

British Commercial Room
THE
British Packet,

AND
ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 121.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1828.

[Vol. 3.]

FOREIGN.

We have received by the Packet Goldfinch, London papers to 20th September; the following is a brief outline of their contents:—Lord Melville has been appointed first Lord of the Admiralty.

The Brazilian frigate *Emperatriz*, having on board the young Queen of Portugal, arrived at Gibraltar 2d Sept., and upon being informed of the state of affairs in Portugal, it was resolved to proceed to England. Madeira has surrendered to the troops of Don Miguel; Valdez (the Constitutional Governor) made his escape on board a British corvette.

The English papers have been sadly "at fault" respecting their predictions and assertions as to the insignificance of Don Miguel's party; this party, so contemptible, appear to carry every thing with a very high hand, and will probably succeed in retaining Miguel as King of Portugal, aided by the strong feeling which prevails in that country against becoming a "Province of Brazil." The Brazilian frigate *Isabel* had sailed from Falmouth to assist the Constitutionals in Madeira, but was too late.

A letter from Lisbon, inserted in the *Morning Herald* says: "Some persons here have been led to fancy that a blockade will soon take place of this city by a Brazilian squadron of three frigates, under the command of Commodore Grenfell. If this Commodore and his two fellow Captains have good fighting sailors on board, they may capture the *Joao Sesto* and all the blockading squadron of Madeira; for the large *Joao VI.* had not above half her compliment of guns and about 120 effective sailors. It is well known that the Portuguese fight worse at sea than on land, and eleven daring privateers would take the eleven Portuguese ships."

We have always understood that the Portuguese sailors were tolerably efficient, if they had good officers.

The defeat of the Russians before Shumla (or Choumla) appears to be confirmed. The Turks are stated to have made a sortie, and destroyed three of the Russian redoubts; the Russians who occupied them were all cut to pieces, 8 guns taken, and General Wrede killed. At Widdin likewise a sally was made by the Turks, and 4000 Russians said to be killed; one of their Generals (Ivanoff) is dead of the wounds he received. Great sickness prevailed in the Russian army. Peace was talked of, but the Turks from their unceasing ardour it is feared will not listen to moderate proposals. The Cossack cavalry, thought to be so formidable, have made but a

sorry figure against the Turkish horse, (or Sphai's;) they have been beaten in every rencontre. The enthusiasm of the Turks has been raised to the highest pitch; the *Ulemas* (priests) tell them that the Empire and the religion of Islamism is attacked, exhorting them to fight in defence of their faith to the last. The Sultan was about to leave Constantinople with 40,000 men, and the standard of Mahomet, (the sacred banner, *Sandschaki*) was then to be unfurled; it was their determination to carry on a desultory warfare, and not (except upon some very extraordinary occasion) to risk a general battle. Altogether the aspect of the war looks very different from what we were led to expect by the tone of the European journals.

A German writer has remarked that "the Turks possess still the same character which the historians of the fifteenth century describe; they are indolent in time of peace, but when war vexes them they become infuriated: are friendly and obliging towards strangers: inhuman in their vindictiveness; they frequently carry their exalted friendship to a point of heroism; their courage manifests itself sometimes in a chivalric daringness, and on other occasions in a stoic indifference,—here they are seen courageously precipitating themselves on the enemy's ranks, without regard to numbers: and elsewhere they suffer themselves to be strangled with a pipe in their mouth; they consider themselves on every occasion as the slaves or agents of an unalterable, immutable fate; they are good relatives and husbands, and polygamy is far from being in general use among them."

The English papers hint at the probability of war between Colombia and Peru, and the wish of Bolivar to constitute himself Emperor of Colombia, Bolivia and Peru, under the title of Simon I., adding at the same time that Peru will never submit to such a state of things.

The politicians of France appear to be occupied in commenting upon the war with the Russians and Turks, and a lurking wish now and then escapes that the *Muscovite giant* (as they denominate the Russian Emperor) may be humbled. The French armament destined for the Morea likewise occupies considerable attention.

Part of the Irish emigrants from Rio Janeiro have arrived at Cork. Ireland itself is any thing but in a tranquil state; the Orange party were forming societies under the appellation of the Brunswick clubs, and in the county of Kent in England the establishment of a similar club had been proposed.

