

THE
British Packet,
AND
ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1828.

[Vol. 2.

BUENOS AYRES.

THE elections on Sunday last closed in favour of the Government. The opposition for some reason or other declined to exert themselves. The greatest order prevailed throughout. The weather was again unpropitious, heavy rain, thunder and lightning: luckily we are not superstitious or in the humour at this moment to quote authors that deal in "signs" and "portents," or to comment upon passages like—

"The dawn is overcast, the morning fairs,

"And heavily with clouds brings on the day

"Big with the fate of"—&c.

During the week preceding the election, both military and police were on the alert, and a small guard of cavalry placed near the Theatre on play nights: thank Heaven no necessity existed for their interference. Three or four persons including Colonel Don Juan Apostol Martinez and Don Andres Tarragona have been arrested, charged with having expressed opinions contrary to the peace of the State: but as the electioneering "furor" which gave rise to these charges sleeps for another year, their release will perhaps follow in a few days.

Rumours of peace have revived during the week founded upon a letter from Monte Video, that deputies were expected there in the Piranga frigate from Rio Janeiro to treat. The effect of this report was felt upon the different markets. It is very likely the Emperor will send the aforesaid deputies if it is only to pacify his subjects, and make them believe that he is anxious for peace: glad shall we be to find that he is sincere in his professions, and wishes to make a peace honorable to both parties. Much will depend upon the persons appointed to negotiate, that they may not meet for the purpose of trying which excels in diplomatic talent. One honest negotiator, even if his capacity does not extend beyond mediocrity, a "downright straight forward man," (as they say in England,) like the Marquis Cornwallis who negotiated the peace of Amiens, will do more to get us a good peace than the tactic of more practised statesmen who can refer you to the highest authorities ancient and modern "from Plato and Aristotle down to the puzzlers of modern date."

The Governor of the Province of Salta has put forth a document in favour of unitarianism, and that it is the only system which can give respectability and safety to the Republic. Cordova, that always disobedient child, has issued (so it is said) a counter proclamation or paper, and among

other things observes, that if Buenos Ayres chooses to make peace with Brazil, it is not incumbent upon Cordova to follow her example. These Provinces seem bent upon aggravating each other, and vex us good patriots in Buenos Ayres, unless this scolding one another means nothing, which after all may be the case. Some say they are too much petted, and ought to be treated like a pouting girl:

"Mind your business—let her be,

"By and by she'll follow thee."

A dispute between the civil and ecclesiastical authorities at Cordova has taken place, occasioned by the Vicar General having issued a sentence of excommunication against the Editor of 'La Verdad sin Rodeos,' for reflections upon the Jesuits, deemed insulting to religion. The Government requested this excommunication to be taken off, not recognizing any authority that could enforce such a measure. The Vicar refused compliance, and said that if the Government persisted he would tender his resignation. The Government did not think proper to urge him to this latter step. The excommunication which was posted at the Cathedral was removed by some unknown hand, but was next day replaced by order of the Vicar, (who proved himself a true disciple of St. Thomas a Becket,) with a writing that it had been clandestinely taken away, and that it still remained in full vigour. On the night of Good Friday the paper was defaced. The affair remains undecided. In the notes which passed the Government expressed their determination to maintain their authority.

The project of law presented to the Junta relative to the liberty of the press, (an extract from which we gave in our last number,) has been sanctioned by that body. 'El Hijo Mayor del Diablo Rosado' (the Red Devil's eldest son,) which had succeeded its deceased parent, and proved a true "chip of the old block," has ceased to be published; and likewise the French paper "Censeur." A new daily paper "El Tiempo," (Times) has appeared: it professes impartiality.

A plan of subscription has been proposed in Chili for the purpose of bringing out German emigrants to that country. Mr. Mora has published a prospectus for a College which he proposes to open at Santiago for the education of young gentlemen, at 300 dollars per annum. The College for young ladies, under the superintendence of his lady, has already

British Room

more than 50 scholars; indeed the reception which Mr. and Mrs. Mora have met with in Chili must be highly gratifying to them.

May 10.—Wind N. Arrived 4 balandras from the Northward.

