

THE British Packet,

AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1828.

[Vol. 3.]

BUENOS AYRES. (U)

Interesting as every thing connected with the prosperity and advancement of this country is to us, we cannot but feel an additional pleasure in that prosperity, when it is not only linked with the welfare, but emanates from the enterprize and industry of our own countrymen. We believe it to be generally admitted, that in no part of South America have the British residents taken so direct and warm an interest in the country, or lived on terms of such cordial intimacy with the natives, as in Buenos Ayres; and we flatter ourselves it will be also generally accorded that Buenos Ayres has in no small degree benefitted by the moral influence, and commercial and personal enterprize of our countrymen during the course of the revolution.

This remark is immediately drawn from us in reference to an undertaking which is deservedly becoming popular, and which has perhaps, been too long unnoticed by ourselves—we mean the Scotch colony establishment at Monte Grande. As the proprietors of it however, now propose to form a Company for the advancement not only of the colony, but for encouraging a well organized system of emigration to this country, it cannot but be interesting to our readers to obtain some general information on the actual state of the colony, and this information we are happy to have it in our power now to give. There is perhaps no country in the world where more may be, and where less is done, in an agricultural point of view, than in this Province; a fine soil lies every where covered with thistles: in every direction *biscacha's* are found to be the only possessors of the field, and where a scanty cultivation does here and there appear, we find it carried on without capital, system, or industry;—a miserable hovel, a half ditched in field: a pair of lean and lazy oxen, and a poor and ragged countryman, form in a general estimate, the system of agriculture of this country.

In this state of things, Messrs. J. & W. P. Robertson having entered into a special agreement with the Government in the year 1824, which guaranteed to them its co-operation, assistance, and protection, introduced in 1825 about three hundred persons, male and female, as the commencement of a colonization, then intended to be carried forward on a large scale; these persons came under the charge, and in the service of a general director, eight principal farmers, and a head gardener, and consisted of labourers, ploughmen, dairy

maids, gardeners and artizans; a surgeon accompanied the young colony, and a clergyman of the Church of Scotland subsequently joined it. Of the original colonists upwards of forty were married, and all strong young, healthy, people. As Mr. J. P. Robertson was in England when the colony was projected, he had an opportunity of selecting persons of known worth and probity, and accordingly the propriety and decorum of behaviour which the colonists have ever observed, speak clearly to the original respectability and decency of their character and habits. The Government having been unable to provide lands sufficiently near town for agricultural purposes, Messrs. Robertson purchased three adjoining farms or *chacras* four to five leagues from town, called *Monte Grande*, *Laguna*, and *Santa Catalina*, containing an extent of 16,000 acres of arable and pasturage land, and thither immediately on their arrival, the colonists were transported; arriving in the winter, when building could not be undertaken advantageously, the different families were distributed in half a dozen miserable *ranchos* (mud cottages,) found on the property, and in these they remained for many months, without murmur or complaint, though three or four families in some instances had only a couple of poor mud apartments appointed them. In the first year, however, of the colony, each farmer got a comfortable house built, with all the necessary offices, &c. for his establishment, and each occupied himself in breaking in horses for the plough, tending cows for the dairy, and making experiments in different branches of agriculture; farms were laid off for each, of sufficient extent for every purpose of crop, dairy, and pasture farming; each farmer became independent of the other, and the extent of ground given to each was equal, while each built his house on his respective farm. The estate being thus subdivided and farmed, a large building was next erected on a fine piece of ground on the *Santa Catalina* farm, set apart for a *village*, and in this house were lodged the *mechanics*, and the *carpenters' shop*, and *smithy* established in it. A commodious *inn* has also been erected, (and we hope soon to announce the opening of it,) and likewise a fine large building of three stories for a *mill*, which is at this time in full operation. In another and central part of the estate, (*laguna*) a temporary but neat *Scotch Kirk* has been erected, and here on Sundays may be seen the colonists from all parts, gathering to celebrate public worship in the form dearest to them as established by their fathers. The proprietors of the colony also reside

upon the estate, and Santa Catalina has been laid out with taste and beauty, and though yet in an infant state, the large plantations of forest and other trees laid down, promise to make in a few years an unique and striking object in the treeless pampas of Buenos Ayres. Here for the present, the narrow limits of our paper oblige us to stop, but in our next number we shall continue the sketch we have now begun.

