

British Packet

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

N^o. 648.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1839.

[Vol. XIII.]

BUENOS AYRES.

We have no further news from Chili or Peru than what we gave in our last.

We have received Montevideo journals to 17th inst. They note the arrival at that port of the French brig of war Sylphe, from Toulon. It is added that the brig of war Latin, and corvette Bonito, (the latter with stores,) were immediately to leave Toulon for the River Plate, and that other vessels of war for the same destination were preparing in the French ports.

The following is a list of the foreign vessels of war now in the River Plate.

FRENCH.

Frigate *Minerve*, 64 guns, Rear Admiral Leblanc.

Corvettes *Ariadne*, 32 guns, *Sapho*, 28 guns, *Camille*, 20 guns, *Expeditive*, *Indienne* and *Perle*, 18 guns each; brig *Alerte*, 22 guns, *Sylphe*, *Bordelaise* and *Badine*, 10 guns each; brigantine *Vigilante*, 4 guns; schooners *Ana*, *Relampago*, *Aguila Segunda* and *Primorosa*, 4 guns each; cutter *Tupac Amaru*, 4 guns. In all 17 vessels, besides other small craft, which it is stated Admiral Leblanc, has or is about purchasing in Montevideo in order to arm and place them under the French flag.

BRITISH.

Ship *Actæon*, 26 guns, Captain Robert Russell. Sloop *Orestes*, 18 guns, " Peter S. Hanbly.

UNITED STATES.

Ship *Fairfield*, 24 guns, Lieut. Alexander Siddell Mackenzie, Commander.

Brigantine *Dolphin*, 12 guns, Lieut. Hugh V. Purviance, Commander.

BRAZILIAN.

Corvette *Bertioga*, 24 guns, Captain L. Correa de Mello.

Schooner *Legalidade*, 6 guns, Captain José Felipe Ferreira.

The French brig of war *Dassas*, has or is about to sail from Montevideo for France.

We received by H. B. M's packet *Cockatrice*, London papers to 7th November, Paris to 5th. It seems that Lord Palmerston has given assurance that the British government has interfered as it regards the blockade of Mexico, and that a British Minister (Mr. Pakenham,) was about to set out from London for Mexico. A strong British squadron commanded by Sir Charles Paget, was under orders for Mexico, at which some of the Paris journals are very indignant. Lord Palmerston expressed his opinion to the deputation of British Mexican merchants, that the Mexican dispute with France would soon be amicably arranged. The deputation averred to his Lordship, that it thought the blockade of Buenos Ayres much less justifiable than that of Mexico.

A considerable augmentation was about to be made to the number of British vessels of war now in commission.

In the East Indies 30 to 50,000 British troops (European and native) were on the move towards the territory of Herat, which it appears was threatened by a Persian army. Some aver that this conduct of the Persians has been instigated by Russia—others deny that it is so.

We regret to state that our usual supply of London Monthly periodicals have not arrived.

Operations of the French blockading vessels.

12th inst. Lights were shown last night by the blockading vessels. Six of their boats cruised all night and captured four outward bound craft, viz:—a dante, 2 balandras and a místico boat. Two of them were caught aground. The blockaders therefore made a tolerable good 'haul,' but they did not get all. The French cutter of war *Tupac Amaru* arrived.

13th. The French sent on shore some of the prisoners of the craft captured yesterday, in the boat of the Oriental brigantine *Anita*.—About 3 P. M., two French launches, French flag all, that of this Republic at bow, came to shore, and delivered to the Adjutant of the Port, Don Juan Francisco Segui, 4 prisoners, who having been wounded in the attack on Martín García, and left there in the hospital, were now returned cured. Two of the liberated prisoners had, had each an arm amputated. The Republican flag displayed by the largest of the two launches was an immense size, and had the emblem of the sun in its centre. It was reported to be the one captured at Martín García. On enquiry we find this to be incorrect. At any rate it was a "whopper," and excited a good deal of curiosity amongst the shore folks. The French schooner of war *Ana*, arrived to night from a cruise.

14th. Sailed *Ana*, *Tupac Amaru*, and the 4 prizes above-mentioned, for Montevideo. A large French launch full of men, and a French armed whale boat, were sounding for upwards of three hours to day, from in front of the Retiro to within cannon shot of the new battery.

15th. Shortly after break of day, three French launches full of men, were observed pulling towards a balandra inward bound, which had got aground between the *Rocoleta* and the Retiro. At 6 A. M. the battery fired a shot at the boats, which we believe fell short. Simultaneous with this a detachment of infantry of the Guardia Argentina, hurried down to the beach close to where the balandra was lying 'hard and fast.' At this period the foremost of the French launches being within musquet shot of the balandra pulled about and retired, which operation was followed by her two companions. Two regiments were in readiness at the Retiro, namely, the Guardia Argentina and Marine Artillery, the latter with their field pieces. The balandra afterwards discharged her cargo, consisting of caña, &c. The *Tupac Amaru*, *Ana*, and the vessels under their convoy which sailed yesterday, were in sight an anchor this day from head wind.

