

# THE British Packet,

## AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1828.

[Vol. 2.]

### BUENOS AYRES.

The schooner *Resolution* has brought London papers to the 19th of May. The Emperor of Russia had declared war against Turkey: 30,000 Russian troops were in march towards that country;—a prelude perhaps, to a general war in Europe. In Portugal confusion still prevailed. The *Morning Herald* of 19th May says,

"On the 3d of May, Don Miguel issued a decree for the invocation of the three estates: on the following day this decree was formally communicated to the foreign Ambassadors, who in two days from that date, announced by way of answer that their functions had ceased. The Ambassador of Spain agreed with the rest of the diplomatic body in this course, and it remains to be seen what effect it will have on the conduct of Don Miguel."

The Brazilian bonds have declined to 58 and 59; the Brazilian Minister in London has refused to pay the dividends upon the Portuguese loan, giving as a reason the disturbed state of Portugal, and the uncertainty of what may be the result. This proceeding has brought forth reprehension from the shareholders and others. It is now pretty well ascertained that when the Emperor remitted money to London for the dividends upon the Brazil loan, and deposited (as was said,) one half year in advance, it was with the hope of getting another loan; report likewise gave out that he had disposed of some jewels to provide the ways and means, and suspicions were raised as to his future ability to make good his payments: the antique proverb of the two bad paymasters, *Those who pay beforehand, and those who never pay,* was bruited. Certain it is, that a letter from London in speaking of these affairs, did use the very vulgar phrase that the gentlemen of Capel Court began to *smell a rat*, and probably thought that he (the Emperor) was fast approaching the last stage of all, that is to say, a *lame duck*, or at any rate a *duckling*.\*

The *Morning Herald* will have it that Buenos Ayres does not wish for Peace, and asserts that "when Sr. Garcia arrived with the Preliminaries, and an illumination being ordered

upon the probability of Peace, the people rose *en masse*, and declared for war." This strange tale must have had its origin in Rio Janeiro.

The Catholic Bill has passed the House of Commons, and so it has done at other times, and afterwards been rejected in the House of Lords.

Bolivian gazettes have been received to 5th June, and if credit may be given to them, the Peruvian invaders are likely soon to be driven out of the country or exterminated. Urduinea the Bolivian general, has addressed a proclamation to his troops inciting them to vengeance, and execrating the traitors, (for it appears a conspiracy had been discovered among the officers of one of their regiments;); two of them viz., Major Montenegro and Lieut. Gastelu were shot, and others have fled the country. The Colombian troops (so say the papers) swear to be revenged upon the Peruvians; a detail is given of a battle or skirmish, in which the latter were beaten, having 200 men, (chiefly cavalry,) killed, wounded, and missing; the Bolivians had only two wounded. We have not translated these documents at length, as private letters give a complete contradiction to their contents.

General Lavalleja has forwarded to this city the second Surgeon of Lecor's army who has passed over to the Republican side; the said Surgeon speaks of the great demoralization of the Imperial troops, and states upon the authority of some letters, that the Brazilian Province of Minas Geraes was in insurrection, and that the Brazilian army intended going immediately into winter quarters at *El Cerrito*. A general of Lavalleja's stamp will feel highly mortified should the campaign close without any thing decisive taking place. Lecor has acted fully up to his system of declining all combat, while his attempts at intrigue have had little or no effect; he probably thinks that the superior resources of Brazil must in the end prevail. We have just been turning over some pages of Machiavel, in which the following observations occur in his treatise that "Money is not the sinews of war."

"Since it is a much easier matter to begin a war than to end one, a Prince who has any design of that kind in hand, ought not only maturely to consider his own strength, but also to take great care that he does not impose upon himself in making that estimate, as he certainly will do if he altogether depends either upon his coffers, (be they ever so full) or the situation of his dominions, or

\* Lame duck is the term applied to an individual, when publicly declared a defaulter upon the Stock Exchange. Duckling is one who makes a private composition with his creditors.

the collection of his subjects: all which will signify nothing if he has not a good and faithful army of his own subjects; they will quickly desert him when they find he is not able to protect them. Good soldiers and not money (according to the vulgar opinion) are the sinews of war, for money alone is not sufficient to provide a good army, but a good army will always provide itself with money."