B C Room

The Rio Janeiro newspaper, *Jornal do Comercio*, No. 314, speaking of the late Treaty of Peace, says:—

“The wars of invasion or conquest ought to be rapid—of short duration and decisive: otherwise the mere fact of their continuance is a victory for those who defend their country and national existence; but this principle is more rigorous, if applied to a revolt, because in this case if the rebels are not vanquished in the first moments of confusion, anarchy, and uncertainty, can it be expected to take place when they are organized—exalted by their first victories, sustained by the development of all the resources of their country, and the support of all the envious enemies of their former master?”

“The revolution of Holland against Spain: of Pernambuco against the Dutch: of the United States against Great Britain: of Portugal against Spain, and Brazil against Portugal, speak eloquently in favour of the former assertion.

“The evacuation of Monte Video was a question of life and death to Buenos Ayres; the advantages of that harbour and its locality, would have annihilated the Argentine Capital had it been declared a free port. Buenos Ayres however took no share in the revolution, but by indirect supplies; we declared the war, and the Argentines rejoicing in having to combat for the oppressed, entered into the war with the firm resolution of obtaining the independence of the Cisplatine Province, or to lose their own national existence.

“This is what we ought to keep in view; only a mortal thrust could have saved us from the struggle: and as we did not inflict it at first over an enemy who had neither soldiers, money, nor a single vessel of war, while we were rich and strong by sea and land, it is evident that it is now not only too late but useless, because were we to drain our last drop of blood, even the destruction of Buenos Ayres would not have obliged the Argentine Federation (in its present organized state, and compromised in the guarantee of the Banda Oriental,) to have yielded the point.

“It was then necessary to abandon Monte Video, and this was felt by a Ministry less proud and with more foresight than that which plunged the nation into such a ruinous quarrel.

“What has Monte Video been to us since 1816? It has swallowed up incalculable sums—it has destroyed our sons and our subsistence. Cursed be the day in which that indocile and inconstant people solicited to be united to our Empire!

“The Cisplatines in reality were only natural sons and legitimate subjects to us by adoption and convenience; their origin—their manners—their traditions, are totally different from ours; their natural connections, notwithstanding their want of real utility, belong to the other side, and Buenos Ayres had the dexterity to make them blind to the profitable union with us.

“The Empire therefore ought not to consider it either as legal or liberal their continuance as its subjects—nor decorous the wish of keeping them in a fraternity to which they are opposed. We lose nothing in resigning the expensive and nominal possession of Monte Video; nature in spite of

every thing, will oblige the Cisplatines to exchange their produce with ours.”

The above article contains so much solid argument that we should have been sorry to have omitted a single line of it. The *Jornal do Comercio* appears to us as the most reasoning and liberal of the Rio Janeiro gazettes; the language in which it is written partakes generally of that best of all qualities, viz., good common sense. *En passant*, we may be allowed to remark that the solicitation for the Portuguese to occupy the Banda Oriental came from a few individuals only, which could no more be binding upon the rest of the Province than if the Lord Mayor and Common Council of the city of London should in opposition to the rest of the citizens invite a foreign army to take possession of that metropolis.

When in April, 1825, the thirty-three individuals left Buenos Ayres in order to revolutionize the Banda Oriental, their destruction we thought inevitable. After the battle of Sarandi the Brazilian rule in the Banda Oriental may be said to have expired.

The Brazilian Emperor in making peace has acted the part of a wise and paternal monarch, and his subjects will hereafter applaud him for it; the officers of the army and navy may feel for the present some irritation, but what laurels could they expect to gain in such a war, with public opinion against it? their exertions may probably soon take a more noble direction in other climes.

An opinion has been hazarded that Buenos Ayres being the focus of the war, had the Brazilians bombarded it, peace would have taken place long since; the reverse would probably have been the case: for say what they will, there is a degree of chivalry and enthusiasm about the people of this country, which not even the smoking ruins of their city could have daunted. Bombardment would have been rather a difficult undertaking while the daring Brown and his flotilla existed, and the bombarding squadron might possibly have become his prey.

MONTE VIDEO.

The accounts from Monte Video state that the Brazilian Government appear determined to fulfil the preliminary treaty to the very letter. The *Cazadores* and other troops were to be embarked for Rio Janeiro on Thursday last; the three masted schr. and some vessels had sailed. The *Piranga* frigate arrived there a few days since from Rio Janeiro.

DOMESTIC.

