, being favoured by a wood on the opposite side of the river. At 5 the enemy retired, and as the ground was bad for cavalry to act, we did the same, marching towards the Castillos. On arriving there two deserters came in and declared, that the Brazilians had three wounded in the affair of yesterday, viz: Captain Manuel Jacinto and two soldiers."

Colonel Don Manuel Oribe writes, that a Brazilian division of 1300 infantry, and 4 pieces of artillery, commanded by Brigadier Duarte, had entered the town of Canelones on the 30th ultimo, and after remaining a few hours, retreated to Monte Video. Oribe adds, that he cannot comprehend the object of this insignificant expedition, as they made no exertions to obtain cattle. — A private letter inserted in the *Gaceta Mercantil*, states, that "they left Monte Video with affected bustle, carrying with them 60 head of cattle for provisions, forage, &c. Arrived near Canelones, they waited for the authorities of the town; but as they did not go out, an Adjutant at the head of some troops entered and exclaimed,—*"This is a great rascality!—the troops of his Imperial Majesty are waiting!!!"* Moreno, the Justice of Peace, went out, the rest of the authorities having decamped. Duarte began,—*"Don't you know that it is the custom among nations, that when an armed force enters a town the authorities are to go out and receive them?"* Moreno excused himself as well as he could. He was answered, "Very well, you may say to the people we don't come to harm them, and not to close the doors against us;"—then striking his breast, added,—*"We come because this place belongs to us!"* The troops then came in and formed in the Plaza, shouting "Viva el Emperador;" some of the officers began to ring the bells. They searched some houses, and after an hour's stay encamped outside the town, without doing any injury. During the time they were in the Plaza they remained under arms, because the Gauchos made their appearance in different streets, and fired at them, killing two men. At 6 in the evening they retreated to Monte Video, fatigued, and more dead than alive. The country-people, and the fire of their own musquets, had set the pasture on fire, and they halted several times tired to death. Many of the inhabitants had joined our regulars, and we mustered 600 men. We do not know the Brazilian loss, they threw their dead and wounded into carts; amongst the wounded is a Captain, in a dying state. We have had six wounded: three of them are officers, viz.—Feliz Aguiar, Carballo, and Marcelino Perez. We are anxious to learn their loss, and to read their official despatch, which will be comical enough without doubt. This sortie has given us an idea a thousand times worse than we ever had of them: it seemed necessary to convince us that they are the very drags of the world."

The justice Moreno writes, that Duarte assumed great hauteur, and said, "that if the visit had been delayed only one half of a quarter of an hour, the 4 pieces of cannon would have opened upon the town, to punish the want of respect due to his Imperial Majesty." The Señor, however, condescended to ask for a cart-load of wood, which was of course given to him, to save his highness the trouble of taking it by force.

A person from Colonia has reported, that the brig Caboclo had 4 men killed and 3 wounded, in the action of 1st instant, and had gone to Monte Video, main-mast damaged: that the brig Rio de la Plata had her captain killed, and that several wounded have been landed at Colonia.

Lieutenant Robert Steele, of the Brazilian navy, has obtained his parole. Lujan is appointed the place of his domicile.

The battery at Point Lara, Ensenada, constructed by Colonel Hølemberg, is finished, and is called *El Bravo General Brown*.

According to accounts from the interior, it appears that Colonel La Madrid, ex-governor of Tucuman, has left Salta at the head of a body of troops, and it is apprehended he will endeavour to obtain his old government.

February 2.—Wind S. Sailed several small sail of small craft for the Parana, &c. In the afternoon the blockading squadron again appeared, and having a fair wind and a very high tide, it was fully expected they intended to make another attack upon the National flotilla in Three Fathom Hole: they however anchored in their old position E. S. E. nearly hull down from the town.

3.—Wind N. Arrived some small vessels from the northward. They report several Brazilian privateer boats cruising in the Parana.

4.—Wind N. Arrived the Government armed boat Comet, with prize schooner N. S. del Carmen, Mateo Busanche, master, laden with wine, pitch, &c.

