

British Packet

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

N^o. 650.]

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1839.

[Vol. XIII.]

BUENOS AYRES.

WITH this number concludes the quarter of the *British Packet*.

In consequence of the increased expences to which we have been subjected, we are under the necessity of raising the price of the *British Packet* to ten dollars (currency) per quarter—single numbers 6 reals—commencing with the ensuing number.

Operations of the French blockading vessels.

26th ult. Three French launches cruising. One of them with a prize balandra sailed for Colonia.

27th. Three French boats (two of them armed whale boats), returned early this morning to the outer roads from their nocturnal cruise in the environs of Point Quilmes. The *Ariadne* and *Sapho*, displayed lights from 8 to 9 P. M., as a guide and signal to their new companion the schooner of war *Forte*, (late *Aguila Segunda*), which had hove in sight shortly before sun set. The boat *Atrevido* arrived from the N. with a balandra.

28th. A French launch and a whale boat returned to outer roads from their night cruise off Point Quilmes.

29th. The boat *Atrevido* and two launches returned from their usual cruise.

30th. Shortly after day break two French launches were observed returning towards the outer roads from off the Boca. The launch of the National brig of war *Eloisa*, pulling sixteen oars and having 30 men, left the Boca and proceeded towards the nearest French boat, the latter retiring. The National launch continued on, and fired three shot from a twelve pounder, which fell beyond the French boat, upon which her companion returned, and whilst the two boats were in company, a shot (the fourth) from the National launch fell so near as to splash the water over them. In fact, it was at first thought on shore to have struck one of the boats, and a 'hurra' was heard from the beach. The French boats pulled off to a greater distance, and remained on their oars waiting for a third French boat which was under sail from the outer roads. The National launch was joined by another boat from the *Eloisa*, and both parties remained on their oars. This state of things continued about half an hour, when the three French boats retired to the outer roads, as did those of the *Eloisa* to the Boca. The French did not return the fire. The affair attracted numerous spectators to the beach.—Captain José Maria Pinedo, commanded the National launch. The balandra which came in on 27th with the *Atrevido*, sailed for Colonia or Montevideo.

31st. A small ketch, outward bound, whilst endeavouring to take advantage of the squall last night, was from its short duration, and the sudden clearing up, captured by a French boat, between the Boca and Point Quilmes, and conducted to the outer roads, where we saw her this morning astern of the *Ariadne*. The aforesaid ketch sailed this afternoon for Colonia.

1st inst. A French launch sailed for the Conchas. At half past 3 P. M., the battery near the Retiro fired two guns at two French launches—the latter lowered masts and pulled to the outer roads. The *Forte* sailed. Arrived French cutter of war *Tupac Amaru*.

The schooner *Relampago*, which has been purchased and armed by the French, is called

L'Eclair. The schooner *Aguila Segunda*, which has also been purchased and armed by the same parties, is called the *Forte*, probably from the long gun she has mounted on her deck.

This day (2nd inst.) completes the 312th day of the blockade.

We have been informed that various persons have on various occasions made use of our name to the officers of the blockading squadron, in order to obtain permission to convey on shore prohibited articles. We rejoice that this subterfuge has on all occasions been fruitless, and that our name has been detrimental to the parties who so unwarrantably used it. We have no "favour at Court," on the contrary, we are told that a short time since the *patron* of a whale boat had all but got permission to bring a certain article on shore under pretence that it was a trifling present from Montevideo for an Englishman. He was requested to state the name of the party, and he mentioned ours, being the only one he could at the moment call to mind; unfortunately for him, but fortunately for us, who need no favours of the sort, and have never asked any. This we entreat the gentlemen of the blockading squadron to believe.

The article in question was ordered to be put on one side.

The Alameda had on Sunday many visitors, particularly after dark, to enjoy the cool breeze which had set in from the eastward and the light from a full moon. Groups of ladies continued on the promenade until nearly midnight. The villagers in the neighbourhood of town, were crowded with equestrians, including a number of ladies attired in cap and riding habit, which gave them a very fascinating appearance. Other ladies on horseback traversed the streets after sun set in horse costume, without veil, hat or bonnet, and were equally fascinating.

THE WEATHER, has continued warm throughout the week, thermometer 80 to 89. A shift of wind to S. S. W. on Wednesday evening about half past 8 o'clock, and clouds of dust, seemed to give note of a storm. It was only however a slight squall which quickly subsided, followed on Thursday morning by a few drops of rain.

BATHING.—The bathers in the river of both sexes, have been numerous on every evening of the week. The squall which took place about 9 o'clock on Wednesday night, hurried them home earlier than usual.

The following piece of Cockneyism appeared in 'the Age' newspaper, as a quiz on the Lord Mayor of London (Cowan).

