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BUENOS AYRES.

The intelligence of a most important event took us by surprise on Monday evening last, and disturbed the gravity of the present solemn season. This event—the downfall of the clay-footed Colossus of Peru—is one in which we take no ordinary interest, inasmuch as it confirms the opinion which we, despite the gibes with which we were taunted in some foreign journals, steadfastly continued to advance.—Although naturally gratified at the fulfilment of our prediction, we only take credit to ourselves for not allowing our judgment to be biased by false appearances.

The battle which produced this great result, which places the independence of the States of this section of South America under cover of danger, at least from any domestic conqueror, was fought on the 20th of January last, at Yungay, about 200 miles N. of Lima. The Protectoral army consisting of upwards of 6000 men, was commanded by General Santa Cruz in person. The Chilian forces amounted to about the same number, although not more than 3500 were engaged, and not a quarter part of the cavalry, which was considered the most efficient arm of the liberating troops. General Bulnes had previously acted on the defensive, manœuvring with the view of drawing his opponents into the plains, but after a partial conflict on the 6th, when he repulsed with inferior forces an attack of the enemy at the bridge of Buia, causing them a loss of 500 killed, including General Moran, one of the Protector's best officers, he resolved to act on the offensive.—The action commenced about 11 o'clock on the morning of the 20th, and was severely contested for five hours, the Chilians dislodging their antagonists from the most formidable positions at the point of the bayonet. At 4 o'clock P. M. the victory was complete, the entire army of General Santa Cruz being destroyed. The number of the killed and wounded is estimated at 2400, and that of the prisoners at 3500; amongst the killed is General Urzúa, and amongst the prisoners Generals Herrera (the Protector's Vice-governor in the South), Quiros, Bermudes, Otero and Armaza (formerly appointed Chargé d'Affaires to Buenos Ayres)—this last officer mortally wounded. About an hour before the termination of the battle, the Protector left the field, accompanied by 20 or 25 men. It was supposed that he had taken the direction of Ica and intended to embark in Pisco, but a company of Chilian carabineers with spare horses followed rapidly in his pursuit. The whole baggage, artillery, horses, military chest containing 90,000 dollars, &c., were among the trophies of the victors. The Peruvian General Lafuente, with two squadrons of cavalry and two battalions of infantry of the liberating army, was not in the action. He was operating in the direction of Huacho, and was expected to occupy Lima by the 26th or 28th of January. General Gamarrá with a division of the army, was to march upon Junin and the South of Peru on the 2nd, and was shortly to be followed by the Commander-in-Chief, with the rest, leaving General Lafuente in charge of the North.

General Santa Cruz, on his re-occupation of Lima, displayed great activity. He armed a ship, a barque and a schooner, and sent them out in search of the straggling Chilian transports. In the course of their cruise they fell in with the *Arequipeno*, 9 gun brig, and took her in the port in which she was anchored, the officers and crew escaping on shore. With this accession to their naval forces, they resolved to try their fortune in an attack upon the division of the Chilian squadron under the command of

Commodore Simpson, stationed in the port of Casma, but in this they were completely foiled, having been driven back severely damaged, and with the loss of the *Arequipeno*, which was retaken. The Protectoral Commodore is reported to have died of the wounds he received in the action; the killed in the *Arequipeno* were 13, including the Captain, and the prisoners 70.—By a curious coincidence, the three actions by land and sea, in which the power of General Santa Cruz was annihilated, were fought on successive Sundays. Such are the details given by Col. Uriola, who left the field of battle a few hours after the action, and was bearer of a despatch from General Bulnes, merely announcing to his government the complete triumph he had achieved.

Two days after the receipt of this important intelligence in this capital, despatches arrived from the interior, forwarding to the general government of Buenos Ayres, a communication from the Bolivian General José Miguel de Velasco, styling himself Commander-in-Chief of the Liberating army of Bolivia. This communication is dated February 14th, from his headquarters in Mojo, and is addressed to the Governor of the Argentine frontier Province of Jujuy, announcing that the army under his command had withdrawn from its obedience to General Santa Cruz, and seconded the wishes of the Bolivian people for the recovery of their sovereignty and independence, snatched from them by the very man whose Constitutional duty it was to have preserved them. The communication concludes declaring the war with the Argentine Confederation terminated *de facto*, and requesting that the territorial questions may remain in *status quo* until the conclusion of a treaty conciliating the rights and interests of all, and re-establishing the former amicable relations between the two Republics. The Governor of Santiago del Estero, in forwarding the communication to His Excellency General Rosas, congratulates him on the "glorious share which the Argentine Confederation has had in this event, owing to the heroic exertions of the illustrious Restaurator of the Laws, charged with the foreign relations and the direction of the war." The Governor of Jujuy is similarly complimentary.

The above news created enthusiastic delight in Buenos Ayres, equalling that caused by the intelligence of the battle of Ayacucho, in the year 1825.

