

THE

# British Packet,

AND

## ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1828.

[Vol. 2.]

### BUENOS AYRES.

WE have received a mass of Chili-papers, from which we have made some extracts, conceiving that they may prove interesting to a portion of our readers, particularly the Message of the Executive of that Republic to the Congress. After remarking upon the complete union and tranquillity which prevails, and their friendship with foreign powers, the Message proceeds:—

“The Argentine Republic continues to sustain with dignity the honorable struggle against the Emperor of Brazil. It has been the misfortune of this Republic to have for a neighbour a crowned head, which has obliged her to enter into a war which neither her rank, nor the principles she professes, permitted her to evade. Alone,—without any auxiliaries save her own heroism and justice,—she has presented herself upon the field of honour to combat the cause of Republics against that of thrones; she has preferred to undergo all the calamities of war, rather than submit to degradation. Terrible alternative!—but an instructive lesson to the people of America, which will teach them what the neighbourhood of a Sovereign is.

“The Government has thought proper for the national dignity, to recall their Minister from London, as he was not acknowledged in that character: his conduct has been worthy public estimation. A Consul General has been named, as he will be recognized by the British Cabinet, and his presence necessary for the transactions of the Loan.”

It then mentions the appointment of a Consul General from France, the sentiments of that Cabinet being entirely favorable to the new American States: that several colleges and public schools have been erected in Chili; the amelioration about to take place in the Courts of Justice, the proceedings in which have hitherto been slow and expensive; the formation of a Tribunal for the protection of the liberty of the Press; the reduction of the army and navy to the peace establishment, recommending some adequate remuneration to the officers who have sacrificed their comforts, time, and health, to the triumph of the American cause; the abuses in the revenue, which does not at present provide for the current expenses, and the necessity of providing a remedy; the erection of a Mint in the capital of the province of Coquimbo, as being the central point of the mines: and then alludes to the Loan in the following terms:—

“In speaking to you, Gentlemen, of our external debt, or rather of our unfortunate English Loan, you, as well as myself, will feel profound grief if you consider the deplorable consequences it has produced upon our credit, by the failure in the payment of the dividends. The people have gladly resigned to the Government the monopoly of several articles, to make effective these payments and to preserve the national honor and dignity, by the assignment of permanent funds to liquidate the dividends already due, and ensure the payment of those to come. In the fulfilment of such a duty no sacrifices can be too great, because the credit of the Chilenos is dearer to them than even their existence.”

The Message then comments upon the happiness now enjoyed by the people generally, so different from former periods; and that the spirit of Provincialism, that bane of other parts of America, “has not caused a single tear in Chili.”

A private letter which we have received from a friend, contains the following:—“The Congress of Chili has already named the Commission to form the new Constitution. The Government, placed at the head of the liberal party, are animated by the most noble sentiments; the country enjoys perfect tranquillity, and every branch of public wealth begins to feel the beneficial effects of liberty. The mass of the people are disposed to receive improvements, and there is every reason to hope that the evils consequent upon the errors of the old Congresses, will shortly be removed. The Vice-President, Don Francisco Antonio Pinto, is an enlightened man. He has resided for a long time in England, whose institutions he is perfectly acquainted with and admires: in fact he possesses as much of the “Anglomane” as others of your friends.”

The “march of intellect” is making rapid strides in Chili, if we may judge from the number of newspapers published. Those of Santiago are,—*La Clave*, printed Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays; *El Monitor Imparcial*, weekly; *El Independiente*, weekly; *El Censor del Año de 1828*, weekly; *La Aurora*, weekly.

*La Clave* contains an article not very satisfactory as to the Police department at Santiago; it is as follows:—

“The state of society would become wretched indeed, if the great crimes which happen among us are to pass without chastisement. The spectacle of mutilated bodies which is daily offered to the eyes of the public at the gates of the

prison, causes horrible sensations and terrible conjectures, that such atrocities should be committed, and never punished! How is this?—In what country do we live?—Can the pacific citizen feel himself secure from the arm of the assassin? Under a Government just and paternal, is the period in which an active Police ought to prevent such horrors."

Only one privateer under the Spanish flag (*El Griego*), is cruising off the coast of Chili.

The anniversary of the battle of Chacabuco, (February 26.) was celebrated with great pomp. An ode was spoken at the Theatre of Santiago; and the gazettes contain numerous poetic effusions upon the occasion. Some beautiful lines have been published upon the installation of the National Congress.