General Lavalleja as Captain General of the Province of the Banda Oriental, has addressed a letter to the delegated Governor, Don Luis Eduardo Perez, informing him that "the time is approaching when his (Lavalleja's) command of the Province ceases, and as there appears great probability that Peace will be realized with the Empire of Brazil, from the negotiation now pending between the Emperor and the Government of the Republic charged with the direction of the war, he believes it opportune for the Province to choose a new representation, and not only to name a substitute for him, but also to take measures as it regards the interest of the Province as soon as Peace should be concluded."

Lord Ponsonby has at length departed from Buenos Ayres; his situation here cannot have been of a very enviable description, neither has his Lordship in his diplomatic character reposed upon a *bed of roses*. Faithful to our plan of avoiding the field of politics, which Heaven knows is sufficiently occupied without our mingling in the throng, we have no object in these remarks, but to speak of the urbanity and nobleness which in private life has ever distinguished his Lordship, and this we can do without personal bias, never having spoken to his Lordship, or indeed seen him more than half a dozen times during his residence in this capital. We hope and believe that he has the interest of this country sincerely at heart, and that he has even left it with some feelings of regret. For ourselves we candidly confess, that the embarkation on Sunday last cost us a pang—momentary perhaps: it may have been remembrance of our country, and that one of its nobles was then quitting us *for ever*; we have no inclination to trust our pen further.

Farewell, Lord Ponsonby—a long farewell.

By a decree dated 28th ultimo, Woodbine Parish, Esq. has been recognized as Charge d'affaires from H. M. the King of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, to this Republic.

The Government have by another letter, again impressed upon the Judicial authorities the necessity of expediting the proceedings against those in custody, upon the charge of murdering Dr. Francisco Alvarez.

The editor of the *Hijo Negro del Diablo Rosado* has been acquitted of the indictment brought against him for the remarks in the said paper relative to Lord Ponsonby.

In Entre Rios some disagreements are said to prevail, and troops marching from thence for the purpose of deposing the Governor of Santa Fe.

Eight horses were embarked in the *Heron* for Rio Janeiro: seven of them belong to Lord Ponsonby, and one to Captain Bingham. As the said horses were bred in this country, and therefore staunch Republicans, it behoves the grooms to keep them clear of the Imperial stud upon their arrival in Rio, for fear of mischief.

Fournier has purchased at New York a fine new corvette, called the *Bolivar*, mounting 22 guns, (24 pounders,) and equipped for sea. She was to sail about the 2d June for St. Thomas's, there to change her flag, and afterwards proceed on her destination. The *Bolivar* had been built for the Colombian Government, who not having paid for her, she was bought on speculation by some merchants at New York, and by them sold to Fournier. The National schooner of war *Juncal* was at Philadelphia.

July 26.—Wind W. Blockading squadron not in sight. Arrived, several sail of small craft from the Northward; the second Surgeon of the Brazilian army (*a pasada*;) was landed from one of them. Boats from the British vessels of war were employed nearly all the week in taking off the luggage, &c. belonging to Lord Ponsonby.

27. Wind S. S. E. with rain. Sailed a Gun Boat, with convoy for the Parana. Lord and Lady Ponsonby, Mr. Scott, his Lordship's private Secretary, &c., embarked from the mole at 3 o'clock p. m. in a boat of the frigate *Thetis*, attended by the boats of the *Sapphire* and *Heron*; a considerable crowd was collected upon the occasion; as the wind was blowing fresh, and a heavy swell upon the river, the passage off must have been very disagreeable. They arrived on board the *Heron* about sunset, and that vessel fired a salute in consequence.

28.—Wind S. E. A schooner in sight E., and mistaking the British vessels of war for Brazilians, she ran across the bank and got aground near to the Inner Roads. She proved to be the British schr. *Resolution*, Thompson, from Liverpool 31st May, to Messrs. John Miller & Co.; cargo 106 packages dry goods, and 60 tons coal, with other effects; passed last night within musket-shot of the blockading squadron near Ensenada without impediment. Lighters were immediately despatched, and took out the dry goods. At 2 p. m. the *Heron* sloop of war fired a salute, Lord Ponsonby having left that ship to go on board the frigate *Thetis*: the guns at the Fort were likewise fired in compliment.

Sailed, 2 Gun Boats to the Northward.

29.—Wind W. S. W. Sailed, Gun Boat No. 1, with convoy for the Uruguay. The opposite coast in sight.

