

THE
British Packet,
AND
ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 83.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1828.

[Vol. 2.]

BUENOS AYRES. W

THE debates in the Provincial Junta upon the Bank question, having attracted a considerable share of the public attention, we lay before our readers a slight sketch of the proceedings.

When the projects of law presented by the Minister of Finance, and which we copied in our No. 58, were returned to the Sala by the Committee to whom they had been sent for revision, that relating to the Bank had undergone a material alteration, and which appeared to destroy the Charter of that Establishment. The Directors of the Bank made representation to the Junta; but some of the expressions being supposed offensive, it was not admitted. It was then determined by the Junta that the project in question should be immediately discussed; but as this measure did not give time to the Directors to plead their cause, Señor Alzaga presented a project, by which the Directors of the Bank were desired to furnish, within three days, their correspondence with the Government,—the Government authorizations for issues of Bank Notes beyond what was prescribed by law,—and the actual amount of Notes in circulation. It was approved, and the documents were handed in. Four or five days afterwards, they passed to a Committee for examination, with a request to effect it with the greatest speed, as no measures could be taken without knowing whether the Bank had really infringed its Charter, or made clandestine issues, these being the alleged motives for the reformation of that establishment.

After a few days, Señor Grela presented another project, and which he said was to be considered only as a temporary measure. Some opposition was made to it; but it passed to the Committee. It was approved by that body, and introduced to the Sala, with a request that it might be discussed previously to the other projects already noticed.

The purport of Señor Grela's project was:—The Junta to name six persons as Directors of the Bank, two to be shareholders, and four either from persons in or out of the Junta; the Minister of Finance to act as chairman. The Province to acknowledge, for the present, the nine millions and a half of Bank Notes now in circulation, prohibiting any further issues; and should any shareholder wish to separate himself from the establishment, his share to be reimbursed in the manner thought most proper by the Directors.

In support of this project it was asserted, that being only a temporary measure, limiting the issues and acknowledging the debt, no mischief could be apprehended from its passing into law: that the examination of the documents presented by the Bank would take up a considerable time: and that some incorrectness might be discovered in them.

In opposition to this it was urged, that as the project contained some of the measures comprised in those of the Government and Committee, it ought not to have the preference, as the case did not admit of temporary expedients; and as it tended to break the Charter of the Bank, it was improper to proceed, as the Junta possessed the requisite documents to justify the conduct of the Directors.

The Minister of Finance supported this last opinion. It was put to vote, and admitted by a majority of 2.

On the 26th ultimo, at the commencement of the debate, the Minister of Finance moved that the project of Señor Grela should be rejected, and that of the Government introduced, as the most eligible under present circumstances.

Besides what had been stated in the preceding Session in favour of the project of Señor Grela, it was hinted that the Bank had no Charter, because the one now existing had not been approved by the late Junta before its dissolution, and that, consequently, the Bank Notes had not a sufficient guarantee; and that it was also advisable to stop the influence of the Government over the Bank.

The other party proved that the Charter of the Bank had been sanctioned by the late Junta, and as a corroboration of it, it had allowed three millions appertaining to the province, to be added to the capital of the Bank. That the fundamental principles of a Bank being real guarantees, independence, and safety from political changes, these were not attained by the project then in discussion: on the contrary, it was an attack upon private property, and a breach of faith. Allowing that the National Government had no authority to establish the Bank as it now stood, no reason existed for destroying its Charter; because no one ought to doubt for a moment the legitimacy of the Government; and that if it were carried into execution, the paper currency would diminish, instead of increasing in value. To sanction such a project rendered the guarantee of the Bank Notes a nullity, because it relieved the shareholders from their responsibility to pay their notes in gold; and if this could not at the present moment be effected, the reasons of it were well known. That

B. C. Room

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in matters of credit great circumspection was requisite; and that the words, for the present, were of such an alarming nature, as to be a sufficient reason for rejecting the project: and lastly, that the present period was most improper to make any change or reform in the Bank.

The Minister, on 27th, proposed, that as the public anxiety was great, the Junta should declare itself in permanent session; still insisting to have the project of Señor Grela rejected, and instancing the bad consequences its sanction would have.

On the 1st inst. the Junta met in permanent session; but, by an accident, it was postponed till the 5th instant.

The leading orators in favor of Señor Grela's project, were, Señores Anchorenas (Thomas and Nicholas,) Señores Victorio Garcia, Grela, and Señillosa. The speakers in opposition, and in favour of the Government project were, Señor Felix Alzaga, Braulio Costa, Haedo, Vidal, and Wright.

The debate upon the Bank question on 1st instant, which produced the adjournment, was carried on with considerable warmth. The following are the particulars:

Señor Nicholas Anchorena opened the debate, and spoke for one hour and a-half, chiefly attacking the opposition. Señor Haedo replied, and inveighed against the project of Señor Grela; but was called to order by Señor Medrano, upon the plea that the language used was too strong. Haedo stated, that as the other party had been allowed to speak without interruption, he claimed the same privilege. Those on Señor Grela's side of the house persisted in endeavouring to silence him; the opposition, or Government party, insisted that he had a right to be heard, and that they (the opposition,) had documents to prove that the project of Señor Grela appeared to have a traitorly tendency. This observation produced great confusion; and as nearly all the members were speaking at the same time, the President requested them to withdraw from the Sala to the interior rooms. In about half an hour the opposition members only returned, without the President, the others having left the house; upon which the Minister of Finance proposed that the session should be adjourned until the 3d (since changed to 5th inst.) When the members of the opposition returned to the house, the spectators in the gallery (which was crowded to excess,) cheered upon the victory gained over Señor Grela's party. The Minister commented upon the great impropriety of such a proceeding, and that should it occur again, they would be expelled, and the Junta form itself in secret session.

