

THE

# British Packet,

AND

## ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 86.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1828.

[Vol. 2.]

### BUENOS AYRES.

THE arrival of the *Emulous* packet has not (neither was it expected she would,) thrown any new light upon the question of Peace. We must patiently wait the return of the sloop of war *Heron*, which we trust will prove a *bird* more auspicious than she was last year. The state of the markets, and public opinion, decidedly express that Peace is not very distant; although there are reports of a nature directly the reverse. A reaction now in the mercantile world, would be dreadful.

It is positively stated, that neither of the belligerents can well retract, even if they wished to do so. — That having accepted the mediation of a neutral nation, and agreed upon the basis of a Treaty, they have compromised themselves: and that a Peace, honorable to both parties, will ensue. This idea receives confirmation from a letter received by the Chairman of the Liverpool, Portugal, and Brazil Association, to a memorial forwarded to the British Ministry, of which the following is a copy: —

“Foreign Office, Nov. 22, 1827.

“SIR, — I have the honour to acknowledge, by Lord Dudley's directions, the receipt through Mr. Huskisson, of the memorial signed by you on behalf of the merchants composing the Liverpool, Portugal and Brazil Association, praying that his Majesty's Government will adopt measures for relieving British trade from the inconveniencies to which it is exposed by the protracted blockade of the River Plate; and that his Majesty's mediation between the Governments of Brazil and Buenos Ayres may be continued, in the hope of promoting peace between those countries.

“Lord Dudley directs me to acquaint you, for the information of the parties interested, that his Majesty's Government have long been deeply sensible of the evils resulting to British commerce from the measures of the hostile parties in the River Plate. They have for a long time past exerted every effort of friendly counsel and mediation, to put an end to that calamitous warfare. And although their endeavours have hitherto unhappily been without avail, his Majesty's Government do not despair that the renewed efforts which they are now making, under more propitious circumstances, to effect an accommodation between the contending parties, will at length lead to a result not less desirable to the belligerents themselves, than to the interests of his Majesty's subjects trading to the River Plate.

“With respect to the specific measures suggested in the memorial for the partial relief of the British trade with Buenos Ayres, even pending the hostilities in the River Plate, I am instructed by Lord Dudley to assure you, that involving, as they do, questions of considerable delicacy and difficulty, they will be taken into the

serious consideration of his Majesty's Government, with the view of effecting every practicable relief in the event of a further protraction of the war.

“I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

“J. BACKHOUSE.”

“To — Dyson, Esq.”

We have seen letters from Rio Janeiro, which mention that the Emperor seems completely tired of the war; that preparations to continue it are going on, but in a manner so tardy and lukewarm, as to alarm the soothsayers who have so long predicted the ruin of Buenos Ayres by the continuation of blockade; that the Emperor begins to discover that they are “false prophets;” that the war is injurious only to neutrals, and not to the people whom he has made such sacrifices to crush. Some hopes were entertained that the army under Lecor would be successful: and it would be difficult to convince the Emperor's admirers in Rio Janeiro, that the Imperial army is skulking and running away from the Republican army, or *rabble*, as they have been denominated. It is right to observe, that at Rio Janeiro peace was not thought to be near, except among a few.

The newspapers received by the *Emulous* contain very little of importance. Those from London are chiefly occupied in law proceedings, cross-examinations, actions for “breach of promise of marriage,” and other actions to prove that “Man, false man is ever changing.” Besides which, there are the *bon mots* produced at the Police Offices from magistrates, watchmen, &c., when catechizing some unfortunate nightly disturber; — numerous anecdotes of the battle of Navarino; and likewise a melancholy train of robberies, suicides, and, we regret to add, of murders.

Of political news, — Peace between Turkey and her Christian opponents is likely to take place. A Treaty has been concluded between Russia and Persia, much to the advantage of the former, the campaigns of the latter having been unsuccessful. The Infante Don Miguel has arrived in London, from Germany, and after a few weeks stay in that capital, was to proceed to Portugal, quite “an altered man,” — so report says; time will prove. It was said that the British army was to evacuate Portugal, and the French army to leave Spain. The elections in France have gone against the Ministry: some riots took place in Paris, in which the *gendarmes* charged and fired upon the people, killing and wounding numerous persons. The resignation of Villele, the Minister, is expected: in the midst of his unpopularity, praise is given to him as being an able finance minister, and that, by his exertions, the French army and navy have been greatly improved. The Queen of Saxony is dead. Lord Golerich has resigned his situation as Prime Minister of England: various causes are assigned amongst

them, the illness of his wife. The Marquis Wellesley, and others, have been mentioned as his successor.

