

THE

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 87.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1828.

[VOL. 2.

BUENOS AYRES.

London newspapers to 26th January have been received by the *Countess of Chichester* packet. Don Miguel has been the "nine days wonder" in that metropolis, having attended a succession of Fetes at the mansions of Royalty, Noblemen, and Commoners; visited the Theatres; laughed heartily at the Christmas Pantomimes, to which he paid great attention; went out to hunt the stag, attired in strict sporting costume, in company with the Duke of Wellington, Prince Esterhazy, &c., and proved an excellent sportsman. On 25th January he was at Plymouth, waiting to embark in the Portuguese frigate *Perla*: he was to remain there some days, and in his visits to the different ships of war, the roaring of the batteries and cannon from the vessels, quite astounded the "natives." There seems to have been great preparation in the honours paid to this Portuguese prince; and some newspapers who formerly ridiculed him, have found out that he is a "sightly, mild, and modest looking young gentleman," "likely to do well in the world," as Philpot says in 'The Citizen.'

The formation of the New Ministry presents another field for discussion. Nothing had been definitively arranged; but the following list has been handed about, of appointments likely to take place:—

- The DUKE OF WELLINGTON, First Lord of the Treasury, and to retain his office of Commander in Chief.
- LORD LYNDEHURST, Lord Chancellor.
- EARL BATHURST, President of the Council.
- MR. PEEL, Secretary of State for the Home Department.
- EARL DUDLEY, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
- MR. HUSKISSON, Secretary of State for the Colonies,
- EARL MELVILLE, President of the Board of Control.
- MR. GOULBURN, Chancellor of the Exchequer
- MR. CHARLES GRANT, President of the Board of Trade.
- MR. HERRIES, Master of the Mint.
- LORD PALMERSTON, Secretary of War.

And some others of less note.

The newspapers abound in remarks upon the above list, denominating it a "hodge podge" of men differing in politics and every thing else. The liberal Huskisson sitting at the Council Board with the prejudiced Wellington, Peel, Goulburn, &c. ! That the Duke of Wellington should hold two offices is severely reprobated. Times are sadly changed since Great Britain had a Pitt, Fox, or Canning to regulate the State Machine.

The result of the elections in France has of course obliged

Villele to resign; and in ministerial changes Great Britain and France are absolutely playing at "follow my leader." Monsieur Roy succeeds Villele as Minister of Finance, and La Terronnays takes the place of Baron de Damas, for foreign affairs.

The negotiations with Turkey still continue. Mrs. Canning has been made a Viscountess; and Sir Henry Wellesley, Sir Charles Stuart, Sir Win A'Court, John George Lambton, and Edward B. Wilbraham, Esqrs; with some others, Baron Lords. Mr. Gordon, British Minister at Rio Janeiro, is appointed Ambassador to the Court of Madrid.

On 26th January the Buenos Ayres bonds in London were at 42; Brazilian 60 1-4. The non-payment of the dividend caused the decline in Buenos Ayres Stock. To falter in money affairs, is a crime not to be forgiven in England; and although some allowances are made for the situation in which this country is placed, yet the *Morning Herald* of December 31, asserts that our city "has become a complete nest of pirates, and do not wish for peace." Is it because privateers have struck a deadly blow against Brazil, and falsified the predictions of the many that the Republic must "bend the knee" before his Majesty the Emperor, that this language is resorted to? We however insert the witty well-written article from the *Morning Herald*: vanity has overcome the little pettishness we were disposed to feel at being 'called names,' because we have found in another column of the same paper, lines in compliment to our *British Packet*; and to be praised by a London Editor, is as gratifying as the applause of a London audience to a country 'debutant.'