The Minister of War, Balcarce, was present during the debate.

The debate on the Bank affair was resumed on the 5th instant, when the greatest order prevailed. Señor Nicholas Anchorena spoke at considerable length, as did likewise Señor Haedo, and others. The project of Señor Grela was negatived, the numbers being

Against the motion,.....20
In favour of it,.....12

Majority,..... 8

The project of the Government is to be discussed immediately. The late decision will have given them strength: and the discussions generally will, we think, have a beneficial effect.

Señor Grela has vacated his seat, or in House of Commons diction, "accepted the Chiltern Hundreds."

March 1.—Wind N. Sailed last evening, private schooner Cazador, Williams, on a cruise. Her armament, one long 12, and two medium 4 pounders: thirty eight men, English and Americans.

Arrived, two balandras and three launches from the northward, and a boat from Las Vacas.

2.—Wind N. Arrived, a Gun Boat from Martin Garcia

3.—Wind S. E. Arrived, the privateer brig Niger, Coe, from a cruise off the coast of Brazil of 65 days, she having sailed from this on 29th December last. This morning at 3 o'clock, being near Ensenada, fell in with a division of the blockading squadron at anchor. One schooner only got under weigh, but did not pursue. At 4 o'clock was close to another division of this port: took them to be Admiral Brown's squadron. Passed a small brig not having a person on deck, but forbore to disturb their slumbers by salutes of cannon shot, thinking her the National brig of war Balcarce. The sight of two corvettes afterwards shewed them to be Brazilians. Some shots were exchanged, but no chase took place: had it been an unarmed vessel, the blockaders would have been more alert. It blowing fresh, the Niger came in under easy sail (two topsails). She has made 8 prizes, viz.—three sent to ports, one arrived at the Salado, two lost as before noticed, and two destroyed

Sailed, Gun Boat No. 8, and a number of small craft, to the northward.

4.—Wind S. E. blowing nearly a gale of wind. Nothing arrived or sailed. During the last two days only one Brazilian corvette at anchor has been in sight from the town; seven other vessels joined her this day.

5.—Wind E. N. E. Sailed, Gun Boat No. 13, and two launches.

6.—Wind W. Arrived, a boat from Las Vacas, and landed six seamen, deserters from the Brazilian corvette commanded by Broom. They formed a part of 10 men who lowered a boat from the said ship when in the port of Monte Video, and all escaped to the lines of the National troops.

7.—Wind W. Sailed, Gun Boat No. 13, and a balandria, lugger-boat Martin Garcia and several small craft, for the Parana. A Brazilian corvette and a schooner under weigh; they came to the Outer Roads and returned, apparently reconnoitring. Arrived, the mail-boat from the Banda Oriental.

Arrived at the Salado, on 26th ult, the zumaca Nueva Union, with coffee, rice, sugar, &c., prize to the privateer schooner Vencedor de Ituzaingo, Captain Costa. She belonged to a convoy of eight vessels, five of which have been captured off St. Catharines, bound to Rio Janeiro; and the privateer was left in chase of an 8 gun brig which convoyed them. The brig is said to be badly manned.

The schooner Emperatriz, six days from Patagonia, arrived at Salado on same day.

Letters from the Havana, dated 5th December last, state the arrival at that port of the Swedish ship Hercules, Lubneau, (late Governor Hawkins,) which sailed from Buenos Ayres on 14th September; and likewise that the National schooner Caroline, Captain Love, (late Robert Armstrong,) had arrived. She left Buenos Ayres 10th October.

The General Brandzen brig privateer, Captain De Kay, and her prize, the late Brazilian brig of war Cacique, sailed from North America on 29th December last.

A new daily Paper, called *The Liberal*, was published in this city on the 28th ult. "*El Sol de Mayo*" has ceased to shine; or in Grimaldi's phraseology, is "defunct and dead."

PATAGONIA.

The schooner privateer San Martin, Captain Adams, arrived at Rio Negro about the 4th February, from a cruise; (she sailed from this port on 13th November last); was having new copper put on, and expected very shortly to proceed again to sea. She has captured 10 vessels, 4 of which have arrived, viz.—a zumaca, some time since at the Salado; at Patagonia, British brig *Albuera*, from Gibraltar bound for Bahia, with 600 barrels of gunpowder, Brazilian property, and other cargo, consisting of 1000 boxes of raisins, 16 cases of dry goods, and a few pipes of wine: the brig, it is said, will be restored. Sardinian brig *Cæsar*, taken off Rio Grande, with provisions and stores, Brazilian property. A zumaca found abandoned off Bahia, name unknown; had no "ship's papers," and was nearly full of goods, general cargo: she sails extremely well: prize-master M'Leod.

A zumaca was retaken of the Salado, Crossdill prize-master, and sent for Monte Video.