The affairs of this Republic and Brazil fill but a small space in the London papers: we are too far off to be of great consequence. Now and then some extracts of letters appear; their style gloomy, of course.

Some diplomatic announcements have taken place. Sir Wm. A'Court, Bart., late Ambassador in Portugal, has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary to Russia; the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Lamb leaves the Court of Madrid, and goes Ambassador to Portugal; and Philip York Gore Esq. (some time attached to His Majesty's Embassy at Lisbon,) to be Secretary to His Majesty's Legation to the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata.

A Paris Journal states that the Greek fleet at Scio has been destroyed by the French squadron; the Greek commandant having been first notified to suspend hostilities. The piracies committed under the Greek flag is carried on to a great extent. The British Government have issued a proclamation on the subject.

Rio Janeiro.—Extract from the 'Aurora Fluminense,' No. 21, February 29, 1828.

"Scarcely a week passes but accounts are received of vessels captured by privateers. A few days since we lost four or five Rio Grande vessels, and one engaged in the slave trade. Our port is continually visited by these Ocean thieves; whilst on shore the scarcity of money, (or rather the discredit of our notes,) and the high price of every article of life, adds to our necessities. It is true we have numerous men of-war cruising, but with such bad luck that the enemy, as if by enchantment, always escapes: except that Señor Mayo, captain of the corvette Maria Isabel, has performed the grand exploit of escaping gloriously from the privateer brig Niger, and this great action has met with the approbation of the Government. It is true that public indignation, and the opinion of his companions in arms, designate him as a coward, and highly praise the letter written by Señor Penalta, as being entirely truth; but the Minister of Marine thinks differently, and that is enough. . . . O shame! . . . If instead of publishing extracts from the *Semanario Mercantil* of Monte Video, they would give us true accounts of the state of Rio Grande, we could then appreciate the Proclamation addressed by Lavalleja to the inhabitants of that province, which production we have heard loudly praised."

The *Diario Fluminense*, No. 51, March 1, 1828, has a copy of Instructions given to the Captain of the Brazilian line of battle ship Pedro I., and contains a curious clause, urging the Brazilian officers to terrify all the English sailors they may meet with, by informing them that if they are taken prisoners on board privateers they will be placed in irons during the war; and this threat, it is hoped, will prevent them entering the service. Brazilian vessels are likewise desired not to come into port for trilling damages, &c.

The Brazilian vessels of war at Rio Janeiro on the 9th of March were,—Pedro I., 74 guns; Piranga frigate, repairing; Rio St Francisco, 28 guns, arrived from Mosambique; a corvette fitting out, formerly Portuguese ship Condessa de Souza; and the Beau Pere, 16 gun brig. The corvette Irojuba had sailed for Mosambique, to protect the slave trade. A ship called the Defensore de Brazil, and to mount 36 guns, has been launched at Bahia, to be commanded by Leal, who captured the schooner-brig Patagonia: the latter is nearly ready for sea. It was reported that a

ship under the Buenos Ayrean flag (supposed the *Gaviota*) and a schooner-brig, were cruising off Pernambuco; and likewise an 18 gun brig called the Pechincha, commanded by Almeida's first-lieutenant. The national brig Rio de la Plata, Harman, which sailed from the Salado for London, was taken in lat. 26, S. long. 29, nearly 1000 miles from land, by the Isabel frigate, and arrived at Bahia. The frigate had been ordered to convoy some vessels bound to Mosambique to a certain latitude; in returning she fell in with the Rio de la Plata. The *zumaca* San José, Hall, which sailed from this port for the Havana, was taken off the coast of Brazil, and sent to Bahia. It was confidently reported at Rio, that the Brazilian brig of war Pampero had been captured by the brig Cacique.

Fourteen hundred Irish troops were in garrison at Rio Janeiro, and of the 3000 emigrants originally landed, a number have died, and many are now in the hospital. It is said that the British Government intend to enquire relative to the transformation of these emigrants into Brazilian soldiers: a London newspaper has made some pointed observations upon the subject, and asks if the King of Great Britain is at war with the Argentine Republic.

In No. 43 of the *Diario Fluminense*, is a Decree from the Emperor dated 20th February, allowing parole to all the prisoners of war (officers), under respectable guarantees. They are to present themselves at the arsenal on the first Sunday of the month. The other prisoners of war are to be removed from the hulks, and placed in the Fort of Santa Cruz.

We sincerely rejoice that the Brazilian Government have at last relaxed in the hard treatment to which prisoners of war have hitherto been subjected.