PROVINCIAL JUNTA.

The following motion was introduced on the 9th inst. by *Señor Lagos*.

Art 1. The Province of Buenos Ayres recognizes the debt of the Republic due to the National Bank, and guarantees it, with its revenues, ordinary and extraordinary, land, and the rest of the public property.

2. To name a Committee of 3 individuals, for the purpose of examining the state of the National Bank, to advise and propose to the Legislature the improvements and reform which may be deemed necessary.

3. The same Committee to take upon itself to reunite, liquidate, and approve the account of the Republic with the National Bank.

4. The amount of the debt contracted to this date being ascertained, the Government will present immediately a plan of *amortizacion* for it.

The above project having been supported, it was passed to the Committee of Finance. The Government project presented by *Don Nicholas Anchorena*, was then put to the vote, and carried; it is to the following tenor:—

Art. 1. The Bank will put at the disposal of the Government the sum of 400,000 dollars, until the Legislature have determined upon some other mode to raise supplies.

2. The 400,000 dollars to be taken from the sum usually employed in private discounts, taking 200,000 dollars in each month of the first two months, from the date of this decree.

3. If circumstances oblige the Government to demand of the Bank the sum specified in Art. 1 before the two months specified in the second article, and the Bank cannot by the reduction of its discounts, nor by any other method, complete the 400,000 dollars, it may issue notes to that amount, with the obligation of taking them from circulation in the two months.

4. The Government will allow the Bank interest after the rate of half per cent per month upon that sum.

A motion was made in the Junta by one of its members to confer upon the Governor (*Don Manuel Dorrego*), the grade of Colonel Major of the Permanent Army of the Province. The Governor declined the intended honor, and in a communication stated, that it had been his constant principle during his career, not to accept any grade except conferred for some warlike action, or remarkable event: that he had refused the same dignity in 1820 and 1826, and at present no opportunity offers of performing extraordinary actions: that in the important office confided to him, notwithstanding all his efforts, he cannot fulfil it to his satisfaction: reminds the

members that this application might lay him open to the charge of soliciting honours, or of deference in those with whom it originated.

The Minister of Finance, *D. José M. Roxas*, has addressed a letter, dated 11th inst. to the President of the Bank, suspending the meeting called for the 13th inst. for the election of a new Director, giving as a reason, that the Junta was going to take into consideration the project of law presented by the Government, by which every Shareholder might be qualified to hold the office of a Bank director.

The President of the Bank, *D. Manuel de Arroyo y Pinedo*, sent a note in reply, dated 12th instant, impressing upon the Government that the law authorized, and that the rights and interests of the shareholders demanded, that the announced meeting should not be deferred.

The Minister responded on the same day, that as the Junta of Representatives had ordered the postponement, the Government could not act against it without taking upon itself all the responsibility.

A communication from *D. Manuel Nunez*, the Secretary to the Bank, states that the Government has suspended the meeting of Shareholders until another opportunity, and that the Bank had declared a dividend of $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for the half year, due 4th inst., and to commence paying on 14th.

The Government have issued a decree to form an establishment, to be called the *Philanthropic Society of Buenos Ayres*.

Art. 1. The Philanthropic Society will consist of 24 members, to be named at first by the Government, and of those who may subsequently join it.

2. The objects of this Society are: 1st, to promote and improve the Hospitals and Prisons of this city; 2ndly, to establish Houses of Correction, and Charitable Hospitals, for the reception of destitute children and aged infirm persons.

3. The society from the moment of its organization, will take charge of, and the direction and inspection of the general Hospital for men.

There are altogether 24 articles, mostly consisting of the rules and regulations to be observed. Amongst the names of the 24 members of the Society are Doctor Lepper, Messrs. James Brittain, John Miller, John Eschenburg, &c.

Another decree dated August 5th, has been published to establish an Academy, theoretical and practical, for the instruction of young men destined to serve in the Artillery corps; officers of the other branches of the army are also to attend. It is to be under the direction of the Inspector General, and subject to the orders of the Commandant General of Artillery. *Don Francisco Viedma* has been named director of the Academy, at 150 dollars per month.

