

British Packet,

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1828.

[Vol. 3.

BUENOS AYRES.

On the evening of the 29th ultimo arrived off the Salado, the British brig Lord Eldon, and American schooner brig Huzzar; they steered in the channel leading to the harbour, expecting water enough to pass the bar—unfortunately they got aground. About half past 10 on the morning of 30th, a Brazilian squadron (from eight to eleven sail,) came in sight; at 2 p. m. they anchored within gunshot of, and immediately despatched four boats to the vessels aground, abruptly ordering every one to quit the said vessels, expressing their intention to set fire to them, and in fact they had brought the combustibles for that purpose. The crew of the Huzzar were allowed to go on shore, but the Brazilians took nine of the Lord Eldon's people, including the first and second mate. At half past 2 p. m. fire was placed to the two brigs, and the boats retired; the Gun Boat stationed at the Salado and the privateer Empresa fired at the Brazilians—they returned it, some of their shots falling near the vessels in the harbour. Several shore boats went on board the burning brigs, and extinguished the fire, upon which the Brazilian boats came a second time, and again set fire to them, and they burned to the water's edge—their National flags flying; the shore boats had previously retired, as did the Gun Boat for want of ammunition.

This proceeding of burning neutral vessels appears to be a general order from the Brazilian Admiral, and it is said that the Brazilians justify it upon the plea that it is better to destroy property which might otherwise benefit their enemy, even should the Emperor be obliged to refund hereafter:—and the poor sufferers are left to protest, make reclamations, and in a series of years may possibly get redress, unless indeed their Governments insist upon immediate restitution.

The system of condemnation of neutral property by the Brazilian authorities has been lately carried to a considerable extent, and as the greater part is thought to be illegally condemned, the proceeds must be forthcoming to the lawful owners; the Emperor may exclaim, like Sir John Falstaff, that he "Likes not that paying back, 'tis a double labour;" and if it is left to the Courts at Rio Janeiro, (which we hope it will not be,) he will probably be saved the labour, at least for ten or twenty years to come.

The law of blockade seems as difficult to define as the law of libel; we will however ask, that if the Brazilians pretend to place under interdiction all the ports or harbours of this Republic, is it not incumbent that they should have some force off the ports so interdicted? Now it is notorious that for several months until lately, no Brazilian vessels have been in sight, or even in the neighbourhood of the Salado! The numerous arrivals and sailings at and from that port within the last 4 months, and the quantity of vessels (nearly 60) lying there will confirm the assertion. They have presumed to burn two neutral vessels bound to an open port, for such it was, as no Brazilian squadron were in sight when the Lord Eldon and Huzzar arrived, and but for mere accident, they would have got safely into harbour.

"Buenos Ayres is rigorously blockaded," the Brazilians pompously announce, and yet how different are the facts of the case:—the blockade has been within these few weeks in a manner raised, or at least suspended, as the following circumstances will prove.—The blockading squadron disappeared on the 22d ultimo, and did not again come into this neighbourhood until 9th instant, during which time several vessels arrived and sailed:—the brig Vine came up in open day: the schooner Pilchard was aground for four days near Ensenada, discharged her cargo and came to Buenos Ayres: the Sarandi arrived the day preceding: the schr. 30th July (flag of truce) went to Monte Video, not being able to meet with the blockading squadron; it is true, they were off the Salado, and perhaps the laws of blockade allow them to "paséar" from one port to another, blockading each at intervals.

It has been understood that the laws of blockade demand that no vessel should enter a blockaded port except under some extraordinary contingency, such as the blockading squadron being blown from off the port, &c. Accidents of this sort have not happened to the Brazilians, and we could present a list of arrivals and sailings at this port during the war which would astound even Sir William Scott and the sages of Doctor's Commons.

Dr. D. V. A. Echevarria left Buenos Ayres on Saturday to resume his duties as Deputy from this Province to the National Convention at Santa Fé; he was accompanied by Col. Ortiguera and Dr. D. L. J. Obes.

A mail from Chili arrived on Wednesday last;—an attempt at revolution has taken place in that country, the particulars of which we extract from the newspaper *La Clave*, of 24th July last.