The San Martin brought in the cargo of 2 zumacas (liberated), including 5000 dollars in copper money. Three zumacas were destroyed. During her cruise she was repeatedly chased, without the least effect, except by a man-of-war brig; it being nearly calm, she escaped by using her sweeps, and pulling to windward. The brig fired a great many shots, which passed over the privateer: the copper of the latter was in a very defective state, and had a breeze sprung up, her danger would have been imminent. When newly coppered, she will be a vessel of a superior class.

The British brig *Huskisson* has discharged her cargo; the captain again in charge of her; and from report, she has or will be given up.

The schooner of war *Sarandi* has made one voyage, and was gone on another, to convey cargo from the corvette *Ituzaingó's* prize ship at San Blas. The said corvette has been condemned as unseaworthy, and Captain Mason is expected to return to Buenos Ayres. Captain George Bynon has taken charge of all the prizes which have not discharged their cargoes, and has a broad pennant flying, as second in command of the National Squadron.

An American brig detained by the *Ituzaingó*, *Wieldblood* prize-master, with a valuable cargo of coffee, sugar, &c., Brazilian property, has been totally lost upon the bar at Rio Negro; crew saved.

A fine ship under the Portuguese flag, coppered, and drawing 17 feet water, having a rich cargo of assorted goods, Brazilian property, prize to the privateer General Mancilla, Dudley prize-master, has arrived at the Bay of San Blas and is discharging.

The American sloop of war *Plymouth* has arrived at Monte Video, from the U. States and Rio Janeiro, to relieve (it is said,) the sloop of war *Boston*. The frigate *Macedonian* remained at Monte Video. British line of battle ship *Ganges*, at Maldonado: the British brig of war *Cadmus*, sailed from thence for Rio Janeiro about 26th ult.

Captain Monson, in a schooner (supposed the *Exit*), has arrived at Monte Video from the United States; and a brig under the Danish flag, said to be the *St Thomas*, detained lately near *Ensenada*. The exacting of bonds from neutral vessels, was not repealed on 28th ult.

A number of privateer boats are reported to be fitting out at Monte Video and Colonia.

The *Hope* packet, from this 29th January, and Monte Video 2d February, arrived at Rio Janeiro 16th February. The packet from England for Buenos Ayres, had not arrived at Rio Janeiro on 17th ult. Contrary winds in Europe is thought to be the cause of the delay.

Loss of the privateer schooner Cuzador, (late Rayo Argentino.)

"Sailed from the Outer Roads about 10 o'clock P. M. on 29th ult. At day-break on 1st instant, below *Ensenada*; a Brazilian brig and three schooners in chase. The brig was coming up very fast, steering along the land, and in quarter-less-three fathom water. The privateer capsized. All the crew held on to the rigging, except *Lindo*, prize-master; he was instantly drowned. The Brazilian brig (supposed the *Caboclo*), being near, fired a mus-

quet shot, and her wind, and made sail away: upon which some of the crew left their hold upon the rigging, and ventured upon the spars and sweeps floating about: others, being bruised, fell into the water and were drowned. Nine of them cleared the boat during the day, and got on shore on the morning of the 2d instant. Seventeen altogether were saved. All the officers were drowned, except the boatswain. Their names are as follows:—Captain *Williams*; first-lieutenant *Charles Watson*; prize masters *Lindo*, *Hopper*, *Gernado*; the gunner; and *Alexander Sinclair*, boatswain's mate.

The Brazilian brig sent a launch on the 2d inst. to the wreck, for the purpose of picking up the floating articles, and other things. During the chase, it was resolved to run the privateer ashore, if no hope of escape appeared.

The privateer *Bonaerense* was chased by the three masted schooner. She first saw her on the morning of the 23d ult, being then on the north shore, and only two miles distant: she instantly made for the south shore, the Brazilian in chase; which chase continued for 11 hours, and in which time she fired three full broadsides, and a quantity of single shot, to no effect. In sailing she equalled, and was often superior to the privateer; but having carried away her fore-topmast studding sail boom, it impeded her way a little. In crossing the *Ortiz*, it is supposed she touched, as she immediately wore round, fired two shots, and at 6 P. M. discontinued the pursuit. The privateer gave three cheers, and continued her course. All were anxious to board, but it could not be effected except under great disadvantages. The three-masted schooner was to windward, several of her companions at no great distance, and she is besides a quick vessel.

The corvette which *Broom* commands, and which has arrived in this river, is manned by Englishmen and Americans, and bears the same name as the vessel in which he was captured up the *Uruguay*, viz.—*Batioja*; and we sincerely hope that she may meet with a similar fate. The menace held out to revenge that mishap, amounts to nothing. If the statement prove correct, that nearly all the officers and crew are British subjects, they may be assured that in such an employment, be their bravery never so conspicuous, the great majority of their countrymen will view them with disgust.

This week has been fruitful in rumours, produced by the non-arrival of the packet, and arrival of Lieutenant *Paget* of the *Ganges*, who came overland from Maldonado, landed at San Isidro from *Las Vacas*, and arrived in town on Tuesday evening. The event was soon bruited in the Theatre, with all the additions for which Buenos Ayres is so famed. It was said,—that an English Officer had alighted at *Faunch's Hotel*, from a coach drawn by 8 horses; that the packet had gone into Maldonado, bringing news of such moment as determined Admiral *Otway* to despatch immediately an officer to this capital. The intelligence spread to all parts of the house, (except, perhaps, among the ladies of the *Cazuela*), and the "Bulls" and "Bears" left Monsieur *Rhigas* to perform his "Pruebas," and formed a sort of Exchange at the entrance of the Theatre. The fallacy of the intelligence was however discovered long before the falling of the curtain; and then it was said that Lieutenant *Paget's* mission was not of a nature so very important; and this, indeed, appears to be the prevailing opinion at present.

