

THE

# British Packet,

AND

## ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1828.

[VOL. 2.]

### BUENOS AYRES.

Our political situation is at this moment extremely tantalizing, from the uncertainty which prevails relative to the question of Peace or War; and rumour, with its "hundred tongues," is extremely busy: one party asserting that if the Emperor consents to give up Monte Video and Colonia, it will be clogged with conditions to which this country cannot submit, and that consequently Peace may yet be very distant; and doubts are entertained that the interference of Great Britain will be effectual. The arguments upon the other side are equally vague: report states that the British Minister at Rio Janeiro has written a very complimentary and flattering letter to General Lavalleja.

Our own opinion is, that peace will be the result of the present negotiation, although it may not take place so speedily as some have expected. In the mean time the preparations for war have not relaxed: Government have purchased the schooner-brig *Sin Par*, now lying in the Inner Roads; and, we believe, a brig at the Salado. Should the war continue, the National vessels and privateers will, in spite of convoy, effectually destroy the commerce of Brazil. We have undisguisedly expressed our opinion upon privateering, particularly under present circumstances. In a late number of the *Quarterly Review*, the following observations occur in an article entitled "United States:"

"Her ideas (the United States,) of a legitimate blockade, agree pretty nearly with our own:—that to constitute a legal blockade, there must be an efficient force to prevent all ships from entering a blockaded port; that a public notification must be made that no ship shall be subject to capture for a first attempt to pass the blockading force, but be warned off; but if, after being so warned, she again attempts it, she shall be liable to capture. But the American Government has launched a novel proposition of a very singular nature,—that belligerents should abstain from commissioning privateers, and from capturing private property at sea,—which is a pretty considerable enlargement of the principle that she has long endeavoured to establish, (that the flag of a neutral vessel shall cover all property on board, except contraband of war; for here, in order to ascertain whether a vessel has on board articles contraband of war, it is necessary to examine her; and this being admitted, is conceding the whole question of the 'right of search.' The interdiction or suspension of

private war, however amiable it may sound in theory, could only add to the duration and encouragement of public war. To make the scourge of war short, it is necessary to make the people feel its pressure."

In the midst of the obloquy heaped upon the privateers, it is something in their favour to have such an advocate as the *Quarterly Review*.

*Copy of a communication from the Government to the Junta of the Province.*

Buenos Ayres, 10th April 1828.

"The Executive Government has the honor to pass to the Honorable Sala of Representatives of the Province, the petition which Messrs. John and William Parish Robertson have presented, soliciting the funds necessary towards saving the Scotch colony of Santa Catalina in the present crisis.

"By the documents accompanying the representation, the Honorable Representatives will be enabled to estimate the extent of the obligations contracted by the Province in favour of that establishment: and from the plan and statements A. B. C. D. they will be enabled to form an exact idea of its present importance, and prosperous state.

"The Government is of opinion that, even laying aside the claim which the Messrs. Robertsons have to assistance, it will be of the greatest utility to the public to assist in supporting an establishment which will doubtless serve as a model of agricultural operations, and rural prosperity. For it is evident that, if order, domestic peace and useful institutions are to exist and be encouraged amongst us, every effort ought to be made to diminish in the country an inclination to pastoral pursuits, which by creating too much personal independence, are opposed to the well-being even of those engaged in them. Besides, in the Establishment of Santa Catalina, there have been introduced many productions of the vegetable world, formerly unknown in the country; and new methods of husbandry, which it is worthy of remark, are to a considerable extent executed by natives of the country.

"In short, the Scotch colony now presents an example of that rising prosperity which may be obtained by those emigrants from Europe, who choose to adopt our country for their own; and thus will be overcome the principal obstacle which on all sides presents itself towards the organization of this country: and which will always render fruitless the efforts of the most vigilant and liberal authority.

"For these reasons the Government recommends to the Honorable Sala the petition of Messrs. Robertsons, and salutes the Honorable Representatives with accustomed consideration.

"MANUEL DORREGO."

José Maria Rojas.

We have received a letter from Lieutenant Wilson, dated Chascomus, 10th instant, which we decline to insert; convinced that it would answer no good purpose, and that many of the assertions contained in it are founded in error. We have reason to believe that Captain George Bynon (whom Lieutenant Wilson names in his letter,) did, jointly with other officers of this Republic in Patagonia, assist (as far as their pecuniary means would allow,) the prisoners of war in that country, and did them other kindnesses.