16th. A slant of wind this morning from the northward enabled the convoy above noticed to make sail for its destination. Two French armed boats (one the *Atrevido*.) arrived from the northward, with a lanchon and a small balandra, (outward bound,) both of which were liberated after their cargoes had been taken out. The lanchon came to the Boca and the balandra proceeded to the northward. The *Atrevido* sailed again in the evening.

17th. Nothing new.

18th. Three French launches cruising.

The French barque of war *Perle*, was off Bahía Blanca a short time since reconnoitring, but soon retired. The French corvette *Indienne*, we believe, accompanied her.

The French brig of war *Badine*, was off the Salado. Two of her boats came to shore in the neighbourhood of that port a few days since, and their crews landed, with the object as they stated to purchase beef; but the Commandant of the Salado, went to them at the head of 50

men, and declined the proposed purchase, requesting them at the same time to re-embark, which was accordingly effected.

This day (19th inst.) completes the 298th day of the blockade.

Official Documents.

VIVA LA FEDERACION!

Treasury bills in circulation on 1st inst., 4,422,700 dollars.

A communication dated 8th inst., from Don Romualdo Millan, Justice of Peace of Cañuelas, to the Governor, gives an account of the proceedings of the Apostolic mission to that district.

The *Gaceta Mercantil* of 14th inst., contains a continuation of the report from the Collector General's office, relative to the accounts subjected to its examination in conformity to the decree of 13th June, 1835.

The same journal of 15th, 16th and 17th inst., contains the particulars of the proceedings in the House of Representatives on its sittings of 29th, 17th and 31st ult.

The same journal of 17th inst., contains a note dated 3rd inst., to the Governor, signed by various land proprietors, with a list of individuals who have subscribed horses, &c., for the benefit of the State for the years 1838, 39 and 40.

Also the reply of the government dated 14th inst., returning thanks in the name of the country for the donations in question.

Also a list of those inhabitants of the Baradero, who have made donations to the State of horses, in aid of the war with General Santa Cruz.

The same journal of 18th inst., contains a similar list of donations of horses, from the inhabitants of San Vicente, Magdalena and Arceifes.

A decree dated 14th in t., appoints as Members of the Chamber of Justice, the Fiscal Dr. Manuel de Insiarte, and the Assessor General Dr. Eduardo Labitte, and the Judge of the 1st instance in civil cases Dr. Roque Saenz Peña, as supernumerary, the first named continuing in his employment as Minister of Finance, and the second performing the duties of Fiscal.

Dr. Baldomero Garcia, Judge of the 1st instance in criminal cases, to be Assessor General and Auditor of war and marine, vice Dr. Eduardo Labitte, promoted to the employ of Camarista.

Dr. Lucas Gonzalez Peña, Fiscal Agent, to be Judge of the 1st instance in criminal cases, vice Dr. Baldomero Garcia.

Dr. Cayetano Campana, to be Judge of the 1st instance in civil cases, vice Dr. Roque Saenz Peña.

Dr. Eustaquio Torres, Assessor for the poor and minors, to be Fiscal Agent, vice Dr. Lucas Gonzalez Peña.

Dr. Romualdo Gaete, to be Assessor for the poor and minors, vice Dr. Eustaquio Torres.

REFLECTIONS

ON THE

Present Situation and Future Prospects

OF

BUENOS AYRES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH PACKET.
SIR,

Passing events have necessarily drawn upon us an unwonted share of public attention.—Some of the blunders propagated by the European Press, at the expense of Buenos Ayres, are simply ludicrous; others, as tending to mislead public opinion, are to a certain extent prejudicial. Ignorance of local facts may be pleaded in extenuation of the former; many of the latter, we fear, can only be classified as malicious misrepresentations. It were a work of supererogation to attempt a refutation, in detail, of all the silly fictions, so clumsily invented, and industriously circulated. We do not expect to make converts of the self-deluded, or silence a party press; all we aspire at, in our present undertaking, is to furnish materials, from which the impartial may be enabled to form a somewhat correct judgment for themselves; and to detect the insidious impositions, of which they are not unfrequently the dupes or the victims.

And certainly all will agree, that matters of fact deserve a little more attention from learned Editors, Reviewers and Correspondents. It was too bad in the Mexican Memorialist, for example, to persuade Lord Palmerston that we had escaped so soon and so easily from all the dangers and inconveniences of the blockade; and still worse to consign us over, as your own correspondent, Haud Ignarus Mali, did, the other week, in an ebullition of sentimentalism, to "all the horrors of physical suffering and sorrow." We particularly regret the appearance of the latter communication. The incidental way in which it is brought forward; the bland tone of charity and benevolence that pervades it; the place where it appeared, and the channel through which it appeared, all conspire to give a weight and sanction to its statements; so that only those who have ocular demonstration to the contrary, can be expected to resist the doleful impressions, its truly lugubrious colouring is calculated to inspire. We cheerfully acquit its author of any sinister intention; but must at the same time impugn his conclusions as utterly unfounded, and tending directly to mislead those who have not an opportunity of comparing the copy with the original; and these specialities have induced us to select the article referred to, for a more minute and circumstantial examination.