"We understand that the next dividend on the Buenos Ayres Bonds will not be paid; and that there is no prospect of dividends on those Bonds being paid so long as the war between Buenos Ayres and the Brazils continues. These Bonds, we learn, are, at the expiration of the war, likely to prove good, for the Government are in possession of land which could be sold now to the English and other foreigners at Buenos Ayres, for a price that would more than be equal to the debt due by Buenos Ayres to this country. This city of Buenos Ayres has become a complete nest of pirates, and, of course, the Buenos Ayreans do not wish for peace, but on the contrary are desirous that the war should continue. Business is good at Buenos Ayres, but confined to very few houses; such houses having sustained the shock consequent on the war. That war, so far as the Brazil and Buenos Ayres ships engaged in it are concerned, might, we hear, be put an end to by a single British ship, attacking first the Brazil fleet, and

Scott's Commercial Bureau

destroying it; secondly, the Buenos Ayres fleet, and destroying that. We understand that neither fleet would have the least chance with even a single British frigate, much more a ship of the line. Now, as we have effectually got rid of the Law of Nations,—and may, of course, safely make away with the writings of Vattel, Grotius, and Puffendorf,—we put it to the Ministers, whether, supposing that the Buenos Ayreans and the Brazilians will not settle their differences and make peace, it would not be the better way to destroy the fleets of those Powers in the same way that the Allied fleets annihilated the Turkish squadron,—and the French, the Greek? It would be folly now to stand upon niceties, after the manner in which we have disposed, for the present at least, of the Greek question, and Sir James Macintosh's authorities."

The Rio news by the Chichester packet, "says nothing" as it regards the question of Peace or War.

The Irishmen lately arrived at Rio Janeiro, have been kicking up "the Devil's own row" in that city. On Sunday, 9th March, several stationed themselves in the street Carioca and indulged in the amusement of knocking down every black that passed them. In the Rua da Ajuda there was a general engagement; several wounded on both sides, and windows broken.

The Dove packet was at Rio Janeiro on 14th March. In her last voyage from Buenos Ayres, and when within a fortnight's sail of Falmouth, one of her officers, Mr. Heavyside, fell from the fore-top-gallant cross trees upon the deck, and died almost instantly.

"General Post Office, London, Dec. 5, 1827.

"SIR,—I am commanded by my Lord the Postmaster General to inform you, with reference to your letter of 22d ult., that his Grace, at the recommendation of his Excellency the Hon. R. Gordon, his Majesty's Minister at Rio Janeiro, has nominated Mrs. E. Peppin to succeed Mr. Coucher as Agent for Packets at that port.

"I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

FRANCIS FREELING."

"To Thomas March, Esq., Chairman of the Brazil Committee, New Broad Street, London."

A Project has been sent to the Junta for their approbation, to the following effect:—

The Bank to be relieved from the obligation to pay their notes in specie, which by law they are bound to do on 25th of May next, on condition of lending the Government two millions of dollars, without interest. To allow the Bank to make fresh issues to that amount; to pay the Government three hundred thousand dollars per month,—the rest to be employed in discounts, always reserving the 300,000 dollars for the service of the State, until the two millions are complete. Six months after peace, the Custom House to repay the Bank 300,000 dollars per month, until the whole two millions be refunded, and the Bank to withdraw the said sum from circulation.

Nothing has yet been positively decided upon relative to the above project. The Junta are unanimously of opinion that the Government must be assisted, and when that is the case, the means will not long be wanting. A fresh emission of Bank paper must of course take place.

The following Lines are so analagous to present circumstances, that we cannot refuse them insertion.

The day was dark, the markets dull,
The streets were thin, the prisons full,
And half the town was breaking;
The countersign of Cash was "stop;"
Merchants and Traders shut up shop,
And honest hearts were aching.

When near the Plaza, Fancy spied
A faded form, with hasty stride,
Beneath grief's burthen stooping;
Her name was CREDIT,—and she said
Her father, TRADE, was lately dead,
Her mother, COMMERCE, drooping.

The smile that she was wont to wear,
Was withered by the hand of care,—
Her eyes had lost their lustre:
Her character was gone, she said,
For basely she had been betrayed,
And nobody would trust her!

That honest INDUSTRY had tried
To gain fair CREDIT for his bride;—
The Dame gave no denial:
But, ah! a fortune-hunter came,
And SPECULATION was his name,—
A Rake, not worth a rial.

The villain was on mischief bent;
He gained both *Dad* and *Mam's* consent,
And then poor CREDIT smarted:
He sixed her fortune and her fame,
He fixed a blot upon her name,
And left her broken hearted.

Buenos Ayres, March 1828.

