

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1823.

[Vol. 2.

BUENOS AYRES.

We have not had an opportunity until this moment to notice the decree published at Rio Janeiro, wherein the Emperor declares his complete abdication of the crown of Portugal; that kingdom to be henceforward governed by his daughter, Doña Maria II., his brother Don Miguel appointed Regent, &c.

The above decree, it is presumed, can be rescinded at pleasure; the separation being only in name, and the "firm" continuing the same, with Don Pedro at its head; except, indeed, that Portugal has now become a secondary part of the establishment.

Intelligent persons who have resided for a long period in Brazil, assert, that it is as entirely Portuguese as when the present Emperor's father held his Court in Rio Janeiro. The most influential men in the Empire are Portuguese: it is they who in unmeasured terms approve the present war, and unreservedly express their rancour against this country. The Brazilians seldom offer an opinion upon the subject; and when they do so, it is divested of abuse, and many of them are favorable to the Republican cause. This, and the little interest they take in political affairs, has probably caused them to be depicted as an ignorant, mercenary, time-serving set of beings, only fit to be subjected to their lordly masters the Portuguese.

The Emperor, with such accommodating subjects, can of course act as he pleases. The Senate and Ministers are subservient to his will: his consulting them rendered almost a mockery, and reduced to a mere matter of form. Yet amongst the Senators there are individuals (although few in number,) who have boldly reprobated the conduct of the Government. They chiefly consist of friends to the late Minister, Bonifacio Andrade, who was banished by the Emperor, and is now in France, for expressing opinions rather too Republican. The present Ministers are said to be devoid of talent, of which the Emperor is well aware.

Of all the Brazilian provinces, that of St. Paul's takes the lead in hatred to Buenos Ayres. At Santos and Parnagua no language appears to strong to express it, and their great admiration of the Emperor. It is accounted for, — the Portuguese being the rich and leading men in those places.

Rio Grande is described as not being generally disaffected. The Emperor failed to afford them protection after all his

magnificent promises. Their country the "seat of war," and ill treatment from the Brazilian army, has made them discontented, and should the Republican arms meet with decided success, a separation from Brazil might take place. In the Northern Provinces disturbances occur more from local circumstances, than from any very strong political feeling. The Marchioness of Santos is the Emperor's present favorite: in appearance she is from 35 to 40 years of age; complexion a brunette, without any pretensions to beauty; a Paulista by birth, of obscure parentage.

The Emperor of Brazil will be a mischievous neighbour to the Argentine Republic. He rules an extensive and rich domain, without being obliged to woo the assistance of the provinces, or his time occupied by party feuds. The Brazilians may not be a warlike people, but individuals of all nations will crowd to serve a master who pays well. The name of Emperor has an imposing sound, — it acts like a talisman upon some minds: they boast of it as

— "A tower of strength, which they upon the adverse faction want."

Don Pedro is besides a bustling man, in the prime of life. The spirit of aggrandizement which he has evinced, with the dislike of having a Republican Government like this so near him, may occasion the interference of other nations, to preserve the "balance of power" in the Southern hemisphere.

This Republic, cordially united, would be more than a match for him, and even place his "goodly kingdom" in danger. They have proved themselves brave, and are very enthusiastic. The latter qualification may be derided by some, yet there are many who view it as a necessary ingredient of our nature, and one writer has thus commented upon it:

Enthusiasm, upon all points but that of religion, is an excellent turn of mind. Nothing great or glorious was ever performed, where this quality had not a principal concern: and as our passions add vigour to our actions, enthusiasm gives spirit to our passions: it even opens and enlarges our capacities. Accordingly it is said, that one of the greatest lights of the present age never sits down to study till he has raised his imagination by the power of music: for this purpose he has a band of instruments placed near his library, which play till he finds himself elevated to a proper height. To strike enthusiasm therefore out of the human constitution to reduce things to their precise philosophical standard, would

be to check some of the main wheels of society, and to fix half the world in an useless apathy.