The following are the details given of this affair: the master of the schooner reports, that said schooner sailed from this port in ballast, having a license; that she took a cargo of lime to Colonia, from which she sailed on the 3d instant for Buenos Ayres, but from contrary winds steered for Martin Garcia, in the neighbourhood of which place and having the National flag flying, fell in with the boat Comet, who conducted her hither—and that the cargo on board is consigned to D. Ramon Larrea.

The captain of the Comet states, that on the afternoon of the 3d instant he stood for the schooner, and on nearing her hoisted the National flag; being hailed, schooner answered she was from this capital bound, up the river. On inspecting the papers could only find a license, and that she sailed from this port and cleared out for the "Capilla de Mercedes" on the 7th December last.

5.—Wind N.; at 8 A. M. it shifted to the southward. Arrived several small craft from the northward. Sailed armed boat Comet, for the Parana, to protect the trade and cruise for privateers. Arrived the mail-boat from Las Vacas.

6.—Wind S. Several small craft came out of the Boca and sailed to the northward. The national flotilla anchored nearer to the Inner Roads. In the gale early this morning, the schooner of war Guanaco drove to Las Conchas.

Arrived, No. 10 Gun Boat, Silva; from Las Vacas; passenger Don José Vidal, commissioner from this Government to the Banda Oriental.

Sailed, launch No. 4, for Martin Garcia; and Gun-Boat No. 15, Veanqui, conveying the launch Fortuna with stores for Santa Fé.

7.—Wind N. Arrived, a Gun Boat, with a convoy from the northward; and the Mail Boat from the Banda Oriental, bringing four German soldiers deserters from the Brazilians, and the remains of General Brandzen, killed in the battle of Ituzaingó.

The seamen from Corrientes were embarked from the Mole, and distributed on board the squadron.

8.—Wind N. Arrived, a balandra and a launch, from the Parana.

Arrived at the Salado on 30th ult., American brig Fancy, captain Macey, from New York and Rio Janeiro, with cargo, including some domestic goods, wine, brandy, &c., to Messrs. Sutton & Co.

Accounts from Monte Video to 30th ultimo, mention that 800 infantry had marched out of that fortress. British brig of war Cadmus had sailed, supposed for Rio Janeiro: and likewise the American brig Julia; brig President Adams about to sail. Both the above are in ballast, and bound to Rio Janeiro.—The Brazilians had in Monte Video (in addition to the three frigates,) the three-masted schooner, Rio schooner, and some others; and it was said that a schooner expedition, to assist the blockading squadron, or to act off the Salado, would soon sail.

Letters dated 1st instant, state the arrival of a Sardinian brig from Gibraltar, after a short passage; and that the Hope packet, from this 29th ult., arrived at Monte Video 31st.

By intelligence from Rio Janeiro received since the sailing of the Hope packet, it appears that the cargo of the English brig Anne, though released from the charge of violation of blockade, is detained for proof of property. In this proceeding we have a fresh instance of the complicated knavery of Admiralty process in Brazil; and from the information we obtain, it appears that the judge called the Auditor of Marine, has it in his power to reject all evidence such as usually accompanies mercantile investments, and by groundless and vexatious cavils to retard the delivery of the goods to a period so protracted, as to inflict worse than a total loss on the concerned. This insidious course of proceeding he never fails to adopt, unless the agents are prepared to come to a round sacrifice in order to obtain the approval of their documents, and a favourable despatch for the delivery of the goods.

Representations have been made to the British Envoy, and we rejoice to find that he has warmly espoused the interests of his oppressed countrymen.

Admiral Brown has written a short despatch relative to the action on 1st inst., (the particulars of which we gave in our last.) It alludes to the battle of 11th June, 1826: and adds, that the enemy will have discovered that there exist some of those in the National Squadron, who so effectually opposed them on that day against thirty-two of their vessels, and finding the same disposition still existing, the Brazilians retired as usual. The Admiral bestows praise upon the officers and crews of his flotilla; and notices the generous conduct of Doctor Johnson in having volunteered his services and embarked for the squadron, knowing there was no surgeon on board; and that the Government will appreciate the act, as the squadron has already done.