The scenes depicted by Haud Ignarus Mali may have existed in *isolated Ranchos*, during the prevalence of the late extraordinary inundation. *The inmates of these Ranchos* may have been "exposed to all the horrors of physical suffering and sorrows," they may have "risen in the morning without knowing when or where they were to find the scanty morsel that was to break their last long fast." In this restricted sense the picture may be literally true, and the colouring, dark as it is, no darker than in nature: not so when applied, as it has been, by an unfortunate and unwarranted transition to our general population. Judging from the communication referred to, the world at large must imagine, that a few months of a blockade have reduced us to all the extremities of a closely besieged City; that we are already eating horses and dogs, cats and rats; nay, beginning to glare upon each other with the stern and horrid resolution that humanity shudders to utter. The fact is undeniable, that such a crisis has not yet arrived; and the probability seems to be that it never can arrive from the simple operation of the present causes. We have suffered, and must expect to suffer, *relatively*; but we can see no necessity, and think there is very little likelihood of much *absolute suffering*; the kind of suffering usually implied by *sobs and sighs and groans*. The old equilibrium has been destroyed, and it will necessarily take some time to discover and adjust the new one. The transition must be troublesome and inconvenient; and may be prejudicial, for a time, to individual interests; but with patriotic resolution all these difficulties may be surmounted, and the great essential interests of society not only sustained, but even benefited to an extent of which we have at present perhaps no adequate conception. Instead therefore of repining at the little we have lost, let us thankfully acknow-

ledge the much that still remains; instead of folding our hands in drooping despondency, let us courageously apply ourselves to the endless compensations with which a bountiful nature is every where fraught; instead of horifying the public mind with *ideal pictures* of famine and wretchedness, let us form a calm and impartial estimate of our situation, and see whether our skill, and industry, and capital may not be advantageously employed, in fomenting other branches of human enterprise; by which all our primary wants may be abundantly supplied, and most of our secondary ones compensated, or at least alleviated.

In the first place then we deny the existence of the evil, at least as to the alarming and heart rending extent that Haud Ignarus Mali would insinuate by his "sobs and sighs, and horrors of physical suffering and sorrow."—Our peregrinations extend to all the *barrios* of the City; and we have seen latterly no unusual proportion of emaciated bodies, or woe-begone countenances. The men still smoke their cigars, the Señoras sip their maté, and we challenge the most perspicacious to say, if he can discover in our general population, any of the squalid nakedness, or pining emaciation that indicate protracted privation, or intense suffering. The sighs and groans are successfully repressed, at least they do not intrude on the public eye and ear, as we have seen them do elsewhere in seasons of public calamity. Now we do not think this proceeds from any stoic indifference on the part of the Porteños. If the evils in question were in full operation, some indications of them would inevitably transpire; and in the absence of all glaring symptoms, we are fully entitled to conclude that their existence is chiefly *hypothetically*. In saying this, recollect, we do not question the existence of individual cases of destitution; aggravated by the peculiar circumstances in which we are placed, or produced by such overwhelming calamities as that which called forth the bounty, and suggested, we presume, the lucubrations of your Correspondent; and God forbid any thing we now say should operate to their prejudice. On the contrary, we consider it a time for special watchfulness, and peculiar tenderness, on the part of the wealthy and benevolent. Our simple position is that the *general picture* of Haud Ignarus Mali is greatly over charged; and that the remedies suggested are unfortunately more "Quixotic" than any thing that has been done, or is likely to be done, in favour of Juvenile Education.

His virulent philippic against our nascent Schools is altogether unmerited. "I lament," says he, the out-lay of *large donations* in building School-rooms, and the appropriation of *considerable annual subscriptions* for their support. We cannot sympathize in this subject of lamentation. What do these large sums amount to? Some \$12,000, or considerably less than £300 Sterling. What are the *considerable annual subscriptions* so pointedly and pathetically lamented? We blush to say a paltry sum, that, with all the "schisms and controversies" of the present year, will barely reach £100 sterling; and when the effervescence subsides, we fear, there will be still less cause for the lamentations of Haud Ignarus Mali. These "*great sums*" may be disproportioned to our other charities; but certainly neither to our resources, nor to the merits of their objects. We could point out twenty Englishmen that spend more annually on cigars than the whole educational tax on the community. If retrenchments are necessary, why not take in cigars, and ardent spirits, and horse riding, and a thousand other sources of comparatively useless expenditure? These are infinitely more legitimate subjects of taxation, and may be rendered far more productive, than the poor hunger-bitten scarecrow that Haud Ignarus Mali has transfixed with his merciless talons.

