

THE

# British Packet,

AND

## ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 117.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1828.

[Vol. 3.

### BUENOS AYRES.

The report of an intended expedition to liberate Paraguay has been generally revived since the conclusion of the Peace:—we know not upon what foundation, or if it is compatible with the present state of the Treasury; but if (as is supposed,) such an event must sooner or later take place, the present seems to be the most favourable moment; it could hardly be undertaken at a time more convenient, and with so little expense.—An army accustomed to campaigning and victory, the greater part of which is now disposable, and may be said to be already on the frontiers of that Province, as its route in retiring from the Brazilian territory lies at no great distance from that part of the Misiones occupied by General Rivera, whose head quarters at *Itaqui* is situated about 20 leagues from *Itapua*, the frontier town of Paraguay, and 100 leagues from *Asuncion*, its capital. This returning army, united to the force already under the command of that chief, might enter on active operations immediately, and we venture to say that little more than a month would be required to end successfully the enterprize, for we are far from attaching the same importance to it in a military point of view as some of our contemporaries.

The Paraguayans although a numerous are far from being a warlike people, and though capable of being made good sailors and good soldiers, yet never having heard a shot fired in anger. (except perhaps those by which their ill fated countrymen have been so cruelly sacrificed,) it cannot be expected they would offer much resistance to troops inured to war, were they never so well disposed to sustain their present Government, which we have good reason to believe they are not. Add to this the total want of officers of experience,\* and perhaps more than all, the want of confidence in those employed by the Dictator which is so great that he will not trust any of them with the command of a separate body of men, and therefore if attacked at different points, no effectual defence could be made at any of them. His system of making every thing centre in and hinge upon his own person, without placing the proper degree of confidence in the subordinate parts, is so disjointed and preposterous that it must fall to pieces at the very first shock.

\* This is so great, that a friend of ours has frequently seen the Dictator perform the part of a drill serjeant in training a regiment of cavalry.

Convinced from what we have stated, that a very little time would be required to effect the wished-for change in the state of Paraguay, we think the expense of the expedition if immediately undertaken, would not be great in addition; and if undertaken at a subsequent period, although the Treasury might be better furnished, yet the charge would be immeasurably greater in proportion, and the success much more problematical.

The raising a new army, equipping and sending it from hence to Paraguay, would be a fearfully expensive affair; there is great difficulty in keeping up due subordination in fresh raised troops, and any indulgence in military licentiousness might lead to fatal consequences. For all these reasons, we repeat that now is the favourable moment for the expedition.

With regard to the justice of invading in an hostile manner an independent state, considering Paraguay in that light, we apprehend that offence more than sufficient has been given by its ruler to justify the Government of this Republic in exacting a severe satisfaction. He has for several years carried on the most marked hostilities against the Republic in general, and Buenos Ayres in particular. An incredible number of vessels the property of its inhabitants, have been capriciously detained, and consequently lost; every species of insult has been gratuitously bestowed upon the citizens of all the Provinces of this Republic detained in Paraguay, that could possibly be offered to the worst of enemies.

In the year 1823 by a decree of the Dictator, they were prohibited from marrying, (except negroes and mulattoes, as the Old Spaniards had been from the time of the Junta;) from appearing as sponsors in baptism or marriage: from acting as witnesses in legal transactions; and in the following year, the natives of Santa Fé were imprisoned in the most unfeeling manner. To complete this list of atrocities, the property of the natives of Buenos Ayres has been within the last two years arbitrarily seized and confiscated, under the pretext of obliging this Government to give up to the Dictator the person of a naturalized citizen of the province, and who is at present one of its representatives.

We could enumerate many other instances of avowed hostility, but we conceive that enough has been stated to warrant an armed interference on the part of this Republic in the affairs of the Dictator Francia.

In a national point of view the advantages that would arise

to the country generally, and to some of the Provinces in particular, by throwing open the trade of Paraguay, would to the friends of political economy, sufficiently justify the enterprise.