Lieutenant *Paget* embarked yesterday for *Las Vacas*, on his return to Maldonado.

A despatch from the *Salado* mentions that two boxes and one trunk, containing a considerable quantity of *Doublons* and *Patacons*, have been discovered in the zumaca *Nueva Union*, prize to the privateer *Yencedor de Ituzaingó*.

The National schooners of war Maldonado and Eighth February, and schooner-brig Eighth February, are very efficient vessels of their class, having good artillery, including some twenty four and eighteen pounders, which told well in the action of 22d ult., near Ensenada. The crews may not be "able seamen," but they make ample amends in courage.

A private account of the above action states, that the Brazilian squadron consisted of five vessels, viz.—corvette Carioca, two brigs, and two schooners; and that all of them are supposed to have sustained damage except the Carioca, she having kept at a great distance. The brig Caboclo came very near, and fired broadsides of grape, which would have effected infinite mischief but for the precaution of ordering the men to lay down. On receiving the fire, they started up and plied their enemy with round and grape-shot, obliging them more than once during the fight to haul off; and when they returned, it was only to fire ineffectual broadsides. At half-past 11 they finally retired, and came to an anchor. The impotence of the Brazilian squadron (except against merchant vessels, or a vessel aground,) positively increases with their numbers. Inglis, the captain of the Caboclo, (a West Indian by birth, of Scotch extraction,) now and then makes a dash beyond his companions, and manœuvres his fine brig in good style; but for want of support his bravery acts like a meteor, and vanishes as if ashamed of the miserable cause for which he is fighting.

We had not a man killed or wounded: our sails and rigging were cut, and the sweeps of the Maldonado torn to pieces by grape and round shot.

It is said that the Brazilians acknowledge to a loss of 12 killed and 30 wounded, (several of the latter since dead,) in the action of this on Sunday 17th ult. Norton was in one of the schooners, and had a slight wound in the thigh. Report had given out that he was about to quit the River Plate, and save himself from further disappointments. His frigate, the Nitchteroy, has been again in this neighbourhood, and, it is added, that she is to cruise near the Salado.

To the Editor.

Sir,

The mournful duty of paying our last respects to the remains of an unfortunate fellow-countryman, impelled us lately to visit the Protestant burying-ground here, for the first time.

From our earliest years,—ever since we could clamber over a church yard wall, or spell out or decypher a moss-grown stone,—we have had a wild and unaccountable pleasure in visiting such "cities of the dead" as chance threw in our way; nay, many a pensive (not melancholy) hour have we dreamed away among these grass-green mounds, and we trust too, not unprofitably, if in aught it has weakened in us that latent hope so peculiar to man,—"that all men are mortal but himself." Nor were our ruminations confined alone to walled sepulchres; no, one lonely grave on the solitary moor or mountain's brow, of some victim of the bloody Claverhouse, has often awakened within us much more deep and saddening sorrow, than the hundreds that lay recorded at rest in the walled sanctuary. — But our thoughts have wandered away far from the Protestant burying-ground, and the funeral of our unfortunate friend. As they "smoothed down his lonely pillow," we stepped aside to glance for a moment at the graves that lay around. In sorrow we observed that death even here had already gathered to itself a portion of our countrymen of all ages and conditions; and, melancholy to remark, the young far

outnumbered those of riper years. We paused in sadness at heart o'er the grave of him of whom it may be truly said:—

"He was one who in youth, on the stormy seas
Was a far and a fearless ranger;
Who borne on the billow, and blown by the breeze,
Had deemed lightly of death and of danger"

Alas! poor DRUMMOND!—thy naval career was as short as it was brilliant: and thy calm demeanour in thy last painful moments, as noble as thy fall was generally lamented. Many mourned thy untimely fate.

We cannot leave the Protestant burying-ground without observing that as yet no stone or slab points out the premature grave of Drummond. We know it was once in contemplation to raise some small memento o'er his grave; and we now only wonder that it has not been done. Nothing gorgeous is wanted,—a mere memorial to record his early fall. Surely a sum more than adequate might be raised in a day among his friends. The remains of the gallant Brandzen will not be suffered thus to rest obscurely; and why should those of Drummond, "his equal in arms," and who fell fighting in the same cause?

In the event of a subscription, it would afford us a solemn gratification to subscribe our mite.

PERAMBULATOR.

THEATRE.

The performances of Monsieur and Madame Rhigas were repeated on Tuesday evening, to a crowded house: most of the boxes were occupied by ladies.

The accouchement of the Señora Ricciolini prevents the representation of several Operas, among them that of "La Vestale."