What must the intelligent foreigner, who reads the British Packet of 18th October, think of us, when he hears in one column of "the deep drawn sighs of physical suffering and sorrow; of the one scanty meal per day; and of the hundreds who rise in the morning, not knowing when or where they are to find the scanty morsel that is to break their last long fast,"—and, in another column of the same number finds "the Victoria (new Theatre) continues to be *numerously and fashionably attended on every evening!*" He must think the republican principle at a very low ebb amongst us; that the great ties of brotherhood and

equality are discovered, and that we have become a community of Grandees and Serfs, when the extremes of luxurious profusion and squalid misery are daily to be seen in hideous profusion. Such is the natural, the almost inevitable inference. Let us test its truth by a simple appeal to incontrovertible facts. In the embarrassment of the moment, the Superior government was compelled to abandon the Public Hospitals, the Foundling Institution, the University, the State Schools, the Vaccine Establishment, &c. Have all, have any of these institutions disappeared, and left humanity and civilisation to mourn their loss? Not even one of them. The charity, the liberality, the enlightened patriotism of the Porteños have supported, and will support them. Is it probable that such a community could hear without emotion "the deep drawn sighs of physical suffering and sorrow?" Is it possible that, in a country abounding, superabounding in *all the necessities* of human subsistence, they could behold with indifference "the one scanty meal per day?" We leave each to compare the facts we have just mentioned among themselves, and to draw this our conclusion. The truth is the communication referred to, is not a description of present, but a morbid anticipation of future sufferings; anticipations resting rather on vague analogies, than a comprehensive and well digested view of our actual situation.

Now, Mr. Editor, there is perhaps no case where greater circumspection is requisite than in deductions from mere analogy. A very trifling difference in the circumstances may produce very great differences in the results. In a dense population such as that of Great Britain, France or Holland, and where a large proportion of the inhabitants is entirely dependent on trade and commerce, a commercial paralysis such as that we are subjected to, would inevitably result, and that in a very short time, in the greatest public calamity; and poverty, disease and death, might all fairly be anticipated. But what is there in common to them and us, to warrant the inference that similar disastrous consequences must ensue in our case? The circumstances are all diametrically opposed.—They are glutted with population, and the means of subsistence pushed to the farthest limits that human ingenuity can devise; we are in our political infancy, with a scanty and inadequate population, and our resources not only unexhausted, but literally unexplored. Is a suspension of foreign commerce to plunge such a community into the hopeless abyss of wretchedness and starvation? Impossible. We are indebted to foreign commerce for some of our luxuries and delicacies, but thank heaven not for our subsistence. The Republica Argentina is capable of supporting *fifty times* its actual population, though shut out from the rest of the world by a wall of adamant; and must this diminutive fractional part starve, with all these resources lying before and around them?—When stern necessity knocks at the door people will make many shifts before they starve; and certainly *so long as we have internal peace and security*, they must be the shiftless and the thriftless that give themselves up to a hopeless despondency. There are plenty of tame cows un milked; plenty of fruitful farms uncultivated, in the immediate vicinity of Buenos Ayres.—Want of hands for the sheep shearing was a very recent complaint, and perhaps we may soon hear the often repeated lamentation, that half an abundant harvest has been left to the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, because there could not be sufficient workmen found to secure the whole. We peevishly talk of privations; nay, impiously complain of physical sufferings and starvation! What a sensation to the benevolent in Manchester and Paisley, in Amsterdam and Paris, who have very sombre and distressful ideas associated with these terms! Let them restrain the excess of their commiseration; the South America acceptance of these terms is very different from the European. The worst evils that a mere blockade can inflict upon us, are, we trust and believe already past; and, as there is an ever watchful Providence, "from seeming evil still educing good," let us hope that the indirect benefits arising from it are also in progress. That such indirect advantages may be anticipated, we are firmly persuaded; and, in a following number, we shall attempt, with your permission, Mr. Editor, to point out what they are, and how they may be realized.

The Brazilian steam-boat Paquete do Sul, sailed on Tuesday evening last for Montevideo. The name of her Captain is Anacleto Luiz Seia. Supercargo, Luiz Ferreira Chaves. Pilot, Santiago Soriano.

The latter was Captain of the schooner Eufracia, at the time she disappeared from the outer roads of this port, on 22 September last.

The late Don Isidoro Porcel de Peralla.

The exequies of this lamented gentleman took place on Tuesday last, at the Church of *Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes*. A numerous congregation attended to pay this last tribute to departed worth. He has gone to his "everlasting rest;" and his country has lost in him a true patriot; a society a benevolent and upright man, and we an esteemed friend. His heart ever kind was "open as day for melting charity." Peace to his manes.

Locusts.—The visits of locusts have this Summer been more frequent in this Province, than for many years past. They have however as yet appeared in very limited numbers.