Encore des fetes, says a London journalist. On Saturday evening commenced the *funciones* in honor of peace, given by the parish of St. Nicholas and others, and they proved the very best of those which have taken place in the interior of the city. The Plaza Nueva and various streets were illuminated and strewed with laurel: the houses decorated with flags of all nations; the calle de Suipacha really looked brilliant: its houses the greater part with altos, from which floated (and to be sublime we must add) *majestically* the National flags, British Red Ensign and Union Jack, American, French, Dutch and other colours. The street itself has

something of a European appearance, that is of a continental town of Europe, Bruges for instance; added to which many very interesting females were seated in the salas, and at the doors, and promenading; the glare of light gave to the passing pedestrian a complete view of them. The exterior of San Miguel's church was lighted: the National, British, and Brazilian flags displayed from its towers; a band of music stationed upon the pavement in front of the church performed from Mozart, Rossini, and the *viva l'amor* of Rosquellas. Considerable entertainment was derived from an itinerant band, consisting of three violins, a bass viol, a drum and pandeans (*Pan's pipes*) something in London fashion. A banquet was prepared in the house of Don Mariano Maza, and transparencies exhibited with poetry. The fire works in the Plaza Nueva were excellent, particularly the discharge of rockets; some field pieces were fired, and pitch barrels burning at the corners of different streets. A revolving lantern with transparencies at a barber's shop in the calle de Cangallo attracted a crowd of connoisseurs.

The assemblage on Sunday evening was very great of all classes, and as usual very orderly. A stranger might gather much information of the character of the people from such scenes; it is impossible to form a correct estimate from a few weeks or months residence in a city, and it has been remarked that "until a man is capable of conversing with ease among the natives of any country, he can never be able to have a just and adequate idea of their policy and manners. He who sits at a play without understanding the dialect may indeed discover which of the actors are best dressed, and how well the scenes are painted or disposed, but the characters and conduct of the drama must for ever remain a secret to him."

On Wednesday morning were disembarked at the mole from the army lately under the command of General Lavalleja, the 4th battalion of infantry of the *Milicia Activa*, one company of the 4th battalion of *Cazadores*, and one of the 1st regiment of cavalry. The Minister of War, (Balcarce,) the Inspector General, and several other officers attended, and many spectators, who were highly amused at the almost frantic joy displayed by the *fair sex* belonging to the black creation; they attended in crowds, dancing, singing and hugging the soldiers as they came on shore—others were in tears at again embracing sons, husbands, brothers, &c., and we saw more than one sturdy soldier shed tears of joy as his wife and children clung around him. The numerous boats—the carts conveying the soldiers to shore, and the scene altogether, was worthy the pencil of Wilkie to delineate.

On Thursday, the 1st battalion of *Cazadores* (Infantry), was landed with their excellent band, in their once splendid dresses, but now rather the worse for campaigning; each of the musicians had his musket slung behind him; the drum major looked very important. The band played some arias upon the Alameda: one of the black performers manœuvred the cymbals in a manner that would not have disgraced the parade in St. James's Park. The regiment was marched through the streets to the Retiro, with band playing, pioneers

in front, and colours flying; both officers and men looked extremely well, and were viewed with all the pleasure due to warriors who have so faithfully served the country. The band of the 4th *Cazadores* was likewise on the Alameda, and a number of ladies. It was the intention of the Government to have had a sort of fete upon the landing of the troops, but this has been deferred to a time of less confusion. Some soldiers of the flying artillery were also landed.

Amongst the troops landed yesterday was the 16th regiment of cavalry, (lancers,) Col. Olivera, and a finer body of officers and men we have never seen; they were well clothed—had a steady and soldierlike appearance. Several persons on the Alameda observed that General Lecor had proved himself a wise man in avoiding such fellows.

The Government have issued orders to the Marine office to place all vessels under rigorous quarantine if by the last arrivals from the Mediterranean, it is fully ascertained that an epidemic fever rages at that port.

General Soler, accompanied by his Secretary of Legation, (J. I. Sandobal,) and an aid de camp, left town on Thursday last, to fulfil his appointment as Minister to Bolivia.

Almost every day since Saturday last it has blown nearly a gale of wind from the S. E., which has entirely prevented vessels from taking in and discharging cargo. The Packet Francis Freeling lost an anchor in the Outer Roads.

MARINE LIST.

PORT OF BUENOS AYRES.

Nov. 22—Wind S., blowing fresh.

Arr. Am. brig Thomas Morris, Breck, Antwerp 9th Sept., iron, gin, oil, &c. to J. & J. Thwaites—called off the Salado; do. Fortune, Baker, Boston, general cargo, to Grogan & Peacock: do. George Gardner, Davidson, Rio Janeiro 9th inst., flour, &c. to Gowland, Slacum & Co.; Fr. brig Le Grand Navigateur, Edou. Rio Janeiro 4th inst., wine, paper, &c. to Larrea Broths.; do. Desirée, Boyer, do. 1st inst., iron, tar, planks, &c. to Blanc & Constantin; Nat. zumaca Ana Maria, Salado; do. Carmen, do.; do. Estrella, do.; do. Ana Bella, do., do. Providencia, do.; Brazilian zumaca Primrosa, M. Video 20th, general cargo, to John Jackson.