The courier with the despatch arrived in town on Monday evening last. A messenger was instantly despatched to H. E. the Governor, who was at his Quinta, and at half past 8 o'clock that same evening, the guns at the fort, and battery near the Retiro, the bells of the various churches, and a discharge of rockets, announced the joyous event to the whole Capital. Four full bands of music appertaining to the regiments of the garrison, viz:—the Guardia Argentina, Patrióticos, Restauradores, and Marine Artillery, preceded by Military officers arm in arm, and accompanied by a crowd of citizens on horseback and on foot, paraded the streets amidst incessant *vivas*. Each band was flanked by soldiers bearing lights and ornamented patent lamps, and flights of rockets and discharges of other fire works attended their march. The night was lovely in the extreme, calm and moonlit, the planets Jupiter and Mars shone brilliantly upon the scene, and the streets were thronged with ladies. The bands made various halts in front of several houses, particularly at that of H. E. the Governor, and of the Minister for foreign affairs. At the latter the citizens were regaled with good English ale. The cheers and exclamations were loud and repeated.

Those we heard were—Viva la Republica de Chile! Viva la Confederacion Argentina!—Viva el ejercito Chileno! Viva el Restaurador de las leyes, Don Juan Manuel de Rosas! Viva el Presidente Oribe! Muera Frutos Rivera! Muera Santa Cruz! Muera los Unitarios!—Muera! Muera!

We followed the bands until a late hour, attracted by the novelty of the scene and the extreme loveliness of the evening.

A considerable portion of the town was illuminated.

The band of the Marine Artillery, accompanied by about 150 equestrians and pedestrians, went out to the Quinta of H. E. the Governor, 5 miles from town, in order to compliment him upon the glorious and important news. When near the mansion a halt was made, and strict silence enjoined for the remainder of the march, so that H. E. might be taken by surprise.—The march therefore continued in perfect silence until the party was close to the house, when all at once the band struck up, rockets and other fire works were discharged, and *vivas* rent the air. In the midst of this exhibition of joy the party arrived at the house, where they were received by H. E. in person, in the most kind and courteous manner. Six amateurs sang the glee—

"Que perezca, perezca, el que intente,
Las cadenas al Plata volver;
Si es preciso morir, morirremos,
Antes muertos que esclavos yacer."

In which all the company joined chorus. Refreshments were then handed round, H. E. partaking thereof. At half past 2 on the following morning, a plentiful hot repast was laid out in the *patio*, in which roast beef and that choice dish *mata-hambre* bore a conspicuous part.—The wine and beer were of excellent quality. H. E. joined in the repast with his guests.—Each individual congratulated H. E., thanked him for his kindness and hospitality, and at 4 in the morning the company set out on their return to town. The daughter of H. E. Doña Manuela and several ladies were present.

We ought to have mentioned that shortly after the salute fired from the fort, the battery near the Retiro and two field pieces at the Retiro, also saluted.

On Tuesday evening five bands of music paraded the streets; the additional one being the trumpet band of the Oriental division, which was followed by the troops of that division, wearing the white device, the illuminations were repeated, and a quantity of rockets were discharged from the Plaza de la Victoria.—Those which on bursting in the air emitted a profusion of lights, had a fine effect.

On Wednesday evening there was a repetition of the above rejoicings, which were however as it regards exterior display, brought to a close about 10 o'clock in consequence of the heavy rain.

On Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, a salute was fired from the fort, the battery near the Retiro, and National brig of war *Eloiza*, in honor of the news from Bolivia. The *Eloiza* had flags at each mast head. Simultaneously with the above, the bells of the churches rang a merry peal, and bands of music paraded the streets.

On Thursday evening the public offices, theatres and town, were illuminated—music paraded the streets and fire works were discharged in the Plaza de la Victoria.

On Tuesday all the prisoners confined in this capital for political offences, were in consequence of the intelligence above related, released from arrest.

Extract from that portion of the Message of the President of the United States, delivered to the Congress on the 5th December last, which relates to Canada.

"I had hoped that the respect for the laws and regard for the peace and honor of their own country which has ever characterised the citizens of the United States, would have prevented any portion of them from using any means to promote insurrection in the territory of a power with which we are at peace, and with which the United States are desirous of maintaining the most friendly relations. I regret deeply, however, to be obliged to inform you that this has not been the case. Information has been given to me, derived from official and other sources, that many citizens of the United States have associated together to make hostile incursions from our territory into Canada, and to aid and abet insurrection there, in violation of the obligations and laws of the United States, and in open disregard of their own duties as citizens. This information has been in part confirmed by a hostile invasion actually made by the citizens of the United States, in conjunction with Canadians and others, and accompanied by a forcible seizure of the property of our citizens, and an application thereof to the prosecution of military operations against the authorities and people of Canada.