30.—Wind E. Arrived, Gun Boat No. 6, from Las Vacas, with a convoy. Passengers, Col. Aguirre, and other officers of the army. The British schr. *Resolution* was got afloat this day, and anchored in the Inner Roads. The *Heron* sloop of war dropped down to the Northward, and despatched a boat to shore with Col. McDonald, who had accompanied Lord and Lady Ponsonby on board that vessel.

31.—Wind S. S. W. and rain. Sailed this afternoon, British frigate *Thetis*, Capt. A. B. Bingham, sloop of

war *Sapphire*, Capt. Henry Dundas, do. *Heron*, Capt. Hon. F. Grey, for Monte Video; they had been detained in the Outer Roads several days, waiting for 2 launches with luggage, which were unable to get out of the Boca until this day. Sailed, several sail of small craft to the Northward.

August 1.—Wind S. S. W. Arrived, British ship Packet *Elizabeth*, Capt. Scott, from Falmouth 29th May, Rio Janeiro 17th, and Monte Video 28th ult. Passengers from Falmouth, Messrs. C. S. Harvey, Serves, Molina, Bosk, Bolosque, Escalada, and Varina; from Rio Janeiro, Mr. John Campbell; and from Monte Video, Messrs. Godfrey, Parry, Wm. Jackson, Johnson, Herbelt, Appleyard, Hamilton, Kelshaw, Peacock, Montart, Miss Campbell and servant. The political news in Europe does not differ from that brought by the schooner *Resolution*; it was reported that Mr. Huskisson, Lord Palmerston, and Mr. C. Grant, were about to withdraw from the Wellington administration. A French Squadron, consisting of a line of battle ship, some frigates, corvettes, &c., had arrived at Rio Janeiro from France. The Deputies from this were anxiously expected. The corvette *Maria Isabel*, Captain Grenfell, had gone in search of the *Sarandi*, and whilst on that mission she detained and sent into Rio, the Colombian brig *Peruvian*, from Liverpool, upon the plea that she was bound to Buenos Ayres: had 6 guns and 22 men, and no license to be thus armed. The slaver *Cumoes*, with 441 slaves, prize to the *Sarandi*, had been carried into Rio, the prize crew having been rose upon. The Irish troops had sailed from thence for Nova Scotia. The Wellington Packet from this 23d June, had arrived at and sailed from Rio for Falmouth. The Emperor's daughter, Doña Maria, Queen of Portugal, had sailed in the frigate *Emperatriz*, for Leghorn; the corvette *Doña Francisca* goes with her, and H. M.'s ship *Ganges*, accompanies them as far as the line. The Packet saw the blockading squadron in the neighbourhood of Enseñada: spoke H. Majesty's ships *Thetis*, *Sapphire*, and *Heron*, last evening, and anchored same night at 11 o'clock. The *Emulous* Packet from this the 6th April, had not arrived at Falmouth. The *Nocton* is appointed the next Packet for this. A schooner brig of war of this Republic, supposed the *Federal*, had been cruising off Rio lately. The *Gaviota* ship privateer was at St. Bartholomew's on 12th April, and from thence was to proceed to New Norfolk.

Arrived, American schooner *Mary*, O'Brun, from Philadelphia 7th May, general cargo, to order; was chased by two brigs of the blockading squadron.

Arrived at the Salado, the *zumaca Ines Maria*, with salt, rum, and some dry goods; captured on the 22d June, by the National vessels of war *Federal* and *Sarandi*.

According to a list published of the Brazilian navy, it consists of fifty vessels, viz.:

- 1 ship of the line,
- 8 do. from 62 to 36 guns,
- 6 corvettes,
- 13 brigs,
- 3 schooner brigs,
- 19 schooners and gun-boats,

32 of the above vessels are employed in this river and its neighbourhood.

To the Editor of the *British Packet*.

Sir.—Every one who wishes for the prosperity of this Republic, must regret the fatality which has attended the different Emigration schemes to the shores of La Plata. It is to be hoped that the Government will after the war, or even at this moment, seriously apply itself to bring out a useful population from the overstocked countries of Europe; else the advantages to be derived from Bahia Blanca, and other situations upon the coast, and interior of this Province, will be but problematical.

A SUBSCRIBER.

To the Editor of the *British Packet*.