The London evening paper *Globe*, of January 19th, contains the following observations upon the new Ministry:—"Perhaps the explanation which may be given of the *hodge-podge* is, that the real Ministers are Mr. Peel, Mr. Huskisson, Lord Dudley, and Mr. Grant, who will conduct the affairs of the country, its colonies, its foreign policy, its commerce, and domestic affairs, upon the system of Mr. Canning's ministry; with the Duke of Wellington above all, as an impartial distributor of patronage, to fight the battles of the Cabinet against the 'irresponsible advisers.' That the rest of the Ministry are mere *druff* and *chuff*, brought in to conciliate parties, and put into offices where they will have as little opportunity of doing harm, as they would have in any office the talents to do good."

A London paper says,—“We understand that several gentlemen are to be raised to the rank of Baronets; among others the able and respectable Mr. Phillips of Manchester, and Mr. Chamberlaine, late Consul at Rio.

The Rio papers contain some severe remarks upon the disturbance among the Irishmen in that city, denominating them “ferocious brutes,” “scum of Ireland,” &c. Several of the officers are ordered to be cashiered. After all it will probably prove only “a Sunday morning row,” which is so often witnessed in the neighbourhood of London, when settling the disputes of the week.

The reports of the week are still in favour of Peace, although a trifling reaction has taken place in the prices of various articles. It is said that the Emperor has proposed an armistice between the hostile armies, which has been naturally rejected. A printed communication from this Government, to the Delegated Government of the Banda Oriental, has been circulated in that province; in which it is stated, that “propositions for Peace have been made through the Legation of His Britannic Majesty, upon the basis of the independence of the Banda Oriental, and the creation of it into a new State;” congratulating the authorities upon that event, so likely to lead to Peace, and recommending them to sustain the interior good order of the province, &c.

In the Session of the 9th instant, the Junta allowed the proposition that the Bank should assist the Government by an advance of two millions of dollars; 300,000 dollars to be paid monthly, until the two millions are completed.

April 5.—Wind E., and rain. Nothing arrived or sailed.

6.—Wind W. Sailed, British ship packet Emulous, Croke, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro, and Falmouth,

with several passengers; among them Mrs Pizey and family, Mr. David Price, Richard Noble, Miers, &c.

Sailed, 3 balandras for the Parana, and Gun Boat No. 7.

7.—Wind W. Arrived, a Gun Boat, conveying several sail of small craft from the northward.

About half-past 12 o'clock the National schooner of war Sarandi, Commodore Bynon, from Patagonia, hove in sight N. N. E., and anchored near the Inner Roads at sunset. Some of the blockading squadron got under weigh, but could not intercept her.

Sailed this evening, National schooner-brig Eighth February, Captain Espora, and schooner of war Union, Captain Mendez, on a cruise. They were left by the Pilot at 12 o'clock A. M., 6 miles below the packet Chichester, then anchored in the Outer Roads. Captain Granville is on board the Eighth February.

8.—Wind N. E. Several of the blockading squadron under weigh; the brig Niger, observed among them.—Arrived, two zumacas from the Parana.

9.—Wind N. N. W. Arrived, several sail of small craft from the northward; and the Post Office boat, from the Banda Oriental. It was stated that a gentleman from the British Embassy at Rio Janeiro (Mr. Fraser), and Señor Gelli, Secretary to General Lavalleja, had left the headquarters of the National Army on the 2d instant, for this city.

10.—Wind N. N. E. A few small craft arrived and sailed from and to the Parana, &c.

11.—Wind W., hazy. Sailed, two balandras to the northward.—Arrived, a zumaca from ditto.

#### PATAGONIA.

The Sarandi sailed from Rio Negro on 25th March, with the vessels under convoy noticed in our last, and which have arrived at the Salado. The Government zumaca Desengaño Feliz, with cargo, and armed with 3 guns, had got on shore near the Tuyu.

Off Cape St. Antonio, the Sarandi saw a schooner, and chased her till dark, having before that period hoisted the National flag, and fired a gun, which the stranger did not answer: she grounded off the Tuyu, and immediately opened fire, firing about twelve guns. The Sarandi then fired one gun, tacked in two fathoms water, and came to anchor for the night. At day-break stood towards her, fired a gun, and hoisted the National flag. The stranger did the same. A boat was sent to her, and she proved to be the privateer Triunfo Argentino. No damage was sustained on either side: the privateer got off and sailed. The zumaca Disengaño Feliz, taking her for an enemy, had run on shore, and fired several guns at her. The Sarandi took out part of her cargo, and it was expected she would soon float again.