11.—Wind N. W. with rain; nothing arrived or sailed.

12.—Wind S. S. W. Sailed gun boat No. 13, with a fleet of small craft to the Northward, and a whale boat to Las Vacas Gen. Lavalley passenger.

13.—Wind N. E. and misty. Sailed 3 balandras and a zumaca for the Parana, and British Barque Packet *Kingfisher*, Poore, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro and Falmouth; she has several passengers, amongst them Dr. Gilles (late residing at Mendoza,) Mr. Mair, &c.—The firing of cannon heard at day-break, mid-day and sun-set, in the direction of Colonia, (salutes) it being the day of "San Pedro Regolado."

14.—Wind N. The *Kingfisher* packet returned this morning to the outer roads: 3 boats left her and landed the passengers, in consequence of fresh instructions from the Brazilian Authorities, the particulars of which we have given in another part. The novelty of this affair attracted a great crowd to the beach, and it gave rise to various surmises until the particulars were divulged. In the evening the passengers (except one or two) again embarked, having a passport from Lord Ponsonby to save them from further molestation. A light was displayed at intervals from the packet, as a guide to the boats: this, or other causes, produced alarm among the National vessels in the Inner Roads; about 8 o'clock they signaled each other by lights and fired several guns.

Arrived, American schooner *Maria*, Trott, from Baltimore 28th February, general cargo, to Daniel Gowland; called at the Salado on Sunday, sailed from thence on Monday with a pilot; saw a schooner near the Chico; passed through the Blockading Squadron early this morning, some of them under weigh: did not speak any vessel in her passage from Baltimore.

Sailed at night, British barque packet *Kingfisher*, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro, and Falmouth; British brig *Minstrel*, Moor, for Liverpool; American schooner *Rosa*, Gibson, for Baltimore.

15.—Wind N., in the afternoon it shifted to the southward. Arrived, two balandras from the Parana.

The pilot of the British brig *Minstrel* landed this evening, and reports that he left the said brig, all well, at day-break this morning off Point Indio, and in the passage down did not see any Brazilian vessels. Returning in the boat, saw a schooner with American flag near the Ombu, five Brazilian vessels chasing about mid day: the schooner appeared greatly to outsail them. The American schooner *Rosa*, it is supposed, has got clear out of the river: she was ahead of the *Minstrel*.

16.—Wind S. Arrived, schooner of war 18th January, from Martin Garcia.

Arrived at the Salado on 3th inst., the Schooner Privateer *Bomarense*, from a cruise.

A boat arrived at Ensenada on 11th inst., from Monte Video, and brought accounts to 7th inst. The British brig *Grecian*, from Liverpool on 13th February, do. Schooner brig *Jane* and *Henry* from do. American schooner *Estrella* from Baltimore, and a vessel from Rio Grande had arrived at Monte Video. Jacinto Pereyra had taken command of the brig *Maranham*, and Parker of a brig, (late the Sardinian brig *Asunto*.) An expedition against the Salado was talked of.

We omitted to notice that the Union, (National schooner of war,) Captain Mendez, has been captured and carried into Monte Video. Lieutenant Brazier was on board, acting as Captain of Marines.

Copy of a letter from Capt. Coe to Don Juan Ramon Balcarce, Minister of War and Marine, published in the Correo newspaper of 14th instant.

"I had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of 7th inst. requesting a statement of the conduct observed by the enemy to our prisoners of war at Monte Video, in conformity to which I transmit to your Excellency all the information which I possess upon that subject. There are more than 40 officers and 300 men appertaining to the Republic confined in Monte Video, many of them in irons. From personal observation as well as information given me by others, their treatment is very severe, increased by the great inhumanity of the keepers. In one small apartment of the Bovedas, 40 officers are confined, and they are never suffered to leave the room. The unfortunates can scarcely find space in which to sleep, added to which there is no ventilation or air admitted except by a small grating which looks into the street. There is another grating facing the water, which from the brutality of the keeper has been closed. The stench emitted is so insupportable that passengers have turned back rather than pass the grating which communicates with the street. This prison is so situated that at very high tides there are 3 to 4 inches water in the room. It is impossible to give an adequate description of the place, but having passed the first night of my arrival in it, I can speak confidently of most of the circumstances above detailed.