It is well known that the trade of that country, even when carried on in its former limited extent, enriched all the towns of the transit on its way to Buenos Ayres, where it also produced a considerable revenue: and how much more might be expected from it when carried on upon the broad basis of the present enlightened state of progressive improvement. Its timber, yerba, tobacco, sugar cane, rice, fruits, cotton, ambé, gums, indigo,—in short, innumerable articles of commerce not produced in the other Provinces, furnish a wide field for the employment of capital, which must be almost entirely of this country, (as it is too remote for the speculation of strangers;) added to which the advantages of possessing a sober, patient, industrious class of sailors, of that nation on whom the country might rely in any future emergency, and who would render it independent of a class of foreigners who at present almost wholly engross the river trade, and whose actions have too often proved them to be the refuse of mankind.

We do think that those who reflect upon these advantages, will agree that the attempt to open the trade of Paraguay is worth a few sacrifices.

According to letters from Chuquisaca, the Peruvian troops under General Gamarra were retiring from the territory of Bolivia, and that war was expected between Colombia and Peru. Sucre (the President) in his Speech to the Senate of Bolivia has made some pointed remarks upon the treacherous conduct of those in whom he had placed confidence.

The inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the College church gave a *Funcion* on Thursday evening, in honor of the Peace: the different houses were illuminated, and also a temporary building erected near the church, and decorated with flags: the streets strewed with laurel leaves, &c. The band of the Civico regiment were stationed upon the pavement in front of the church, and that of the Cacedores at the end of the street Potosi; but the former (as they always do,) excelled in their tasteful selections from different operas and marches: seats were placed in the streets, and some very lovely females were present; the attendance however, was not so great as in the *Funciones* for the battle of Ituzaingo and Uruguay, which a friend of ours accounted for by saying that goods were then rising—all was profit, and no bankruptcies—now the scene is changed.

The house at the corner of the calle de Potosi, in front of the church St. Francisco had (besides the National and Brazilian flags) the British, American, French, and Dutch.

The Brazilian corvette Maria Isabel sailed from Colonia for Monte Video on Thursday, having on board several passengers, amongst them the Governor, (Rodriguez,) guns, stores, &c. A number of the inhabitants (chiefly those connected with the Brazilians,) were selling off their property and removing.

At Monte Video the approaching change of Government is viewed by some with considerable apprehension, and they have prepared to migrate to Buenos Ayres and other places. That the Brazilians should have a strong party in the country cannot surprise, considering the length of time they have occupied it: that their rule generally speaking, has not been very tyrannical, and the marriages and intermarriages which have taken place between them and the natives. The military may feel a little galled at the course of events; a friend lately from Colonia, tells us that one or two officers there when they heard the conditions of the Peace, broke their swords in sheer anger.

A newspaper published at Monte Video, called the *Observador Mercantil*, and which scrupulously abstained from politics, has lately taken the name of *Observador Oriental, Papel Comercial, Politice y Literario*, and has entered the field of argument. An article signed "A Subscriber," in alluding to the alarm felt, and the painful separation of relations and friends, speaks upon the great difference now to the years '15 and '16,—then Monte Video was surrendered to the military force of the Republic: a civil war raged, and Spain an irreconcilable enemy,—now a solemn treaty with a free nation, guaranteed by a great Power, separates Monte Video both from the Republic and the Empire.

Another article, signed *Unos Montevideanos* says, "In the year '17 a foreign power, conducted by the political principles of the time, came to save us from discord: in the year '28 reason, illustrated by the lights of the age, restores us to independence. Eternal thanks to the heroic people of Buenos Ayres—the valour and indefatigable constancy of the Orientals, and the justice of that young Monarch, who at the age of thirty has so many claims upon the admiration of future generations. We have near us an excellent model—the knowledge and beneficent institutions of the great people of Buenos Ayres—the ornament of the Continent, and the asylum of all the world."

The columns of the *Seminario Mercantil* of Monte Video are no longer occupied with *trades* against this country.

Monsieur Alfred Bellemar, (Secretary to Fournier,) came passenger in the *Leontine*. It is stated that the corvette purchased by Fournier in the United States mounted twenty-four guns, (24 pounders,) and had 300 men.