The Sarandi anchored at sun set on the 5th inst. off the Salado, and landed 201 barrels of gunpowder. Sailed from thence at 7 o'clock A. M. on 6th instant; soon afterwards saw 5 vessels at anchor off Point Piedras, and two others. Two brigs and the three-masted schooner gave chase without effect until dark. On the 7th instant, at day-break, was off Colonia, 10 Brazilian vessels to windward; 5 chased. The corvette Liberal and a schooner-brig came up fast, and the latter could with ease have cut off the Sarandi, being “dead to windward,” sailing exceedingly well, and the Sarandi close hauled: she however bore down, and got to leeward. The corvette in the mean time continued to chase, having all sail set, and a stiff breeze. About 10 o'clock she opened fire, the shots passing over the Sarandi. When near the channel which runs to Martin Garcia, she was obliged to tack, and continued to do so repeatedly, firing broadsides at every tack. The

Sarandi always tacked with the corvette: it was "tack for tack," and at last by this method got to windward; and then, having hoisted the National flag and brailed up the foresail, began to fire upon her. The Brazilian having lost the weather gage, played off the Portuguese trick, unworthy even of John Boots, and trailed the Republican flag in the water. The Sarandi did the same towards the Brazilian flag, the crown of his Imperial Majesty downwards. About twelve o'clock the firing ceased, and the Liberal stood towards her companions, not one of her shots having taken effect: the Sarandi then steered for Buenos Ayres.

The conduct of Commodore George Bynon is spoken of in the most glowing terms, and that nothing but his excellent seamanship and calm courage saved the Sarandi. The Republic has in him a brave and excellent officer; and indeed we are proud of our countryman. The Sarandi had 122 men, including officers and soldiers, and some seamen belonging to the corvette Ituzaingó; and the prisoners of war Lieut. Bernardino Sana Araujo, late of the corvette Massaio; a captain of a Brazilian merchant vessel (Santos), and two others.

The privateer schooner President, Captain Prouting, has made six prizes; among them the ship Comet, the brig Fortune, having 6 guns and 25 men, and the brigs Bon Jesus and Goldfinch, with 700 slaves. The Bon Jesus has arrived at Rio Negro, Patagonia; the Goldfinch struck upon the bar at that port; 35 of the negroes drowned, the rest saved.

The privateer San Martin, Captain Adams, has been made into a schooner-brig, and was to sail immediately from Patagonia on a cruise; and the American brig Velocity, Smith, with a cargo of hides, for Salem. The detained British brigs Huskisson and Albuera, were still in port. The prize ship Domingo was off the bar at Rio Negro, having had all her cargo, chiefly tea, safely landed by the Sarandi: White, the pilot, is on board to take her into harbour. An American schooner-brig, captain's name Bertram, from Santos, arrived off the bar on 25th March. Captain Mason has been appointed Captain of the Port.

The battery planned some time since by Commodore Bynon, has rendered the harbour impregnable. The troops are in excellent condition: a militia has been formed, consisting of 200 men; they are mustered every Sunday morning. The Governor, Don Ramon Rodriguez, is extremely popular, and Patagonia, from its climate, and other advantages of soil, picturesque scenery, &c., bids fair not only to become an important position of the Republic, but an important country altogether. The war has brought it into notice; until then it was but little appreciated, and generally described as a wretched desert. Intelligent men who have lately been there, assert that European emigrants, particularly from northern countries, would find few places better adapted to supply their wants.

In No. 60 of the *British Packet*, we gave a short description of Patagonia and its productions.

#### FETES AT PATAGONIA

On 7th, 8th, and 9th March, 1828, being the anniversary of the capture and destruction of the Brazilian armament in that country.

"Hushed be each ruder breath" while we attempt a description of the festivities in Patagonia's metropolis,—the renowned city of Del Carmen.

The morning of the 7th of March was ushered in by salutes from the battery, corvette Ituzaingó, and schooner of war Sarandi. These two vessels were dressed out in the colours of all nations;

the vessels in the harbour hoisted their flags; and the troops were under arms, and in their best clothing. A large Tent was erected in the Fort, which in itself forms a plaza. It was decorated with flags, elegantly lighted, planked, and carpeted with rich Turkey carpets. At evening 40 couple stood up to dance in the tent, to the music of the piano, guitar, violins, and flutes. At 12 o'clock supper was announced, after which the dance was resumed, and continued until 6 in the morning.