The following has been posted in the British Commercial Rooms:—

"British Consulate, Buenos Ayres, March 23, 1828.

"Sir,

"With reference to the Memorial which Lord Ponsonby lately forwarded to His Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, on the part of sundry British merchants residing in this city, requesting permission to export their property notwithstanding the existing blockade, I am directed by his Lordship to acquaint you, for the information of the parties interested, that his Imperial Majesty's Government have declined to grant that permission.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your very obedient humble servant,

"WOODBINE PARISH."

"To Thomas Duguid, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of British Merchants"

Colonel Don Manuel Oribe has issued two proclamations dated Durazno, March 7th and 11th, 1828, denouncing Fructuoso Rivera, and ordering his followers to return to their homes in eight days from the 7th inst. and that those found in arms subsequent to that period will be shot 15 minutes after their capture.

Two persons have arrived in town from Fructuoso Rivera, with communications from him, expressing his readiness to place himself and force at the disposition of the Government. We understand the same individuals have been sent back to General Rivera, with an answer from the Government, insisting upon his obedience to the orders of the Commander in Chief of the Army, or his immediate return to this capital; under the assurance of being treated in a manner corresponding to the service he will render the cause of the Nation by such a step.

## THE BRITISH PACKET, AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

The Bank have given notice that subscriptions are open for a loan of two millions of dollars, to be repaid in six months; interest at  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per month. No person can subscribe for a less sum than 500 dollars.

The failures and distresses in the commercial world still continue, and to a degree that it would be difficult essentially to relieve. The attorneys in Buenos Ayres like their brethren in other parts of the world under similar public misfortune, are reaping a great harvest.

On 29th December last, Buenos Ayrean bonds were at 50 in London. Three per cent. consols at 83 3/4 without the January dividend.

**March 22.—Wind S. E. Arrived, an American schooner, from Rio Janeiro 9th instant, to Mr. G. Frank.** Passed the blockading squadron without impediment. Cargo, 620 bags of sugar, 400 bundles candlewick, 33 cases and 34 bales dry goods, 20 quintals iron, 12 pine planks, 25 cases tea.

Sailed, a Gun Boat for the Parana. — During the night it rained, with thunder and lightning.

**23.—Wind W. and hazy. Blockading squadron not in sight.** Arrived 4 balandras and a zumaca, from the Parana.

Sailed, at 9 o'clock A. M., the privateer brig Niger, Coe, on a cruise. She has the same armament as during her last cruise, with the addition of a long 18 pounder. Officers and crew 120 persons, nearly all English and Americans.

At night, several of the Niger's crew arrived in town, and reported that she had been intercepted near Ensenada by 11 Brazilian vessels; had fought for three hours, until having a great portion of her officers and men killed and wounded, she had run aground; and that 17 of the crew only had escaped.

**24.—Wind W. Arrived, four balandras from the northward.**

**25.—Wind W. Arrived, two Gun Boats and two zumacas, from the Parana**

**26.—Wind N. N. W. Arrived, schooners of war Uruguay, Eighteenth January, and Gun Boat No. 1, from Las Vacas, bringing back part of the troops "Defensores."**

**27.—Wind S. Sailed, Gun Boats Nos. 1 and 9, for Martin Garcia, with military officers and troops.** A report is current that an expedition, under Jacinto Pereyra, is fitting out at Monte Video, to attack the above island.

**28.—Wind S. S. E. The blockading squadron in sight (11 sail, including two corvettes.)** They anchored to the East, distant about 13 miles. The brig Niger appeared to be among them.

Arrived at the Salado 23d inst. British brig Anne, Bone, from Rio Janeiro, 9th March, cargo 1500 barrels flour, 50 tons coals, 3 bales of goods, 2 do. of various articles, to Messrs. Thwaites.

Sailed from the above port March 15th, Sardinian schooner Aristides, for Genoa; 17th, National schooner San José, for the island of St. Bartholomew; American brig Ann, Talbot, for Havana; do. do. Frederick, Lane, for do.

**The French 60 gun ship—Surveillante and a brig of war have arrived off Monte Video.**

An order has been received at Monte Video permitting communication with the country except for contrabands of war; that produce may be brought in and goods taken out.

The American brig Latona from Rio Janeiro arrived at Monte Video 8th inst. cargo, flour, which sold at 16 dollars per barrel. The detained American brig Sarah, has also arrived. The frigate Nichteroy, Norton, is supposed to be cruising near the Salado.

Don Nicholas Herrera arrived at Monte Video from Rio Janeiro in the packet Emulous.

We hear that the prisoners of war who lately broke their parole at Chacomus, have arrived at Monte Video.