We have received several letters, hoping that the British Packet has not received damage from the enemy which she so unexpectedly got foul of: and that she will continue to make good head way, and carry on as heretofore with *sky-scrapers*, *moon-rakers*, and even *star-gazers*. Our friends must be aware that sails of this description are the most dangerous and vulnerable part of the vessel, which the enemy well knew; therefore when we again hoist them, it will be with every precaution, such as having all hands ready, that in the event of a *white squall* they may stand by, and instantly *clew up*. One friend strenuously advised us to "heave to," and *blackguard* the foe, but we should perhaps have got the worst of it, besides censures for stopping the course of the B. P.

The Brazilians are removing the guns, &c. from the batteries at Colonia and Gorriti; the corvettes Maria Isabel and Batioja we believe were at the former port.

A notice was posted in the British Commercial Room, requesting a meeting on 31st ult. at the City Hotel, of those masters of merchant vessels who by their crews and boats aided the brig Triton when she sunk in the Inner Roads on the night of the 11th ult. in order to estimate the expenses they had incurred; in pursuance of which the said masters met, and gave in the following claims:

The brig Comet, for the use of men and boats.....	\$70
do Juliana do .....	65
do Grampian do .....	85
do Peace do .....	51
ship Melpomene do .....	68
Barque Falcon do .....	70
	\$409

[COMMUNICATED]

On the evening of Sunday last in the Episcopal chapel of this city, the Rev. Wm. Brown, of Monte Grande performed divine service according to the prescribed forms of the church of Scotland. There was some little hesitation observable with regard to the seats in the centre of the chapel; to obviate which for the future, it may be remarked that they are all perfectly free and common. The sermon, which treated of christian liberty was very appropriate and impressive, discovering throughout a train of close argumentation, enlivened by the embellishments of a lively imagination, and a happy choice of expression. It is sincerely to be hoped, that the Scotch Presbyterians resident here will avail themselves of this opportunity of adhering to and upholding a system of religious worship whose beautiful simplicity has been so often lauded, and which has contributed so essentially to the exaltation of the national character.

**MARINE LIST.**

**PORT OF BUENOS AYRES.**

Oct. 25—Wind N. E.

Arr. Nat. schr. brig Monte Alegre, Cuneo, Monte Video, general cargo, to Gestal; Brazilian zumaca Carmen, fm do. Sailed, Am. brig Vine, Downing, Gibraltar; Nat. zumaca Fortuna, M. Video, with Brazilian prisoners.

Oct. 26—Wind N.

Arr. Nat. brig of war Republica, (late brig Cacique) Com. Bynon, Capt. Cunningham; do. Federal. King; do schr. Argentina, Granville, Patagonia, 14 days—called at the Salado and Monte Video; British brig Agenoria, Cross, Monte Video 22d inst. general cargo, to Heyworths, Carlisle & Co.; Am. schr. brig Reliance, Robins, Patagonia 16th, M. Video 24th ult., salt, timber, &c. to Zimmermann, Frazier & Co.; Am. schr. Eliza Ann, Sheafe, do. 17th, M. Video 24th, salt, &c. to Sutton & Co.; Sardinian br. Asuncion, M. Video 24th, wine, oil, &c. to J Gestal; do. polacre San José, Revelo, do. 25th, wine, paper, &c. to P. Plomer; Fr. brig Delta, Ronis, Marseilles 1st Aug., M. Video 24th ult. wine, &c. to S. Le-

zico brothers; do. Asiatique, Brest, do. 1st Aug. M. Video 24th, wine, &c. to R. Larrea, brothers; Gun Boat No. 10, and several sail of small craft from the N.

Sailed, Nat. schr. of war Uruguay, for Bahia Blanca; do. 18th January, Monte Video.

Oct. 27—Wind E. N. E.

Arr. Am. schr. Sailors' Return, Birch, M. Video 26th ult. wine, oil, tea, &c. to order; Br. br Brahmin, Rawson, London 4th July, coals, beer, blacking, iron, &c. to R. Larrea brothers; fell in with eleven sail of Brazilian vessels off Maldonado, and was then informed that the blockade was raised; Nat. brig Nazareth, Salado, in ballast, to Gestal.

Sailed, schr. of war 29th December, for Mercedes, having on board Admiral Brown, his lady and family.

Oct. 28—Wind W. S. W.

Arr. Br. ship Sophia, Barringham, Rio Janeiro 3th, wine, brandy, &c. to T. Armstrong; a Gun Boat, and 3 small vessels from the N.