Two new publications have lately appeared in this city; viz.—*El Diablo Rosado* (the Red Devil,) and *Le Censeur*; the latter in the French language. The *Diablo* is printed upon coloured paper, approximating to red, and is published on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: *Le Censeur* appears on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Their political bias tends to the opposition side of the question, and their remarks are written somewhat in a satirical vein. Perhaps the observations of an excellent author may not be entirely out of place at this moment. He says,—

"A satirist of true genius, who is warmed by a generous indignation of vice, and whose censures are conducted by candour and truth, merits the applause of every friend to virtue. He may be considered as a sort of supplement to the legislative authority of his country; as assisting the unavoidable defects of all legal institutions, for the regulating of manners, and striking terror even where the divine prohibitions themselves are held in contempt. The strongest defence perhaps, against the inroads of vice among the more cultivated part of our species, is well-directed ridicule. They who fear nothing else, dread to be marked out to the contempt and indignation of the world. To expose, therefore, the false pretensions of counterfeit virtue, is to disarm it at once of all power of mischief, and to perform a public service of the most advantageous kind. The voice, indeed, of an honest satirist, is not only beneficial to the world, as giving alarm against the designs of an enemy so dangerous to all social intercourse; but as proving likewise the most efficacious preventive to others, of assuming the same character of distinguished infamy.

"It is not every arm, however, that is qualified to manage this formidable blow. The arrows of satire, when they are not pointed by virtue as well as wit, recoil back upon the hand that directs them, and wound none but him from whom they proceed. There cannot indeed be a more odious, nor at the same time a more contemptible character, than that of a vicious satirist."

A letter from Monte Video observes, that the Cabildo has drawn up a petition to the Emperor, entreating him to continue the war, and that they may remain a province of Brazil;

that several of the inhabitants have signed it, and great exertions were making in the country to obtain signatures. It is by a document of this sort that the Emperor founds his claim to the Banda Oriental; and the one now in question will doubtless be pompously presented to the British Authorities as speaking the voice of the people. But the British are not such dolts as to be deceived by a trick now become so very stale. The letter likewise remarks, that the signature business is part of the trickery of Lecor, who is more active as a "trickster" than as a warrior: that he had at present three, if not four strings to his bow; and hopes to humbug the British, Lavalleja, and the Banda Orientalists, and array them all against poor Buenos Ayres; in which he is heartily assisted by Tomas Garcia de Zuñiga, and others. Even the females at the *tertulias* in Monte Video, talk of little else but the *quebrados* at Buenos Ayres, and that neither Government nor people have got a rial to bless themselves with; not thinking that these failures have been mostly the result of peace rumours.

Mr. Gustavus Busch, a native of Dusseldorf, Germany, and Mr. Richard E. Pedrick, a North American, were murdered some weeks since near the Colorados, about 6 miles from M. Video; supposed by soldiers stationed at the lines. Some doubloons which it was known Mr. Busch had in his possession, doubtless led to this diabolical act. Neither of these unfortunate young men were more than 28 years of age.

April 12.—Wind E. S. E. Sailed, 22 sail of small craft, under convoy of a Gun Boat, for the Parana, Bajada, &c.; and Gun Boat No. 7, for Santa Fé, with accoutrements. The schooner privateer Empresa, in the Inner Roads, hoisted a Blue Peter, and fired a salute. About 10 o'clock A. M. the Brazilian squadron, consisting of 2 corvettes, 2 brigs, and 4 schooners, approached, apparently with the intention to reconnoitre an American brig then at anchor outside the Inner Roads, and which afterwards came inside. A brig and two schooners being somewhat in advance of the rest, fired several guns, it was presumed as a challenge, as there was no enemy within several gunshots of them.

