

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 91.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1828.

[VOL. 2.

BUENOS AYRES.

THE *Kingfisher* packet brought London papers to 23d February. The Parliament opened (by Commission,) on 29th January. The King's Speech contains nothing very important: in allusion to the battle of Navarino, it says,—

"Notwithstanding the valour displayed by the combined fleet, His Majesty deeply laments that this conflict should have occurred with the naval force of an ancient ally; but he still entertains a confident hope that this untoward event will not be followed by further hostilities," &c.

"His Majesty has the greatest satisfaction in informing you, that the purposes for which His Majesty, upon the requisition of the Court of Lisbon, detached a military force to Portugal, have been accomplished. The obligations of good faith having been fulfilled, and the safety and independence of Portugal secured, His Majesty has given orders that the forces now in that country should be immediately withdrawn."

The French Senate met on 6th February. The Speech from the King very slightly alludes to the combat of Navarino. The following part is somewhat important:—

"The Peninsula has long been the cause of sacrifices to us. They are drawing to a conclusion. Spain being secure upon its frontiers, perseveringly exerts herself in order to stifle in her bosom the deplorable germs of civil discord. Every thing indicates that I shall very soon be able, in concert with the King my nephew, to restore my soldiers to their country, and to relieve my people from a severe burden."

The debates in Parliament have been interesting; Mr. Hobhouse moved that the thanks if the House be given to Admiral Codrington, and the French and Russian Admirals for their conduct at Navarino. It was opposed on the ground of inexpediency and finally withdrawn. Some ministerial explanations were given at great length, and Mr. Brougham made a speech which occupied, it is said, nearly seven hours in delivery; 'upon the State and Administration of the Law.'

Mr. Huskisson has been reelected for Liverpool, upon which occasion he explained to the electors the reason of his continuing in office under the Wellington administration, and how little he merited the censures passed upon him for so doing.

Lord Hill has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army. The ministerial arrangements remain nearly the same as described in a former Number. The Turkish Government appear to be seriously preparing for war. French, British, and Russian subjects, some of whom have resided at Constantinople for thirty years, have been obliged to quit that capital: and a manifesto has been issued, one part of which says—"that the infidels (Christians) have a desire to

convert our mosques into churches where the sound of bells will be heard." The London Courier remarks that "Constantinople is not destined to fall so quickly if at all, nor is the project of driving the Turks out of Europe so easy or so desirable. The necessity of preserving the balance of power requires that the Turks should not be driven out of Europe."

Lord Cochrane arrived at Portsmouth on 11th February in a schooner from the Greek Islands. His Lordship states that the Turks not having a ship of any description at sea, the Greek cause no longer needs his support. Admiral Sir Richard John Strachan died on 3d February, aged 67 years.

We have received Baltimore papers by the schooner *Elisha Tyson*. The Commercial Chronicle of February 27 gives a detail of a desperate action which the Mexican brig of war *Guerrero*, Captain David H. Porter, of 22 guns and 136 men, sustained with some Spanish men of war, which ended in her capture, Captain Porter killed. On the 9th February she had captured two brigs (Spanish *Guineamen*) and manned them. On the 10th she fell in with two Spanish brigs of war, the *Marte* and *Maria Amalia*, one of 18 guns and 180 men, the other of 10 guns and 130 men, both of which she beat, but they escaped into Mariel. The firing was heard in Havana, and the frigate *Lealtad* of 54 guns and 500 men went out, came up with the brig, she being in a crippled state; a fight ensued which lasted two hours and twenty minutes, one hour and a quarter of which time the two vessels were within speaking distance.—The brig's powder and shot were totally exhausted, and Capt. Porter ordered the colours to be struck. The Spaniards supposing that they had been shot away, as was the case twice during the engagement and replaced, continued firing, and after the brig had surrendered Capt. Porter was killed by a grape shot passing through his body. This fine and brave officer was the nephew of Commodore Porter.

Mr. Ragnet, late Charge d'Affaires of the United States to the Government of Brazil, has presented a petition to the House of Representatives, requesting that an inquiry should be instituted into his conduct whilst at that Court, particularly as it regards the base and calumnious accusation made in the Rio Janeiro newspaper called "*Gazeta do Brasil*," stating that he (Mr. Ragnet) had been bribed by the agents of Buenos Ayres.