WEAL AND WOE.

"In French, 'tis strange," Lord Cowan said,
"Things by contraries go;
The food in English we call WEAL, (*veal*),
In French the oafs call WOE, (*veau*).

From 'the Times', of November 12th, 1838.

We have received by the ordinary express the Paris papers of Thursday, with letters from our correspondent in the French capital. The *Moniteur* publishes a Royal ordinance convoking the Chambers for the 17th December next, being

about a week earlier than had originally been contemplated. As none but the Ministerial journals were acquainted with this fact, there are, of course, no commentaries on it in those of the Opposition. There appears no very pressing reason for this anticipation of the ordinary period of convocation, but that there was one cannot be doubted. The government relied, it was believed, upon being able to announce the settlement of the Mexican question in the King's speech, as "one of the *coups de theatre* with which that discourse is sure to be loaded."

Independently of the state of foreign politics, embracing the relations of France with Persia, Turkey, Egypt, Russia, Austria, Italy (Ancona), Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, and South America, and the Hollando-Belgic question, there were many domestic matters that would much engage the attention of the Chambers. Among these were the questions of electoral reform, of the liberty of the press, of beetroot and colonial sugar, the final settlement of France in Algeria, the trial of General BROSSARD, the quarrel with Mexico and Buenos Ayres, commercial intercourse with Great Britain, the affair of LOUIS BONAPARTE, the conversion of the Five per Cents, the entire railroad system, a provision for the Duke de Nemours, and, it was said, for the infant Count de Paris.

In the speculations of the Paris press on the despatch of a British squadron to the Gulf of Mexico, and on the improved appearance of British affairs and interests in the East, these journals ill conceal wounded *amour propre*, and a desire to resent the pretensions of England to the office of mediatrix in the one case, and the "aggressions" she has committed on the side of Persia in the other. On the mission of REPSCHID PASHA they appear uninformed, yet ready to complain, predicting that if it fail, a war between the Porte and the Viceroy of Egypt will become unavoidable, and "this time decisive." The *Nicole* adds, that it is at Paris, at Berlin, and at Vienna, that the efforts of Russia will be most strenuously made to raise up insurmountable obstacles to the arrangement which REPSCHID is charged to bring about.—"Be assured," adds a private correspondent, "that more lavish expenditure than has ever yet been indulged in by Russia through its fair agents—the Princess, the Duchess, and the Countess—will distinguish this campaign. Nor will the journalists be forgotten. Already the writers in a certain review count on thousands, the value of the *cadeaux* that await them."

From the Paris 'Journal des Debats.'

The *Memorial Bordelais* publishes a letter of the 11th of August from Montevideo, which, though of old date, is, if correct, interesting, as showing that recent events had not annihilated the ancient feeling of friendship entertained towards France in that quarter. It states, that the whole of the blockading squadron having suffered more or less from a gale of wind at the commencement of the month, Rosas had offered to provide the French Commandant with all he might require, and that could be found in the arsenals. The French vessels had been extremely well received at a colony near Buenos Ayres, belonging to Montevideo, and a little neutral port, the Tigre. A ball was given to the officers every evening.

From the 'Evening Mail,' November 19th.

The *Journal des Debats*, confirms our statement that among the victims of the yellow fever on board the French blockading squadron off Vera Cruz, had been M. Delamorieciere, Secretary of Legation. This gentleman was the bearer of the French ultimatum to the Mexican government.

REFLECTIONS
ON THE
Present Situation and Future Prospects
OF
BUENOS AYRES.
(Continued.)

MR. EDITOR,

In a former number we have shown, to the satisfaction of every impartial observer, that the blockade has not been attended with the overwhelming disasters, that those unacquainted with our peculiar circumstances might very naturally have expected. As a political measure it has not obtained its object. It has not compelled the government to an unconditional submission, it has not ruined the State in any of its vital interests. In its very nature it is a blow aimed chiefly at the commercial interest; and as a decisive proof of its impotence, it may be observed, that not one failure has taken place in the commercial community, in consequence of the factitious crisis. The routine of our commerce has been interrupted, but our merchants have hitherto suffered comparatively little. This arises from specialities in our case, that strangers cannot be supposed to know or appreciate, and which are too often overlooked even by ourselves.