March 29.—Wind S. E. Arrived, two Gun Boats with a convoy of small craft from the northward; and a boat from Monte Video, which port she left at 8 o'clock in the evening of 27th inst. The capture of the Niger was not then known. A brig, prize to the privateer Libertador Bolivar, had been burned near Maldonado; she had, on board 375 slaves, who were safely landed by the prize crew, and given up to the National authorities. The Brazilian frigate Nitchteroy, corvette Carioca, brig Maranhau, and a brig commanded by Jacinto Pereyra (late Sardinian brig Asunta), sailed from Monte Video, supposed for sea, in search of the privateer brigs General Brandzen, Cacique, and others, as a report was current that they had captured the Brazilian corvette Jurujuba, and that the armed transport Animo Grande, having money on board to pay the troops in Monte Video, had likewise been taken by the privateer Libertador Bolivar. Some cavalry troops were embarked this evening from the Mole, and sailed for the Banda Oriental in the schooner Ninfa Argentina, convoyed by Gun Boat No. 10. The troops appeared in excellent spirits.

March 30.—Wind E. S. E., hazy. At 10 A. M. it cleared up, and the blockading squadron was visible: we counted 18 sail (including some balandras), and among them the captured privateer brig Niger, Brazilian flag hoisted over

the flag of this Republic. A latent hope had existed of her escape, from the circumstance that nothing was said of her capture at Monte Video on Thursday evening last; and it was thought that the Brazilians would have immediately despatched notice to that port of an event so unusual with them.

March 31.—Wind S. E., calm and hazy. Arrived, a *zumaca* and two *balandras*, from the Parana.

At 1 o'clock p. m. Captain F. Segui was despatched from the brig of war *Balcarce*, in a boat bearing a flag of truce, to the Brazilian Commodore off this port, with a communication from Admiral Brown, proposing to exchange Captain Coe for any Brazilian prisoner of war. We hear that it was referred to the Brazilian Admiral at Monte Video.

Arrived, a boat from the Banda Oriental, bringing an officer (Captain Pizarro,) with despatches from General Lavalleja, dated 26th March. A gentleman attached to the British Embassy at Rio Janeiro (Mr. Frazier), had arrived at the head-quarters of the Brazilian Army, with despatches of importance for General Lavalleja, which event was communicated to the General in a letter from the Viscount de la Laguna, with a request that he would appoint a time and place for an interview. The result will be forwarded to this Government.

Arrived, the *chalupa Mariposa*: left Monte Video on Thursday, with other vessels, under convoy of the three masted schooner, 3 schooners, a brig and a gun boat. On Saturday night, off Point Atalaya, separated from them, threw her papers overboard, and made for this port. Cargo, apples.

April 1.—Wind S. E. Sailed, three *balandras* to the northward.

Arrived, after dark, British packet brig *Countess of Chichester*, *Kakness*, from Falmouth 28th January, Rio Janeiro 19th March, and Monte Video 30th March. Passengers from England, Mr. Hill and Mrs. Rule; from Rio Janeiro, Mr. Janvier, Mr. Portis, three Spanish and two French gentlemen: the above have been landed at Monte Video. Passengers from Monte Video, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Darby, Mr. Muir, Mr. John Jackson, and a Spanish gentleman. The *Zephyr* was the last packet which arrived at Falmouth from Buenos Ayres; and it was not known what would be the next packet for this port.

April 2.—Wind S. E., hazy. Arrived, four sail of small craft from the northward. The Captain of the packet *Chichester*, with the Mail and passengers, disembarked this morning: from the hazy weather it was not known until then that the packet had arrived.

April 3.—Wind N. E. and variable. During the day thunder and lightning, with rain. Four small craft arrived in the morning from the Parana.

April 4.—Wind W. N. W. and variable, with rain. Arrived, Gun Boat No. 8, from Las Vacas: 47 prisoners of war (soldiers,) were landed from her this morning, taken by the National Army at different periods.

Arrived at the Salado on 29th ultimo, American schooner *Cherub*, *Durkie*, from Baltimore 77 days, with a general cargo, consigned to Daniel Gowland. In the night, near Cape St. Antonio, saw a large vessel, supposed a frigate.

Sailed from the above port on 31st ult., privateer schooner *Triunfo Argentino*, *Dragumet*, on a cruise.

Arrived at the Salado on 2d instant, National schooner-brig of war *El Honor*, of six guns, with cargo on account of Government: National schooner *Franca*, with 501 barrels of gunpowder, and *zumaca Felicidad*, with general cargo. The two last consigned to James Carter. *El Honor* was taken some time since by the corvette *Ituzaingó*.