The same paper has the following remarks upon the con-

B. C. Ross

demnation of the American brig Ruth now in this port: "We trust that the Public Authorities of this country are not disposed to suffer our valuable South American commerce to be harassed and cut up by the lawless decrees, and piratical privateers of Brazil and Buenos Ayres. We were imbecile enough to endure similar outrages, and millions captured and lost for ever, under the illegal orders and decrees of England and France. A little energy would suppress at once the spoiliations commenced in the southern seas."

The election of General Jackson seems certain. Two of the most popular governments of modern times, Great Britain and North America, will probably at the same period have military chieftains at the head of affairs.

Extract of a Letter from Rio Janeiro, dated 12th April, 1828.

"Upon the subject of Peace, I cannot give you any thing like correct information; indeed it is not given credit to here by one person out of ten, and we must have further proof of it from your quarter before it will be believed. In fact, none of the Ministers of State have heard a word about it, and they cannot be persuaded that Lord Ponsonby had any powers to treat on the part of this Government. The packet, it is supposed, will bring a person from Buenos Ayres to treat; but even then there is a great deal to do before things can be finally arranged. The frigate Forte sails for the river on 14th instant, to bring up Lord Ponsonby, appointed Minister to this Court.

"Exchange on London, 32d. to 33d. per Milrea. Dollars, 1,650 reas. Doubloons, 22 to 23 dollars each. Patacones, 50 to 52 per cent. premium."

Brazilian Account of the Action off Buenos Ayres, on 17th February last.

"On the 17th of February an American brig was chased by the blockading squadron off Buenos Ayres, but in attempting to gain the port she got aground. The enemy came out to her protection, and the fire lasted for some hours, though at a great distance. Their brig and schooner brig draw only 8 feet water, and the other vessels less, on which account they have it in their power to choose a suitable position, so as to prevent our corvettes and brigs from going alongside of them. The river being very low, we were under the necessity of waiting for a full tide, and came to anchor in front of Quilmes. The enemy, profiting by this interval, set fire to the brig during the night, and retreated under the protection of the batteries; in effecting which one of their gun boats got aground, which we burned, notwithstanding a heavy fire of musketry kept up by her crew from the shore, and during which we had one man wounded. The few stores on board of this vessel were saved. Our loss during this skirmish consists of 2 killed and 3 wounded.

"Dated on board the *Principe Imperial*, 22d February, 1828."

Extract of a Letter from an Officer of the late privateer brig Niger.

"Confinement to a small room and iron gratings, is now my fate; yet I manage to keep up my spirits, and occasionally think of friends in Buenos Ayres. Visits from the pretty,

sympathizing and patriotic ladies of this place, together with books, and a good Havana, occupy my leisure moments. Fortune, fickle fortune, on the 23d of March declared against us. The managing of His Imperial Majesty's squadron on that day far surpassed the many lubberly and cowardly manœuvres to which you have been an eye-witness. For nearly three hours the devoted Niger stood the brunt of their fire, occasionally within pistol shot. Every attempt we made to close and board was evaded even by their largest vessels. At 11, 30, we lay a complete wreck; not a brace or sheet standing, sails and spars much cut, and between 20 and 30 killed and wounded. The wind dying away and nearly a calm, gave them a fine opportunity of playing upon us with their long guns; we only being able to run along before the wind. A brig now ventured to get under our lee, and we all thought to have the pleasure of obliging one of them to surrender ere we fell into their hands. Boarders were called away, and every man ordered to prepare to leave the Niger, and fire her. We then bore up, and when getting within twice our length of her, grounded and stuck fast: two of the enemy, a few minutes afterwards, shared the same fate. The whole squadron now boldly approached within grape shot range, except one or two who still manœuvred cautiously. One of their commanders observed after the engagement, that he "*commanded one of the most fortunate vessels in the Imperial Navy; for you must know (said he,) that she is called the 'Good-Luck,' and I can aver, that during the whole of our hard fighting in the river, she has never received a shot or lost a man, until this day.*" Captain Coe replied, *that it must be for want of disposition in her commander,* and bid him good-morning.

They swept our poor fellows away for minutes together; we could not get a gun to bear upon them, and indeed most of them were dismounted. Seeing that all further resistance was only sacrificing the crew, Captain Coe ordered the boats out, intending to get the wounded on shore, and setting fire to her. The boats were soon swamped by the enemy's fire; one however reached the shore. Our ensign was again shot away, when the Captain gave the painful order for it to be kept down, two guns to be fired down the hatchways, and then to cease firing. The enemy still kept up their fire, and when in the act of again hoisting our ensign, they ceased.