"The results of these criminal assaults upon the peace and order of a neighbouring country have been, as was to be expected, fatally destructive to the misguided or deluded persons engaged in them, and highly injurious to those in whose behalf they are professed to have been undertaken. The authorities in Canada, from intelligence received of such intended movements among our citizens, have felt themselves obliged to take precautionary measures against them; have actually embodied the militia, and assumed an attitude to repel the invasion to which the colonies were exposed from the United States. A state of feeling on both sides of the frontier has thus been produced, which called for prompt and vigorous interference. If an insurrection existed in Canada, the amicable dispositions of the United States towards Great Britain, as well as their duty to themselves, would lead them to maintain a strict neutrality, and to restrain their citizens from all violations of the laws which have been passed for its enforcement. But this government recognises a still higher obligation to repress all attempts on the part of its citizens to disturb the peace of a country where order prevails, or has been re-established. Depredations by our citizens upon nations at peace with the United States, or combinations for committing them, have at all times been regarded by the American government and people with the greatest abhorrence. Military incursions by our citizens into countries so situated, and the commission of acts of violence on the members thereof, in order to effect a change in its government, or under any pretext whatever, have, from the commencement of our government, been held equally criminal on the part of those engaged in them, and as much deserving of punishment, as would be the disturbance of the public peace by the perpetration of similar acts within our own territory.

"By no country or persons have these invaluable principles of international law—principles, the strict observance of which is so indispensable to the preservation of social order in the world—been more earnestly cherished or sacredly respected than by those great and good men who first declared and finally established the independence of our own country. They promulgated and maintained them at an early and critical period in our history; they were subsequently embodied in legislative enactments of a highly penal character, the faithful enforcement of which has hitherto been, and will, I trust, always continue to be, regarded as a duty inseparably associated with the maintenance of our national honour. That the people of the United States should feel an interest in the spread of political institutions as free as they regard their own to be, is natural; nor can a sincere solicitude for the success of all those who are at any time, in good faith struggling for their acquisition, be imputed to our citizens as a crime. With the entire freedom of opinion, and an undisguised expression thereof, on their part, the government has neither the right, nor, I trust, the disposition to interfere. But whether the interest or the honor of the United States require that they should be made

a party to any such struggle, and, by inevitable consequence, to the war which is waged in its support, is a question which, by our Constitution, is wisely left to Congress alone to decide. It is, by the laws, already made criminal in our citizens to embarrass or anticipate that decision, by unauthorised military operations on their part. Offences of this character in addition to their criminality as violations of the laws of our country, have a direct tendency to draw down upon our own citizens at large the multiplied evils of a foreign war, and expose to injurious imputations the good faith and honor of the country. As such they deserve to be put down with promptitude and decision. I cannot be mistaken, I am confident, in counting on the cordial and general concurrence of our fellow-citizens in this sentiment. A copy of the proclamation which I have felt it my duty to issue, is herewith communicated. I cannot but hope that the good sense and patriotism, the regard for the honor and reputation of their country, the respect for the laws which they have themselves enacted for their own government, and the love of order for which the mass of our people have been so long and so justly distinguished, will deter the comparatively few who are engaged in them from a further prosecution of such desperate enterprises. In the mean time, the existing laws have been, and will continue to be, faithfully executed; and every effort will be made to carry them out in their full extent. Whether they are sufficient or not, to meet the actual state of things on the Canadian frontier, it is for Congress to decide."

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

(W. P. R. resumes)

During the last four months of the joint consulate of Francia and Yegros, the latter took absolutely no part in the government of the country; while the former not only engrossed all the executive power, but was busily though secretly engaged in his manoeuvres to carry into effect, with every appearance of legality, what he had already determined should at any rate take place—his appointment to a Dictatorship of the Republic.

Yegros, an illiterate Estanciero, although dignified with the titles of Consul, and General of the armies of the Republic, could in no possible way cope with Francia; and he gradually and quietly resigned himself to the obscurity into which the First Consul was determined he should sink.

I met Yegros once or twice at the Government house before the conclusion of his consulship; but he then showed nothing save a timid deference to Francia. The former really knew as little about state affairs as the meanest of the few government understrappers whom Francia at this time employed. Of his general ignorance Yegros one day gave my brother and myself, in the presence of Francia, an amusing instance.

We had received letters from Buenos Ayres, and were giving the Consuls the latest news from Europe. We mentioned among other things that the Emperor Alexander had joined the general alliance against Napoleon, and that several vessels loaded with arms and munitions of war had been despatched from England to Russia. "Malhaya!" said Yegros, after considering a while, "Malhaya soplara un viento sur, largo y recio, que trajese todas estas buques aguas arriba!" "I wish to goodness a long and strong south wind would blow, and force all these vessels up the river!" Yegros fancied that if the south wind blew long enough, it would force every vessel bound for the Baltic up the Paraguay, and into the port of Assumption.