In the case of a depreciation of the currency, the merchant must, of course, sustain a loss on his outstanding debts; but, as these rarely bear any great proportion to his stock on hand, he will very naturally indemnify himself for these losses, by the increased price of what remains; and the scarcity, or the anticipation of a scarcity, consequent on a blockade, affords him a peculiarly favourable opportunity of effecting this. Accordingly, whilst our currency has suffered a depreciation of from thirty to forty per cent, many articles have doubled their former value; leaving a wide interval, for an exorbitant profit, in one link or other of the commercial chain. Add to this, that many articles, that had outlived the fashion or caprice of the day, and never would have produced a single rial in ordinary times, have had a factitious value impressed upon them, and instead of a dead loss have left a handsome profit. Besides, there is a prospect of large profits on the investments now making in all articles of country produce. For very obvious reasons these have not risen in price in proportion to the depreciation of our currency. On the contrary they have in general suffered a double depreciation;—in nominal amount and intrinsic value. Take for example common country wool. The average price of last season was perhaps about six dollars the arrobe, exchange on England 7d, equivalent to 42d sterling. At present the average price cannot be quoted higher than five dollars, exchange 4d, equivalent to 22d. Meanwhile, is there any probability that our wool would bring less in the English market than last season? On referring to the quotations given in the English journals, we would come to quite a different conclusion. Nor is the article we have selected by any means the most favorable. Cattle that would have brought fifty dollars per head, or £1 9-2d sterling money, last season, are now selling for thirty five dollars, or £0-13-1d sterling. We grant there is a risk as to time; but after making every allowance, the probabilities seem immensely in favour of the holders of produce at these greatly reduced prices. If the blockade do not exceed a twelvemonth, we have no hesitation in saying, that the commercial body, upon the whole, will be gainers by the interruption; and it must be prolonged beyond all reasonable expectation, if they are ultimate sufferers. When we take all these considerations fairly into account, we confess that our alarm for the commercial body is not very great; our commiseration not very intense.

And there still remains a peculiarity that deserves a special notice. In England, for example, a commercial crisis almost always leaves an immense amount of capital in a state of stagnation; comparatively useless to the owner, and hurtful to every department of industry throughout the State; as it tends directly to reduce the rate of profits in all, and spreads ruin and misery through the most distant ramifications of society. From this dreadful malady we are happily exempt. We have known nothing, and we can know nothing of it, for at least a century to come. So great is the disproportion between the actual capital, and the natural, internal resources of the country, that every dollar displaced from commercial enter-

prise finds, or may find, an immediate and a lucrative investment. The transition from merchant to money-broker is not very great; and here money may be safely employed, with what most appear in Europe the somewhat voracious interest of 18 or 20 per cent per annum; or if disposed to risk a little, even 24 and 30 per cent are no uncommon rates. But the most important of all our resources consists in the extent and natural fertility of our soil, and the benignity of our climate. Enterprize and capital and industry are alone wanted; nature has prepared the materials on the grandest scale.—In ordinary times an estancia will yield from 20 to 25 per cent per annum. With this mighty safety valve we are in no danger from plethora, or a superabundance of capital, and a temporary blockade, so far as regards the native capitalist, or the resident foreign merchant, becomes comparatively innocuous.—Contrast with their case that of the British manufacturer, who embarks his capital in the preparation of articles specially for the consumption of this market, and who finds himself suddenly and unexpectedly shut out from it by a *pacific blockade*; and, if unprejudiced, you must allow, that whilst the blow is avowedly aimed at the one, it falls directly on the head of the other. We make no insinuations as to the motives, real or pretended, of the blockade. The event, as a simple event, may be accounted for in different ways; perhaps in none more satisfactorily than by supposing the responsible parties ignorant of, or ill informed as to our real circumstances, or those peculiarities of our circumstances that go to neutralize the effects of their measure. Our simple concern is to trace the necessary progress of cause and effect; to mark the consequences that have ensued, and to anticipate, as correctly as we can, the more remote consequences that may be expected to ensue. This we have done at considerable length as respects our commercial interests; because, it is generally understood, that they are the interests directly aimed at, in a *negative hostility* of this description. But it would be an interesting inquiry, and, we are disposed to believe, not altogether a profitless one, to follow up the investigation through the different ramifications of society; to note the extent of the evil in its different grades, and to point out the alleviating circumstances that have taken place, or that may be expected to take place, in each. On this subject however our time and limits will only admit of a few desultory hints.

The case of the mechanic, during the first stage of the evil, is much harder than that of the merchant. He has not the same opportunity of making an exorbitant profit at the outset. He has not the same facility in reducing his establishment, or winding up his affairs.—In general he has a considerable capital in tools, and half used materials, and fixtures, that he cannot dispose of, in such a crisis, at any price. His only alternative, therefore, is to continue for a time, though evidently losing, rather than wind up at a ruinous sacrifice.—The balance however eventually turns in his favour. The first stagnation is not the consequence of poverty or want in the community; but the uncertainty and perplexity that damp the spirit of enterprize. Each procrastinates in the hope of a change. Many things might be done, but people cannot summon up the resolution to set about them.—This is the season of trial and privation to the artisan. Like every thing human however it is only transitory. The panic gradually subsides; new prospects open up; and the wants of social life begin to press too closely to be longer disregarded or delayed; and the services of the artisan are again required. This is the natural progress of events in every state of society, but more especially in a young country, like ours, with an infinity of internal resources unexplored and unexploited. And it is admirable to observe how facts corroborate the theory. The crisis of the distemper, as regards the mechanic, has already passed, and he is now in a state of convalescence. Compared with the second and third months of the blockade, comparatively few of our mechanics are now unemployed; and we congratulate them on the prospect of a gradual but progressive amelioration.