On the 8th, a grand dinner to the Gentlemen, by the inhabitants generally.

On the 9th a Ball, given by Commodore George Bynon, equal if not superior to that on the 7th; in fact it was remarked that the ladies "showed off" better. The viands and wines were of the first quality,—the 'Albion' or 'Clarendon' could hardly excel it; the toasts appropriate. Among the company—(and wou'd that we had space to insert all their names,)—were the Governor's Lady, the Señoras Alvarez, Murgiondo, Mrs. Clark (the lady of Captain Clark of the brig Huskisson, the *belle* of Patagonia;) the Governor Don Ramon Rodriguez, Señores F. Alfaro, M. Alvarez, A. Murgiondo, Commodore George Bynon, Captain Mason, Lieutenants Wieldblood, Rolles, Martinez, Doctor Alexander Brown, Mr. Livingston, and all the officers of the Ituzaingó and Sarandi, Captain Adams, &c. &c.

In the dance, the grace and beauty of the Señora Murgiondo was greatly admired; and likewise the Señorita Doña Juana Leon. These "fetes," the first of the sort ever given on Patagonia's soil, will be long remembered.

Mr. Fraser, of the British Legation at Rio Janeiro, accompanied by an officer of General Lavalleja's, landed after dark last evening, from the Banda Oriental.

The American sloop of war Boston arrived at Monte Video on 1st instant, from Rio Janeiro 20th March; and the American brig Sultan, Blunt, on 31st ult., from Philadelphia 30th January, with flour and a general cargo, to James Noble.

Captain Grenfell has arrived at Rio Janeiro in the packet from England, and it is reported will take command of the corvette Maria Isabel, which ship they say is destined for the River Plate, to attack and destroy Brown's flotilla. We had hoped that Captain Grenfell had quitted active service, not from any fear of what he can effect, but that his name might no longer appear in a cause so abhorrent to the feelings of the great majority of Englishmen.

It is reported at Rio Janeiro that the Portuguese ship John the Sixth, of 74 guns, and a brig of war, are ordered to the River Plate, to make some claims upon this Government relative to prizes.

The Letter which has appeared in the Rio Janeiro gazette *Journal do Comercio*, is so honorable to the writer, and to Captain Coe, that some extracts may be pleasing to our Readers.

After mentioning the capture of the schooner packet Seventh January, by the privateer Niger, Captain Coe; and that the crew had abandoned their posts, leaving no other alternative to the Captain (whom he highly praises,) but to lower the Imperial flag, he proceeds:—"Arrived on board the privateer, I presented myself to the Captain, uttering a few words in English, and imploring protection. He listened to me with attention,—desired some property to be returned to me, as likewise to a friend whom I said was my brother; and notwithstanding that our Captain had

every thing taken from him, he gave proofs of his wish to fulfil his word, ordering the arrest of the delinquents that they might be punished; but our delicacy would not permit this extreme. The Captain of the privateer is by birth a North American, 24 years of age. He has evinced the most noble sentiments and firmness of character, with great courage, which was proved by the boldness with which he attacked the corvette Maria Isabel, holding possession of her for more than twenty minutes; and she would have been utterly lost to the Empire, if Captain Coe had had 20 more men in whom he could have confided, or a swivel gun. Our brave Captain Mayo was so cowardly and negligent, that he deserves to be hung up at the corvette's yard-arm. The privateer would have been sunk had he done his duty. The British brig True Briton, Captain Balderston, brought us to this port after a voyage of three days; the liberality and humanity he shewed us does honour to the heroic nation to which he belongs.

(Signed,) "JOAQUIN PENA PENALTA."

*Extract from the Log Book of the brig privateer General Brandzen, Captain DeKay.*

August 12, 1827.—Off Mount Pasquel fell in with two Brazilian letters of marque, with a merchantman under convoy, and after an action succeeded in capturing the Princesa; she struck in 15 minutes: the other, Flor de Verdade, of 14 guns and 65 men fought for an hour and then struck. Night coming on, the other vessel escaped.