Continuation of extracts from Letters on Paraguay, by J. P. and W. P. Robertson.

The following is from J. P. Robertson, written in the year 1814.

"A month brought my brother acquainted with all the natives of Assumption; and having myself long meditated a voyage to England, I determined in two months more to leave him in the management of our concerns in Paraguay.

"But the port of Assumption was again closed against all egress; and in order to effect my intended voyage, it was necessary to have recourse to the special favour of the Consul Francia.

"I took all the necessary steps to insure this, and I was, after a few weeks of manoeuvre, permitted to leave, by special licence from himself, a place hermetically sealed against the exit of all others. His object in having heretofore been so gracious, and in then granting me the highest favour he could bestow, was at length apparent and avowed. The interview at which he laid open to me the secret imagery of his heart was characterized by so much naïveté, while at the same time it displayed an ignorance so complete of diplomatic forms and ceremonies, that I shall give you the substance of it in nearly his own words.

"I had explained to Francia that it was my intention to proceed, if possible, from Buenos Ayres to England. It was his most earnest desire that I should; and you will see from his own views, as developed by himself, what mighty prospects were dawning upon his mind, and what gigantic projects were already buzzing in his busy head, in the anticipation of his being able to connect, by a league offensive and defensive, the empire of Great Britain with the republic of Paraguay.

"His Lordship the Consul," said a young ensign, who had been despatched from the palace by Francia; "His Lordship the Consul desires immediately to speak to you."

"Off I marched with the aide-de-camp. On arrival at the palace, I was received with more than ordinary kindness and affability by the Consul. His countenance was lit up into an expression that almost approached to that of glee; his scarlet cloak depended in graceful folds from his shoulder; he seemed to smoke his cigar with unusual relish; and quite in opposition to his usual rule of burning only one light in his small and humble audience-chamber, there blazed in it on that evening two of the best mould candles. Shaking hands with me very cordially, "Sit you down, Señor Don Juan,"

said he. He then drew his chair close to mine, and desired I would listen very attentively to what he had to say. He addressed me thus:—

"You know what my policy has been with respect to Paraguay; that I have kept it on a system of non-intercourse with the other provinces of South America, and from contamination by that foul and restless spirit of anarchy and revolution which has more or less desolated and disgraced them all. Paraguay is in a more flourishing (pingüe) state now, than any of the countries around it; and while here all is order, subordination, and tranquillity, the moment you pass its boundary, the sound of the cannon, and the din of civil discord salute your ears. As may naturally be anticipated, these internal broils paralyse industry, and chase prosperity from the land. Now, whence arises all this? Why, from the fact that there is not a man in South America but myself, who understands the character of the people, or is able to govern them. The outcry is for free institutions; but personal aggrandizement and public spoliation are the objects alone sought. The natives of Buenos Ayres are the most sickle, vain, volatile, and profligate of the whole of Spain's late dominions in this hemisphere; and therefore I am resolved to have nothing to do with the Porteños. My wish is to promote an intercourse with England direct; so that whatever feuds may distract the other states, and whatever impediments they may choose to throw in the way of commerce and navigation, those states shall themselves be the sole sufferers. The ships of Great Britain, triumphantly sweeping the Atlantic, will penetrate to Paraguay; and, in union with our flotillas, will bid defiance to all interruption of commerce, from the mouth of the Plate to the lake Xarayes. Your government will have its minister here, and I shall have mine at the Court of St. James's. Your countrymen shall traffic in manufactures and munitions of war, and shall receive in exchange the noble products of this country."

"At this point of his oration the Consul rose with great emotion, but evident delight, from his chair, and calling to the sentinel at the door, desired him to order in the serjeant of the guard. On appearance of this person the Doctor gave him a significant and peremptory look, and told him emphatically to bring "that." The serjeant withdrew, and in less than three minutes returned with four grenadiers at his back, bearing, to my astonishment, among them, a large hide package of tobacco of two hundred weight, a bale of Paraguay tea of similar dimensions and exterior, a demi-john of Paraguay spirits, a large loaf of sugar, and several bundles of cigars, tied and ornamented with variegated fillets. Last of all, came an old negress with some beautiful specimens of embroidered cloth made from Paraguay cotton, and used there by the luxurious as hand-towels and shaving-cloths.