Admiral Brown embarked, hoisted his flag in the schooner Sarandi, and immediately made sail, followed by schooners Ninth February, and Maldonado. The challengers had now joined the other part of their squadron, and all of them came into three fathom hole. At half past 12 they began to fire upon the Sarandi and Ninth February; the two latter returned the fire as occasion offered. Several schooners and Gun Boats got under weigh from the Inner Roads, but owing to a strong head wind, were obliged to anchor again. About half past 2 P. M., a brig, supposed the 29th August, grounded; upon which the whole squadron got near her, and anchored in line: she was soon afloat again. The Sarandi kept working to windward to observe two vessels which had come in sight; the Ninth of February endeavoured to do the same, but could not keep pace with the Sarandi. Both vessels received the fire of the entire Brazilian line: they made no attempt to chase. The Maldonado had fallen to leeward. The two strange vessels proved to be brigs: upon making them out the Sarandi bore away, the brigs firing repeatedly at her, and they finally anchored among the squadron, which now consisted of 2 corvettes, 4 brigs, and 4 schooners. The Sarandi continued to manoeuvre about them;

often receiving their fire, and returning it at intervals: this continued until late in the afternoon. It was the first time during the war that the Brazilian squadron had ventured to anchor in three-fathom hole. But their new situation seemed to displease them. Brown was hovering about, and although only with one schooner, yet repose was out of the question with such an enemy near. Towards evening they got under weigh, and preferred to beat out against a strong head-wind and current, which occupied them all the night. The Sarandi followed them until they had passed the packet; and long after dark guns were heard, and signal lights seen. Perhaps in no action have the Brazilians displayed greater imbecillity: it even elicited pointed remarks from persons lately arrived from Rio Janeiro and Monte Video, who had hitherto been incredulous as to the reported ineffectiveness of the Brazilian squadron. Their wretched gunnery is well known; and upon this occasion the shots certainly splashed the water about in all directions, two or three passed through the sails of the Sarandi, and one, at the latter part of the action, struck the Ninth February between wind and water, which damage was repaired the same evening; and not a man was hurt in the National schooners.

The manœuvring and daring of the Sarandi excited considerable admiration, and much regret was expressed when the grounded brig again got afloat. The bomb-ketch fired a number of shots: her captain is said to be Boldt, the Dane, lately a prisoner of war, and who escaped from this city. The efforts of Messrs. Boots, Broom, Boldt, &c., have been useless. The azoteas, church-tops, and every place that commands a view of the river, had a 'portion' of spectators.

**13.—Wind E. N. E.** At day-break the Brazilian squadron at anchor in the Outer Roads; the Sarandi under weigh a few miles to the northward of them, with scarcely any sail set. She leisurely pursued her course to three-fathom hole, followed by two brigs, who opened fire upon her at half-past 7 A. M. She seemed to be playing with them, and observing the Maldonado coming out, hove to for them. The two brigs then hauled their wind, first giving broadsides, and steered for the squadron, nearly all of which were under sail: a corvette and a schooner during the day stood down the river. The firing of the two brigs was entirely without effect: the Sarandi anchored in the Inner Roads, and Admiral Brown came on shore at 9 o'clock A. M.

During the afternoon the wind had shifted more to the northward, and the privateer Empresa stood towards the Outer Roads. This brought forth two brigs and a schooner in chase, cannonading as usual, especially from the schooner, stated to be the Grenfel. The shots fell more than a mile short of the privateer, and the Brazilians soon retired. The Maldonado was under weigh. It being Sunday, a number of persons were collected on the Alameda and other places, to view the ridiculous scene.

Sailed this evening, the schooner privateer Empresa, (late Robert Armstrong,) Captain Love, on a cruise. She has 5 guns, and a fine crew of nearly 70 men, English and Americans. In the early part of the night blue lights were seen in the direction of the Brazilian squadron, and some of their vessels came near to three fathom hole.

Arrived this morning, the American schooner Alexander, Captain Munday, from Parnagua, with 324 tierces of yerba, to W. P. Ford & Co. She had been 14 days in the river, and was chased several times; once as far as Cape St. Antonio. She passed through the blockading squadron last night, as they were beating to the Outer Roads.

**14.—Wind N. and low tide.** The schooner of war Maldonado, in steering towards three fathom hole got aground, but floated again when the tide made. The schooner Eleventh of June came to anchor near her. The Brazilian squadron were under weigh, made sail, and anchored hull down from the town. Whilst under sail, the main-topmast of one of their schooners was observed to fall over the side.