"Just consider," said Francia, after his companion, his companion, as he called him, was gone, "if such an animal, such a fool as that be capable of governing a republic."

Francia went on drilling, clothing, cajoling, bribing and augmenting his troops, particularly his quarteleros. He observed the most rigid economy in every department of the state; and he kept accumulating government treasure very fast. He encouraged all the lower classes to look to him for favour and employment, and he sowed discord and jealousies among the better portion of the community by every underhand means to which he could have recourse.

He commenced a system of espionage which

he every day extended and ramified, and by which at last he so distracted and alarmed every family in Assumption, that the whole population fell an easy prey to the terrors with which his stealthy watchfulness of their movements inspired them.

I had, unknown to Francia, an opportunity of observing the manner in which he placed spies upon the actions of those whom he either feared or suspected, and who gradually became the victims of his jealousy.

The principal reconocedor, or examiner of yerba in Assumption, was a man of the name of Orrego, who kept a palmerin, or public-house. He was a joyous and good-natured looking little man, not much more than five feet high, with a portly body, a round and laughter-loving face, and a look of easy indifference and simplicity which would have made you believe him altogether incapable of guile or deceit. He used to wear a gaudy-coloured handkerchief about his head, with a small coarse hat stuck on the top of it. His calador, or long steel probe, sharp at the end and hollow in the centre, with which he pierced and drew out samples of yerba from the serons, was always in his hand, and he went gossiping about, in the prosecution of his business, received by all, and suspected by none.

As we had more business to do than almost all the other merchants put together, Orrego was constantly employed by us, and very much dependent upon us for an income.

This little man, I found, was one of Francia's principal and most confidential spies. Seeing the open favour shown to me by Francia, and knowing that I would not betray him, he could not help boasting to me of the secret intimacy which he was permitted with the Consul. He was "reconocedor del Gobierno," or Government inspector of yerba, and this lulled any suspicion which might arise from his being frequently seen with Francia.

Little Orrego, when his public-house was filled with the lower orders, would hold forth in eloquent strains of Guarani, in praise of "Carai Francia;" and when going about the stores or warehouses and shops of the better citizens, he caught up all that was said of the Consul without appearing to listen to a single word. While a conversation was going on, I have seen the little fellow astride over a bale of yerba,—striking the hard substance under him with his calador,—half whistling or humming a tune, in apparent abstraction of all that was going forward, and yet drinking in every word that was uttered around him.

"But Orrego," said I one day, "I hope you do not betray your friends." He fidgeted, and looked uneasy. "Ah!" said he, "Carai Francia is a hard man to deal with. I do my best to let things go on as quietly as possible, but I dare not deceive the Consul. He has many others employed beside myself, and I do not know who they are; if through any of them I was detected in a falsehood, or in any thing like equivocation, you know what would be the result to me." I knew indeed but too truly that the result would be imprisonment and irons for life. Orrego was a cunning though a good-hearted little man; and you will perceive what an admirable sort of tool he was with which to work out dark ends like those of the First Consul. Most of the spies I believe were chosen with the same keen observation of character, more particularly as developed in Paraguay.

When I was myself in company with Francia, he seldom or never permitted me to see the dark side of his character. Any business I had to transact with him I always did by calling on him in the early part of the day. My visits to him in the evening were always of his seeking.—Before the Dictatorship, the message invariably delivered to me by an officer or one of his body-guard was, "Suplica el Señor Consul que se vaya Vd. a casa del Gobierno,"—"the Consul begs that you will go to the Government House." And after he became Dictator it was "Manda el Supremo que pase Vd. a verlo,"—"The Supreme orders that you go and see him."

He always received me with great urbanity, in his small dark and dismal-looking room, situated at the extremity of a low black corridor. One tallow candle generally stood on a small round one-legged table, at which not more than three persons could be seated. This was the dining-table of the absolute lord of that part of the world. A maté and a cigar, handed by an old and ill-dressed negress, or by a black man,

the only servants Francia had, were the refreshments to which he invited me. I once sent him a dozen bottles of porter (more highly thought of by me in Assumption than you would think of a hoghead of Lafitte in England), and three days afterwards, on paying a visit to his Excellency, the first bottle which had been drawn, half full, and without a cork, was brought in, and a wine-glass was filled with Moux's "entire sour," and presented to me. I told Francia that we drank porter from tumblers, and that a bottle once opened must at once be finished.—Francia smiled; "I thought," said he, "it was rather sour to-day at dinner; but come, we shall drink a bottle in English style."