"I thought this very kind and considerate; for though I could not but wonder at the somewhat barbarian ostentation in the mode of making the present, yet I never doubted that the accumulated native productions, now arranged in order before me, were intended as a parting manifestation of the Consul's regard. Judge, then, of my surprise (you will see it cannot bear the name of disappointment), when, after ordering his soldiers and the negress out of the room with a "vayanse" (begone), he broke forth in the following strain:—

"Señor Don Juan, these are but a few specimens of the rich productions of this soil, and of the industry and ingenuity of its inhabitants. I have taken some pains to furnish you with the best samples which the country affords of the different articles in their respective kinds; and for this reason: you are now going to England; you know what a country this is, and what a man I am. You know to what an unlimited extent these productions can be reared in this Paradise, I may call it, of the world. Now, without entering upon the discussion, as to whether this continent is ripe for popular institutions,

(you know, I think, it is not,) it cannot be denied that, in an old and civilized country like Britain, where these institutions have gradually and practically (not theoretically) superseded forms of government originally feudal, till they have forced themselves upon legislative notice, in a ratio proportioned to the growing education of the majority, they are those best adapted to secure the greatness and stability of a nation.—And that England is a great nation, and that its people are knit together as one man, upon all questions of momentous national concern, is undeniable.

"Now, I desire that as soon as you get to London, you will present yourself to the House of Commons, take with you these samples of the productions of Paraguay; request an audience at the bar; and inform the assembly that you are deputed by Don Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia, Consul of the republic of Paraguay, to lay before it these specimens of the rich productions of that country. Tell them I have authorized you to say that I invite England to a political and commercial intercourse with me; and that I am ready and anxious to receive in my capital, and with all the deference due to diplomatic intercourse between civilized states, a minister from the Court of St. James's; I also will appoint to that Court an envoy of my own.

"Such a treaty of commerce and political alliance may then be framed, as shall comport at once with the dignity and interest of the great empire of England, and with those of the rising state which I now rule. Paraguay will be the first republic of South America, as Great Britain is already the first of European nations. The alliance seems, therefore, natural; and how beneficial for the European state, you, Señor Don Juan, can fully elucidate and explain."

"Such were the terms, and almost the words, in which Francia delivered himself of his views and aspirations in reference to an alliance with Great Britain. I stood, as you may imagine, aghast, at the idea of being appointed a minister plenipotentiary, not to the Court of St. James's, but to the House of Commons. I was charged especially not to take a private interview with the head of the executive: "For," said Francia, "I know well how apt great men in England are, unless under the fear of responsibility to the House of Commons, to treat questions even so important as this, with levity or disregard."

"Present yourself," continued he, "at the bar of the house, and there deliver my message, as of old the ambassadors of independent states delivered theirs to the senate of Rome. According to the reception which they shall give to you, one of their countrymen, and above the suspicion, therefore, of being a witness in my favour, shall be the reception (acogimiento) which I will extend to their ambassador to this republic."

"Never in my life was I more puzzled how to act, or what to say. To refuse the Quixotic mission, and thus incur at once the Consul's displeasure, and draw down upon my own devoted head the ruinous consequences of it, was an alternative too horrible to be thought of. The only other was acquiescence; and to this I came, in spite of the strong sense of the ludicrous which pressed itself upon me, as I drew a picture of myself joring my way to the bar of the House of Commons; overpowering, with half-a-dozen porters, the Usher of the Black Rod; and delivering, in spite of remonstrance and resistance, at once my hide-bound bales of Paraguay merchandise, and the oration, verbatim, of the First Consul. But Assumption was a great distance from St. Stephen's. I therefore bowed assent to Doctor Francia's proposition, and trusted to the chapter of accidents for providing me, when the time should come, with a suitable apology for having been unable to get into the predicament which he had so graciously prepared for me.

"Having taken leave, the serjeant and grenadiers, heavily laden, followed me home; where I not a little astonished the newcomer, my brother, with the account of the diplomatic interview to which I had been called. I bade defiance to his scepticism on the subject, by making the soldiers unload at his feet the ponderous physical evidence, by which I sustained the truth of my tale.

"At a subsequent interview, Francia made out a long list of commissions for me to execute. I was to bring him gold lace, a cocked-hat, a dress-sword, a pair of double-barrelled pistols, sashes, sabres, soldiers' caps, musical and mathematical instruments, with a very protracted de-

MERCHANT VESSELS

In the Port of Buenos Ayres, on 17th of January, 1839.

NONE.

FOREIGN VESSELS OF WAR.

FRENCH. Corvette *Ariadne*, 32 guns, Captain Du Haut Cilly, with Commodore's broad pendant.

Brig *Alerte*, 22 guns, Captain Charles Olivier.

Corvette *Sapho*, 28 guns, Captain Pierre Joseph Thibault.

BRITISH. Ship *Acteon*, 26 guns, Captain Robert Russell.

BRAZILIAN. Schooner *Legalidade*, 6 guns, Commandant José Felipe Ferreira.

tail of *et ceteras*. About the procuring of these, however, I had by no means so many misgivings, as in regard to my power of persuading Mr. Speaker and the House of Commons to accede to the political and commercial league, of which the Consul was so full.

"Thus did matters stand. I was to sail in a fortnight, with an exclusive licence for the exportation of my property and person, and upon an understanding that, if I proceeded home, I should there do my endeavours to bring about an intercourse between England and Paraguay, which I was about as likely to effect, as a junction between any two of the planets the most remote from each other in our system.