Don Pedro de Angelis has published a Prospectus for the establishing of an elementary School in this city for children from the age of 5 to 10 years, under the title of the Lancasterian School, the school house to be at No. 60, calle de la Florida. The prospectus begins by noticing the discredit into which the new method of mutual instruction has fallen,

from the slow and uncertain progress which children make; this has determined Señor Angelis to devote time from his other occupations, in order to found a school conformable to the true principles of Mr Lancaster; that he has deemed it advisable not to retard the opening of it, wishing to prepare a number of scholars to undertake the studies taught in the Ateneo; that he has seen with as much grief as surprise, youths of advanced age who scarcely know how to read and write their own language, after having been three or four years in the schools of this city. (Then follows a detail of the chief defects of the present system.) An observation of Mr Lancaster is introduced, viz., that the best proof that his method was comprehended, is that children advance in their learning, and no chastisements employed; "Without doubt," said he (Lancaster,) one day to some of his friends who were eulogizing him, "the little merit I can claim, consists in having strewed with flowers a path which pedagogues took pleasure in planting with thorns;—youth will go on with ardour in the security of meeting nothing but recompense and rivals." The prospectus then remarks, that parents have complained of the severity with which their sons have been treated: that boys have passed whole days without eating, and shut up in an obscure cell bringing into seminaries the torments of the Inquisition. The price for each scholar is 6 dollars per month, to be paid in advance, and 2 dollars more for the expenses of paper, slates, rules, and pencils.

In the *Gaceta Mercantil*, No. 1398, is an excellent letter sent to the editor, by *Un Americano del Norte*. It alludes to the irregularities and abuses practiced by the bakers, butchers, milk venders, &c., upon the restrictive law against the importation of flour: hints the necessity of stimulating, or even forcing, the cultivation of wheat, and puts forth a plan to the following effect:—that instead of money, a proportionate quantity of fanegas of wheat should be paid by tenants. The Government will thus have two advantages: 1st to force the cultivation of the article; 2nd, it would make a competition in the market, and keep it at a price more favourable to the consumer; and in considering the two extreme cases which may occur, first, the abundance in the harvest, it is very clear that the Government would receive very little in the shape of income, but the public would get bread cheaper; and when that is the case, they could very well endure an augmentation in other matters of less importance, to replace the ordinary rent; also, that wheat being cheap, exportation would take place, as was the case at other periods, the markets being at hand to receive it; finally, that the people in the country would be less exposed to idleness: become more industrious, and consequently richer; and in this respect the supposition offers numerous arguments, highly favourable to the consumption, to industry, and to commerce.

Letters from Alto Peru (Bolivia) express an opinion that the Government of Bolivia has or will very soon expire, notwithstanding the language held by the newspaper, (*Condor*), that the Bolivians will ultimately triumph, and exciting them to perish, sword in hand; but few however, come forward.

On 1st June, Sucre went to a country house 5 leagues from Chuquisaca: he has had 14 pieces of bone taken from his wounded arm. The Bolivian General, Urdinenea, with a corps of the vanguard, was at Popó. The letters state, that the Peruvian General, Gamarra, occupied La Paz, Cochabamba, and Oruro: that Blanco occupied Chuquisaca, expecting to be reinforced from Potosi.

The pilot of the American schr. Alexander has returned; said schooner passed Point Indio, all well, yesterday morning about 4 o'clock.

The British brig *Salacia Miller*, arrived this morning from Liverpool—general cargo to Messrs. Duguid, Holland & Co.; called at the Salado and took a pilot.

The British ship *Gaspee*, Vibert, from the Salado, 13th inst. has arrived at Ensenada (with permission,) to repair.

August 9.—Wind W. N. W. Arrived, Gun Boat No. 7, conveying twelve zumacas and balandras, from the Parana.