"In a word, this enthusiasm is a beneficent enchantress who never exerts her magic but to our advantage, and only deals about her friendly spells in order to raise imaginary beauties, or to improve real ones. The worst that can be said of her is, that she is a kind deceiver, and an obliging flatterer."

Madam Bonpland has arrived at Bolivia with letters from most of the European and American Governments to Francia the Dictator of Paraguay, soliciting the release of her husband. She was kindly received by Sucre, who added a letter of his own and immediately despatched an officer to Assumption the capital of Paraguay.

Four new Gazettes have lately appeared at Rio Janeiro, viz.—*O Conciliador*, and *O Censor*, in Portuguese; the *Rio Herald*, in English, and *Le Courier de Brazil*, in French.

A Correspondent of the *Rio Herald*, under the signature F., has made some remarks upon the Funding System, which are none the worse for being old; and he has applied them to the purpose, maintaining that but for Loans the present war could not continue a month longer, as the Brazilians would not submit to direct taxation, but would cry out,—“Put an end to the war: we are tired of supporting armies and navies that have done us no good: we have gained nothing by the war but disgrace,” &c. The writer seems to think that both belligerents have lost more by the war than they will be able to regain in fifty years.

The *Rio Herald* does not hesitate to speak out. In its columns we cannot find one word in praise of the Imperial navy; on the contrary, the word ‘mismanagement,’ and terms more opprobrious, often occur. It likewise contains misstatements and abuse relative to this country and the contest in which it is engaged, written in such language as to render replication unnecessary. If the Editor has made these statements intentionally, it is unwarrantable; if from ignorance, it is unpardonable in a public writer. The jargon introduced of “constitutional liberty under a legitimate Sovereign,” and “a Republic at variance among themselves,—freebooters by land, and pirates by sea,” will impose upon very few persons. Had his Imperial Majesty our ‘*Mozos amargos*’ to rule over, he probably would not find them so tractable as his Brazilian subjects; but as far as protection of person, property, and many domestic comforts are concerned, Buenos Ayres may vie with most cities. We hazard this opinion from an experience of seven years; nay, take the comparison of any city in Europe of equal population with this,—Bristol, in England, or Rouen in France, for example, and having resided in these cities we can speak from personal observation, that the crimes and offences committed in each of them in the course of the year, far exceed those that take place in the much calumniated Buenos Ayres.

The *Rio Herald* will, of course, continue its attacks upon the *British Packet*; retort is beneath us. The Editor of that paper has provoked a controversy with some Rio Janeiro

critics, which, if properly attended to, will afford him sufficient employment. He has *elegantly* designated one as a “Tipperary compounder,” and the other as a “shrewd Greenockian.”

On the 30th of March some of the Irish brigade at Rio Janeiro having been insulted by a patrol of Police, attacked the Police Guard House, and destroyed 50 stand of arms. The Emperor was passing at the time, and waved his hat for them to retire, which they did. In the evening several of the ringleaders were arrested.

A letter from New York, says “the probable result of the American election for President, will be as follows: for Adams 116, for Jackson 145. Both sides have been sanguine, but the Adam’s men are daily giving way. Jackson is the man of the mob: Adams is a cunning double faced jockey. Although a thousand solid objections may be made to Jackson he is certainly a man of decision, there is no hypocrisy about him.”

The election for Members to serve in the Junta of the Province, was fixed to take place on Sunday morning last, and it produced more curiosity than usual, from the party spirit which unfortunately prevails between the ‘Federalists,’ and ‘Unitarians.’ Notwithstanding the rain, a great crowd had collected in and about the Parish churches, where the elections are held—but from some informalities the proceedings were stopped, and deferred until to-morrow, the 11th inst. one party asserting that it was strictly legal, and proper so to do; the other, that the Government found themselves in the minority. A few ebullitions and fracas, attendant upon electioneering, occurred; and we regret to add that Colonel Rolon has been wounded. Every precaution was taken to preserve the peace of the city, by patrols, police officers, &c., and a piquet guard of militia cavalry stationed in the evening near the Theatre.