"From this to 18th September, made various prizes. On that day the Cacique, 18 guns, came out of Pernambuco in order to capture us: we took her after an action of 40 minutes, by boarding. Her Captain was wounded, and the first-lieutenant died a few days after of his wounds: Captain De Kay was likewise wounded. The Cacique mounted 18 guns, (16 twenty-four pounders, and 2 long twelves,) crew 122, officers and men: 11 were killed and 12 wounded. The General Brandzen had 8 guns and 45 men, (the rest absent in prizes.) Two were killed and fifteen wounded, including the Captain. The prisoners were landed at St. Bartholomews, and the American brig Maine, Davis, chartered to convey them to Brazil."

Buenos Ayres is not often visited by such heavy rains as was experienced during the last week. They commenced on Thursday, and continued almost without intermission until the following Sunday, penetrating through roofs of houses; accompanied by thunder and lightning so terrific,—or as Kent says in 'King Lear,'

"Such sheets of fire, such bursts of horrid thunder,  
Such groans of roaring wind and rain,  
I never remember to have heard."

It completely interrupted the solemnities of "Passion Week." It is true there was a tolerable congregation at the Cathedral on the evening of "Holy Thursday," and some pretty music; but no procession on that day, nor females thronging the streets at night, in sable attire, proceeding to pay their devotions at seven churches; and the usual crowds of the other sex, with thoughts we fear more occupied upon earthly angels, than on saints above,—however that is no business of ours, they alone will have to answer for it. We can only express our regret that the weather interfered with a scene which we have always viewed with considerable interest: the military music, three full bands with muffled drums, preceded by globular lights, leaving the Plaza at 9 o'clock at night, parading in solemn march through the streets, with the attendant crowds: and now another long year must elapse ere it will again occur.

Several "Judasses," (the Guy Faux's of Buenos Ayres,) were exhibited on Saturday morning, and fire-works placed to them, notwithstanding the rain. They were variously attired.

**THEATRE.**

The period of Lent having expired, the dramatic representations were resumed on the 6th instant, with the dull tragedy of "Elvira Portuguesa;" and as the opening of the Theatre was uncertain until the evening, the audience were not numerous.

Doña Trinidad Guevara reappeared. In person she seems thinner, but time has certainly added dignity to her acting: her "by play" in the second act was excellent, and the attitude she assumed when dying would be pronounced by amateurs as beautiful. — Señor Culebras was unfortunate; he had to seek a chair ere he could give vent to his grief, and was besides exceedingly hoarse, and the audience much inclined to be merry. — Velarde is a clever actor, but in the impassioned lover he does not exactly succeed. Even on the London stage a "good lover" is not to be found: Charles Kemble is too cold, and Elliston too flippant, failing to depict the peculiar delicacy of a passion which a great poet describes as a "Light from Heaven; a spark of that immortal fire with angels shared."

On the 7th instant, to a tolerably full house, a very tedious comedy was represented.

What with disputes between Manager and Performers, the public are for the present deprived of their favorite Operatic amusements, and the fine Orchestra of the Theatre little or nothing to do. In the event of Peace, a plan, it is said, has been proposed to build a Theatre upon the site near the Plaza; and it is more than probable, from the taste and liberality which the public have evinced towards the Opera, that a splendid Opera House will, at no distant day, be erected in this city.

**DIED,**

On Wednesday 9th inst. Lieutenant THOMAS COLLINS, of the National Navy; a native of Salem, U. S.

On 10th instant, after a lingering illness, Mr. RICHARD BUMAR, many years proprietor of a Store near the Mole.

**Advertisements.**

**T**HE "ATENEO" will open in the middle of next month, in the house now occupied as the ARGENTINE COLLEGE, Calle de la Florida, No. 107. Those young gentlemen who wish to follow the prescribed course of Studies, which have already been announced, are requested to call at the said house to receive Tickets of Admission.

The Argentine College will be removed, a few days previous to the opening of the ATENEO, to the house of the late Don Juan Antonio Lezica, Calle de Chacabuco, No. 19.

**T**HE REV. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Chaplain of the Protestant Episcopal Chapel of this City, proposes to receive into his family six young ladies, from 6 to 12 years of age, to be educated with his own little girl.

The Course of Instruction will comprehend the English Language; Writing, Arithmetic, Composition, Geography, and the Elements of Astronomy, with the Use of the Globes, and the Delineation of Maps; Ancient and Modern History; and useful and ornamental Needle Work. .... The Terms are forty-five dollars per month.

The Spanish and French Languages, Drawing, and Music, will be taught, if required, by approved Masters.

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