In other apartments of the Boveda, the seamen and soldiers are distributed, many of them almost naked, and mingled with criminals of all descriptions, with whom quarrels repeatedly occur, and some of our seamen have been wounded by the knives of these wretches. Two of my officers (Mr. Bird and Mr. Reppy,) are confined with the seamen; they were conveyed to that prison in irons, for what offence I know not. They have written to me declaring their innocence of any act that could demand such punishment. I immediately wrote to the authorities but received no answer.

Our prisoners have been repeatedly urged to join the enemy's service, but without effect; and of the Niger's crew I believe they have all preferred to remain in prison, and were in consequence subjected to taunts, chastisement, and general ill treatment.

Of the rations allowed I cannot speak positively, but have been informed that the prisoners in the Boveda have fresh beef, rice and water every day: the officers confined in the citadel water and candles only, and are not permitted to go out of their rooms except three individuals who have been prisoners for some months. The situation of the prisoners in the citadel would be extremely miserable if it was not for the great kindness which the inhabitants of Monte Video evince towards them: one or two of the officers have assured me, that for some days their only sustenance has been bread and water. It is the terrible places in which the prisoners are confined that creates such disgust and indignation, and some prefer to work in chains rather than remain there.

I wrote to the President Don Tomas G. Zuniga respecting my officers, some of whom were ill with the prison fever, requesting they might be removed; he returned an answer that

he had nothing to do with the marine prisoners, and referred me to the Admiral. I wrote to him; he did not reply although my letter was given to him 16 days before my escape. My seamen had forwarded to me a representation requesting I would intercede and get them removed from the Portuguese criminals: I sent it to Admiral Guedez, and it remained unanswered. He has displayed throughout the greatest inveteracy against us and the cause in which we are engaged;—any propositions for an exchange of prisoners he will scarcely listen to. The prisoners in the Hospital, I believe, have every attention.—I have the honor to remain, &c. &c. &c.

J. H. COE.

The following particulars have been circulated relative to the affair between the Kingfisher packet and the blockading Commodore:—

The packet got under weigh about 9 o'clock A. M. on the 13th instant. At 10 saw the Brazilian squadron: at half past 10 dropped anchor at some distance astern of the frigate Nitchteroy, being first hailed by her. Captain Norton came on board, and after some conversation with Captain Poore, the latter ordered the sails of the Kingfisher to be furled. Norton produced an order from Admiral Guedez, dated M. Video 27th April 1828, that no passengers whatever should be allowed to go from Buenos Ayres in the packet, without his [the Admiral's] special permission, or by the desire of Lord Ponsonby. Norton then left to go to the Nitchteroy, but from the fog could not find her, and he got on board the schooner Constantia, which came alongside the packet. Norton again came on board the Kingfisher, repeated his instructions, and offered to convey the passengers to Buenos Ayres under a flag of truce. He and Captain Poore then retired to the cabin, where a long conversation ensued, and notes were interchanged. After dinner (6 o'clock,) the subject was renewed. Norton observed that he was almost the only officer of the squadron who had not at some time or other been censured or tried for misconduct, or for being remiss in duty, and that he could not swerve from his orders: he would not use force, but if the packet proceeded with the passengers it would be a violation of the blockade, and therefore he most decidedly objected to it. The passengers were then called below, and asked by Captain Poore their determination, and whether they would go on board a Brazilian vessel to take them to Monte Video, and placed at the disposal of the Brazilian Admiral. They agreed to leave the affair to the decision of the said Admiral, but objected to be removed from the packet until her arrival at Monte Video. At 11 o'clock Norton departed, and the Kingfisher returned to Buenos Ayres. Of the 13 passengers she had on board 8 were landed. Three having a special permission from Admiral Guedez, remained on board: an American lady and Doctor Gilles from indisposition could not be removed.