The British brig of war Cadmus arrived at Rio Janeiro 8th March from Monte Video.

The Brazilian zumaca Defensora from Bahia for Rio Janeiro was boarded on 21st February by schooner privateer President, Prouting, who took away all the valuable goods, and put on board the captain and crew of the brig Jesus Triunfo, captured by her 36 leagues E. of Cape Frio.

### *Capture of the privateer Niger by the Brazilian Squadron.*

The above vessel sailed from the Outer Roads about 9 o'clock on the morning of 23d inst. weather hazy, and was soon out of sight of the town. Passed 1 corvette, 1 brig and 3 schooners at anchor, and when the privateer was to leeward they got under weigh, bore down and opened fire. The wind was light, and the Niger from being out of trim or other causes, did not sail so well as heretofore. The brig Caboclo was a head, her main top sail aback and other vessels at a distance. The Niger engaged the brig for more than two hours with great guns and small arms, and endeavoured to run along side and board but the privateer did not answer her helm and was placed between her opponent and the land. The rest of the Brazilian squadron did not make any effort to close, but all of them except the corvette (eleven vessels) continued firing within gun-shot; but for this circumstance the Caboclo, it is said, would certainly have been carried. Some of the Niger's guns had broken down—the breechings of others gave way—masts, spars, rigging, &c. greatly injured, and a considerable portion of her crew killed and wounded including some officers. She then ran aground and shortly afterwards surrendered. She had two ensigns shot away. Seventeen of the crew escaped, viz: fourteen in a boat, and three swam to shore. The Caboclo grounded, but both brigs floated again.

We give the above account without vouching for its entire correctness—indeed it would be difficult at present to obtain a true statement; therefore we forbear to give the names of the officers said to be killed and wounded. The men which have escaped report that Capt. Coe received a slight wound in the breast, supposed from a musket ball.

The affair has produced considerable gloom in this city, and great sympathy for the gallant Coe and his companions. To pass the blockading squadron in open day was a bold attempt and would have succeeded but from unexpected obstacles. We had hopes that the Niger was destined to inflict more distress upon Brazilian commerce. We are not particular advocates for the privateer system, yet from a conviction that it is the most efficient weapon which this country can put forth, taking into account her limited resources and the powerful enemy she has to contend with, we have ceased to be very squeamish upon the subject. In fact it is chiefly by privateers that Brazil has suffered, and abuse from her is natural enough. "We are naval officers and not pirates," exclaimed some of the foreign gentlemen in a Brazilian man of war the other day to a neutral vessel that endeavoured to escape from them. "Prodigious!" as Dominic Sampson would say, and as the neutral captain, we are told, did say to himself, besides other expressions not very agreeable to these strangers, or highly in praise of the cause in which they are employed.

The packet Dove, from this 28th August, Monte Video 31st and Rio Janeiro September 28, arrived at Falmouth 28th November. The packet Lord Melville from this September 11th, Monte Video 16th and Rio Janeiro October 2, arrived at Falmouth 27th November. The packet Zephyr from this 16th October, Monte Video 23d and Rio Janeiro November 11th, arrived at Falmouth 26th December.

## THE BRITISH PACKET, AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

The brig Chichester is appointed the next packet for Buenos Ayres: she had not arrived at Rio Janeiro on 9th inst. The brigs Countess of Liverpool, Betsy, and Grecian, and the fast-sailing schooner Jane & Henry, sailed from Liverpool 29th December, for Monte Video.

Colonel Forbes landed from the packet on Saturday morning last, and was received at the Mole by numerous friends. His carriage was in waiting, which conveyed him almost immediately to his Quinta. We are happy to perceive that the health of the Colonel is much improved.

We have rarely observed the streets near the Plaza so crowded as on Saturday evening last. The *pavé* of the Calle de la Victoria (Bond Street,) was rendered almost impassable by groups of ladies, shopping; attracted, perhaps, by the great fall in domestic goods, as well as the fineness of the evening. The band of the Civicos halted at the corner of the street about 8 o'clock, and performed some 'arias' from the "Italiana" with great taste. At 10 o'clock the distant thunder and vivid lightning hurried the busy crowd to their homes,—shops were closed, and the streets soon deserted.

We have received a Letter from Monte Video signed "A Resident," from which, owing to its great length, we can only give extracts. They are as follow:—

"It unfortunately happens here, that if Englishmen desire to attend public worship, they must have recourse to Buenos Ayres; for as there is no English Press, so neither is there any English Church in Monte Video. Our indifference to these matters may confirm the Catholics in their belief that all foreigners, and especially the English, are '*una gente que no teme, ni á Dios, ni al Diablo.*'"

"The objections started are:—

- "1st. That the expense of a church establishment here would be too great.
- "2d. That the number of foreigners speaking English is very small.
- "3d. That the people of the country are not quite 'prepared for the thing.'