The above three vessels left Patagonia on 24th ult., under convoy of the schooner of war *Sarandi*; but separated from her about 40 miles S. of Cape Corrientes, she having gone in chase and brought to action a two-topsail schooner.

Arrived likewise at the above port, at half-past 2 p. m. on

2d instant, schooner-brig *Conde de Subserva*, prize to the privateer brig *Niger*. Cargo sugar, coffee, hides, &c.

We hear that Captain Coe is on board the *Liberal*, and quite recovered of his wound. The Brazilians say that the *Niger* had 8 killed; among them Captain La Rosa.

The British brig *Countess of Liverpool*, from Liverpool for Monte Video, was totally lost, off Holyhead, on 11th January: two of the crew and a passenger drowned.

A communication has been received from Don Manuel Lavalleja, stating that the division under his command had overtaken the mutineers of the troops 'Defensores,' killed 13 of them, and taken 49 prisoners. The rest under cover of the night dispersed, and are closely pursued. Three of the guides which conducted them have been shot, by order of Colonel Oribe.

Arrived at M. Video on 28th ult., American ship *Lafayette*, from Baltimore 15th January, with flour and dry goods. On 29th, British brig *Blossom*, from Cetta 21st January, with wine and brandy.

To the Editor of the British Packet.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your giving the following a place in your paper.

Observing in the *Gaceta Mercantil* a very incorrect statement of the escape of five Brazilian officers from Chascomus, I think it a duty I owe both to myself and my brother officers, to inform the Editor of the above paper, that we could not in any respect be considered as on our parole. The conditions offered us by the Government to remain in Chascomus were, that we should be treated precisely the same as in Tandil: in which place we did indeed receive from Colonel Don Ramon Estomba every possible kindness, and were by that gentleman's great attention, made as comfortable as could be expected in such a wretched place; and expecting the same in Chascomus, we experienced quite the reverse. Nothing was given us for our subsistence; no house assigned us; and even the petty allowance of three rials per day we ceased to receive. Those who had it not in their power to hire a house, or even live in a common *pulperia*, must, had they remained, have stayed in the street. It is very clear the Government broke their word by not complying with their agreement: and what could be expected but that we should retaliate? and as H. I. M's. officers are not, like the camelion, accustomed to live upon air, my companions, I suppose, as quickly as possible endeavoured, like myself, to get on board the squadron. I need not mention the brutal treatment we received in Patagonia; and our journey by land to Tandil, more like that of galley slaves than prisoners of war. I suppose the Editor of the *Gaceta Mercantil* calls that, 'honourable treatment,'—'Republican kindness!' I can however with pleasure say, that from Colonel Estomba we received very honourable treatment. He seemed to take a pride in endeavouring to make us comfortable; and I can assert with confidence, that had my companions and myself remained under his charge, the idea of escaping would never have entered our heads.

By giving my reasons for not considering myself on my parole when I escaped, it is not my intention, were it necessary, to exculpate myself in the eyes of the Government, but to shew the public that I am as far from acting dishonourably, as the Republican Government is in acting honourably.

I am, Sir, your most obedient,

JOSH FITZCOSTA, 2d Lt. I. N.

Our opinion upon the affair alluded to in the above letter, remains unchanged. The *parole d'honneur* was given; and that pledge should have been returned to the Government, with a statement of the causes of complaint, ere escape was

attempted. In a pecuniary point of view, we question if the prisoners of war suffered material privation. They drew bills for their pay, which, at the rate of exchange, produced a considerable sum; and it seems they could afford to pay liberally for the means of escape, which we understand was effected in a canoe boat from the coast near the Quilmes. In an open town like Buenos Ayres, it would be difficult to prevent such occurrences. Housekeepers are not required under severe penalties to render an account of their inmates, as in despotic countries, therefore concealment is easy; and in that respect Buenos Ayres bears a simile with cities in Great Britain and the U. S. of N. America. In regard to providing lodgings for prisoners of war,—have the Brazilian Government ever done so?—except, indeed, in the dungeons of Monte Video and Rio Janeiro. The only officers of this Republic, until very lately, who have had parole, are Lieutenant Ford and Purser Drury, at Monte Video: it was granted under guarantees, and we have not heard that the Brazilian Government provided a house for their reception.