A project of law has been presented to the Junta relative to the liberty of the press, proposing fines and other penalties upon those who abuse it. The first article runs thus:

“It is abusive of the liberty of the press when it attacks the religion of the State, excites sedition or disturbs the public order, disobedience to the laws or the authorities of the country, any obscene remarks contrary to the moral and decorum of public decency. Those who offend by satires and invectives against the honor and reputation of any individual, ridiculing his person or publishing offensive anecdotes of his private life, designating him by name or allusions which cannot be mistaken, notwithstanding the editor may offer to prove his assertions.

2d. The preceding article does not include those publications which only direct their censure against the acts and omissions of the public functionaries in the discharge of their duty.

A Court Martial was held on Saturday last at the Marine office, upon 5 sailors (natives of Santa Fé) for mutiny, and murdering Lieut. Peterson of the schooner Guanaco some time since; they were found guilty and sentenced to death.

May 3.—Wind N. E. Arrived, a boat from Las Vacas. Some firing was heard from the eastward, supposed to be salutes from the Brazilian squadron.

4.—Wind E. N. E., with rain. Arrived a Gun Boat from Martin Garcia.

5.—Wind S. E. The Gun Boat No. 7 fired a gun and sailed with a convoy of 22 vessels to the northward. Gun Boat No. 7 likewise sailed, conveying a zumaca with provisions for Martin Garcia.

6.—Wind S. S. W. Arrived, a boat from Monte Video, and landed Captain Coe, who made his escape from the Citadel of that place on the 3d instant, and embarked from thence the same evening.

Sailed 3 small craft for the Parana. The Kingfisher Packet left the inner for the outer roads.

7.—Wind S. Sailed a zumaca for the Bajada. The blockading squadron came in sight, viz. frigate Nitchteroy, Norton, corvette Liberal, 2 brigs and 4 schooners, they anchored at the North end of the outer roads and sent a boat on board the Packet Kingfisher with despatches for Lord Ponsonby. At sun set they got under weigh and made sail down the river. Jack Boots has gone to Monte Video.

Sailed Gun Boat No. 9 for Martin Garcia, conveying despatches relative to the reinforcement which the Garrison of Colonia has received. Every preparation was made on board the National flotilla to receive Norton, had he wished to give eclat to his reappearance by any act above the common run of Brazilian undertakings.

8.—Wind S. Brazilian squadron at anchor a little to the Southward of the outer roads. Several small vessels arrived from and sailed to the Northward.

It is reported that the privateer Libertador Bolivar, with two Brazilian prize ships, have arrived on the South coast.

9.—Wind N. The Brazilian frigate Nitchteroy aground, having anchored too near the Bank which divides the inner from the outer roads. The National schooner of war Maldonada, Admiral Brown, fired a gun, upon which several other schooners and Gun Boats got under weigh, having on board Capts. Bynon, Rosales, Coe, King, Chambers, &c., in order to attack the frigate; she had however got afloat, having probably been lightened by numerous boats of the squadron which attended her, she had an anchor out a stern when aground.

Arrived the Logger Boat Martin Garcia, with the privateer whale boat captured in the Parana by said lugger. She had a small gun; the Captain a Frenchman, crew 11 men mostly Italians, of which 7 were sent to prison; 4 to the squadron to be chastised as deserters. 3 balandras have been captured by another whale boat, and despatched to Colonia. Arrived 2 balandras and a boat from Las Vacas.

The National schooner of War, El Honor, sailed from the Salado a short time since for Patagonia, and 12 hours after her departure from port was captured by the three masted schooner, and carried to Monte Video. Lieutenants Wildblood, and Rolles. (two excellent officers) were taken in her, and Major Daniels and family; the Major had been appointed as second in command at Patagonia. El Honor is a dull sailer; finding escape impossible, she ran near her opponent, fired her guns, spiked them and immediately struck her colours.