Passing to the labouring classes, we find a still more cheering prospect. With them the amount of the evil has been a change of place, and change of employment. To such the country holds out an easy and a safe retreat; where the hand of industry may always find

occupation, and where the reward of industry is certain and great. In fact they have only done from compulsion, what a considerable number of the more provident have recently done from choice; and the consequences promise to be most beneficial, both to the individuals, and to the community at large.

Let us next attend to its operation on by far the most important class of our society; the farmers and graziers. As regards articles of importation they are scarcely affected at all; that is, they can dispense with the use of these articles, to an extent that those who have never witnessed the primitive simplicity of our rural districts, can form no conception of. They have some difficulties of course as to the present "ways and means;" but they have the satisfaction meanwhile of witnessing the progressive accumulation of what must be to their future wealth and independence. Their present difficulties are an earnest of coming ease and comfort. In this respect they have the advantage both of the merchant and the mechanic. To them the present time is not lost. Their flocks and herds go on increasing; and it may safely be affirmed, that the Province of Buenos Ayres never contained a greater amount of *absolute wealth* than at the present moment.—Ensure to the country districts the same good order, and perfect security of life and property, that now happily prevail, and have all along prevailed during the period of the present administration, and humanly speaking the fate of the Province is no longer doubtful. All the elements of national prosperity are in full operation; and whilst a blockade may retard, for a little, the fruition of its blessings, it cannot prevent, nay, it tends directly to accelerate their progressive accumulation.

Nor need the estanciero despair of alleviating circumstances. During the last few years many hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested in new rural establishments; and if the present commercial paralysis continue much longer, some millions of additional capital may be expected to take the same destination. All this capital will go directly to alleviate the immediate necessities of the estanciero. To him it matters comparatively little, whether he sell his two year old novillos to the saladeria, or a part of his flock for the purpose of forming a new establishment. The same intrinsic value will nearly remain. His two year old novillos are still increasing in value, and he may safely calculate on a greatly increased price for them, the moment the blockade is raised. This, then, the great basis of our national wealth and prosperity, is not only uninjured, but literally prosperous and secure.

We can at present only notice farther its effects as a measure of direct hostility against the government; and here too the ultimate consequences are likely to be very different, from the anticipations generally entertained.—Every constituted government is to be considered as the representative of the aggregate wishes of and interests of the community. In this view we may safely conclude "*a priori*," that a measure so ill calculated to affect the different classes of the community, as we have shewn the blockade to be, cannot eventually be very prejudicial to the government. If it cannot ruin our interests in detail, assuredly it cannot ruin them in the aggregate. Accordingly the amount of the direct evils to the government; has been a few months of embarrassment; as the old system of public finance rested almost exclusively on the proceeds of the Customhouse. In consequence the civil and military employes have had a few months of comparative privation, which has afforded them an opportunity of displaying a "heroic endurance," a constancy and fidelity that convert our pity into admiration. And we consider it due in strict justice to the civilization and magnanimity of the Portefios, to put it on record, that whilst those public functionaries were at one time ten months in arrears, and the measure of the French government, or their authorities here, the sole cause of their privations, *not a single insult has been offered to any French subject, by night or by day.* Let this be known to the King of the French, and his responsible advisers, and then the world may judge whether they are capable of appreciating *true moral greatness.* We trust they will not give us an opportunity of retorting, "*That in FRANCE the names are civilized, the persons and things, &c.*" But to return. Perhaps the only class of sufferers, properly so called, have been the public

penioners; the invalids, the widows and orphans, bequeathed to us by the war of independence. "They could not dig, to beg they were ashamed." But the period of their sufferings has also arrived; and we forbear the indulgence of mere sentimentalism, however inviting the theme.