The heat lately has been rather oppressive: the Thermometer 87 to 90 in the shade. On Sunday evening last, soon after dark, a sudden change took place,—dark clouds gathered, the wind shifted to the southward bringing oceans of dust, disturbed the numerous bathers in the river, and instantly cleared the Alameda, allowing them scarcely time to escape the storm. On Monday the Thermometer was at 74; on Thursday, at 81. The late calm moon-light nights have attracted numerous visitors to the Beach promenade. Many seated themselves upon the spars and masts that lay about our City's Dock Yard, which, in direct contrast to the naval workshops of other nations, is always open to the inspection of the multitude; and instead of the noise of "busy hammers closing rivets up," might be seen lovely females, clad in "virgin white, and heavenly blue,"

"Gazing at the moon,—the inconstant moon,"

Forgetting, for the moment, the cares of this teasing world, and exclaiming,—(that is, should their dispositions be very romantic)—"hours thus passed, are superior to a whole century of common place existence."

See Supplement to this Number

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublons, 66 to 66½ dollars each.
Spanish Dollars, 285 to 290 per cent. premium.
Plata macaquina, 275 to 280 per cent.
Gold in bars, 22 to 22½ reals per quintal.
Silver do. 20 to 21 reals per dinere.
Exchange on England, 12d. a 12½d. per dollar.
Do. United States, 400 per cent.
Do. Rio Janeiro, 180 to 185 per cent.
Do. Monte Video, 230 to 235 per cent.

SUPPLEMENT TO
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No. 83.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1828.

[Vol. 2.]

To the Editor of The British Packet.

SIR,

THOUGH I think there are very few things which can be more repugnant to our feelings, than to obtrude our private affairs on public notice; yet we are continually exposed to be made involuntary parties to cases which demand an appeal to the community: for where we conceive ourselves to suffer, not from our own misconduct, but from the oppression or violence of others, and make use of our natural right to complain, to accuse, and to seek redress; we are called on in justice to ourselves, and it is due to our friends, and indeed to the public, to make good, by facts, the general accusations and complaints we thus bring forward.

Under the feeling of having been deeply injured, I have accused Mr Joshua Waddington, of Valparaiso, of most unworthy conduct; and I cannot but entertain a hope that the plain statement I am about to submit will justify what I have said, and lead every candid mind to coincide with my view of the case as between Mr. W. and myself.

Messrs. Sewell & Patrickson of Chile, having purchased bills on London to the amount of \$13,000, drawn by Messrs. Cochran & Robertson of Lima, with whom I neither am now, nor ever have been connected in partnership, the drafts were returned under protest for non acceptance and non-payment; and Messrs. Sewell & Co. in consequence refused, about a year ago, to pay to my house in Chile, also totally unconnected with Messrs. Cochran & Robertson, the sum of \$17,000, owing by them (S. & Co.) for a *bona fide* purchase of goods. Without any intimation being previously given to my partner, Mr. Young, they surreptitiously obtained an embargo of the money, in their own hands; and under this disadvantage Mr. Young commenced law proceedings against them. Some time after I passed through Chile myself, and Messrs. Sewell & Co., or rather Mr. Waddington the real party as it will appear in the case, finding the hopeless course the affair was taking in the courts, and deterred by my threats to make public the outrageous injustice of the proceedings, they were induced to come forward and give up the money, on condition of my agreeing to retain any funds belonging to Cochran & Robertson which might afterwards come into my hands: and the matter thus settled, I proceeded on my voyage to Lima.

In the meantime, Messrs. Cochran & Robertson had found

themselves under the necessity of suspending their payments, and of applying, through a legal channel, for time to make good their engagements. Accordingly, two years, under a commission, were granted by their creditors; and the majority having acquiesced, all, including Sewell & Co., were legally bound by the act; and in fact *all* have since received under it, a dividend from Messrs. Cochran & Robertson's estate.

The document which I had given Messrs. Sewell & Co. having been transmitted to this quarter, an attempt was made to recover of my house here, on the plea of my holding funds belonging, jointly or severally, to the partners of Cochran & Robertson: but the *acta de esperas*, or deed of suspension, which was of a previous date to my obligation, rendered the latter null and void, and no legal proceedings of any kind were instituted.

I may here remark, that Sewell & Co. (or Mr. Waddington) alone, out of a large body of creditors, have thought proper to attempt to involve me in the misfortunes of a house with which I have never been connected in any kind of partnership. Not even a single verbal explanation has been required of me by any one creditor of Messrs. Cochran & Robertson, with the sole exception of the parties whose case we are now considering.

When the period arrived for my leaving Lima with my family on my return home, a vessel was furnished me on charter by Messrs. Cochran & Robertson, with the concurrence of their commissioners; and after loading at Concepcion, I touched at Valparaiso, previously to proceeding round the Cape. Here I remained *eleven days* without any explanation being sought, or claims instituted by Sewell & Co., and my surprise may be imagined, therefore, when at the very moment my wife with her child (labouring under a dangerous illness,) and myself, were about to proceed to the beach to embark, an embargo of my person was intimated to me. I found that Sewell & Co. ostensibly, but Mr. Joshua Waddington in reality, being the true owner of the bill of Messrs. Cochran & Robertson, by right of purchase, had chosen this mode and time of renewing his attempts to involve me in the affairs of the Lima house, and to force me to the payment of its debts. Mr. Waddington had found no difficulty in obtaining an order to prevent my leaving Valparaiso, from the Judge of Commerce there, a petty merchant of the place, at once dependent upon Mr. W. and engaged in mercantile

D. C. R. m

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speculations with Mr. Patrickson* ; and he (Mr. Waddington,) acted avowedly on the belief that, under circumstances so pressing and afflicting to the father of a family in his domestic relations, I would give in to any terms, and readily make any sacrifice to discharge whatever demand was set up, rather than abandon my domestic duties.