At Monte Video there are nearly 300 seamen belonging to this Republic; prisoners of war and numerous officers, taken in prizes &c.

The accounts from Monte Video state the arrival of the British frigate *Forle*, from Rio Janeiro on 27th ult.; the American ship *Portia*, from New York and Rio Janeiro. The Brazilian frigate *Nitchteroy* and brig *Niger* from Monte Video,

convoys some vessels having on board 500 troops for the garrison of Colonia; the Sloop of War *Heron* has sailed from Rio Janeiro for England.

Captain Coe managed his escape with that decision so characteristic of him. It was about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday last, that he left his apartment in the Citadel of Monte Video; there were three centries on duty, the first stopped him.—“Do you know who I am?” (said Capt. Coe,) “what do you mean by stopping an Imperial officer?” The soldier instantly shouldered arms, and the other two were passed without difficulty. In 15 minutes after he embarked, the town was in confusion; soldiers on the mole; guard boats out, &c. Sir Sidney Smith, after his escape from the Temple Prison in Paris, could not receive more congratulation from his friends in England, than did Capt. Coe upon his arrival in Buenos Ayres. It proved the great estimation in which he is held: indeed, the affair formed the chief conversation of the day, and the joy was extreme. He appeared in excellent health and spirits.

The marines of the privateer *Niger* behaved with great bravery in the late action; the Sergeant particularly so. Government have made some extra allowances to his wife and family in Buenos Ayres. We understand that in the division of the *Niger's* spoils, Broom and two or three other officers did conduct themselves with more propriety than the rest, and endeavoured to alleviate the sufferings of the prisoners.

The Brazilian privateer-boats in the neighbourhood of the Parana, continue their operations, now and then making a few balandra prizes, some of which they get clear off, others retaken &c.

Placards to engage seamen have been exhibited in the streets during the week, and great advantages offered to each man who feels himself competent to “fist six Brazilians, or handle six sacks of Doubloons.

The *Kingfisher* Packet, now about to sail, is the fiftieth packet which has visited this port. The first was the brig *Countess* of Chichester, she arrived in April 1824.

The preparations for the intended Telegraphs, have been suspended for some time; the causes are the rumours of peace, and that many of the original subscribers from the Commercial distresses, and other events have not made good their subscriptions. It is intended, however, to proceed with the work as soon as money can be raised for that purpose. The government is still anxious for its accomplishment, and is ready to bear half the expense, and we sincerely hope that means will be found to go on with the undertaking.

The newspaper *Diablo Rosado*, by a verdict of the Jury, has been suppressed for four months, for the libel upon the Minister of War. Señor Antonio Ramirez having avowed himself as the author of the imputed libel upon the Governor, was found guilty; sentence, banishment for one year to Tandil.

[The following Copy of a Despatch from General Lavalleja, was omitted in our last No. for want of room.]

"Head Quarters Cerro Largo, 17th April, 1828.

"On the morning of the 15th, the enemy in number 2000 mounted infantry and 1000 cavalry, having rations for three days, and prepared to march with celerity, crossed the Yaguaron, and advanced to the encampment of our vanguard, situated in the Arroyo de las Cañas. His intention was to surprise us, but it has been frustrated. They passed to this side of Las Cañas, and were in that position on the morning of the 16th. The undersigned, in consequence of the advices which he had received, proceeded to the vanguard; and when he arrived at Las Cañas the enemy had commenced the most precipitate retreat that can be imagined, so that in the afternoon of the same day Colonel D. Anacleto Medina had his advanced guard upon the Sarandi. The enemy had meditated an undertaking which they began to execute with the greatest rapidity and energy, until they came in presence of our brave fellows, at the sight of whom all their operations became paralyzed, and they failed to effect any thing notwithstanding they were on our encampment. The advantages they have reaped from it are in fatiguing their troops for two days and two nights, rendering useless the horses which they brought with them, the full extent of which they will not find out until they are in a place of security upon the other side of the Yaguaron. The Commander in Chief communicates this movement to the Minister of War and Marine, and has the honor to observe that he is perfectly persuaded the enemy will not attempt a repetition of their late expedition.