Sailed, Br. brig Dolphin, Tardif, Rio Janeiro in ballast, despatched by T. Armstrong; H. M's. ship Sapphire, Dundas, Ensenada; Nat. schr. brig of war Convencion, Rosales, Monte Video and Rio Janeiro. Passenger for Rio, Colonel Macdonald, R. A.; Gun Boat No. 10, Las Vacas.

Oct. 29—Wind W.

Arr. Am. brig Latona, Palmer, from M. Video 27th, flour, to Zimmermann, Frazier & Co.; Br. brig Fearon, Cholditch, do. 26th, general cargo, to Jackson, Barker & Co.

Sailed, Nat. schr. Libertad Orientale, Sioran, M. Video.

Oct. 30—Wind E. N. E.

Arr. Am. brig Leontine, Adams, New York 13th August, flour, lumber, &c. to Zimmermann, Frazier & Co.;—called off the Salado, and was there informed of the Peace; Am. ship Marcus, Drew, from Rio Janeiro 15th ult. flour, &c. to Sutton & Co.; Am. schr. Harriett, Sargent, Salado, general cargo, to same; National brig Cooperator, do. to Bermudez; schr. privateer Empresa, Green, from a cruize—last from the Salado on 28th: Brazilian schr. brig Silvana, J. Green, Salado, to Pelix Alzaga, (taken by the Empresa;) National cutter from Ensenada, and ten sail of small craft from the Northward.

Sailed, National schr. brig Monte Alegre, Cuneo, Monte Video.

Oct. 31—Wind N.

Arr. Am. schr. brig Charlotte Cordey, Rutter, from the Salado 25th, to Dana & Carman; a National chalupa from Monte Video. Two zumacas in sight.

The American schr. Leo, Raines, from this 13th June, arrived at Baltimore 25th July.

The British schr. Morning Star, Watson, sailed from the Salado for Liverpool about a week since.

The American sloop of war Boston arrived at Rio Janeiro from Monte Video about 12th October.

*Port of the Salado.*

Arr. 24th ult. Am. schr. Harriett, Sargent, fm Portsmouth, N. H. 80 days, general cargo, to Sutton & Co.; privateer Empresa, from a cruize.

Sailed on the 27th ult. National schr. brig Caroline, Love for Liverpool, with hides: 28th, American brig Earl, Mickle, for Gibraltar.

The Privateer *Empresa* has been out seven weeks, and taken three vessels, viz.: brig schr. *Suspiro*, Povoá, from Bahia bound to Rio Grande, captured on the 5th of October, near St. Catherines', cargo lime and dry goods, (arr'd. at this port;) *zumaca Cecilia*, Cochbero, from Rio Grande, bound to Rio Janeiro, captured near St. Catherines', cargo hides, jerked beef and tallow, (not arrived;) schr. brig *Silvana*, Lopez, Pernambuco 82 days, bound to Rio Grande, taken off Rio Grande, with general cargo and salt, (arrived at this port.) On 11th Oct. in lat. 29. 30, boarded the Am. brig *Susan* and *Elizabeth*, Harris, from Philadelphia for Monte Video;—put on board the Captain and crew of the prize *Suspiro*. In lat. 32. 19. Am. schr. brig *General Puliskia*, Lane, from Baltimore for Rio Grande with flour; and Br. brig *Swiftsure*, from Santos for River Plate, and an Am. brig.

The National brig of war *Republica* upon anchoring in the Outer Roads on the morning of the 26th fired a salute—the flag of Commodore Bynon at the fore; she mounts sixteen medium 24 pounders and two 12's, and has a crew of 160 men. The *Federal* was rigged into a brig at Patagonia, and has 94 men; the *Argentina* 60 to 70 men. The three vessels went from the *Salado* to Monte Video for the purpose of getting a pilot: and supposing that Admiral Brown was there, Captains King and Cunningham went on shore, and were received by Commodore Norton with great politeness. The *Federal* on passing a Brazilian corvette cheered, which was immediately returned. The *Republica* fired a salute of 21 guns at Monte Video; they did not hear the salute answered. Mr Shannon piloted the brig from the above port, and Captain Mason came passenger in her from Patagonia.