And in truth, if it be considered that the only alternative which Mr. Waddington's mercantile calculations left me, was either to expose my wife alone and unprotected, with a young and sick child, to undertake a voyage round Cape Horn, while I remained indefinitely detained in a strange country ; or to pay at once his demand, however unjust I might consider it ; we can easily conceive that the anticipations of such a man must have been, that I would prefer to take the latter course.

But Mr. Waddington was mistaken. My mind revolted at the idea of tamely acquiescing in so unmanly and so truly unjust a proceeding ; and had my means exceeded a hundred times those of this rich merchant of Valparaiso, I never could have consented to purchase my release by compounding with every right principle and proper feeling.

I applied to the Judge, and urged the illegality of Mr. Waddington's proceedings : I pressed for a decision ; it was promised from hour to hour, and delayed from day to day : and when apparently it could be no longer withheld, Mr. Waddington appealed from his own Judge, before a single sentence or opinion had been pronounced on the case ! Though I was at first surprised at this procedure as indicating a distrust of the Judge, I was put right by the latter informing me that the only effect of the appeal would be to send the cause to Santiago, to detain it there, and then to send it back to him for his judgement. In this way the Judge gave me clearly to understand that I had no chance of any immediate release.

I knew it too well. Mr. Waddington had been applied to in every way,—every reasonable and honorable proposal that could be devised had been made to him ; and all in vain. He stood fixed on the ground that he had me in his power : and when it was urged that in Buenos Ayres, where I was domiciled, and where my interests lay, he ought to prosecute any claim he thought he might have against me, he plainly stated—"that I might, without inconvenience, resist his claims in Buenos Ayres ; but that I might not so easily stand the brunt of a lengthened litigation in Chile."

From a Judge whose whole proceedings shewed too clearly that a regard for his own interests exclusively swayed his judicial as well as his mercantile transactions, and from an opponent who stood not on the justice of the case at all, but on the advantage of his relative position, and on his power to involve me in domestic affliction if I offered to resist his unjust claims,—I had nothing but chicanery and injustice to look for. After five days therefore, spent in anxiety and suspense, I ordered the vessel to sail with my wife and child, (under what distress of mind on the part of the former I leave any person of common feeling to imagine,) and on the strong and decided advice of three respected friends, I myself set off for Buenos Ayres by land, notwithstanding the embargo

* The Judge on one occasion told me that Mr. Waddington was a Gentleman whom neither he, nor any one else in Valparaiso, dared to offend by taking peremptory, however lawful steps with him. I had been called on most peremptorily myself, but I unfortunately overlooked Mr. W's money influence, when I presumed to require like measures with

intimated, with a passport from the Governor, obtained previously to the institution of Waddington's most illegal proceedings.

As violence and injustice often call in calumny to their aid, I doubt not rumours of an injurious nature to me will be attempted to be spread by Mr. Waddington, in consequence of my having suddenly and unexpectedly broken up his deep laid plans ; and I have taken the liberty of meeting whatever he can say with this plain statement of the substantial facts of the case. I am afraid that, even without going into many particulars not inessential towards shewing all the injustice of Mr. Waddington's claim, and all the cold blooded turpitude of his moral conduct, I have trespassed too far on the patience of the public. In conclusion, I hope that the notoriety of the principal facts to all those acquainted with my circumstances and commercial relations, place me beyond the necessity of offering in support of them, any thing further than is contained in this abstract of the case.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM PARISH ROBERTSON.

Buenos Ayres, 22d January, 1838.

Along with this letter, I beg you will have the goodness to publish the annexed correspondence which I have held on the subject of it with Mr. Patrickson of Chile, and Mr. Britain here. That of the latter Gentleman I publish against his wish ; but I confidently appeal to the tenour of my letters to him, to show that it is due to myself to proceed as I do, and that I commit no breach of confidence by so doing. I cannot conceive on what ground Mr. Britain can pretend to look on my communication to him as altogether private : and still less can I conceive the grounds on which he wishes me to withhold an opinion which he has so formally and in writing communicated to me,—an opinion which, on my arrival here, in presence of a third party I exacted of him as personally implicated ; and which he knew it would have been useless and childish to exact as a *private* opinion, in a matter which he was distinctly aware was about to be made *public*.

[Copy of a Letter from Mr. Robertson to Mr. Patrickson.]

Valparaiso, 16th December, 1827.

SIR,

"At the very moment I was about to embark with my family, on my return to my home, I was stopped at your instance, and I am now detained here.

"Though I have never owed you, directly or indirectly, the smallest sum of money, this is the third time you have endeavoured to force me to the payment of a debt with which I have no connexion : and it is the third time that you have outraged my feelings by adopting the strongest, yet worst-founded legal proceedings,—in two instances without even an attempt at previous explanation. Your unceasing efforts to implicate me in the misfortunes of my friends Cochran & Robertson, have already been twice defeated : and I doubt not your present will have the same success as your former attempts.

"You are the *only* creditor of Cochran & Robertson,—out of a numerous body you are the *only* solitary one who has endeavoured to repair an anticipated loss, at the expence of setting up and maintaining claims, which you cannot but know are totally unfounded.