His dinner consisted generally of two common dishes; or of one, with a little caudo, or broth; and water was his beverage. One forenoon his frugal meal was placed on the table before I had taken my departure. I took up my hat. "I do not ask you," said the Dictator with some consideration for my comfort; "I do not ask you to 'hacer penitencia';" for I know a good and substantial dinner, and plenty of wine every day are indispensable to an Englishman.*

Francia's conversation was chiefly of a political nature; and he himself was the centre of perfection to which all his observations pointed. If he touched on scientific or literary subjects, it was still to boast of some acquirement of his own. His vanity, under a thin skin of pretended indifference to fame or applause, oozed out at every word he pronounced. His own government,—his own political sagacity,—his wisdom,—his acquirements,—he constantly contrasted with those of others, and as constantly to his own advantage. Paraguay was a Utopia realized, and Francia was the Solon of modern days.

He spoke contemptuously of all Europe, with the exception of England. Paraguay and England—England and Paraguay;—these were the enlightened countries which he wished to see united, like the Siamese twins, firmly and irrevocably in one.

He could not bear to hear of the celebrity, glory, or renown, of any South American but himself. General San Martin, the great and honest champion of South American independence, and General Alvear, at that time the successful and energetic leader of the fortunes of Buenos Ayres, he hated with a deadly hate. It was when speaking of them, alone, that I used to see all the magnificence of Francia's character. He always began his discourses about these his celebrated contemporaries with affected and bitter contempt; but he invariably ended with violent and passionate declamation.

When not on the subject of South America, Francia's manner was pleasing, and often jocose. He no doubt felt it to be a relief to have one who could place himself on a footing of equality with him—one who was not afraid of him.—Every other living soul in Assumption was.—Sometimes, while conversing with me, his guard would announce visitors; they were often sent away, sometimes admitted. In this latter case, Francia assumed a cold and stern inflexibility of feature. He stood erect. The crouching applicant came to the door. "What do you want?" Francia would abruptly and harshly say. The want was expressed with tremour, or with profound reverence. "Bien—retírese."—"Very well—retire." The self-constituted intruder would retire accordingly, too happy to escape from the presence of the haughty Consul; and then the latter would turn to me and resume his discourse.†

* To do penance; a general mode among Spaniards of asking you to stay to dine, if you happen to be with them at their dinner-hour.

† Francia used to be much annoyed at the abject fear in which his countrymen stood of him, but which he himself had produced. He used to say,—I do not know whether the saying was borrowed or original,—"that he thought every Paraguayan wanted a bone in the back of his neck, for he never knew one who could hold up his head."

Francia could seldom keep his chair while he was talking. He would walk up and down the room with his cigar, or stop in front of me as I sat, and in this way lay down his propositions or urge his arguments.

Before he became Dictator he had commenced a custom, which he thenceforward regularly kept up, of riding from the Government House to the Barracks, outside of the town. As if he would not be an exception to the character which he gave his countrymen, of having defective necks, he always rode with his head bowed down to his breast. He was attended by a few of his Quartermasters, but he rode in gloomy silence, and seldom returned the salutation of those he met. He came back at sun set in the same taciturn way.

I have thought these slight details of Francia's habits at the time I became acquainted with him, might amuse you, and serve also as a starting-point from which his dark and despotic career during his dictatorship might be traced.

As the joint Consulship expired in October, 1814, Francia took measures for calling together a new Congress about that time. The Yegros and Cavalero party were already much dispirited; and the unceasing energy with which Francia and his myrmidons had been preparing to give the *coup de grâce* to Paraguay liberty left them with little or no doubt of his unqualified success.

Francia proposed,—and as a necessary consequence it was resolved,—that a new Congress should consist of the monstrous and really laughable number of one thousand deputies. It was denigrating the country of its heads of families, to bring that number of members of Parliament to fulfil their legislative duties in the metropolis; but Francia's *fiat* had gone forth, and the thing was to be done.

In September the motley multitude began to give increased activity to the streets of Assumption. As might have been expected, more than one half of the knights of the shire and burghesses of the smaller towns, could neither read nor write—were neither stockings nor shoes.—Every one had a horse, but every one had not a coat, much less a court-suit, in which to attend the levee of the at-present condescending Consul. A jacket of white dimity, very short, and excessively tight; a bespangled waistcoat, still shorter than the jacket; knee-breeches of crimson velvet, with high embroidered drawers hanging down to the ankle; a blue silk sash, such as you see worn by itinerant voligeurs; petro-boots open at the toes; large silver spurs on the heels; and a very small coarse hat half covering the head; and an immense queue of plaited black hair hanging down the back;—such was the singular costume of many of the gentlemen of the House of Commons which Francia had summoned for the august purpose of creating a Dictatorship.

I do not think there were twenty Paraguayans (and not one out of Assumption) who knew what a Dictator meant. President, Consul, Director, Protector and Dictator, were with them synonymous terms with the old-fashioned name of Governor, as constituted by old Spain.

The city of Assumption, if I mistake not, was to return some sixty or eighty members to represent its complicated interests in the millenary assemblage of legislators.