"Our loss was severe,—68 prisoners fell into their hands; however it cost them some blood; 45 wounded were sent to Colonia, 23 of whom were their own people; but such was the secrecy observed, we could not find out their correct loss. Some of their vessels bent a fresh suit of sails, and appeared to have received considerable damage in the spars and hull.

"Commodore Jack Boots,—which name, by-the-by, is a very appropriate one, his dress being a pair of old worn out boots, a dirty old check shirt, blue nankeen pantaloons and waistcoat, no coat, but a plaid cloak with as many Irish pendants flying about it as a Portuguese man-of-war, glazed hat, and dirt on his face and hands that a common scraper would not take off,—in fact he is one of the most filthy objects you can conceive; even his officers when speaking of him call him "*the old brute*." Commodore Jack Boots, (as by that

name I shall in future designate him.) was so busy in overhauling the few clothes which the officers saved from the Niger, that Captain Coe reached the quarter-deck of the flag ship without being perceived by him. He however got a salute from him; but nothing could be done until he had taken a look at the shirts, &c., now and then picking out some small articles, observing that according to the Imperial Ordinance such and such things belonged to the captors.

"But enough of this: it would not only fill sheets, but folios, to give you the particulars,—the English swearing that the Portuguese made all the yappers, and the Portuguese that the English got all. A number of their officers were sent off to the Admiral after our capture: one of them, by way of stuffing us, told us it was for promotion, and that he was going on to Rio Janeiro to take the command of a frigate: but it now appears they were ordered away for quite a different purpose, and will probably be sent to the island of Cobres for a short time upon half pay with an extra ration of *Farinha de Pau*.

"Not one of our seamen entered the enemy's service, although flogged and put in double irons. They preferred a prison. An officer observed after mustering them one day and threatening them with worse treatment if they did not enter his Majesty's Navy, that they were all a set of black guards, and in fact (said he) you are not worthy to serve his Imperial Majesty.

"My pen must now stop. I have seen Turks, and Turkish prisons; but

"I have also heard or read of the plundering and sacking of cities; but

"Among the articles stolen from the cabin by Jack Boots's officers, was Captain Coe's chronometer. Jack B. proposed to the Commanders that he (Capt. Coe) should be made to pay for it. A commander that would vote that an officer should pay for his own loss, was most probable the very person who committed the theft."

We had heard from various quarters of ill treatment to the Niger's prisoners, but forbore to notice it, thinking there might be exaggeration. The above letter confirms all, and is a sufficient answer to those who continually rail against this government respecting prisoners of war. The fate of the officers and crew of the ill-starred Niger, fills us with regret: their courage and devotion to the service merited better fortune. The chivalric Coe, young in years, but old in deeds of glory:—most of us recollect his debut in the service of this Republic, as a volunteer on board the ship *Twenty-fifth of May*, in the sanguinary fight of 30th July, 1826. Then as Captain of the schooners of war *Sarandi* and *Juncal*, and his "gallant bearing" in every conflict with a foe who always had a great and overwhelming superiority; and his cruise in the brig *Niger*, and attack upon the corvette *Maria Isabel*. Fear is a stranger to him, and he is, as one of his captives observed, an honor to the country which gave him birth.

April 26.—Wind W. S. W. Sailed, three balandras for the Parana, and two boats for the Banda Oriental. Ar-

rived, a boat from Monte Video. The Kingfisher packet anchored in the Inner Roads.

27.—Wind S. W. Arrived, two boats from the Banda Oriental, and landed some officers with despatches from the Army.

28.—Wind N. E. A Brazilian brig under sail, standing up, no other part of their squadron in sight: she soon tacked. Arrived, Gun Boat No. 8, Roberts, and schooner of war Uruguay and an armed launch, last from Martin Garcia. Thirty deserters from the regiment 'Defensores' were landed from them, and marched under a strong guard to the Reiro. About half past 8 o'clock in the evening a gun was fired from the schooner of war *Sarandi*, and musquetry from other vessels. The Adjutant of the Port, and other officers, embarked to ascertain the cause, which proved to be a balandra from Las Vacas with passengers, neglecting to answer when challenged.