Don Pedro Urriola, stationed at San Fernando with the Battalion of Maipu, in conjunction with others planned the affair. General Borgoño and Major Tupper were sent to suppress it, but did not find the expected support from the dragoons in the neighbouring villages; the rebels (as they are termed) evacuated San Fernando, and marched upon the capital, (Santiago:) the Vice-President went out to meet them at the head of a squadron of *Coraceros* and the *Civicos* of Santiago; the *Coraceros* did not fulfil what was expected of them they dispersed, and would have compromised the whole division, but for the steadiness of the *Civicos*—they retired to the city. The rebels entered shortly afterwards, and took up their quarters in the *Maestranza*; such were the events of the 18th of July: on the following day there were rumours of capitulation, but the Vice-President of the Republic rejected the idea with indignation, and the generality of the people participated in the same sentiments; a negotiation was however opened: four Commissioners attended from the rebels, one of them, Don José Miguel Infante, declared that "federalism was their object, and their wish to form a government upon these principles." They made a movement to attack the town, but finding they were not supported, and that preparations were making to assail them, a pause took place; the Vice-President (Pinto,) desired to have a private communication with the Chief of the rebels, upon which every thing was arranged, oblivion for the past, &c.

Col. Manuel Oribe has forwarded a list of the Brazilian deserters from Monte Video lately, specifying their names, the Regiments to which they belong, &c: they are 77 in number, of all classes. The list contains the names of the Prisoners of War likewise escaped from Monte Video in the same period, (19 persons.)

The Indians have made an hostile incursion in the neighbourhood of White Bay. Colonel Ramon Estomba has addressed a letter to the Government, dated

Fortaleza Protectora Argentina, August 30, 1828.

"On the 25th ult. they had come down in number about 450—they were charged by 130 men of the 7th Regiment of Cavalry, and some friendly Indians; the charge was resisted, but they retreated with loss upon a field piece being opened upon them. Preparations were making to receive them should they venture another attack. The 7th Cavalry had a serjeant, a corporal, 8 soldiers killed, and 3 wounded; the friendly Indians had 4 or 5 wounded, amongst them the brave Captain Monteros,—it is feared mortally, he has five lance wounds."

The accounts from Bolivia are contradictory.—We have seen a letter, stating that the popular party will certainly succeed, and without much difficulty; that Sucre has consented to quit Bolivia, with all the Colombian troops.

RUMOURS OF PEACE.

The anxiety during the week has been extreme, and assertions positively made that preliminaries of Peace were signed at Rio Janeiro on 21st ult. The markets have felt the effects of this report. The Exchange (as it is called, in the calle de Catedral, Mr. Santillan's office, being the "point d'appui,") had its daily crowds.

We are getting on in Buenos Ayres, and intend to make it not only the Athens, but the London of the Southern hemisphere, having all the necessary materials, such as a *National Debt, Bank Notes, the spirit of speculation, inclination for War, and plenty of Opposition Papers*: from the similarity of dispositions, the British and Argentines must for the future swear eternal friendship. An absentee for any lengthened period would now scarcely recognize Buenos Ayres: we have brokers enough to thrash a battalion of Brazilian troops. How great the bustle in the last week—the consultations—the *ear wiggling*.*

It may however be more in point to give the rumours of the day as they occurred:—first then, on Saturday it was said that a sixteen oared boat had arrived at Quilmes, with news that the British frigate *Thetis* was at Monte Video,—Peace signed, &c.—Sunday, a messenger confirming the news of Peace, said to have left Monte Video on Friday, got to Las Vacas in 39 hours—doubloons fell to 51, sellers—Monday, brokers hurrying to and fro on horseback and on foot, to make bargains: the *little men* alarmed—doubloons at 49.—Tuesday, boats arrived, but nobody could tell where: peace certain: Packet detained at Rio to bring back the Deputies: the captain of the 30th of July (flag of truce,) affirmed that at Monte Video Peace was thought to be concluded—doubloons 47: suspicion entertained that it was more than a hoax, as a Rio paper mentioned that the preliminaries were settled.—Wednesday, more boats arrived—(in the clouds, as some averred:) Peace still certain—doubloons 44 a 45.—Thursday, a calm: no rumours: a reaction in the markets—doubloons 45½ a 46.—Friday, no *Peace boats*: the markets looking up, and the wind very high, obliging the brokers and jobbers to run inside the *Exchange*; some have called this spot *Broker's Row*, a term neither appropriate or genteel, and reminding one too much of *Moorfields*—doubloons 47 a 48.