"That you have set justice at defiance, in seeking and obtaining an embargo of my person here, I hope I shall soon be able to

prove: and how far you have consulted a gentleman-like feeling in the mode of executing that embargo,—done as it was at the very moment my family was about to embark, and leaving your intentions unintimated during eleven days that I had been here, ready and willing to answer any application you might have made to me,—how far, I say, you have consulted a decent and proper feeling in doing this, I leave to yourself and Mr. Waddington, who acts on his and your behalf, to determine.

“I understand that two parties are engaged in this transaction, though your name only appears. Mr. Waddington carries on the proceedings in your name, and you shift the onus to Mr. Waddington; whence I infer that neither he nor you like the undivided odium of your joint proceedings.

“After the way in which Mr. Waddington and yourself have acted, I can entertain little hope that either of you will feel very keenly my giving publicity to the course you have pursued from the commencement of this business: yet publicity I shall certainly give it, and I trust I shall be able to shew the whole transaction as it really is; and my friends will then be able to see how far I can myself be considered to blame for the singular sort of persecution in which I suffer.

“As I intend to apply to the British Consul-General here for protection and assistance, I think it right and fair to apprize you that I shall exhibit to him a copy of this letter, and found my application on the facts contained or stated in it.

“I am, Sir,

“Your most obedient servant,

(Signed,)

“WILLIAM PARISH ROBERTSON.”

[Copy of Mr. Patrickson's reply to Mr. Robertson.]

“Santiago, 20th December, 1827

“William Parish Robertson, Esq., Valparaiso.

“DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter, and, however severe its language, I have no right to complain, writing it, as you have done, under feelings of resentment to the supposed author of your distress. Believe me that I feel most poignantly the odious situation in which I am placed, obliged by circumstances to outrage those feelings of respect which I feel for the friend of my late father.

“Do credit me, on my word of honor, that I am not the person who persecutes you, but at the same time am placed in a situation the most delicate and responsible. The Bills in question were drawn to my order. I sold them to Mr. Waddington, at his risk. This however required, of course, my endorsement. The Bills are returned, and I am consequently obliged to sign or personate his endeavours at recovery. Such was the case before, and such is it now. On the evening of my departure from this *only*, did Mr. W. bring the paper for me to sign, and which has originated your detention. This was, upon my word, the first intimation I had of his intention to molest you. I mentioned it to Young, as he will tell you.

“I reiterate that I would not, in my own case, have taken these violent steps, which (so little inquiry have I made into the affair,) I know not if they are right or wrong. I am loth to forfeit your friendship, and that of Young; and I trust in God you will believe that my object in this deprecation is to preserve your good opinion, and not to shift the onus upon another.

“I feel happy that you consult Mr. Nugent, to whom I shall make the same explanation which I now do to you. I trust that I possess his good opinion at present, and am convinced I can

prove to him that in this unpleasant affair, I have done nothing to forfeit it.

“If Mr. Waddington acts imprudently or unjustly, he will be the sufferer, not I. Mr. Young assured me, when I lamented the probability of your being detained, (on Saturday,) that it could be only momentary, and that you could clear up the business in half an hour.

“I must conclude with begging you to believe that my feelings of respect and friendship are sincere towards you; that I am placed in a situation I deplore, and would give the world to extricate myself from; but which, if Mr. Waddington insists upon my still personating his claim, I know not how to avoid.

“I write him to this effect by this same post.

“Believe me, Dear Sir,

“Your truly obedient servant,

(Signed,)

“THOMAS PATRICKSON.”

[Copy of a Letter from Mr. Robertson to Mr. Brittain.]

“Buenos Ayres, 14th February, 1828.

“James Brittain, Esq.,

“DEAR SIR,—In the expectation of letters from Chile, I have delayed from day to day handing you the statement of my case with Mr. Waddington, as I verbally promised to do.

“You will now find it inclosed, as well as copies of letters which passed between Mr. Patrickson and myself, and extract of private communications I have had from Mr. Young.

“These form my case, and I feel it to be due both to you and to myself, to request you to state whether you can sanction and approve of Mr. Waddington's proceedings or not. I feel assured in my own mind that you never would have acted yourself as he has done, and I shall be very glad to know that, though your partner, Mr. W., is solely and individually responsible for the manner in which he has acted towards me.

“I am, with truth, Dear Sir,

“Your most obedient faithful servant,

“WILLIAM PARISH ROBERTSON.”

“You can see the originals of the letters I have copied and quoted for you whenever you choose.”

[Copy of a Letter from Mr. Brittain to Mr. Robertson.]

“Buenos Ayres, 16th February, 1828.

“W. P. Robertson, Esq.

“DEAR SIR,—In reply to your note of 14th instant, (received this morning,) I request you to consider Mr. Waddington's proceedings against you in Chile, as a personal affair betwixt himself and you.

“My recommendation from first to last, was to join the rest of the creditors at Lima: he has, I presume, his own reasons for proceeding otherwise, and in this affair I have no control over his conduct; but supposing your statement to be correct, I cannot refrain from expressing my surprise at the severity of his measures, for which I am unable to account, as his communications to me on the subject have been very limited.