And here, it may be noted the action ceases, and the re-action commences. As in youth the distempers that are not powerful enough to overwhelm the constitution, often furtilly and invigorate it; so the trials through which we have passed, now promise to become our beacons and safeguards for the future. We refer in particular to the old system of public finance; a system absolutely incompatible with the ordinary security and independence of the State. We have received at last a practical demonstration of its utter inefficiency, and we trust that a sounder and safer system will be the fruit of our experience. We do not feel competent to enter into details, but we would say generally, that all the essential branches of the public service should be provided for by fixed and permanent rents, proceeding directly from the internal resources of the State; and that the eventual proceeds of the Custom-house should be appropriated chiefly, in the mean time at least, to the extinction of the foreign and domestic debt, and the gradual amelioration of the circulating medium. This will be found more equitable in principle and more efficient in practice than the radically vicious system of indirect taxation hitherto pursued. More equitable in principle; for it will equalize the public burdens in direct proportion to the means or the abilities of the respective contributors. The operation of the two principles admits of a very clear and conclusive illustration. Under the old system of indirect taxation, a respectable mechanic in town, with an ordinary family, and a capital, say, of from thirty to fifty thousand dollars, frequently consumed more articles that paid duty, in other words, contributed more to the public revenue, than a wealthy proprietor with thirty or fifty thousand head of cattle, and representing a capital of more than a million of dollars. Such abuses ought to be rectified; and in their rectification will be found the salvation of the country. "Sweet are the uses of adversity;" and if we profit in this respect by the lesson that the present blockade is calculated to teach us, it may safely be pronounced the greatest public blessing that ever befel us. Had a sound and wholesome system of finance been in operation we had never heard of the actual blockade; and if some such system is not adopted, we leave exposed a vulnerable point, where our liberty and independence must be eternally menaced.

Q.

P. S. The foregoing article was prepared, previous to the appearance of "Anglo-Porteño" in your number of Saturday last; consequently several coincidences that occur are purely accidental. On the score of originality we feel little solicitude; and have not made a single alteration, to avoid any charge or suspicion of plagiarism, to which our posterior appearance may naturally expose us. On the contrary we are rather satisfied with the coincidences; as they tend to fortify our conviction of the truth and soundness of our inductions; and your readers will please bear in mind, that the subject is *entirely new*, and consequently difficult and hazardous, and no assistance whatever to be found in "the Books."

Q.

UNION LIBRARY.

The Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Institution, was held at the Library-rooms, on Thursday evening the 10th

ult; Mr. Turner in the Chair, and Mr. Ramsay Secretary of the Meeting.

The report of the Executive Committee for 1838, was presented by Mr. Flint the President, and read to the Meeting by Mr. Hughes the Secretary, and of which the following is an abstract:—

That the affairs of the Institution in general were in a prosperous and promising state;— That in consequence of the absence of Mr. O. J. Hayes the Treasurer, they were unable to produce a formal statement of the accounts, as required by the Constitution; that the Institution was now free from all embarrassments;— that the additions to the Library, during the past year, amounted only to about 90 volumes; the Society's agent at New York having found it impossible, in consequence of the blockade, to forward all the works that had been ordered; and that there existed now in his hands, for the purchase of books, a sum equivalent to about \$1000 of our currency, the proceeds of which might be expected by the first favourable opportunity; that an increase of six had taken place in the number of contributors to the Society, as compared with the preceding year; that the library continued under the charge of Mr. P. C. Dick, and that the Committee had much pleasure in reporting the efficient manner in which he had fulfilled his duties as Librarian, &c. &c.

The following Resolutions were then unanimously adopted:—

1. Resolved, that the report presented by the Executive Committee for 1838 be approved of.

2. Resolved, that the Treasurer's statement of accounts for the past year, with the report of the Auditors, be submitted to the ensuing Committee.

The part of the Minute of the last Annual General Meeting, relative to a proposed reduction in the number of the Executive Committee, was then read, and the following resolution adopted:—

3. Resolved, that it appears to the Meeting inexpedient to make any alterations in that respect.

The Meeting then proceeded to the nomination of the Executive Committee for 1839 when the following gentlemen were appointed:—

Mr. Ramsay, President; Mr. J. Kiernan, Vice-President; Mr. O. J. Hayes, Treasurer; Mr. Mann, Secretary; Messrs. Dick, Hughes, Lees, Wilson, Flint, R. A. Portis, Keppel and Fleming, ordinary members.

Auditors, Messrs. Turner, Meyer & Yetman.

The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted:—

4. Resolved, that the thanks of the Meeting be given to Mr. Flint, late President of the Ex-Committee, for his important services to the Institution.

5. Resolved, that the thanks of the Meeting be given Mr. Hughes for the able manner in which he has discharged his duties as Secretary.

6. Resolved, that the thanks of the Meeting be given to Mr. Dick, the Librarian, for the highly satisfactory manner he has fulfilled the duties of that office.

7. Resolved, that the minutes of this Meeting, and an abstract of the report presented by the Executive Committee, be published in the British Packet, for the satisfaction of the Shareholders.

Buenos Ayres, 10th January, 1839.