29.—Wind N. N. E., in the evening rain. Arrived, Gun Boat No. 9, from Martin Garcia. The opposite coast visible. Five sail of Brazilian vessels at anchor, and others under weigh.

30.—Wind S. Arrived and sailed several small craft from and to the northward. The blockading squadron in sight under sail.

May 1.—Wind S. Sailed, Gun Boat No. 8, with military officers for Las Vacas; and some small craft for the Parana.

2.—Wind S. S. W. Arrived, two balandras from the Parana. Blockading squadron in sight standing up.

Arrivals at the Salado.—On the 28th ultimo, *zumca* Boa Noticia, prize to the privateer *Bonaerense*, bound from Santos to Rio Janeiro, cargo sugar, coffee, &c. The *Bonaerense* has made seven prizes, viz.—3 arrived at the Salado (*Fauny*, *Nova Trinidad*, and *Boa Noticia*), 1 lost, 2 destroyed, and 1 given to prisoners. She was about to proceed for Paragua.

On 29th, American brig *Kimmett*, Powell, from Monte Video, with lumber to Sutton & Co. Swedish ship *Hercules*, Lubneau, (late Governor Hawkins) from the Havana.

Two prizes of the privateer *Prinipo* Argentino have been retaken, it is said, near Cape St Antonio. One of them is the *zumca* *Protectora*, with salt; prize-master and 3 men arrived at the Salado. Norton has had a flying squadron in that neighbourhood, expecting by captures to make some amends for his endurance in this river.

The schooner chased into Ensenada on 25th ult., and which was stated to be a privateer, is the American schooner *Elisha Tyson*, Captain Pierson, from Baltimore 46 days. She was in the latitude of Rio Janeiro in 34 days from the time of her departure. Called at the Salado, and took a pilot. She has received some damage in her sails from the firing of the Brazilian vessels. Cargo, domestic goods, gun, rice, tobacco, tar, gunpowder, &c., to Daniel Gowland.

Captain Anderson, late of the Brazilian brig of war *Maranhm*, was shot by the patrole during a *fracas* a few days since, in a house at Monte Video. He died almost instantly.

The British brig *William Wise*, arrived at Monte Video from Liverpool, spoke the privateer brig *Cacique*, Captain De Kay, with another privateer brig in company, near the Cape de Verdes.

Fructoso Rivera, with about 100 men, remains it is said, in the woods near the Arroyo de la China.

The Commercial embarrassments in this city, we are happy to state, have taken a more favourable turn, several commercial houses having arranged their affairs, and it gives us pleasure to observe by an Edicto of the Consulado, that the house of Mr. George Frank, which had for the moment felt the pressure of the times, has settled all its engagements entered into before this date, to the entire satisfaction of the creditors; and has resumed business as heretofore.

We have received Chili newspapers. Two new publications have appeared at Santiago, viz.—the *Registro Municipal*, and the *Mercurio Chileno*. The first is chiefly occupied with the proceedings of the Municipality: the second contains a representation from the first tailor of that city, complaining that the other gentlemen tailors open shops without obtaining the requisite license;—a decree from the Municipality of the village of Casa Blanca, inviting persons to establish themselves in that village, and that on presenting certificates of their good conduct, a piece of land of 35 varas by 70, will be given to them, to pay no taxes for two years, after which period 3 dollars per vara. In the *Monitor Imparcial*, No. 29, we find that a company exists at Coquimbo for the sale of tobacco, tea, wines, &c.; and a vessel was obliged to leave that port because the captain refused to sell his cargo to them below first cost! The authorities surely cannot countenance such a monopoly. There are two projects of law presented to the Congress,—one to prohibit the importation of manufactured articles which can be made in the country, and after a limited period, such articles if imported to be burned, and the importer to pay the amount of the goods. All foreign artisans who establish themselves in Chili to enjoy all the rights of citizens, and no taxes demanded from them for four years.—The other is for the removal of Spaniards and others who have not taken a decided part in the revolution, from the public offices. The news from Buenos Ayres concerning the war, is detailed at length, in which the Chilenos appear to take great interest; and the conduct of the army is much appreciated. The *Mercurio de Valparaiso*, No. 52, observes,—“On our part we have not the slightest doubt about the issue of the campaign, knowing as we do that the Argentines can march from one extremity of the Brazilian Empire to the other, without encountering any other obstacle but bad roads and rivers.” A reading room has been established at Santiago: among the directors we observe the name of Don J. J. Mora, and also that he is one of the committee of public instruction. We augur well to these institutions from the talents and knowledge of this gentleman. His lady has established a college for the education of young ladies, upon a similar plan to the one she formerly superintended in this city.