Extracts have been published from a Rio Janeiro Gazette, in which Peace is said to be made upon terms honourable to both parties; the gazette itself is stated to be in Monte Video. The assertion that the British Consul General (Mr. Parish) had this paper is totally without foundation; we believe that Mr. P. possesses no other information upon the subject of Peace than what is collected from public report.

Accounts from the Salado to 9th instant, state that no Brazilian vessels were in sight, they having sailed from off that port on the 7th.

* A term used at the London Stock Exchange when a person whispers advice to another.

The *Camara* have been occupied during the last 10 days in hearing the declarations read against Marcet, Arriaga, and Alzaga, for the murder of Don Francisco Alvarez, and the defence of the two former. The decision is expected to be given very shortly. The prisoners have not attended the Court, pleading illness.

The following is we believe, a tolerably correct list of the Brazilian vessels of war now in this river:—frigates, *Piranga*, *Nitcheroy*; corvettes, *Maria Isabel*, *Liberal*, *Bertioja*; brigs, *Caboco*, *Maranham*, 29th August, *Constancia*, *Rio de la Plata*, *Niger*; schr. brigs, *January*, 2d July; three-masted schooner, *Principe Imperial*; schooners, *Shelelagh*, *Union*, *Doña Paula*, *Bella Maria*, *Itaparica*, *Providencia*; Sardinian schr.; bomb ketch 19th October, and 6 or 7 Gun Boats—in all 29 vessels, mounting about 320 guns.

Sept. 6.—Wind W. Sailed, privateer boat *Zagat*, and several small vessels to the Northward.

7.—Wind N. Arrived, Gun Boat No. 13, from *Las Vacas* with passengers, and 10 small craft under convoy. The *Sarandi* sailed from the Inner Roads, and joined the flotilla in three fathom hole. Mr. John Thomas, pilot of the British schr. *Resolution*, returned this afternoon—left the said schooner near Point Indio at 2 o'clock on the morning of 5th inst.: did not see any Brazilian vessels in her passage down. The report of cannon heard at sun-set this evening, supposed a salute from *Colonia*. The opposite coast visible.

8.—Wind N. W. Two launches arrived from the Northward.

9.—Wind E. Arrived, National schooner 30th of July, (flag of truce,) from Monte Video, having conveyed 12 exchanged prisoners of war to that port, viz.:—*Correa*, *Andrade*, *Lobon*, *Silviera*, *Valdez*, *Leal*, *Matos*, *Luis*, *De Silva*, *Carballo*, *Barboso*, and *Jupper*.

Seven Brazilian vessels in sight, including two ships, the first time any had been seen here since 22d ult.; they stood down again out of sight. An officer of the *Maldonado* was placed under arrest, for having ordered that schooner under weigh yesterday, contrary to instructions.

Arrived, some small craft from the Northward.

10.—Wind N. E. 14 sail of Brazilian vessels in sight viz, 2 ships, 6 brigs and 5 schooners—they anchored S. E. of the Outer Roads. The schooner privateer *Federal* manœuvred all day near them, and in the evening fired a salute. Admiral Brown's flotilla took a position nearer to the Inner Roads, and the Packet *Elizabeth* moved her birth towards the Outer Roads.

Arrived at half past 3 this evening, Gun Boat No. 13, with a convoy from the *Parana*—she fired a gun upon her arrival.

11.—Wind N., rain. Arrived, balandra *Carmen*, with a general cargo, from Monte Video and *Colonia* 1st instant; reports that an American schr. brig had arrived at the former port in 9 days from Rio Janeiro, and that a gazette of Rio affirmed that preliminaries of Peace were signed. An expedition of the Brazilian privateer boats from *Colonia* is talked of to sack and burn the town of *Las Vacas*.

Also, some small craft from the Northward.

12.—Wind S. blowing a gale. The blockading Squadron at anchor—hull down. Several sail of small craft came out of the *Boca*.