S. G. TURNER, Chairman.
G. RAMSAY, Secretary.

Mr. Kiernan having been called to the Chair, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Turner the Chairman, and Mr. Ramsay the Secretary of the Meeting.

Buenos Ayres, 25th January, 1839.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH PACKET.

SIR,

Your Correspondent of the 19th inst., signed Q, (rather a queer initial wherewith to denounce as "Quixotic" ideas from which he dissents,) must be satisfied with assertion against assertion, for I, Haud Ignarus Mali, have neither time nor inclination for controversy. Yet must I spare a few moments and trouble you with a hasty letter, to assert that Q, in his "Reflections on the present situation and future prospects of Buenos Ayres," has neither behaved towards me with charity nor with fairness.— He is uncharitable in applying the terms "virulent philippic" and "merciless talons" to my remarks on our bequests for the uses of education; had he read them in the same spirit with which they were written, he would have seen that they were neither calculated nor framed to injure that good cause, but merely to stimulate those who have been so zealous therein, not to be altogether lukewarm and indifferent to such peremptory and urgent appeals to our sympathies, I assert, existed amongst us in the months of September and October last.— He is unfair in reading the expressions "large donations" and "considerable subscriptions" as positive terms; the whole context of the sentence shewing that those adjectives are used purely in a comparative sense, contrasting such donations and subscriptions with those we devote to other objects of benevolence. But he is chiefly unfair in ridiculing as overstrained and imaginary my statement of the distresses of the poor in October last, by round assertions in the present tense that they do not exist now, when he is pleased to illuminate us with his lubrications. Need I tell him, that a greater transition from bad to good times never took place in Paisley or in Manchester, that that which the poor of Buenos Ayres have happily experienced since the date of my appeal in their behalf. At that period the Peones of the City were glad of employment at half the wages they are now receiving; and but few even on those terms could find occupation. At that period hundreds of poor women were content to earn a sum equivalent to four pence of British money during a long day of diligent labour; nor could they wait until the close of day for payment; but having established their claim to a rial or two, they were constrained to ask for it, as the sole means they had of giving their children a breakfast. At that period bread was double the price it now is. At that period the supply of beef in the City was irregular and scanty, its quality very inferior, and the price more than double what it now is. In short it was a period of general distress amongst the poor and the labouring classes; they had not wherewith to procure the common necessaries of life because they were without employment. But the silent hand of Time has effected a salutary change in our social condition—not hides alone, but all other descriptions of produce require a greater degree of labour in summer than in winter to preserve them from decay. The wool season and the harvest season have arrived, affording general occupation to the lower orders, doing away with those scenes of distress which I maintain did exist at the time of my appeal to the public,—and if Q made his "perambulations" then, and did not discover them, he must have been a somnabulist, or like his renown'd predecessor of La Mancha, acting under the influence of some strange delusion. It is probable that I should have allowed Q's "Reflections" to have passed unnoticed, for they are really very flimsy and puerile, had not your mestiza correspondent of last Saturday, contrived in introducing his financial schemes, to give me a kick, en passant, by dignifying these "Reflections" with the title of "Structures" on my letter, and designating the "Structurer" as an able writer. "What must the intelligent foreigner when he reads the British Packet of the 19th January think" of your correspondent Q, who tells us that an appeal in behalf of distress and misery should not appear in your columns at the same time that you announce a full and fashionable attendance at the Theatre.

"This folio of four pages, happy work!

What is it, but a map of busy life,

Its fluctuations, and its vast concerns?"

But Q is greatly at variance with the amiable Poet in his notions of a newspaper—and of course it would be a matter of strange surprise



MERCHANT VESSELS In the Port of Buenos Ayres, on 31st of January, 1839.



NONE.

FOREIGN VESSELS OF WAR.

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

Corvette Sapho, 28 guns, Captain Pierre Joseph Thibault.

BRITISH. Ship Acton, 26 guns, Captain Robert Russell.

AMERICAN. Brigantine Dolphin, 12 guns, Lieut. Hugh Y. Purviance, Commander.