Norton at times appeared reluctant to enforce the order, but seemed to dread that intrigue with the Admiral might remove him from his command should he falter in his duty; he conducted himself otherwise in his usual manner. To a question why he had not communicated the order, having had it in his possession 4 days after it was issued, and a few days ago his boat had been on board the Packet, he replied, that Admiral Guedez had not desired him so to do. On shore there was no hesitation in what manner to proceed, and the paper or passport given to the passengers from Lord Ponsonby, is written in very strong language.

The Brazilian Government in this proceeding only annoy neutrals, and not the people with whom they are at war. Their not having officially advised the British Authorities might be construed as an insult to the flag: but of this intention we acquit them,—they dare not do it. It may

probably be the act of that spiteful old man Guedez; and Norton from his hatred to Buenos Ayres, would be glad of the office to put the order in execution.

To the Editor of the British Packet.

SIR,

The statement I now send, will, I trust convince every unprejudiced person, of the great injustice done to me from the assertions of your Correspondent, relative to the alleged ill-treatment of prisoners of war in Patagonia. A subscription amounting to more than 300 hard dollars was raised for them, to which I and other officers contributed as far as our pecuniary means would allow; it was placed in the hands of Mr. Battel to purchase stores, which were afterwards sent to San Gabriel for the use of the prisoners. When the latter were put on-board the vessel, (with which they afterwards ran away to Monte Video,) the government had proposed to allow only seaman's rations; I exerted myself and persuaded the government to put stores on board, of wine, sugar, coffee, rice, flour, biscuit, and a few sheep. Capt. Eyre and his officers when at San Gabriel, often received from the vessel under my command, bread, rum, coffee, sugar &c.; a boat was dispatched with these things by my express order; this and more than this can be attested by Don Manuel Rojas, the then Governor of Patagonia; and generally by Capts. Mason, Chambers, Munday, Lieut. Martinez and many others. Before the departure of the prisoners for San Gabriel, they had been distributed on board 2 vessels, and allowed to go on shore at intervals; but the inhabitants were alarmed at this, and represented to the Governor the danger in suffering it. He sent for me, and requested that I would put a stop to it, notwithstanding which, upon any application made to me I still gave various officers liberty to land. When at San Gabriel they had a certain space of ground assigned to them; they certainly could not range at perfect liberty, and had no right to expect such an indulgence; they formed a numerous body. San Gabriel is a Paradise compared with the horrors the Republican Prisoners of War endure; and they, the Brazilian prisoners at San Gabriel repeatedly visited the Town of Patagonia (del Carmen) by permission, and the Authorities almost invariably consulted with me ere they granted this permission. Prisoners of war in this country should call to mind the conduct of the side which they espouse, and not be ungrateful for benefits received.—From Brazilian captivity, (worse than Algerine) may heaven preserve me. I am the last man who would advise retaliation, and hope such an extreme will never be resorted to. Some Nations would have acted differently to those who, having once escaped, thought proper to advise and plan an expedition against the place in which they had been captives, presuming upon the local knowledge which circumstances gave them, and again taken prisoners when endeavouring to put their plans into execution. I can solemnly aver that I did all in my power to alleviate the misfortunes of the prisoners.—It is true, I neither sought for, or wished their acquaintance. I could retort upon one of my calumniators, and relate anecdotes, trifling perhaps in themselves, but important as showing the real disposition of that person: it would be unfair to do so at the present moment. The events in Patagonia have been so fatal to Brazilian vanity, they will not forget or forgive. The humble share which fell to my lot in these occurrences, will ever form the proudest recollection of my life.

The explanation I have entered into is due to my friends, and the cause to which I have devoted myself. Upon my enemies I have no words to waste; their hatred honours me; their slander creates scarcely any other feeling but contempt.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

JAMES GEORGE BYRON.

To the Editor of the British Packet.

STR,

Much has been said respecting the amount of the population of this city, and much difference of opinion exists with regard to what is the probable number of inhabitants. The taking of a census is one of the most difficult tasks which a government can undertake, as there are many causes which operate to deter individuals from making a correct return. In England they go about it in such a way as to remove the fears of the inhabitants that any other use will be made of the return, and there it is so managed that the whole of the census is taken in one day; but in a country like this many difficulties occur. I therefore feel that no reliance is to be placed upon the census as taken by the government, and have endeavoured to procure some data which in comparing with our own country, may lead to a result probably more correct than any of the vague calculations of superficial travellers.