Sailed, Nat. schr. brig of war Federal, Toll; do. schr. Argentina, Gwynn; 2 schr. brigs and several zumacas, to convey troops hither from the Banda Oriental.

Nov. 23—Wind S. blowing nearly a gale.

The Nat. schr. (Packet for Monte Video and Rio Janeiro.) Joven Sarandi, (late William & Mary,) fired a gun upon hauling down the American flag, and another upon hoisting that of this Republic.

Nov. 24—Wind S. E. blowing nearly a gale.

Arr. Br. barque Packet Goldfinch, Walker, Falmouth 22d Sept., Rio Janeiro 14th and Monte Video 23d. One Spanish gentleman passenger from M. Video; Brazilian zumaca Rosario, M. Video 23d, general cargo, to Gowland, Slacum & Co.; Nat. schr. brig Monte Alegre, fn do.

Sailed, Br. brig John, Shepperd, for Rio Janeiro; Nat. zumaca Fama, Carey, Liverpool.

Nov. 25—Wind S. E., still blowing strong.

Arr. Brazilian balandra San Pedro de Alcantara, M. Video 23d; do. schr. Santa Rita, do. 24th; do. San José Triunfante, fm Colonia.

Sailed, Br. brig Scamander, Ainbie, Liverpool, hides, &c.; Fr. brig Mars, Drouet, Marseilles, hides; a Gun Boat and some small craft to the Northward; Nat. schr. brig Libertad del Oriente, (Packet) Monte Video.

Nov. 26—Wind E. S. E., nearly a gale.

Arr. Br. three-masted schr. Elbe, Rocher, London 30th Sept., coals, wine, &c. to Larrea, Broths.; do: brig Hazard, Ravely, Rio Janeiro 14th inst., general cargo, to Campbell, M'Dougall & Co.; saw a brig, apparently British, aground near Point Indio 24th; Dutch br. Amiable Pauline, Lutyez, Antwerp 25th Aug., general cargo, to George Vermoelen—called at Monte Video; do. schr. Caroline, Melchers, Antwerp 100 days, general cargo, to S. Lezica, broths., Am. brig Julia, Crocker, St. Catherines' 18th instant, salt, &c., to Zimmermann, Frazier & Co., Nat. schr. of war Argentina, Gwynn; several zumacas, &c. with troops from the Banda Oriental, and a Gun Boat.

Sailed, Br. brig Packet Francis Freeling, Cunningham, for Monte Video, Rio Janeiro and Falmouth. Passenger for England, Mr. Charles Heine, and for Monte Video Mr. Clement Le Breton; Br. brig Cordelia, Dunlop, for Liverpool, hides, horns, &c.; Am. brig Delight, Burkitt, Havana, jerked beef.

Nov 27—Wind S. E., blowing fresh.

Arr. Br. brig Grecian, Watson, Rio Janeiro 16th instant, general cargo, to Heyworths, Carlisle & Co.;—saw the brig Capricorn from this at anchor off Point Indio yesterday morning; Sardinian brig Bella Carolina, Schiattino, Gibraltar and Monte Video 44 days, wine, oil and paper, to Bertram, Le Breton & Co; Fr. brig Etienne, —, Havre de Grace 18th Sept., general cargo; Am. brig Emma, Patterson M. Video yesterday, general cargo, to Zimmermann, Frazier & Co.; Am. brig Apollo, Knowles, from Boston 20th July, general cargo, to Zimmermann, Frazier & Co.; do. Grape, Knowles, from Ensenada, having been hove down and repaired.

The Brazilian schr. Packet Oriental Argentino, from M. Video with passengers and letters; 2 transports with troops, and several others have anchored near three fathom hole.

Nov. 28—Wind N. E., during the night has blown a gale.

Arr. Brazilian corvette Maria Isabel, Grenfell, fm Colonia; Nat. schr. brig of war Convencion, Rosales, Rio Janeiro; do. Federal, Toll, and several transports with troops, consisting of the lanciers, and other cavalry and artillery from the Banda Oriental. A part of them were landed in the course of the day.