"A circumstance occurred, during our interview, curiously illustrative of the growing despotism, the abrupt manner, and rude disregard of propriety, which Francia was taking daily less pains to conceal, whenever his capricious humour was at variance with anything said or done by those around him. The question with him was not how unconsciously offence might be given; it was enough that it was taken. He stopped not to inquire whether it was the result of ignorance, or even of well-meant deference and assiduity. His irritable and jaundiced temper sought, at the moment, something on which to vent his spleen; and the innocent and guilty were alike immolated at the shrine of his caprice. In the instance referred to, while Francia was dilating to me upon his prospective alliance with Great Britain, the sentry announced as being in the lobby the minister of finance. This office was then united with that of director of customs; though the double functionary was no better than a subordinate clerk of the Consul. It was the duty and the daily practice of the financial minister to be in attendance, at a certain hour, in the lobby of the haughty doctor, at once to give an account of the transactions of the day, and to take instructions for the morrow. The hour of this accustomed interview was now occupied by Francia in the opening up to me of day-dream projects, much more fraught with importance to him than the routine account of a day's receipt and expenditure of the treasury, albeit, on ordinary occasions, this was exacted, to the last maravedi, with scrupulous and inquisitorial severity.

"El Señor Tesorero aguarda" (Mr. Treasurer waits), said the sentinel. "Que aguarda" (let him wait), replied the Consul. Two hours did the consul's harangue to me, and subsequent explanations, occupy; and when, at the close of it, he saw me off, escorted by the grenadiers with the tobacco and yerba-bates on their shoulders, the treasurer was still pacing up and down the corridor of the palace, and waiting, as he had been ordered to do, his master's farther commands. Upon seeing Francia come out, the minister of finance went up to him, and most respectfully taking off his hat, asked him if he were that night to give in his accounts? "Take him to the guard-house," said the supercilious despot. "Did I not tell the fellow (el bribón) to wait? and now he must needs ask questions."

"Off was the Chancellor of the Exchequer marched to the guard-house, and there, on a bullock's raw hide, in company with the soldiers, was he constrained to ruminate all night on the danger of breaking in upon the consul's associations, even for the purpose of rendering an account of his stewardship.

"Such was now the state of affairs: so singular, so anomalous, that though myself the most favoured and the least suspected individual in the country, I was truly happy in the prospect of escaping from under the jealous glance and capricious rule of a man, who was hatching cockatrice' eggs, from which was destined to spring a Pandora's brood of grievances to desolate his country, without the bequeathment even of hope to alleviate the anguish of his terror-stricken and paralysed vassals.

"A fortnight after my interview with Francia, I left the Republic for Buenos Ayres, thence to make good my return to England. When I got to the former place, however, I found that it was not so to be; and, even at the expense of relinquishing my diplomatic mission to the House of Commons, I prepared to return to Paraguay itself.

"Yours, &c.

"J. P. R."

THE WEATHER, has been fine during the week, thermometer 71 to 80.

MARINE LIST.

Port of Buenos Ayres.

January 12.—Wind S. S. W. shifted to E. in the afternoon.

No arrivals or sailings.

January 13.—Wind W. shifted to E. in the afternoon.

No arrivals or sailings.

January 14.—Wind E.

No arrivals.

Sailed, Oriental packet schooner Rosa, Juan Bautista Schiaffino, for Montevideo.

January 15.—Wind E.

No arrivals.

Sailed, Brazilian steam-boat Paquete do Sul, Anacleto Luiz Seia, for Montevideo.

January 16.—Wind N. shifted at 10 A. M. to E. strong at night.

No arrivals or sailings.

January 17.—Wind N. shifted to E. in the afternoon, strong.

No arrivals or sailings.

January 18.—Wind N. shifted to E. at mid-day. Arrived, United States brigantine Dolphin, 12 guns, Lieut. Hugh Y. Purviance, Commander, from Montevideo 17th inst.

H. B. M's packet Cockatrice, Lieut. John Douglas, Commander, from Rio Janeiro 6th inst., arrived at Montevideo 16th, sailed thence 17th, with the mail of H. B. M's packet Seagull, from Falmouth 9th November.

Passenger from Rio Janeiro to Montevideo, M. L. Sogarry.

Passengers from Montevideo, Messrs. Hayes, Cadett, Barney, Mason, Heyn, Eddlestone, Deyer, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Bosh, and 2 servants.

ARGENTINE THEATRE.

On 13th inst., was performed for the benefit of Señor Cordero, a three act comedy, called *El Vigilante*, which related to a young wife (Manuela) whose husband being absent, a young gentleman took occasion to whisper 'soft nonsense' into her ear, which she was coquette enough to listen to, but aware afterwards of her imprudence, she promised the individual (Casabierta) appointed to watch over her conduct, that she would "never do so any more."