Murders are daily committed: the *Mercurio*, No. 56, notices six murders to have occurred in seven days; and the Editor remarks, that perhaps the only method to counteract such horrible proceedings, would be the murder of some person of consequence, as then the authorities would be more upon the alert. The road from Valparaiso to Santiago is represented as being infested with robbers, and in a very dilapidated state. An Italian has been ordered to quit the Republic for having demanded alms to ransom Christian captives on the coast of Africa. He had left for Rio Janeiro, by way of Buenos Ayres, and we are cautioned against this impostor.

By a late census, the population of the Islands of Chiloe was ascertained to be 43,290 souls: of these, 21,523 are males, and 21,767 females. Public instruction has advanced: in 1826, 3511 children attended the schools; in 1827, the number had increased to 4489.

Quarantine regulations have been introduced into the ports of Chili.

“H. M's. Ship *Doris*, Valparaiso, 1st March, 1828.

“SIR.—I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the British Mercantile interest, that His Majesty's ship under my command will sail from this port on the 15th of May for

Coquimbo, and from thence on the 25th May for Rio de Janeiro and England. (Signed) JOHN GORDON SINCLAIR.

“To C. R. Nugent, Esq., H. M's. Consul General.”

A true Copy,

C. R. Nugent, H. B. M's. Cons'l Gen'l.

Our observation upon Lieutenant Wilson's letter, in No. 89 of the *British Packet*, has produced a communication from another Gentleman, in which the assertion as it regards Captain George Bynon's conduct to the prisoners, is still held to be correct.

THEATRE.

Dullness has taken its abode here,—even the Orchestra seems infected with it, and on Wednesday evening performed melancholy strains, as a lament, perhaps, for beauty's absence. The comedy called *Un momento de imprudencia*,—(what a name!)—has been represented during the week: Doña Trinidad, in English costume (bonnet and scarf,) looked like a substantial tradesman's wife of Aldersgate Street, dressed for visiting.

BIRTHS.

On 26th ultimo, the Lady of WOODBINE PARRISH, Esq., His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, of a daughter.

At Fulham (England), the Lady of RICHARD FRANKLIN POSETT, Esq., His Majesty's Vice Consul at Buenos Ayres, of a daughter.

With this No. concludes the seventh quarter.

Buenos Ayres Sunday School.

THE quarterly distribution of Rewards will take place on Sunday the 4th instant, at the PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL, No. 30 Calle de la Catedral. A brief account of the proceedings of the past year may be expected; also, an Address to the Children and their Parents.

The public exercises will commence at 4 o'clock p. m. The Parents and Friends of the children, and others interested in the Moral and Religious Instruction of the young, are invited to attend.

FAUNCH'S FAMILY HOTEL,

Calle de la Catedral, half a square from the Plaza.

MRS. FAUNCH, widow of the late JAMES FAUNCH, having seen several advertisements in the public prints, stating that the old house in the Plaza, formerly occupied by her late husband, is reopened by another person, this circumstance alone would not have called forth any notice, had not the construction of the advertisement implied that it is actually Faunch's Hotel, kept by another individual.

Mrs. FAUNCH begs to return her grateful acknowledgments for the kind support of her friends, and the public in general, during the life of her late husband; and assures them that nothing shall be omitted on her part, as a claim upon their future patronage.

Mrs. F. begs to observe, that her present house contains advantages far superior to any other public establishment in this city. Families, and travellers from abroad or the interior, will find every domestic accommodation, with prompt attention: separate suits of apartments for families, in addition to the public room, Breakfasts, dinners, suppers, &c., supplied to large or small parties on the shortest notice. Choice wines, and genuine spirits; airy and well-arranged sleeping apartments; convenient rooms, suitable for public or commercial meetings, committees &c. &c.

Every viand that may be in season, of the first quality, and at moderate charges.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doubloons, 46 to 47 dollars each.

Exchange on London, 16d to 18d per dollar, nominal.

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