One hundred and forty-one seamen arrived at Las Conchas from Corrientes on Sunday last, for the service of the Squadron.

The Government of the Misiones have addressed a despatch to this Government, promising active co-operation in the war against Brazil; and a letter from the officer, Vicente Martinez, states, that he has already marched with 300 men to join the National Army, leaving express orders for 200 more to follow,—and that a Commissioner from the Misiones has been appointed for the intended Convention to be held at Santa Fé or San Lorenzo.

Don Juan Andres Gelly, Secretary to the Army, arrived in town on the 5th inst. with despatches from General Lavalleja, and is to return immediately.

Further extracts from the "Critical Observer and Rotten-Row Gazette," published at Rio Janeiro in July 1827.

"A NEW METHOD OF WORKING SHIP.—It is currently reported that His Imperial Majesty's frigate Paraguassu is captured. It would not surprise us, as we have a thorough knowledge of the sea-faring abilities and unparalleled cowardice of her commander. One day in order to wear ship, the spanker was set and the helm put a weather, when finding her to veer but slowly, the jib was hauled down.—*Par Diablo!* cries the officer of the deck:—*Par Diablo!* repeats the boatswain. The vessel still pays off at her leisure, notwithstanding their virulent invectives; when the mizen stay-sail was ordered to be set. Every person acquainted with marine tactics, must be convinced that she now wore round in the twirl of a whip-top.

"We are surprised that some noble officer in the service has not taken out a patent for working ship. It might be couched in the following terms:—I, Don Pedro, grant to Captain J. B., or Lieutenant Y. Z., the exclusive privilege of hauling down the jib and setting spanker, to wear ship.—The sole right to stay ship by hauling the head yards first; a method much superior to the one in vogue, more particularly with vessels' leav' abaft."

"The noble Commander of the afore mentioned frigate, is much better pleased with the smoke of his boatswain's cigars, than that of old Brown's powder; and would rather hear the happy circle spinning their long yarns, as seated cheek by-jowl with his noble self around a match tub, than hear Brown's shot about his ears. One day as the honourable Knights of the Match-tub were regaling themselves with their cigars, the conversation fell upon the English:—"Englishmen" (cries their noble commander,) are only fit to run their heads into the lion's mouth, and to get shot."—*Query*, Did he mean the Englishmen in the Imperial service?"

THEATRE.

On the 1st inst. "Los Encantos de Medea" was repeated to a house nearly as crowded as on its first representation. The Governor was in his box attended by Aid-de-camp Colonel Corbalan, and Señor Pedriel, Judge of Police. On the 2d, the opera of the "Engaño Feliz," to a full theatre. This opera is rather insipid with the exception of two or three Arias. The superb military chapeau worn by Rosquellas might have provoked the envy of the dandies at the Imperial Court—nay even of the Emperor of Brazil himself. On the 3d a play. On the 5th for the benefit of Vera, and to a very full house, a melo-drama called "Rinaldo and Armida," taken from Tasso's heroic poem of "Jerusalem Delivered." The scenery and machinery (for a theatre so confined) excellent, and the performers respectable. Armida, perhaps, did not convey the idea expressed in the poem, viz. that

"Deep sorrow spread o'er all her languid air,
Yet sweet in woe and beautiful in despair."

On the 6th the excellent comedy of the "Buen Medico." The 8th, the opera of the "Barber of Seville," (too late to offer remarks.) This evening, an exhibition by M. Rhigas Hercules, from Rio Janeiro, to consist of feats of strength, &c.

DIED,

On 3d instant, Mr. JOHN GARDNER.

In the list of the Committee appointed to superintend the intended Telegraph establishment, the name of Mr. Daniel Gowland should have appeared, instead of that of Mr. Duffy