In the march from Patagonia to Tandil, the sufferings endured (at least if we are correctly informed,) proceeded more from the briars and thistles of an uncultivated country, than from personal ill usage. The kind treatment given to prisoners of war has been remarked by almost every stranger resident here; and likewise the ungrateful return which in so many instances has been made for it.

The Paris Journal (*Gazette de France*.) has been enlarged, and admits advertisements and shipping news; but even now it is not of greater size than the *Gaceta Mercantil* of this city. We have found little mention of Buenos Ayres or Brazil in the French papers received by the last Packet; and what finds insertion relative to the above countries, is copied from English papers.

The English Theatre at Paris continues very attractive, and Miss Smithson so eulogized by the Parisians, that a London Editor fears it will "turn the brain" of our fair countrywoman. We have translated the following from the *Gazette de France* of 7th December last:—

"MISS SMITHSON. — This great and beautiful actress has made too great a sensation at Paris,—she will leave behind her recollections too profound; and we cannot dispense consecrating to her a few lines, at the moment when we are menaced with losing her. Not a single voice has been raised among us in opposition to the universal homage of which she is the object. But, will it be believed, it is in the country which gave her birth that some envious spirits assume a singular national pride, to contradict the legitimate praises which have appeared in the French Gazettes upon an actress of whom every Englishman ought to be proud!—"Miss Smithson is applauded at Paris, therefore she ought not to be so in London."—Such is the peremptory argument of these profound critics! The newspapers which support these national prepossessions, find faithful echos in the shopkeepers of the Strand, who come to Paris to buy womens' shoes and glazed gloves. These good people go once in the year to Covent-Garden or Drury-Lane, and believe that it gives them the appearance of very knowing personages when they exclaim with an imposing air,—"But, Gentlemen, Miss Smithson is far from having in London the reputation she enjoys at Paris." And of what import to us is the opinion of these *beer drinkers* upon the other side of the Channel, when we can judge with our own eyes, and our own feelings? Vainly will it be said that the English ought to be competent judges in a discussion in which their own language is concerned. We might reply, that it is precisely because Miss Smithson creates such an impression upon the spectators who comprehend imperfectly, and perhaps not at all, her language, that we discover in her such powerful and extraordinary talents: and, definitively, is it not at Paris, *that capital of Europe and the Arts*, in which they make and unmake all foreign fame?"

In the same paper of 19th December, in a critique upon the play of the "Stranger," it is said,—

"One observation only, will be sufficient for the glory of Miss Smithson. Having for audiences men of whom the immense majority are ignorant of the language in which she expresses herself, but all more or less gifted with that exquisite feeling, that prompt intelligence, which are the attributes of the French character, she has created an inexpressible impression by the sole power of her looks, her gestures, and the simple inflexions of her voice. In a word, she has made the Parisians easily conceive what the writers of antiquity have recounted to us of the prodigies produced by Pantomimes."

The Editor then proceeds more into details upon the *magic power* possessed by Miss Smithson, "which (he observes,) fills the souls of the spectators with emotions the most profound and terrible;" and reproves the sneers of some Englishmen upon her dialect, and observes, that an Irishman can with time and labour correct his pronunciation, whilst thirty years of intense study cannot produce, in an actress born and educated in the capital of England, that secret influence possessed by great artists, as well as great poets, and with which heaven has so eminently favoured Miss Smithson.

We apprehend that the beauty of Miss Smithson has had considerable effect upon the Parisians, as well as her talents. The French are enthusiasts; and some author remarks that in giving praise, or passing censure, they observe no medium: the object must be lauded to the skies, or sunk to the very earth.

We remember Miss Smithson at Drury-Lane Theatre in the year 1820. She was then about 18 years of age, and thought to be a very "pretty girl." If we recollect aright, some one solicited her to sit for her picture; and upon her refusal the beautiful lines of *Viola*, in "Twelfth Night," was applied to her:—

"Lady, you are the cruellest she alive
If you will lead these graces to the grave,
And leave the world no copy."

DIED,

On 30th December last, in London, of a dropsical complaint, after an illness of two years and three months, Mr. WILLIAM COOKE, late a Printer of this City.

Advertisement.

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