Arrived, a zumaca and 2 balandras from the northward. Sailed Gun Boat No. 4, and lugger boat Martin Garcia, in search of two or three privateer boats which have been cruising near and in the Parana.

The National Squadron were inspected this day by the General of Marines, Irigoyen; the Commissary General, &c. upon which occasion the Admiral's flag was hoisted at the main of the schooner Ninth of February.

**16.—Wind N.** Arrived, 4 balandras from the Parana, No. 12 Gun Boat from Las Vacas, and the armed boat Comet. The Comet had an action on Monday afternoon with a Brazilian launch and a small whale boat. They kept up a lively fire of cannon and musquetry, and the Comet's gun being dismounted, she was obliged to retire.

Sailed this evening, American brig Arethusa, Corrie, for the Havana; and National schooner Constante, Mychinburgh, for Patagonia.

Some lights having been observed during different nights at Point Quilmes, supposed as signals to the Brazilian squadron, a man-of-war boat was sent to cruise in that direction, and a patrol of cavalry ordered to the neighbourhood of Quilmes. The result of this arrangement has been the seizure of eleven of the traitors who have been in the habit of conveying information to the Brazilian squadron.

**17.—Wind N.,** in the afternoon N. W. with thunder and rain. Arrived, a launch from the Parana.

**18.—Wind S.** Arrived, American schooner Leo, Rains, from Baltimore 4th February: was off Rio Janeiro for a few hours. The Captain landed, and was placed under a military guard, upon the supposition of the Leo being a privateer. Sailed from off Rio on 6th instant: was chased by a ship at the mouth of the river, and by a schooner near Point Indio; passed the blockading squadron without impediment. Has an assorted cargo, consigned to Messrs. Zimmerman, Frazier, & Co. We have not heard any particular news from Rio Janeiro. The British sloop of war Heron, we believe, had arrived at that port.

Sailed, a Gun Boat, with a convoy of small craft to the northward. The American brig Arethusa, from this 16th inst., passed Point Indio at 11 o'clock on the morning of 17th. Was not chased. The pilot returned this day.

*Arrivals at the Salado.*—April 10, British brig Hodgkinson, McNatty, in ballast, from Rio Janeiro: passenger, Captain Michael Brown, brother to Admiral Brown. 12th, British brig Laurel, from Parnagua, consigned to Mr. D. Gowland; American schooner brig William Thomas, Attwell, from Linn, U. S., to order. The pilot of the privateer Empresa arrived at the Salado on Monday evening last, and reported having left the privateer that morning, all well off Point Indio.

One of the corvette Ifuzaingo's prizes, the zumaca Disengano Feliz, last from Patagonia with dry goods, and which grounded at the Tuyu, has since been ran away with by the crew, the prize master being on shore. Bailey, late a gunner of the Pirang, frigate, is supposed to be the chief instigator of this act.

Captain George Bynon left town on the 11th inst., by land, for the Salado; and Captain Michael Brown (brother to Admiral Brown,) arrived on Monday last, in the *stage coach*, from the above port. We understand that another coach is about to run regularly between this city and the Salado.

The election of a President for the U. S. of North America, takes place in November next. A considerable party propose the reelection of Mr. Adams: it is however supposed that General Jackson will be the new President. The newspapers we have lately seen from the U. S. are much occupied upon the merits and demerits of the two candidates, and great party spirit displayed. A book lately published, entitled, "The United States of North America as they are,—by a North American," hints that John Quincy Adams, the now President, is attached to the principles of Monarchy, and gives the following sketch of him:—"His countenance betrays a cold, ambitious mind; his dark eye exhibits the heartless diplomatist. When Secretary of State, he uttered the following memorable words: 'The United States will not be ranked among nations, till the Presidency becomes hereditary.' When one of the representatives was introduced to a nightly interview with him, and expressed his scruples respecting the manner of the election, the characteristic reply of Adams was,—'Sir, the time will come even with the United States, when the Government, and not a prejudiced populace destitute of character, will determine the public opinion.'" Mr. Adams is stated as always keeping aloof from the people, and that he is not popular. Not long since the proprietor of a steam-boat had the imprudence to call his vessel the 'Lady Adams,' but could get no passenger until the offensive title was defaced, and a more republican name substituted.