There was one bitter, irreconcilable enemy of Francia with whom I was intimate. He had been my fellow traveller in the Carmen from Santa Fé; and he and his family (they were my next-door neighbours) had been more than commonly kind to me. His name was Manuel Doméque.

He came into my house one morning when I knew the nominations to the great Congress were in process of issue. No popular election took place: the Government made out the lists, and these were adopted, as a matter of course, by the municipal and other local authorities.

Doméque was full of indignation, not unmixed with alarm. "What do you think," said he, "this *picara*, this villain Francia has done? He has named me a member of his Congress; and not only me, but all those whom he considers his greatest enemies in Assumption! What are we to do?"

I advised him, for I felt alarmed for his safety, to accept the nomination, and to vote for Francia. Poor Doméque saw as well as I did, the necessity of adopting my advice. Francia named his enemies because he knew he had a majority without them, or in spite of them. If they voted for the Dictatorship he would always turn round and tell them that they had seen the propriety of investing some one with absolute power; that that absolute power they had placed in his hands; and that it was for him exclusively to determine how it ought to be used. If they voted against him, and he gained the day, they were all lost men. Sooner or later, Francia would destroy every one of them.

The Consul's influence and sway in the country districts was unbounded; hence his desire to swamp the votes of Assumption, and one or two other towns, in those of the numerous representatives of the rural districts.

Another reason for his calling together such an overwhelming mob of senators was, that three fourths of them were poor men, having families depending on them for their daily bread. Such men could not afford to spend their time in cities, even with the magnanimous purpose of serving the *patria*. Charity, very literally with them, began at home; and therefore, they might all be emphatically termed anti-protracted-sessions members. This was what Francia desired. He wanted his work done effectually, but quickly.

Of the thousand Legislators of Paraguay, about six or seven hundred were collected together, driven into town by the commandantes, as Pat drives his pigs along the road—unwilling and grumbling travellers.

Many were the droll scenes which I witnessed with these representatives. Our name was now well known in Paraguay, our intimacy with Carri Francia had been bruited abroad; so I had numerous visits from honourable members as they poured into the city. Most of them, instead of discussing politics with me, began by asking how they could dispose of yerba or tobacco; all of these primitive legislators having brought a small quantity of one or other, or both of these productions to pay their expenses in town. They had, happily, no electioneering bills to pay. In the pure and incorruptible republic of Paraguay we had no East Retford questions to puzzle us; no Grattons nor Old Sarums to disfranchise.—Schedule A's and Schedule B's were things unheard of in the land of the Jesuits; and the only question which disturbed the duly chosen representatives of the great body of the people of Paraguay was, how they could get a fair price for the calculated hundred dollars' worth of tobacco which they had brought to enable them to subsist till they were allowed to return to their respective counties and paternal estates.

It was found necessary to convoke the Congress in the Church of San Francisco, no other building being capacious enough to contain the august assemblage.

All matters of form, election, and etiquette, were settled at two preliminary meetings; and on the 3rd of October, the Parliamentary business commenced. The proceedings were opened by Mr. Speaker about nine o'clock in the morning; and notwithstanding all the precautions which Francia had taken, some awkward inquiries began to be made about the propriety of a Dictatorship. The services and abilities of Francia were spoken of in the highest terms; indeed, he was loaded with the most extravagant and hyperbolic praises; but it was doubted whether a Dictatorship would conduce so much to his glory as a more limited power, assisted by a national Congress. Hereupon debates commenced, and heats ensued.

I went up myself to the church about twelve o'clock. The doors were shut, but great confusion seemed to prevail within. At last, one of the dimity-jacketed members came out wiping his forehead, and seeming to have suffered much, either from the heat of the church or of the debate.

"How go things within, my friend?" said I to the representative.

"Why," replied the honest member, "to tell you the truth, these are matters which I do not pretend at all to understand; but if I may judge

MERCHANT VESSELS

In the Port of Buenos Ayres, on 7th of March, 1839.

NONE.

FOREIGN VESSELS OF WAR.

FRENCH. Corvette Ariadne, 32 guns, Captain Du Haut Cilly, with Commadore's broad pendant.
Corvette Sapho, 28 guns, Captain Pierre Joseph Thibault.
Brig Alerce, 26 guns, Captain Charles Olivier.

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

from the noise (los gritos)—todo va bien—all goes well."

About two o'clock, as the members of Congress were still in warm debate, Francia got impatient, and very politely sent a numerous guard of honor to wait on the members. The troop was well armed, and quite surrounded the church. The hint was sufficient even for the clod-pated deputies in dummy jackets; besides, the dinner-hour was past, and hunger, as well as the *moustaches* of the Quarteleros hastened a decision.

At this juncture one of the most energetic of Francia's partisans rose, and in a stentorian voice called silence. "Gentlemen," said he, "why should we waste our time here? The Carai (Lord) Francia wishes to be absolute. He ought to be absolute; and I say" (here he struck the table at which he stood with his whole force), "he shall be absolute!"