10. Wind N. W. Arrived, Gun Boat No. 10, and a convoy from the Parana, bringing intelligence that the lugger boat *Martin Garcia* was captured on 2d inst. by four Brazilian privateer boats off Point Chaparro. The Captain and crew escaped to shore; great blame has been attached to them, and some of the parties have been arrested. An entertainment, or "dejeune á la fourchette," was given by Captain Coe on board the vessel he commands, (the brig of war *General Rondeau*), to the Governor and a select party, upon which occasion the brig was decorated with colours—the British and American flags very conspicuous. The Governor and his lady and daughter, the lady of Captain Coe, and some other ladies, embarked about 12 o'clock; Captain Coe steered the boat; the band of the regiment *Cazadores* were likewise embarked and performed during the entertainment: salutes were fired from different vessels, yards manned, cheering, &c. About 3 o'clock the party returned to shore, and the *Rondeau* fired a full salute. The beautiful weather attracted a crowd of promenaders to the *Alemana* and beach, amongst them some elegant females. Most of the officers of the squadron attended in uniform with round hats, that being the costume ordered for the day.

Sailed this evening, British schooner brig *Saucy Jack*, for London, and American schooner *Dromo*, Morgan, for New York.

11.—Wind N. Arrived, Gun Boat No. I, and a convoy from the Northward. Firing heard this evening to the S. E.; 5 Brazilian vessels in sight E.

12.—Wind W. S. W. A Brazilian schr. standing up: she fired a gun, and hoisted a flag of truce; it was answered from the *Maldonado*, and a boat sent, which returned with despatches for the Minister of war, and the British Consul General. It appears that Guedez, the Brazilian Admiral, has conceded to the request made, and that passengers can go in the Packets for Monte Video and Rio Janeiro as heretofore. The pilot of the *Saucy Jack* landed this afternoon, and reports that the said vessel and the *Dromo* passed Point Indio at 4 o'clock on the morning of 11th inst., all well, and did not see any Brazilian vessels. The opposite coast seen this evening, and the Brazilian squadron at anchor near Ensenada.

13.—Wind S. S. W. Sailed, several sail of small craft for the Parana. Another "dejeune á la fourchette" was given on this day by some officers of the squadron on board the *Maldonado* to the Governor, and a large party; at twelve o'clock the Governor, attended by Generals *Balcarce*, *Rondeau*, *Irigoyen*, *Admiral Brown*, &c.; Colonels *Rolon*, *Artayetta*, and others, embarked, and likewise several ladies, including the lady of the Governor, his daughter, and the lady

of Amiral Brown, upon approaching the Inner Roads, the Squadron fired a salute, yards manned, &c., and the firing to the different toasts caused an incessant roar of cannon; at 3 o'clock they returned to shore, and the artillery from the different vessels was again discharged. The privateer ship *El Gobernador Dorrego* likewise saluted. The *Maldonado* was decorated with colours.

14.—Wind S. S. E. Arrived and sailed several sail of small craft, from and to the Northward. The following vessels of the National Squadron sailed from the Inner Roads, and anchored in three fathom hole this day: brig *Baltarce*, schooners *Maldonado*, 9th February, 30th July, 18th January, 14th June, 22d December, Argentina and Uruguay. Sailed this evening, American schooner *Alexander*, Munday, for Antwerp.

15.—Wind S. The National brig of war *General Rondeau* sailed from the Inner Roads, and joined the Squadron in three fathom hole.

Arrivals at the Salado.

On 9th inst. an American schr. from Patagonia; is said to bring news that the schr. brig of war *Federal*, Commodore Bynon, and brig privateer *Flor de Mayo*, Captain Harris had arrived at the latter port; the *Federal* having taken 5 prizes; two prizes had been lost off the Coast of Patagonia, one of them belonging to the *Flor de Mayo*.

Capt. Bibois, late of the privateer brig *Oriental*, wrecked off the Coast of Brazil, and who was made prisoner, has in conjunction with other officers, escaped from Rio Janeiro, and arrived in this city.

The British brig *Unicorn*, from Liverpool, has been detained, and sent into Monte Video by the Brazilian Squadron.

THEATRE.

The opera of *Don Giovanni* was performed on Saturday evening last;—it went off but coldly. We fear that this sublime work must for the present, lay dormant upon the library shelf; it is impossible to stem the torrent of fashion, which seems determined to banish all music from the opera but that of Rossini—even the poor *Vestal* is condemned to the dark abode

“Where never dies,
The solemn echo of repentant sighs.”