MR. EDITOR.—Some ancient Philosopher remarks, that "truth lies concealed at the bottom of a well," and verily it would appear so, for hitherto it has lain so deeply out of the reach of your correspondent J. B. in this question, as to elude his grasp entirely: this at least, is my opinion; but before adducing proof in corroboration thereof, I beg permission to make a few remarks on his last letter. As a hit, in his opinion I suppose, he sets out by stating, that on first starting this question, he did not expect to run his head against such a learned antagonist—learned truly! no, I am neither a *Pangloss* nor a *Quixotte*. He charges me with having got *warm* in discussing this subject: if so it was the *warmth* of good nature, and by no means the effervescence of a testy disposition, as he would allege, for that would be granting too much for his argument. He complains likewise, of a dearth of figures in my refutation of his theory: it may be so—but it arose more from a wish not to bore the public, than from any paucity of proof on that score. I cannot avoid again remarking upon the absurdity of comparing Buenos Ayres with London, almost in any one particular; as well might he compare the town of Brighton with that of Manchester, in births, marriages, and deaths, and say, if Brighton with a certain known population, gives a certain number of registered deaths per year: what population, (supposing it unknown) will the registered births of Manchester give—a beautiful solution truly, and wonderfully like J. B.'s.: something about fifty per cent more than the truth, in so far as the average proportion of deaths in Brighton would be about 1 in 45, and that of Manchester about 1 in 30; and in a similar manner the average proportion of births to the population is effected by the salubrity or insalubrity of situation, or the wholesome or noxious employments of the inhabitants. As I do not intend to trespass further on the patience of your readers in this question, in conclusion I beg to offer the following calculation, founded upon the *Estadistica* returns of this city for the last 3 months, as published in the *Tiempo*, under the unbiased belief that it will give a nearer approximation to the real population, than any thing short of an actual census; according to the returns in the *Tiempo*, the number of births in this city for the last three months is 754, equal to about 3016 for the year; and the number of deaths for the same period 413, equal to 1652 per annum. Now, presuming that the salubrity of the mean climate of England and Wales is not widely different from that of Buenos Ayres, we will multiply the annual number of births and deaths by the proportions given in the foregoing synopsis and take the mean half thereof for the true population: in order thus to make the proportion of births and deaths to check one another; instead however, of 29, let us take 30, the proportion formerly stated; and the solution will run thus:

Births,	3016 by 30	90,480	} 169,776
Deaths,	1652 by 48	79,296	

giving thus together a total of 169,776, the mean half of which would give for the population of this city 84,888 souls. Now, although I am fully satisfied myself with the above solution, I cannot but lament the impossibility of availing myself of an *ex-Cathedra* argument, after the manner of J. B. otherwise I might easily ensure it a confirmation strong as

holy writ; but as I have never had the honor of being returned to Parliament, or honored to attend its Committees, I cannot claim the title of "absolute wisdom," nor modestly say, like J. B. that *I ought to know these things.*

INVESTIGATOR.

**THEATRE.**

On the 26th ult. the opera of *Tancredi* was repeated. Doña Angelita on this evening absolutely became inspired, she never surely sung so well; it is difficult to say in which part she most excelled. The aria in the second act is the test of talent, and in that she evinced powers and execution surpassing all we have ever heard from this syren warbler, and was applauded even to acclamation. "She is an angel by Heavens," exclaimed an enthusiastic Englishman near us;—long may she continue thus to delight the audience; her voice (which musicians say is between a soprano and contralto) improves every day. We trust the directors will give a more extended notice when *Tancredi* (or *Amenaide*, as it ought to be called) is again to be performed; it is in our opinion, the very best of Rossini's serious operas: its soft music dwells upon the memory when that of many other productions is scarcely thought of. Rosquellas and Ricciolini greatly exerted themselves: the orchestra and chorusses ought not to pass without the need of approbation. Vacani does not perform in this opera, which we much regret. The audience were select, and tolerably numerous; some fashionable and charming females graced the boxes, amongst them one who has been until the last two or three opera nights, absent for some time from the theatre: she appeared melancholy, perhaps *crossed in love.*

Several comedies have been represented during the week, including *L'Ecole pour Maris*, of Moliere.—On 30th, a performance was given in aid of the subscriptions for the purchase of vessels for the National Squadron, the play *El Duque de Visco*; (Castle Spectre,) and feats of dexterity by Mr. Brown; the performers, orchestra, &c., gave their aid gratis. The play bills put forth an address to the public, eulogizing Admiral Brown, noticed the many bloody combats in which he had offered his life for the glory and liberty of the country; and stated that 17 years of war, bloodshed, passions, and sacrifices, had not been able to extinguish the least particle of that sacred and patriotic fire which in all times has glowed in the breasts of Argentines; praise is given to the Supreme Magistrate, (Governor:) to the inhabitants of Buenos Ayres for their patriotism, &c. It concludes "Argentines, constancy and union! the throne of the tyrant is tottering: even his satellites abandon him: the favourable moment of our triumph is approaching."