A *zumaca* laden with wood, was driven on shore S. of the Mole and sunk.

Cargo of the British schr. *Pilchard*, from London, (mentioned in our last,)—dry goods, beer, gin, flour, oil, paints, earthenware, 254 planks, coals, &c.

The corvette *Maria Isabel*, Grenfell, has arrived in this river from Rio Janeiro.

The General Brown schooner privateer, Captain A'Lasseeu, had taken three prizes on the coast of Africa; the captain hoisted his flag on board of one of them, and sunk the Gen. Brown. Being at sea, the crew and prisoners mutinied, killed the captain, and took the three vessels to Bahia; all the officers and crew were Frenchmen. The first lieutenant (Francis Penan) is said to have planned the mutiny.

The privateer ship *Gov. Dorrego* has been captured and carried into Monte Video after an action with the corvette *Bertioja*, and we believe other vessels. *Broom* (the Captain of the *Bertioja*) is said to be under arrest for allowing his crew to pillage the privateer. The American brig President Adams from the *Salado*, has been detained and carried to the same port, and her cargo taken on shore: the vessel is stated to be damaged or sunk by a shot from the Battery. The British schooner *Resolution* from this is likewise said to be detained, and arrived at Monte Video, and an American schr. from sea. The American brig *Budget* was still under detention. The British sloops of war *Sapphire* and *Chanticleer*, and American sloop of war *Boston* were at Monte Video.

CONTINUATION OF

THE POEM

CANTO LIRICO DE ITUZAINGO,

BY DON JUAN C. VARELA,

And the Translation by Mr. Robert Billingham.

¿ Que haceis, que haceis, soldados,
Que ya no descendais de la alta cumbre,
Y, por estas llanuras derramados,
Ostentais vuestra inmensa muchedumbre?
¿ Todo el tesoro que Valles encierra
Abandonais así? ¿ No sois testigos
De que recojen ya los enemigos
Las ansiadas primicias de la guerra?
¿ Y están entre vosotros los valientes
Que allá en el Volga y en el Rhin bebiéron,
Y, á la ambicion y al despotismo fieles,
A playas remotísimas vinieron,
En demanda de gloria y de laureles?

TRANSLATION.

What ho! what ho! ye martial train,
Why leave ye not the lofty mountain's brow,
Why venture not into the space below,
And shew your countless numbers on the plain?
And is it thus you leave fair Valles' soil,
Her fertile plains and treasured spoil!
Becoming cold spectators from afar:
Leaving to your enemies without toil,
The first and brightest laurels of the war;
Count ye not in the numbers of your line,
The heroes of the Volga and the Rhine?
Those faithful followers of despotic sway,
By wild ambition led astray,
Who to far distant realms have come,
In search of laurel'd glory or the tomb:

THE BRITISH PACKET, AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

LINES

UPON THE LOSS OF THE AMERICAN BRIG PRESIDENT ADAMS,
PRIVATEER SHIP GOV. DORREGO, AND BRITISH
BRIG LORD ELDON.

What strange coincidences arise,
Videlicet, Brazilian enterprize—

“ In the last week the loss we have to grudge
“ No less is than a President, a Governor, and a Judge ;
“ How far so'er in argument may go,
“ Their right to take the Governor Dorrego,
“ Surely the States can never be content
“ Such lubbers should have sunk their President ;
“ Or can I think our nob's will deem it well done,
“ To burn the tail of poor old Chancellor Eldon :
“ Reckless of neutral rights, to justice senseless,
“ They meet and conquer only the defenceless.”

I recommend the Patria to try
To get Don Pedro into Chancery :
'Twould save their money, powder, balls and rockets,
For Eldon to keep him until he drain'd his pockets,
Then move a rule of Court for his release,
But bind him over to keep the Peace,
And send him back as harmless as a porpoise
To Rio Janeiro by *Habeas Corpus*.

TREGLIFON.

To the Editor of the British Packet.