A one act piece followed, entitled *La gata nager*. It is founded on the fable of the man who being in love with his tabby cat, entreated the Gods to make her a woman and he would marry her. The moral of the fable being known to every one, we shall merely state that on this occasion a trick was played on a young gentleman to cure him of his excessive attachment to his cat. A lady (Manuela) persuaded him: that she was the cat transformed into a woman, and she made the cat lady very amusing—she lapped the milk at breakfast, washed over her ears, and gave sundry other indications of puss, but when she rushed from the table to catch a mouse, the disgust of her husband was complete, and then his friends explained the jest put upon him.

The house was well attended, which we were glad to see, because Señor Cordero is likely to become a good comedian. His tall spare figure is comedy itself. In this respect he often reminds us of *Potier* the French actor.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

On 13th inst., was performed, for the benefit of Señor Jo-é Uriarte, *Los Martires de la Libertad*, or the destruction of Numancia. This performance was announced as being in celebration of the opening of the House of Representatives, and that it would be introduced by the National Anthem. We were unable to attend, being at the other house, but we are informed that the audience was numerous, and that the conclusion of the Anthem was signalled by pointed *vivas* and exclamations from the pit.

Señor Uriarte, took occasion through the *Diario de la Tarde* of Tuesday, to thank the public for the patronage he had received at his benefit, and to express his ardent attachment to the present administration of the country.

THEATRE.

On 13th inst., the young amateurs performed the comedy of *Restaurar por deshonra*, a piece called "Abelard," and a farce. We could not attend.

RETRO GARDEN.

The performances here on 13th inst., consisted of tight rope dancing, &c., by the Señora Guillerma, the Señora Manuela, the youths (Gervacio, Segundo, Señor Castañera, the clown, &c. Thus on 13th inst., there were 4 places of public amusement open in this city.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

OLD English bottled Port, Sherry of excellent flavour, Champagne, Pressed Ginger, Black and Green Teas, Sugar Candy, &c. &c., are on sale by the package, at Anderson, Walker & Co's. Stores.

NOTICE.

MRS. Mc.GAW, presents her respectful thanks for the patronage she has received since opening her boarding-house, Calle de la Paz, No. 33, and begs leave to state, that she has at present rooms to let furnished in the most fashionable style, also rooms unfurnished; the most convenient accommodations can be given to any family, with board or without as most convenient.

The house affords an extensive view of the outer and inner roads, finely situated for gentlemen of the Navy.

NOTICE.

A Lady of strictly moral habits and most respectable references, is desirous of meeting with a situation as the companion or attendant of a sick lady, or as house-keeper in a gentleman's family, which situation she has previously filled. Apply at No. 276, Cangallo-Street. j12 3t

NOTICE.

BRITISH FRIENDLY SOCIETY. THE Annual General Meeting of the Subscribers to this Institution, will be held at the Vestry of the British Church, on Monday, 21st inst., at 6 P. M.

The Committee are requested to meet at 5 P. M.

By order,

FREDERIC HUGHES,

Secretary.

Buenos Ayres, 8th January, 1839.

TO LET.

THE House and Garden of Santa Catalina, 5 leagues from town. It has large accommodations for a family, and will be let on moderate terms. Apply at No. 45, Calle de Maypa.

PRICES CURRENT.

Doublons, Spanish	208	a	208 dollars each.
Do. Patriot	204	a	206 do do.
Plata macuquina	11	a	11½ do for one
Dollars, Spanish	12½	a	13 do, each.
Do Patriot and Patacones	12½	a	12½ do. do.
Six per cent Stock	50	a	do. per ct.
Bank Shares	none		
Exchange on England	4½	a	4½ pence per dol.
Do. Rio Janeiro	450	a	450 nominal.
Do. Montevideo	13	a	13½ per patacon
Do. United States	10	a	per U. S. dollar
Hides, Ox, best	33	a	35 uls. p. pesada
Do. country	28	a	31 do. do.
Do. weighing 23 to 24lbs	30	a	31 do. do.
Do. salted	27	a	28 do. do.
Do. Horse	10	a	11 do. each.
Natra Skins	3½	a	3½ do. per lb.
Chinchilla Skins	35	a	40 do. per dozen
Wool, common	8	a	10 do. per arr'ba
Sheep skins per dozen	16	a	18 per 27lb.
Calf skins per dozen	25	a	27
Deer skins per dozen	10	a	11
Hair, long	55	a	60 do. per arr'ba
Do. mixed	29	a	32 do. do.
Jerked Beef	14	a	16 do. quintal.
Tallow, melted	12	a	14 do. per arr'ba
Horns	100	a	250 per mil.
Flour, (North American)	none		
Salt, on board	none		per fan
Discount	1½	a	2 pr. ct. pr. month

The highest price of Doublons during the week, 208 dollars. The lowest price 204 dollars.

The highest rate of Exchange upon England during the week 4½ pence. The lowest ditto 4¼ pence.

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ALEXANDER BRANDER, Responsible Editor.