The following sketch is given of General Jackson:—"The first view of Andrew Jackson is imposing; but the impression he leaves is not an agreeable one. A stature above the common size,—a body which fatigues and hardships have cleared of all superfluous flesh,—a physiognomy indicating violent passions,—a face furrowed by deep lines,—a grayish piercing eye, bespeaking less of shrewdness than of impetuosity, and which age has not robbed of its fire; these, with a tincture of Irish cunning, are the peculiarities that distinguish the present hero of the opposition." The author intimates that he will be successful this year. America, he thinks, has nothing to apprehend from the ambition of General Jackson: and that he never will abuse his power, nor plunge the Union into a war with Great Britain, his age (seventy,) he says is a security. Jackson is evidently a favorite with this writer. During the late contest for the Presidentship, he represents him as acting with independence and honor, and bearing his disappointment with calmness and dignity. Jackson was defeated in consequence of Mr. Clay's coalition with his former opponent, Adams: the Secretaryship was his reward. Of him we have the following sketch:

"Clay has, in person, very little that is attractive: a disagreeable face,—gray piercing eyes, full of a wild and malicious fire, distinguish the shrewd and impetuous politician, who knows no delicacy in the choice of his means. No other State but Kentucky would have forgiven Clay's breach of trust. The Kentuckians were angry only so long as they were unacquainted with the price of this job *en gros*. As soon as they had the opening prospect of offices from their countryman, the present Secretary of State, he became their favorite. It is no small honor to the other States that they deeply feel the wound inflicted on the moral principle of

the Republic, and accordingly hold its author in abomination. None of the twenty-two States would choose him under the present circumstances, even for a constable. His private life is far from being exemplary: a duellist and a gambler, he has neither principle nor a sense of what is due to decorum."

Mr. Randolph (Mr. Clay's opponent,) is thus described:—"With a meagre figure, six feet in height,—long arms, on which the best spectacles could hardly discern an ounce of flesh,—an arched forehead, and a squeaking voice, at the sound of which one is inclined to close the offended organ,—he is animated with a certain life and spirit which amply compensates for these defects. He is noted for being fond of slander, rather self-conceited, fond of talking for a great length of time like all bachelors, particularly if wealthy Virginian planters. As a Senator of the U. States, he is very popular, and deservedly enjoys the regard paid to him by the unprejudiced majority of his fellow-citizens.

The following, from a Paris paper, is characteristic of the "dancing-loving" French:—

"It is a long time since an affair so weighty has occupied the attention of the Opera visitors. Madame Montessu had scarcely attained the zenith of her fame, in a Ballet which is in itself the admiration of every one, when an indisposition,—natural enough certainly, but the most fatal that can befall a dancer,—has obliged her to quit the scene. Consternation spread itself among her admirers,—that is to say, the entire public. Nothing was heard but exclamations of, 'Who will replace our charming Jeannette,—our interesting Therese!' No one answered in the *groupe of nymphs* so celebrated, and which are the glory of L'Academie Royale, and the admiration of Europe. However, from a Theatre of the second class has emanated a young and pretty dancer, nothing frightened at the boldness of the attempt. The audience smiled at her audacity; and Jeannette is found again. She did not dance perhaps quite so correctly as the first; but she has intelligence, grace," &c. &c.

### THEATRE.

Various performances have taken place lately, including the exhibition of "pruebas" by Monsieur Rhigas; of which, to say truth, we are heartily tired. Since the suspension of the Operas, the Theatre has become very "triste."—Surely something will be done to restore to us this delightful amusement. The public patronage has been so liberal, that every exertion ought to be made for their gratification.

### PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doubloons, 42½ to 43 dollars each.  
Spanish Dollars, 145 to 150 per cent. premium.  
Small Silver, 125 to 130 ditto ditto.  
Gold in bars, 14 to 15 reals per quilate.  
Silver do. 13 to 14 reals per dinero.

Exchange on London, 20d. to 21d. per dollar.  
Do. on Monte Video, 125 to 126 per cent. premium.  
Do. on Rio, 85 to 90 per cent. premium.  
Public Stocks, 45 to 46 per cent.

In consequence of the departure of the Packet, and other causes, the Markets are somewhat brisker.

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