(Signed,) "JUAN ANTONIO LAVALLEJA."

"To the Minister of War and Marine."

On 27th ult. advices were received that Colonel Suarez and Colonel Olivera, second in command, were on the 18th at San Miguel, with a division of 1200 men; and that he was following up his march, possessing himself of all the Isthmus between Santa Teresa and Rio Grande. This movement will oblige General Lecor to divide his force, or it will expose the said territory to immense losses.

THEATRE.

"To-morrow and to-morrow" comes, and the same dull routine prevails: worn out comedies performed. Deprived of the Opera, which once beguiled us of so many triste moments,—the warblings of Doña Angelita,—the talents of Rosquellas, Vacani, &c., and the excellent Orchestra, we are left to exclaim,—

"Othello's occupation's gone!" It is really 'too bad.' Doña Matilda Diaz reappeared in a comedy after her late accouchement, and looked "as well as can be expected."

If in Paris Miss Smithson spreads around enchantments, she is rivalled by Madame Pasta in London. We remember this lady at the London Opera House 10 years ago: she was then an interesting girl, with expressive black eyes; but was only viewed as a second or third rate performer, and filled such characters as the page in 'Figaro,' and Servilia in 'La clemenza di Tito.' The following observations copied from the Atlas, London paper, of 10th February last, will convey some idea of the impression she now makes.

"The second revival we have to notice at the Opera is in its music,—a very unrevising one to us. The 'Otello' of Rossini, in which Madame Pasta's last scene of Desdemona makes three barren acts endurable. In the last scene we forgot the music

altogether, in the extreme grandeur of her acting.—With what a look did she, turning to Otelo, accompany the words 'Ingrato,—Perfido!' Her eyes condensed all their meaning. Her relapses into tenderness, her gradual desperation, and flight from the dagger on discovering his fixed resolve, were beyond praise. It has become a kind of fashion to adore this lady: we are rather jealous that it should be so, but fashion is for once in the right."

The Opera of "La Cenerentola" is announced for this evening. A Treaty has been concluded with the Manager, by which the Opera Establishment is recognized as an Independent State. Several new opera are to be put in immediate rehearsal, and we anticipate many delightful evenings this winter.—We should have given this intelligence in a "Second Edition," but our British Packet cannot as yet soar so high.

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have received a letter from Captain James George Bynon, in answer to an article which appeared in our last number. It came too late for insertion this week.

The communication signed J. B. shall have a place in our next.

We have received a letter which contains the quotation "Tempora mutantur, et nos cum illis mutantur," and likewise alludes to the remark in our last number relative to a mercantile house in this city: It being anonymous prevents the insertion.

FRESH BUTTER.—The highest price will be given for fresh Butter of the first quality, by applying at No. 59 Calle de la Piedad.

WANTED.—As Housemaid, a steady active Woman who understands her business. Apply at No. 142 Calle de la Piedad.

Buenos Ayres Sunday School.

THE distribution of Rewards in this School which was deferred last Sabbath on account of the weather, will take place on Sabbath the 11th, at 4 o'clock p. m., at the place previously named.

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, both 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, 48 to 49 dollars each.
 Spanish Dollars, 200 per cent. premium.
 Gold in bars, 20 to 21 reals per quilate.
 Silver do. 16 to 17 reals per dinero.
 Exchange on London, 16d to 17d per dollar.
 Do. on Monte Video, 120 to 122 per cent. premium.
 Do. on Rio, 58 to 60 per cent. premium.
 Six per cent. Stock, 44 to 45.

Hides (pesada 35lbs.) 10 to 11 dollars — Brazil and other produce advancing in price, particularly Sugars.

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