A Gun Boat with troops on board; Am. schr. Eliza Ann, and several small craft have been driven on shore. Some of the vessels in the Inner and Outer Roads drove, but we have not heard of any particular accident.

The Lady Wellington Packet from this 23d June, Monte Video 27th, and Rio Janeiro 13th July, arrived at Falmouth 9th Sept. The Redpole Packet from this 13th July, had not arrived. It was not known what Packet would be next appointed for this.

The National zumaca Sociedad Feliz, Vallance, from the Salado 3d June, arrived at Cork 6th September.

The National schr. brig of war Convencion, Rosales, from this 28th ult arrived at Rio Janeiro 11th instant, and was shortly to return hither with the prisoners of war (lately released.) The schr. of war Sarandi, Chalmers, having on board from 16 to 20 (late prisoners of war,) sailed from Rio Janeiro 7th inst to the Northward. The Brazilian frigate Piranga had sailed from Rio for Monte Video, with a number of prisoners of war released.

The wreck of the Brazilian zumaca laden with timber, which the French ship Camoens found abandoned at sea, and brought to this port, was a prize to the brig of war General Rondeau.

THEATRE.

The *desgraciada Vestale* (as this opera has been termed,) was announced for representation on Friday, and postponed at a late hour in the day; *Tancredi* was substituted, and we did not regret

the change. We have nothing to add to our former remark upon the performance of this fine opera, except that Doña Angélica sung much better than on the former evening, and that the house was more numerously attended; several elegant and charming females were in the boxes.

Erratas.—In the note to the article respecting Paraguay, (in our last) for *Paraguay Indian* read *Paragua Indian*.

In the proceedings of the Provincial Junta regarding the appropriations to the Ministers, for \$300,000 read \$30,000.

NOTICE.

A GENERAL meeting of the Subscribers to the British Commercial Room will be held on Monday, the 1st December at 11 o'clock, A. M. upon affairs of importance.

It is particularly requested that the Subscribers will be punctual in their attendance.

WANTED,

TO hire, an industrious, steady man, who understands kitchen gardening. Apply at No. 13, calle de Chacabuco.

TO LET,

A DWELLING house with 3 rooms on the street, a kitchen and large yard, suitable for storing lumber, &c. Inquire at No. 137, calle de Venezuela.

Genuine Madeira Wine,

FOR sale, by the pipe or half pipe: it is nine years old, has been to India, and warranted the best ever introduced into this market for sale. Apply to GEORGE LORD, No. 124, calle de la Catedral.

PRICE OF SPECIE.

Doublons, 52 á 53 dollars each.—During the week considerable stir has taken place, owing to a swindler having introduced forged paper into the market in the purchase of doublons, which caused them to rise from 49½ to \$55 each; they are now declining, and may be quoted from 52 a 53.

Spanish and Patriot Dollars, 210 á 215 per cent. prem.—Much inquiry, and but few sellers.

Gold in bars, 20 quilates, 18 á 19 rials p. quilate.—Scarce.

Silver in do. 11 dineros, 18 á 18½ rials p. dinero.—Scarce.

Six per ct. Stock, 48 dolls.—Considerable sales effected, and at present very few purchasers.

Exchange on England, 14d. per dollar.—On Saturday about £4000 was passed at 15, and since then a little at 14; at present but few drawers at the latter price.

Do. on Monte Video, 150 á 155 per ct. prem.

Do. on Rio de Janeiro, 60 per ct. prem.—Considerable sales effected.

Bank Shares, 185 á 190 dolls. each.—Steady.

Hides, ox, best quality, 12½ á 13½ dollars per 35 lbs.

Do country, 12 á 12½ do. per do.—Considerable purchases made.

Do salted, 10½ á 11½ dolls. per pesada.

Skins, chinchilla, 16 á 17 dolls. per dozen.

Do. nutria, 6 á 6½ dolls. per do.

Hair, horse, 10 á 11 dolls. per arroba.

Beef, jerked, 9 á 9½ dolls. per quintal.

Horns, 100 á 110 dollars per m.

Discount, 1½ á 2 per ct per month.

FREIGHTS.

For England continue scarce, and at reduced prices.

Salted Hides.....per ton....	£2	0s.	0d.
Dry do. "	4	10	0
Bales per measurement .. "	2	10	0

To Gibraltar, 30 á 35 Spanish dollars per ton.

To the Havanna, for jerked beef, 1 Spanish doll. per quintal.

To North America—Scarce.

Some contracts have been made to bring salt hither from the Cape de V. rds at 2 Spanish dollars per fanega.