The question was forthwith put to the vote, and without one dissenting voice, Francia was invested with the Dictatorship for three years.

Yours, &c.,
W. P. R.

MARINE LIST.

Port of Buenos Ayres.

March 2.—Wind S. E.

No arrivals or sailings.

March 3.—Wind N.

No arrivals or sailings.

March 4.—Wind E. strong, shifted at 10 A. M. to N., and in the evening to E.

No arrivals or sailings.

March 5.—Wind N. shifted to E. in the afternoon, strong.

No arrivals or sailings.

March 6.—Wind N. shifted to E. in the afternoon, heavy rain at night.

No arrivals.

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

Passengers, the Sardinian Prince Carignan and retinue.

March 7.—Wind S. E.

Arrived, Oriental packet schooner Relampago, Antonio Mascardi, from Montevideo 6th inst., to Vicente Rosa.

Sailed, United States corvette Fairfield, 24 guns, Lieut. Alexander Silldell Mackenzie, Commandant, for Montevideo.

March 8.—Wind S. E.

No arrivals or sailings.

Shipping Memoranda.

ARRIVED AT FALMOUTH.

December 14th, H. B. M's packet Mutine, from Rio Janeiro—25th October, with the mail forwarded hence—30th September, by H. B. M's packet Cuckatrice.

ARRIVED AT MONTEVIDEO.

27th ult., Brazilian patache Delina, from Parnagua 13th ult., to J. Lima.

" Hamburg brig Albarquerque, from Hamburg 15th November, Cowes 1st December, with general cargo, to J. J. Klick & Co.

28th, Portuguese brigantine Brillante, from Rio Janeiro 16th ult., to M. G. Costa.

" Brazilian brigantine San José, from Santa Catalina 14th ult., to P. T. Jaira.

2nd inst., Brazilian schooner Contine, from Santa Catalina 22nd ult., to Peijoto.

" Oriental brig Indio, from Rio Janeiro 17th ult., to Bujiro.

" Danish brig Pizarro, from Madeira 4th January, with wine, to McCracken & Co.

" British brig May Dew, from Rio Janeiro 17th ult., with wine, &c., to Zamaran and Tre-sera.

AT RIO JANEIRO.

3rd ult., Spanish barque Isabel Segunda, from Montevideo 21 days.

5th, French barque Consolation, from Montevideo 19 days.

6th, Brazilian patache Saudade, from Montevideo 26 days.

7th, Brazilian patache Bella Union, from Montevideo 12 days.

" Argentine brig Plata, from Montevideo 15 days.
" Tucan polacre Tetis, from Montevideo 24 days.

" Steam boat Paquet de Sul, from Montevideo and Santa Catalina 8 days.

8th, Sardinian brig Flumetta, from Montevideo 22 days.

" French brig Elvina, from Montevideo 27 days.

Operations of the French blockading vessels.

2nd inst. The French schooner of war Ana, and their armed boat Atrévido, sailed at night with two balandras in company.

3rd. The blockading vessels sent up to day top-gallant masts and yards, and at half past 3 P. M., the Commodore's ship Ariadne, fired eleven guns, having the American flag at her fore. This salute was in return for one of the same number of guns from the United States ship Fairfield, upon the occasion of a visit which Commodore Du Haut Clailly made to that ship.

4th. The French armed cutter Tupac Amaru, one of their armed whale boats and a prize balandra, sailed during the last night, and two of their launches sailed this morning to the northward.

5th. The French brigantine of war Vigilante, arrived during the last night from the Parana, having been absent from this since 30th December, 65 days. She brought a whale boat with her. Two French launches were at anchor at day break this morning off Point Quilmes. They shortly afterwards returned to the outer roads, as did at mid-day three other of their launches from a cruise to the northward.

About 11 A. M., three French launches and a whale-boat, full of men, were observed steering from the outer roads towards the Boca.—The shore folks could not divine the object the French had in view in sending such a force, inasmuch as all that could be discerned in the vicinity of the Boca, was two " punts" and some men fishing. One of the punts went to the fore-most launch, on being hailed for that purpose, but whether the French wanted to purchase fish or hear the news, or both, we have yet to learn. After a short confab, the punt was sent about her business; the French boats went along shore towards Point Quilmes, looking into each rivulet in their way for stray craft, and returned in the afternoon to the outer roads.

It was conjectured that the French conceived the punts in question to be outward bound craft, who might when finding themselves pursued endeavour to run under the guns of the National brig of war Kloiza, and thus produce a skirmish.

Lights were displayed from the blockading vessels after dark, probably as a guide to some of their boats cruising.