We have little to add to our former remarks upon *Don Giovanni*; Angelita sung the very difficult arias of *Doña Ana* with impassioned feeling. Señora Vacani's *Zerlina* had an air of simplicity about it, particularly in the duet, “*Lasci darem la mano*,” and in the beautiful aria “*Vedrai, carino*.” *Elvira* failed in the hands of Señora Ricciolini: she has judgment, but not compass of voice, sufficient for the music of the part. Rosquellas was superbly attired, and looked and performed the libertine *Don* exceedingly well. The *Leporello* of Vacani is probably inferior only to that of the late gifted Naldi, and yet there was something wanting, but what that something was, it puzzles us to say. The plaintive voice of the unpretending Ricciolini is always listened to with pleasure. The ghost was very poorly.—During the week there have been several comedies, and the tragedy of *Othello* performed, the latter for the benefit of Señora Campomanes.

The first act of the opera of *El Calife* is announced for this evening, including the *Viva l'amor*, (and to that *Viva* we give a most hearty rejoinder,) different arias are to follow.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Want of room prevents the insertion of several communications, &c.; they will appear in our next number.

WANTED.

A STEADY man, who understands kitchen Gardening, and who could attend to a small dairy. Apply at this office.

NOTICE.

M. R. HODGES requests that the Settlers of the late Beaumont Association will meet him at Mr. George Shipman's boarding house, calle de Cuyo, on Sunday evening, 17th instant, at 7 o'clock.

ALBERT GALLATIN MQUESTON, DENTIST,

HAS removed to No. 62, calle de Cangallo, where he continues his practice, consisting of all operations on the mouth, such as inserting new teeth, from one to a full set: plugging with gold or other metals: cleaning and extracting teeth, roots and stumps of teeth. Likewise, supplying artificial palates to those who have had the misfortune to be deprived of them.

NOTICE.

IN pursuance of a notice inserted in the British Packet of the 2d current, a general meeting of the Subscribers to the Buenos Ayres British School Society was held on Monday, the 4th inst., when with a view to a more general cooperation of the friends of education, it was resolved that the designation of the Institution should thenceforward be the “Buenos Ayres Foreign School Society.”

NOTICE.

H. HERVE respectfully informs the public, that in consequence of his quitting Buenos Ayres, the Circulating Library will close on the 20th of the present month; it is therefore requested that all subscribers and non subscribers holding books belonging to the Library, will have the goodness to return them, on or before the above date, until which time the business of the Library will be carried on as usual. Subscribers are also hereby informed, that the amount for the unexpired time of their subscription will be returned, on sending a written application, signed by such subscriber.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

- Doubloons, 50 dollars 6 rs. & 51 each.—Purchasers in abundance at 50 & 50 6 rs., and but few sellers. Contracts have been made in doubloons for all this month at 53, and for September and October at 54 dollars each.
- Spanish and Patriot Dollars, 195 & 200 per cent. prem.—The demand not great.
- Plata macquina, 190 & 195 per ct. premium.—In considerable demand for the interior.
- Gold in bars, 20 quilates 17 & 18 rials per quilate.
- Silver in do. 11 dineros, 17 & 17½ rials per dinero.—Considerable sales have been effected at these prices.
- Six per cent Stock, 49½ & 50.—Large sums have been transacted at 49½, and contracts made at 50, to deliver after the next dividend.
- Bank Shares, 170 & 172 dollars each.—But little doing.
- Exchange on England, 16d. & 16½ per dollar.—Few purchasers at these prices; about £.3000 have been passed at 16½.
- Do. on Monte Video, 150 per ct. premium.—Some sales of consequence have been made.
- Do. on Rio, 50 per cent. premium.—Limited demand, with very little inquiry.
- Hides, 10½ & 11 dollars per pesada.—Considerable business done.
- Skins, nutria, 5½ & 6 dollars per dozen.—Very little demand.
- Do. chinchilla, 18 & 20 dollars per do.—Scarce.
- Hair, horse, 7 & 9 dolls. per arroba.
- Sugars, 18 & 20 dollars per arroba.—Advancing.
- Discount, 1½ & 1½ per ct. per month.
- Manufactures and other Brazil produce.—Very little variation.