to him, did he encounter in the London papers announcements of grand balls, grand dinners, crowded theatres, &c. &c., cheek by jowl with a pataatic appeal from the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, to his fellow citizens, in favour of the poor starving Spital-field weavers, who, during one of those revulsions, to which all human communities, and especially those dependent on commerce, are liable, are perchance pronounced to be in the last state of destitution and misery. I have been compelled to adopt this style of defending my letter of October last, since it would neither be desirable nor becoming in one to reply to Q's triumphant language regarding the public hospitals, &c. But as I started with the intention of defending myself by assertion, I must beg permission to return to that principle—by further asserting that no school boy with any brains would suppose from my letter we had been "eating dogs and cats" in Buenos Ayres; when I suggest a general distribution of beef to the poor, as the cheapest and most abundant food that can be procured, and I ground my appeal on the very abundance with which our own tables are crowded. Lastly, I assert, it is not such appeals as mine, but such "Reflections" as Q's that may possibly misguide the readers of your paper on the other side of the Atlantic. His "Reflections" may lead them perhaps to imagine that the "republican principle" instead of being at a "very low ebb," has attained such a high spring tide of equality amongst us, that the mean and turn of civilised and social life are wholly lost sight of here—that all things are possessed in common—that the country being extensive, the cattle abundant, and the inhabitants few, the poor have nothing to do but to help themselves. Happily however for Q, and for me, and for all it is not so. In Buenos Ayres, as in London, and in Paris, want sits at the door of wealth, and wealth exercises her own pleasure and discretion in granting or refusing her pittance to want. The rich are protected here in their possessions as in other well ordered communities, and abundance with the mass does not in South America any more than in Europe prevent individual distress. If such was the effect of a genial climate, a fertile soil, and an excess of the necessities of life, how is it that the cities of fertile Italy are crowded with objects of misery; and how is it that the inhabitants of Ireland suffer privations rarely felt in England, having within themselves a superabundance of food, and at prices much lower than in the sister kingdom? But it is time I should take my leave of Q, and I do so, cordially agreeing with him in all his pleasing anticipations as regards the "future prospects of Buenos Ayres;" but I consider his "Reflections on our present situation" not merely as the trite and commonplace remarks of a self-complacent writer, but as a feeble and vain attempt to display statistical knowledge, while he appears to be unacquainted with its most elementary principles, and as to his attack on my former communication, it is not only fallacious and childish, but uncalled for and misplaced at the present time of day.

Having on the former occasion subscribed myself "Haud Ignarus Mali," I hope my conduct and my sentiments may during the rest of my existence entitle me to say in continuation thereof

"Miseric succurrere disco."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH PACKER.
SIR,

The communication in your last from one Thomas Jackson, in which my name is introduced, would be unworthy of replication from me were it not necessary that the public should be aware of the facts of the case.

The individual in question, on the 4th of the last month, knowing that a brother British pensioner was to cash his pension ticket that day, dogged him (the pensioner) from morning until night, until he was greatly intoxicated and did not leave him until he was in a state of insensibility. Subsequently the pensioner discovered he had been robbed of 180 dollars. On the 5th my business led me to the house where this scene had taken place the day before, and I was witness to Jackson's being publicly accused by the parties, whose notice his singular conduct had attracted. Strong circumstantial evidence against him was adduced by many, and warm dispute arose between them. In this state of the case my attention was drawn to the

merits of it. It appeared that Jackson was without money the day previous, yet on this day he produced a plentiful supply, whilst the pensioner had lost all he had been in possession of. The respectability of the house, (into which Jackson had never but once before entered,) of the parties who frequent it, and of those who accused him, precluded suspicion falling on any one but Jackson, and very conclusive evidence which cannot here be detailed, induced me as the elder person present, to propose that Jackson should deposit what money he then had until the competent authority should decide unto whom the property belonged—this was carried into effect, and the money, 63 dollars, deposited in the hands of the mistress of the house, than whom there is not a more independent or more respectable British resident in Buenos Ayres.

It subsequently proved false that he had the few days previously as he asserted and asserts, received from Mr. Benco, the money he then had, that gentleman on my applying to him denied having paid Jackson any money for three weeks before—and then only on account of wages due to others. It is false that he had received his pension ticket on the 2nd ult. It is false that I took the money from him by force, but it is true that I thrust the fellow out of the house, and out of my presence where he had no right to be.

The perusal of the subpoenaed order, handed to me personally by the Judge, who in the absence of positive evidence as to the robbery, decided that the money should be returned, will prove that no doubt was ever expressed by that Magistrate as to the propriety of the matter having been referred to him.

Office of the Justice of Peace, of the Parish North of the Cathedral.

Mrs. MAJOR,

You will deliver to Mr. Jackson sixty three dollars, which was in dispute, and which were deposited in your hands at the request of Mr. Billinghamurst, and as this tribunal has decided that they belong to Mr. Jackson, you will not fail to deliver them on receipt of the present order.

January 14, 1839.

REZAVAL.



MARINE LIST.



Port of Buenos Ayres.

January 26.—Wind N.

No arrivals.

Sailed, H. B. M's packet schooner Cockatrice, Lieut. John Douglas, Commander, for Montevideo and Rio Janeiro.

Passengers for Montevideo, 4.

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

January 27.—Wind N. shifted to E. in the evening.