6th. The blockading Commodore's ship Ariadne, fired a royal salute of 21 guns this afternoon, Sardinian flag at the fore, in honor of the Sardinian Prince Carignan, who had gone on board that ship on his way to embark in the packet schooner Rosa, for Montevideo. The heavy guns of the Ariadne made a tremendous report on shore. We like these salutes: it is doing the thing handsomely, free from those miserable chandler shop restrictions to which the British navy is in this respect subjected.

7th. The Vigilante sailed during the last night, in what direction we know not.

8th. Nothing new.

This day (9th inst.), completes the 347th day of the blockade.

THE WEATHER, has been variable during the week: The thermometer on the 1st inst., was at 82, on the following day 66, since which 70 to 76.

The Sardinian Prince Carignan, quitted Buenos Ayres on Wednesday last, in the packet schooner Rosa, for Montevideo. His Highness resided during his stay in this City, at the house of Baron Picotet d'Hermillon, Consul General of H. M. the King of Sardinia, and from travelling incog, declined the use of the Government House in the Fort, which had been offered to him. General Manuel Corbalan, principal Aide-Camp to H. E. the Governor, congratulated and offered His Highness in the name of H. E. any services he might need. A guard of honor was placed at the residence of His Highness, and he received there in the name of the government, the congratulations of Don Felipe Arana, Minister for foreign affairs. Every thing was done to render the abode of His Highness in this Capital agreeable to him.

It is currently reported that there has been a change of Ministry in France, and that the Molé Administration, was at the latter end of December entirely displaced. If such be the case, it may have an important effect here.

The Victoria Theatre will be open to-morrow evening, as also the Retiro Garden. The season of Lent is observed very rigidly in Buenos Ayres, all places of public amusement being closed. Those above named open to-morrow by special permission, to celebrate the recent cent good news.

We have received the *Journal do Commercio* of Rio Janeiro to 9th ultimo. In that of the 8th is a letter from its Montevideo Correspondent, dated Montevideo 36th January, from which we extract the following morsel.

"Rosa is panic struck. My Correspondent writes me, that he constantly goes about with a coat of mail; that he has hundreds of soldiers in disguise dispersed about his house, and that he has lately had constructed in his house a variety of hidden retreats and subterraneous passages."

Advertisements.

O.V. SALE.

Calle de la Piedad, No. 140.
OLD Bottled Madeira Wine, in cases of three dozens each. 116 3/4

NOTICE.

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

WANTED.

A Cook and a Nurse-maid, in an English family at short distance from town. Apply at 142, Calle de la Piedad.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned beg leave to inform the Commercial Community, that they have established in this City, as also in Montevideo, a Commercial House, under the firm of

J. J. KLICK & Co.

Buenos Ayres, 1st February, 1839.

JOSE JACOB KLICK.

WILLIAM BALLAUR.

JOHN THODE.

The office of J. J. Klick & Co., is at No. 68, Calle de la Universidad.

PRICES CURRENT.

Doublions, Spanish.....	249	a 250 dollars each.
Do. Patriot.....	249	a 250 do. do.
Plata macuquina.....	14	a 14 1/2 do. for one
Dollars, Spanish.....	15 1/2	a 15 1/2 do. each.
Do Patriot and Patacones.....	15	a 15 1/2 do. do.
Six per cent Stock.....	48	a 48 do. per ct.
Bank Shares.....	none	
Exchange on England.....	3 1/4	a pence per dol
Do. Rio Janeiro.....	500	a nominal.
Do. Montevideo.....	15 1/2	a 15 1/2 per patacon
Do. United States.....	12 1/2	a 13 per U. S. dollar
Hides, Ox, best.....	38	a 40 dls. p. pesada
Do. country.....	33	a 36 do. do.
Do. weighing 28 to 24 lbs.....	34	a 36 do. do.
Do. salted.....	32	a 34 do. do.
Do. Horse.....	11	a 13 do. each.
Nutria Skins.....	5	a 5 1/2 do. per lb.
Chinchilla Skins.....	50	a 55 do. per dozen
Wool, common.....	11	a 14 do. per arroba
Do. pick d.....	24	a 26 do. do.
Sheep skins per dozen.....	20	a 22 per 27 lb.
Carf skins per dozen.....	28	a 30
Deer skins per dozen.....	11	a 12
Hair, long.....	65	a 70 do. per arroba
Do. mixed.....	36	a 40 do. do.
Jerked Beef.....	30	a 22 do. quintal.
Tallow, melted.....	17	a 19 do. per arroba
Horus.....	250	a 300 per mil.
Flour, (North American).....	a none	
Salt, on board.....	a none	a none per fan
Discount.....	1 1/2	a 2 per ct. pr. month

The highest price of Doublions during the week, 255 dollars. The lowest price 246 dollars.

The highest rate of Exchange upon England during the week 4 pence. The lowest ditto 3 3/4 pence

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ALEXANDER BRANDER, Responsible Editor!