"Now, though it is true that 'Church Establishments' and 'expense,' generally speaking, are rather formidably connected, yet it by no means follows that they are *inevitably* so. I am told, for instance, that while in Buenos Ayres itself you have one church conducted at an expense of twelve hundred pounds per annum, you have another conducted for something less than two hundred; and that there is one at a small settlement near Buenos Ayres, called Monte Grande, managed for two hundred and fifty pounds. It is well known, that the Universities of Scotland, and of the United States, furnish yearly numbers of zealous young men, who for 200 pounds per annum, and the prospect of doing good in view, would willingly and faithfully discharge all the duties of a pastor."

The writer then gives the different items of expense that would attend such an establishment at Monte Video; the gross amount of which is estimated at 400 pounds per annum; and then proceeds:—

"By a late Act of Parliament, the British Government would pay the half. The whole expense, then of a 'Church Establishment,' (formidable as it may sound when associated with bishoprics and deaneries,) would be to the British residents of Monte Video, two hundred pounds a year."

The probable revenue is then given, which, at a moderate subscription for 100 seats, which the writer states and explains can be occupied, would yield per annum 232 pounds, collected from the parishioners; and if to this we add a similar sum to be subscribed by the English Government, there would arise a surplus of 64 pounds over the total church expenditure.

"As to the objection that the natives are not ready to receive such an establishment among them, I think we have only to look

to Buenos Ayres to be convinced that it has no real foundation. The same doubts were started there; but it has been succeeded by sentiments of respect for the English, whom the natives at length saw in the enjoyment of religious privileges, about which they had before conceived them to be wholly indifferent.

"If our worthy and respectable Consul, Mr. Hood, will interest himself in this matter of the church, as he has done, and is ever ready to do in other public matters, he shall have at any rate the feeble support and the willing subscription of

"A RESIDENT."

### THEATRE.

On 23d instant, for the benefit of Monsieur Rhigas, (at double prices,) the exhibition of feats of strength, activity, &c., and the performances of Madame upon the piano.

The Governor was in his box, attended by Lieutenant Colonel Castañon, Señor Perdriel, &c. General Alvear and his lady were likewise present; and in the boxes some very charming females. The house was exceedingly crowded; the stair-cases occupied by boys, who completely obstructed the passage; and, notwithstanding the prohibition, numerous cigar smokers were in the lobbies. Indeed the Theatre of Buenos Ayres is most fortunate, in being able to dispense with the attentions of the Police.

### BIRTH.

On the 18th instant, the Lady of Thomas Armstrong, Esq. of this City, of a Son.

### MARRIED.

On the 20th November last, at Montville House, Guernsey, by the Rev. Nicholas Walters, JOHN PRIAUX ARMSTRONG, Esq., (late of this city,) youngest son of Thomas St. George Armstrong, Esq., of Garry Castle, King's County, Ireland, to EMMA, daughter of Thomas Priaux, Esq., of that Island.

### Notice.

**T**HE OFFICE of the SAVINGS BANK is removed to No. 20, Calle de la Paz.

### British Philanthropic Society.

**A**T a General Meeting of the Committee, held on the evening of Monday last, it was *Resolved*,—That in consequence of the resignation of Mr Vincent, lately holding the office of Secretary to the above Institution, Mr. RAMSAY be appointed Secretary; and that all communications connected with the Society be addressed to him, No. 114 Calle del Peru.

By Order of the Committee.

Buenos Ayres, 21st March, 1828.

### Faunch's Hotel.

**M**RS. FAUNCH takes the earliest opportunity of returning her grateful thanks to her Friends, and the public in general, for their kind patronage during the life of her late husband; and most respectfully begs leave to inform them that she intends carrying on the business, and solicits a continuance of their support.

### PRICE OF SPECIE.

- Exchange on England, 22½ d. a 23d. per dollar, nominal.
- Do. Monte Video, 100 to 110 per cent.
- Doublings, 39 to 40 dollars each.
- Spanish Dollars, 18 to 19 rials each.
- Six per cent. Stock, 47 to 48.
- Gold in bars, 22 to 14 to 15 reals per quilate.
- Silver do. 12 to 14 reals per dinero.
- Rate of interest per month. 2½ to 3 per cent.

☞ The Markets run in very languid.

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No. 75, Calle de Cangallo.