Every thing conspired against the above performance—a heavy rain commenced early in the evening, with thunder and lightning; the play too was dull, and from being so often repeated, has become the George Barnwell of the Buenos Ayres theatre; it was only advertised on the morning of the 30th—a week's notice ought to have been given; notwithstanding these drawbacks, it collected a respectable, although not crowded audience. The Governor was in his box, attended by Lt. Col. Castañon, the Chief of Police, (Señor Perdiel,) &c. Admiral Brown and his lady were in the boxes, the Admiral attired in full uniform. Doña Trinidad in the character of Angela, performed exceedingly well, and so did Mr. Brown with his feats of dexterity and strength. A very good painting of the late ship 25th May and other vessels, was placed on the exterior of the theatre.

With this number concludes the eighth Quarter.

**NOTICE.**

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Subscribers to the Buenos Ayrean British School Society will be held at the school house, in the calle de Venezuela, on Monday, the 4th inst. at 11 o'clock for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of changing the designation of the Institution with a view to the more general cooperation of the friends of education.

**SALE BY AUCTION,  
BY THOMAS GOWLAND,**

CALLE DE LA CATEDRAL, NO. 74.

**O**n TUESDAY, the 5th instant, will be sold to the highest bidder, the following articles of Furniture, the property of a family that has left the country, viz.:

A superior portable billiard table, together with 11 balls, a leveller, counting board, cards of instruction, file, brush, iron, and 23 cues and maces. Also, a mahogany frame for the lights.

Clothes presses, book cases, card tables, common tables, Bedsteads, chairs, wash stand and bidets, Fire irons and fenders, a jack for roasting, lamps, Dressing glasses, a handsome time piece, And a variety of other articles. The sale commences at 11 o'clock, A. M.

**FOR SALE.**

**T**HE English Circulating Library. Apply at No. 61, calle de Chacabuco, from 9 to 12 in the forenoon.

**NOTICE.**

**T**HE undersigned, H. B. M.'s Consul General, hereby gives notice, that the annual general meeting of the Subscribers to the British church in Buenos Ayres, will be held at the British chapel on Monday, the 4th instant, at 1 o'clock.

(Signed)

WOODBINE PARISH.

**PRICE OF SPECIE.**

Doublings, 49 & 50 dollars each.—Purchasers at 49, but few sellers; several contracts having become due, considerable stir has been experienced this week, and other contracts have been entered into at three and four months, from 48 to 50½.

Spanish and Patriot Dollars, 188 & 192 per cent. prem.—The demand brisk.

Plata macquina, 175 & 185 per ct. premium.—Considerable demand for the interior.

Gold in bars, 20 quilates 17½ & 18½ rials per quilate.

Silver in do. 11 dineros, 16½ & 17½ rials per dinero.—At which prices there were several purchasers.

Six per cent. Stock, 48 & 48½.—There appears considerable demand for stock, in consequence of a few contracts, and the abundance of money, and as little or nothing is doing in discount, the surplus is invested in the funds.

Exchange on London, 17d. per dollar.—The amount sold at that price is about 2,000 pounds.

Do. on Monte Video, 136 & 150 per ct. premium.—At both prices a few sales have been effected, but the demand rather limited.

Do. on Rio, 50 & 60. per cent. premium nominal.

Produce—Steady.

Hides, ox, 9 & 10½ dollars per pesada.—Some few contracts have been made at 10½ for matedero hides.

Skins, motria, 5½ & 6½ dollars per dozen.—Few purchasers.

Do. chinchilla, 16 & 18 dollars per do.—Scarce.

Manufactures and other Brazil produce.—Very little variation.

Sugars, 18 & 22 dollars per arroba.

Discount, 1½ & 1¾ per ct. per month.