SIR,—My attention was called to the statement in your last number, from the *British Philanthropic Society*, an institution having for its object not the encouragement of idleness and dissipation, but to assist their fellow creatures in distress, preventing undeserved poverty becoming actual want; it is therefore well deserving the attention and patronage of those to whom the Committee appeal. It has been remarked, and I think with justice, that the Committee should have given something more interesting than a mere detail of their disbursements: and it would be some information to know upon what principle they determine “honest poverty to be the allotment of Divine Providence.” The recommendation to form a Benefit Society is in itself good, but the adoption of the Rev. I. T. Becher's tables for relief reminds one of Penruddock's question, “How long will it take to starve a man to death.” Truly, this very Revd. Gentleman seems to think that “Man wants but little here below,” and is so fearful of the evil effects of indiscriminate liberality, that he runs into the other extreme—totally insensible to the misery which such a mockery of relief would cause. The bare idea of 2 shillings per week during sickness, and the munificent allowance of 1 shilling per week for life after reaching the age of sixty-five, (having subscribed from the age of 17,) and finally the payment of £2 to the family at a death, is a proof how far the Revd Gentleman appreciates misfortune, and the feeling and charity with which he (living perhaps in comfort and luxury,) calculates upon how little the unfortunate can exist.

It is possible such persons may plan *Benefit Societies*, but humanity forbid they should ever disgrace a Philanthropic one. Benefit Societies upon the same footing as those formed by different mechanics in England, affording 20 shillings per

week in case of sickness, and 30 to 40s. in the event of death, are real benefits much nearer to common sense and humanity than the one recommended. Wishing every success to the British Philanthropic Institution established in this city, I remain, &c. A WELL WISHER TO MY FELLOW CREATURES.

THEATRE.

The opera of *Tancredi* was performed on the 5th inst. for the benefit of Doña Angelita; it did not go off with the same spirit as on the preceding representation: Angelita was not in good voice, and Rosquellas was hoarse; notwithstanding these drawbacks, it afforded a treat to the lovers of “sweet sounds.” The dueto sung by Angelita and Rosquellas in the first act: the aria by the latter, followed by the beautiful chorus in the second, and the finale, made amends for other “fallings off.” The audience were numerous and splendid; the boxes contained many lovely females, including *Eriadne*, *Hermione*, *Medora*, *Daphne*, and *Ariadne*; the latter we have never seen at the theatre, except on opera nights: she is indeed

“The patroness of heavenly harmony”

A son of Neptune came to us during the opera, and described a very pretty girl, who he said, “was seated on the larboard side, upon the lower deck, about midships,”—it was *Ariadne*. General Alvear and his lady were likewise present.

DIED.

At Mendoza, on Wednesday, Aug. 20th, after a long protracted illness, ROBERT GOURLIE, Esq. of Glasgow, Scotland, in the 25th year of his age. It may be a satisfaction to his friends to know that every attention which sympathy for the sufferings of this amiable young man could suggest, was paid him during his confinement, and a decent respect shown to his memory: many respectable citizens of the place accompanying his remains to the place of interment, (a Quinta of Don Marcelino Rojo,) where the burial service was read by Dr. John Purves, and the body committed to its kindred dust.

“And should some eye a tablet seek,
To show where lies the stranger guest,
The monumental earth shall speak
But this, ‘The Pilgrim is at rest.’”

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublons, 47 á 48 dollars each.—On Monday a considerable stir took place, and large sales made at 51 á 51½, and contracts to a considerable extent at 51 á 53½, since which the prices have varied from 43 á 45½, and contracts from 43 á 46.

Spanish and Patriot Dollars, 175 á 180 per cent. prem.—Nominal.

Plata macuquina, 165 á 170 per ct. premium.—Nominal.

Gold in bars, 20 quilates, 15½ á 16 rials per quilate.

Silver in do. 11 dineros, 14½ á 15½ rials per do.

Six per cent Stock, 51½ á 52 dollars.—Strong buyers at 51, and but few sellers; considerable sales have however been made during the week at 51.

Exchange on England, 18d. per dollar.—Nominal.

Do. on Monte Video, 135 á 140 per ct. premium.

Do. on Rio, 40 á 65 per cent. premium.—Nominal.

Bank Shares, 179 á 180 dollars each.

Discount, 1½ á 2 per ct. per month.

On account of the rumours of Peace scarcely any other business has been transacted, but in doublons; in Produce nothing has been done of consequence.—Brazil Produce and Manufactured Goods are declining.

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