The register of christenings and burials is carefully attended to in Buenos Ayres, and is a document from which by comparison a tolerably fair conclusion may be come to. I have obtained the totals of the registers of christenings and burials for the year 1822, and the like totals for the same period in the bills of mortality for London and its vicinity. I have not any document to prove the amount of the population, but my recollection serves me sufficiently to know that the amount for London and its vicinity was about 1,200,000, and I take the amount of the register of births and deaths from the London papers, which always copy from the bills as published by the Company of Parish Clerks at Christmas—and they were for the year 1822 as under:—

	Christened.	Buried.
In the 97 Parishes within the walls.....	1059	1162
— 17 do. without the walls.....	5433	3990
— 23 Out Parishes in Middlesex } and Surrey,	17092	10727
— 10 Parishes of Westminster.....	4095	4708
Totals	27,679	20,567
Grand Total		48,266
The amounts for the same year for this } city, taken from the Registro Es- } tadistico,	2701	1825
Grand Total.....		4,526

But the 1,200,000 for the population of London includes the parishes of St. Marylebone and Pancras, which by a reference to an old copy of the Parish Clerks' return in my possession, do not appear to be included in the 23 out parishes in Middlesex and Surry, so that this number must be reduced by the amount of the population of these two parishes, which was 120,000, leaving in gross numbers about 1,080,000; with this amount we may fairly work the rule of proportion. I think the most correct totals to work upon are those of the christenings, as there is a greater balance in favor of the increase of population in comparison with London, which is easily accounted for by the early period of life at which females in this country marry compared with London; but I give it two ways first as to the relative christenings, and second as to the relative grand totals of christenings and burials:

First as	27,699 : 1,080,000 :: 2701	105,389 the presumed amount of the population of this city
Or second, as	48,266 : 1,080,000 :: 4,526	101,273 the presumed amount of the population of this city

I should have no objections to furnish some other reasons for the more rapid increase of population in this place than in London if the same will be acceptable.

J. B.

THEATRE.

The Opera of the 'Barber of Seville' was substituted for 'La Cereñola' on Saturday evening. Doña Candida Vacani being indisposed. We did not regret the change. 'El Barbero' is admirably represented at this Theatre, and its music (at least to us) never tires. It would be repetition to enlarge upon the merits of Rosquellas, Vacani, Ricciolini, Vera, and the syren Doña Angelita Tani,—she certainly never sung better; her first 'aria' delighted the audience. Figaro,—the saucy Figaro, will certainly die with Vacani; few can equal him. The duet 'Al idea di quell metalla' was given in excellent spirit. The choruses were not perfect, and the orchestra out of tune for want of rehearsal.

We must again notice the beautiful 'finale' that concludes the Opera: it formed the climax to the evening's amusement. Indeed the music altogether

"Tuned the softest serenade

That e'er on Plata's waters played

At midnight, to Portena's maid."

The audience were brilliant and select, and the boxes graced by several lovely faces, visible only on nights of Operas. The prices to boxes, pit, &c. have been advanced,—each box 5 dollars, pit seats 10 rials, and the admission on these nights 6 rials. The expenses of the establishment are doubtless great: two or three gentlemen have engaged the house at an annual rent, an Opera to be given once in the week. These gentlemen, and all concerned in the undertaking, "have our thanks;"—the musical taste of the country will be improved, and a step gained for Buenos Ayres.

The sister of Angelita Tani (Doña Mariquita) is soon expected from Rio Janeiro to join our operatic corps. She has been absent from this Theatre about two years and a half.

Various plays have been represented lately, including 'El Divorcio per Amor,' with indifferent success.

MARRIED.

On the 14th instant, by the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, Captain ANDREW EDWARD CHALMERS, of the National Navy, to Miss CAROLINE SIMONS, daughter of Mr. John Simons of this city.

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

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.

Doubletons, 48 to 49 dollars each.
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