The Privateer ship *Gaviota*, Dautant, arrived at the Bay of San Blas (Patagonia,) about 10th Oct. with a British ship bound from Hamburg to Rio Janeiro, having 3,000 bbls. of flour, (detained.) The Privateer *San Martin* had arrived at Patagonia with five prizes; the corvettes *Ituzaingo* and *Chacabuco* were lying there complete wrecks. Capt. Clark of the British brig *Huskisson* came passenger to this port in the American schr. *Eliza Ann*, from Patagonia.

### THEATRE.

The opera of the *Barber of Seville* was performed on Saturday evening, and at last it appears to decrease in attraction, the audience not being very numerous. The boys have repeated the dances, exhibiting during the figures the words, *La Paz, Union, La Libertad*, and *Viva El Gobierno*; this last has brought forth considerable discussion in the public prints, in which we have no wish to join. Several comedies have been performed during the week, but we were unable to attend. The graceful dancing of the boys has been much admired; they have performed at several private houses lately; the ballet masters deserve great credit—the only fault is, the dances are rather too long.

### TO SUBSCRIBERS.

With this number concludes the ninth quarter of the British Packet, and we take the opportunity to say a few words upon the manner in which this paper has been, and is still intended to be conducted.

Our only bias has been sincere attachment to the country, and therefore we have carefully avoided all party spirit.

The political events of the day—from Peru, Chile, &c. have been recorded: and a minute account kept of the marine intelligence, price of specie, etc., in order that it might be referred to hereafter with confidence.

Upon the arrival of every Packet, an abstract of European and other news has been inserted; it is true that lengthened extracts from foreign papers have not found a place in our columns, aware that the greater part of our subscribers have constant access to them, and that the British Packet is forwarded to their friends, to whom it could afford little gratification to read events of which they were acquainted months before; had we copied from other journals, our task as editor would have been easy enough.

It has been our wish to give a faithful record of the times, and our employment has not been a *sinecure*; in a city like Buenos Ayres there is always matter enough to interest and convey information to distant readers.

In respect to our theatrical remarks, they have been in a manner the first attempt of the sort in this country, and were undertaken chiefly to vary the scene from the sameness of details of arrivals and sailings, politics, etc., and that our paper might not be unacceptable even at the ladies' toilet: convinced besides that the object of a Theatre was and is

“To hold as 'twere the mirror up to nature:  
And to show the very age and body of the time,  
His form and pressure.”

Our exertions have been rewarded by a constant addition to the circulation of the paper—it has become more generally diffused. Many of the original subscribers who in August 1826 took in several numbers in order to establish it, have discontinued this, and take but one number, and yet the sale daily increases.

### PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublons, 40½ á 41 dollars each.—The demand steady, but no sales of moment have been effected; there are now buyers at 40½ á 40¾, and sellers at 41.  
Spanish and Patriot Dollars, 145 á 155 per cent. prem.—The demand brisk, and sales to a large amount made.  
Gold in bars, 20 quilates, 14 á 14½ rials per quilate.—Considerable inquiry.  
Silver in do. 11 dineros, 13½ á 14 rials per dinero.—Considerable inquiry.  
Six per ct. Stock, 48 á 48½ dollars.—More in demand than during the last week, and considerable sales effected.  
Bank Shares, 180 á 185 dolls. each.—Steady.  
Exchange on England, 20d. per dollar.—At this price about £4000 has been sold this week.  
Do. on Paris, 214 á 220 centimes per dollar.—The demand brisk, and sales effected at 214.  
Do. on Monte Video, 100 á 110 per cent. prem.—The demand great, and heavy sales made from 90 á 100 p. ct.  
Do. on Rio de Janeiro, 35 á 40 per ct. prem.—In extensive demand, and considerable sales made.  
Hides, ox, best quality, 10 á 10½ dollars per 35 lbs.  
Do Country, 9 á 9½ do. per do.  
Do Salted, 9 á 9½ dollars per pesado.  
Skins, nutria, 5 á 5½ dolls. per dozen.  
Do. chinchilla, 12 á 14 dolls. per do.  
Beef, salted, 7 á 8 dolls. per quintal.  
Discount, 1½ á 2 per ct. per month.—Scarce.  
The demand for Manufactured Goods continues, and the prices considerably advanced.  
Liquids continue to decline.