“On reading in your Statement,—‘The document which I had given Messrs. Sewell & Co. having been transmitted to this quarter; an attempt was made to recover of my house here,’ &c., I applied to Mr. Beyerback to know if this was true, as I understood that the proceedings here were conducted solely against your brother: and so it appears they were, and what you call

'an attempt to recover of your house here,' (which partial readers may be inclined to construe into the most rigorous law proceedings,) was a verbal communication betwixt Mr. Beyerbach and Mr. Hoker, in which the assurance of the latter that your house held no property of Cochran & Robertson's was taken as satisfactory. though he some time afterwards gave a letter to the same effect for form's sake. If the rest of your statement be of a similar description, it wants not the advantage of glowing colours.

"I remain, Dear Sir,

"Your very obedient servant,

(Signed,)

"JAMES BRITTAIN."

[Copy of a Letter from Mr. Robertson to Mr. Brittain, in answer to the above.]

"Buenos Ayres, 16th February, 1828.

"James Brittain, Esq.

"DEAR SIR, — I am sorry to observe from your note of to-day's date, that you consider my having stated that 'an attempt was made in this quarter to recover of my house' for Messrs. Sewell & Co., as not warranted by the fact, and as giving a glowing colouring to my Statement of Mr. Waddington's proceedings.

"That an attempt was made, however, your own note distinctly proves, for you admit that my representative was called on to give a letter stating formally that no property of Cochran & Robertson was held by me; and I have said in my Statement that an attempt was made, 'on the plea of my holding funds belonging jointly or severally to the partners of Cochran & Robertson.'

"But that partial readers may not misconstrue the nature of the attempt, instead of saying—'set aside all proceedings upon it' (the document,) I shall substitute—'no legal proceedings of any kind were instituted.'

"With this alteration I beg to assure you that my Statement, instead of having 'the advantage of glowing colours,' will go forth a plain unvarnished tale."

"Believe me to be, Dear Sir,

"Your faithful servant,

(Signed,)

"WILLIAM PARISH ROBERTSON."

[Copy of a Letter from Mr. Robertson to Mr. Brittain.]

"Buenos Ayres, 22d February, 1828.

"DEAR SIR,

"As you are aware that my object in handing you my Statement in regard to Mr. Waddington's proceedings, was not of a private nature, I presume I have your permission to make public what you have written me.

"But on this point I wish to be quite clear, and I therefore beg to know whether I may communicate your note to the public as it now stands, or whether you desire me to give your opinion in any other form.

"I am, Dear Sir,

"Your very obedient servant,

"WM. P. ROBERTSON."

"James Brittain, Esq."

[Copy of Mr. Brittain's reply in answer to the above]

"Buenos Ayres, 23d February, 1828.

"DEAR SIR,

"The contents of your note of the 22d instant surprise me. I fully understood that your object in handing me your note of the 14th instant, and its inclosures, was of a private nature; and my reply thereto was accordingly private.

"I had not the least suspicion of an intention on your part to give my opinion to the public, in any shape. I object to such a proceeding, and therefore decline giving you any opinion for the purpose of being made public.

"I am, Dear Sir,

"Your very obedient servant,

"JAMES BRITTAIN."

"To W. P. Robertson, Esq."

[Copy of a Letter from Mr. Robertson to Mr. Brittain.]

"Buenos Ayres, 23d Febrero, 1828.

"DEAR SIR,

"Your note of to-day surprises me no less than mine appears to have done you, and I cannot at all admit your right to prevent my making public your opinion in regard to Mr. Waddington's proceedings against me.

"When I arrived here I waited on you, and stated distinctly the object I had in view in requiring your opinion in writing. That object was to show publicly either that you identified yourself with your partner, Mr. Waddington, in this case; or that you threw the onus of it entirely on him. In this feeling, I transmitted the papers to you for your information; and in the same spirit, as I conceived, you wrote me saying that I was to consider the business as with Mr. Waddington alone: that you had recommended from first to last that he should proceed like the rest of Messrs. Cochran & Robertson's creditors,—that is, not to molest me at all; and that, supposing my statement to be correct, you were surprised at the severity of the measures pursued against me, and unable to account for them. I could not doubt, from our long acquaintance, and from your general character, that you neither would have acted yourself, nor approved of a partner of yours acting towards me, as Mr. Waddington has done: and I think I proceeded in a spirit of candour and friendship, in giving you an opportunity of publicly separating your name from so ungracious a business.

"As it is, I can only say that I consider myself as fully and unequivocally entitled either to give your letter, or the substance of your letter, with my statement; though if, as your note of to-day indicates, you choose to retract the opinion you have already given, and, on better consideration, to identify yourself with Mr. Waddington, I have no objection to state that: so.

"I am sorry we have disagreed on this matter, since my object from the first was to do justice to the respectability of your character; but sorry as I may be to differ from you, I can on no account waive my right to ascertain by whom I am injured, and to name publicly the parties. Mr. Waddington says they are in this case, you and himself: I do not believe him; and it is for you to decide which of us is right.

"I have the honor to be,

"Dear Sir,

"Your very humble servant,

(Signed,)

"WM. PARISH ROBERTSON."

[Copy of Mr. Brittain's reply in answer to the above.]

"Saturday evening, 23d February, 1828.

"DEAR SIR,

"I have just now received your letter of to-day, in reply to which I beg to repeat the contents of my note of this morning: and I remain,

"Dear Sir,

"Your very obedient servant,

(Signed,)

"JAMES BRITTAIN."