Arrived, at 9 P. M., French schooner of war Forte, 4 guns, (late Oriental packet schooner Aguila Segunda,) from Montevideo.

January 28.—Wind E. strong.

Arrived, United States brigantine Dolphin, 12 guns, Lieut. Hugh Y. Purviance, Commander, from Colonia.

January 29.—Wind E. strong.

Arrived, Oriental packet schooner Relampago, (late American schooner Fleet,) from Montevideo 28th inst., to Vicente Rosa.

January 30.—Wind N. E. shifted to S. at half past 8 P. M.

No arrivals or sailings.

January 31.—Wind N. N. W. shifted to S. W. in the afternoon.

No arrivals or sailings.

February 1.—Wind E.

No arrivals or sailings.

Shipping Memoranda.

ARRIVED AT MONTEVIDEO.

23rd ult., Oriental brig Eduardo, Harris, from Patagonia 16th ult., to Nicholson, Green & Co.

24th, British brig Floraville, from Rio Janeiro 9th ult., with salt and tobacco, to Lafone & Co.

British barque Alpha, Turner, from Liverpool 21st November, to Stanley, Black & Co.

Oriental brig Reno, from Patagonia 14th ult., to Zimmermann & Co.

25th, Spanish brig Amistia, from Barcelona 1st December, to Pabie Nin.

25th, British brig Wilton Wood, from Liverpool 13th November, to Rodger, Brothers & Co.

The British vessels of war are being provided with 68 pound guns, at least all the ships capable of carrying them, and the British army are being furnished with percussion muskets.

The Benbow, 74, Revenge, 76, and Inaunt, 74, were preparing for service at Portsmouth.

Died.

On 23rd ult., at Montevideo, Señor Juan Cruz Varela. The poetical talents of the deceased were of the very first order: A portion of his poem on the Battle of Ituzaingo, translated into English by Mr. Robert Billinghamurst, appeared in various numbers of our *British Packet*.

Advertisements.

Hayes and Garrett, TAILORS.

Late in the employ of Mr. Coyle.

RESPECTFULLY inform their friends and the public in general, that they have commenced the above business at No. 21, Calle de la Piedad, where by superior workmanship and steady attention, hope to merit a share of the patronage of a generous public.

January 31st, 1839.

NOTICE.

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

SEA KALE.

NEWLY Gathered seed of Sea Kale, (*Crambe Maritima*), may be had 3 dollars the packet, of Mr. Steadman, opposite the Cathedral.

East India Silk Handkerchiefs.

SELLING at Mr. Hayton's Store, No. 68, Calle de la Piedad, large (white) India silk handkerchiefs, serviceable either for the pocket or cravat, at a moderate price. 27 3/4

REMOVED.

ROSENBLAD, Tailor, returns thanks to his friends and the public in general, for their liberal patronage, and begs leave to inform them that he has removed his shop from No. 9, Calle de la Paz, to No. 64, Piedad, the same previously occupied by Mr. Coyle.

PRICES CURRENT.

Doublons, Spanish	225	a	230	dollars each.
Do. Patriot	225	a	230	do.
Plata macuquina	12	a	12 1/2	do. for one
Dollars, Spanish	13 1/2	a	13 1/2	do. each.
Do Patriot and Patacones	13	a	13	do. do.
Six per cent Stock	49	a	50	do. per ct.
Bank Shares	none			
Exchange on England	4 1/2	a		pence per dol
Do. Rio Janeiro	420	a	450	
Do. Montevideo	14	a		per patacon
Do. United States	11	a		per U. S. dollar
Hidos, Ox. best	35	a	36	dls. p. pesada
Do. country	28	a	31	do. do.
Do. weighing 23 to 24lbs	30	a	31	do. do.
Do. salted	28	a	29	do. do.
Do. Horse	10	a	11	do. ench.
Nutria Skins	3 1/2	a	4	do. per lb.
Chinchilli Skins	38	a	45	do. per dozen
Wool, common	9	a	12	do. per arroba
Sheep skins per dozen	17	a	18	per 27lb.
Calf skins per dozen	27	a	28	
Deer skins per dozen	10	a	11	
Hair, long	60	a	65	do. per arroba
Do. mixed	32	a	34	do. do.
Jerked Beef	15	a	16	do. quintal.
Tallow, melted	13	a	14	do. per arroba
Horns	200	a	250	per mil.
Flour, (North American)	none			
Salt, on board	none			per fan
Discount	1 1/2	a	1 1/2	pr. ct. pr. month

The highest price of Doublons during the week, 230 dollars. The lowest price 218 dollars.

The highest rate of Exchange upon England during the week 4 1/2 pence. The lowest ditto 4 1/4 pence.

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ALEXANDER BRANDER, Responsible Editor.