

Salvo Comencio
de Buenos Ayres

British Packet

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

(No. 1126.)

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, MARCH 18th, 1848.

(Established in 1826.)

BUENOS AYRES.

H. B. M.'s steamer Acheron which arrived at Rio Janeiro on the 29th February on her route to New Zealand, having previously touched at Madeira, has brought from the latter port London papers to the 21st and Paris ditto to the 20th January, received by H. B. M.'s steamer Hydra, which she left there on the 4th of February.

Nothing particular had occurred in England since the date of our previous advices; the money market continued to improve; bills were discounted at 4½ per cent, the rate fixed by the Bank being 5 per cent.

In Paris rumours had been current on the 17th that Louis Philippe was seriously ill, which news caused great consternation in that capital, the funds having fallen in consequence. These rumours were flatly contradicted by the ministerial journals on the 18th, and moreover fully dispelled by the King's receiving on the same day the deputation from the chamber of peers which waited on H. M. with the answer to the speech from the throne. On discussing the 8th paragraph of the above mentioned document, relating to the affairs of this country, at the sitting of the 17th January, Count Pelet de la Lozere urged some complaints in regard to the position of affairs in the River Plate, and asked for explanations. The President of the Council stated in reply that "he would wish to give the noble peer all the explanations he could, but as the negotiations were still pending, it was his duty to avoid entering into details, and he would therefore confine himself to saying that he had great expectations that the affair would be soon and satisfactorily settled." Count Boissy having subsequently offered some remarks in which he expressed it as his opinion that an understanding between the two powers towards a settlement of this question favoured of a truckling of France to England, the President of the Council replied, that "he could add nothing to what he had previously stated", and the sense of the house having been taken on the point it was carried by a large majority. The conferences at Paris in regard to the Swiss question, would be attended by the representatives of France, Austria and Prussia only, England and Russia having withdrawn therefrom. Abd-el-Kader was still in France, and would, it was stated; be removed to Villedieu near Chateauroux. The accounts from Madrid reach to the 13th January. The insurgents in Catalonia had been completely annihilated. General Espartero had arrived at Madrid and taken his seat in the Senate on the 13th, amidst great cheering; General Narvaez having on the occasion distinguished his former rival by taking a seat next to him. Italy was still in a state of effervescence, popular meetings having taken place at Rome, Genoa, Verona, Brescia, Cremona, Comus, Bergamo and Leghorn; blood had been spilt at Pavia and Milan, and public order had been with difficulty restored. It was currently

reported that the Cabinet of Vienna had solicited permission from the Pope to march 30,000 men through the Roman States in the direction of Naples His Holiness had refused, it was stated. All the fortresses and strongholds in Piedmont had recently been put in a state of defence, and the army had been augmented by a new conscription of 25,000 men.

Accounts from Hamburg to the 12th January mention the Elbe as having been completely frozen; the cold on the ice as shown by Reaumur's thermometer being 16 degrees below zero. Some failures, it was stated, had recently taken place at Frankfurt and other places on the continent.

The House of Representatives has voted the following address to H. E. the Governor in reply to his annual message:—

To H. E. the Governor and Captain General of the Province. Brigadier General Don Juan Manuel de Rosas.

The Message which Y. E. has transmitted to the representatives of the Province on the opening of the present session has produced deep sensation amongst them: it is an exalted monument of sublime glory for the country and of high merit for Y. E.

It would be very difficult to designate all the points in the Message which most strikingly arrest the attention of the Representatives and to which they wish to confine their reply: but the anomalous foreign intervention immediately obtrudes itself, for it is that which illustrates the present mode of existence of the Confederation; it is that which furnishes the true standard of the heroism of the Republic, and of the wisdom which presides over her destinies.

The Representatives perceive that Great Britain withdrew from the war silently abating her pretensions before the virtue of the Republic. The Right Hon. Lord Howden has well deserved the gratitude of his country, the esteem of the Confederation, and the sympathies of humanity in causing the former to cease to be unjust. But whilst the Representatives feel pleasure in testifying to the kind feeling with which they call that distinguished person to mind, and that which they also profess towards the illustrious Commodore Herbert, who so nobly seconded his views, they must not abstain from expressing the lively and just sense of injury they entertain in regard to England. Nor is it possible that it can be obliterated as long as this power does not give the Republic such satisfaction as shall be worthy of both for the palpable injustice with which she employed her hostile arms against her.

The Representatives are informed that France continues to wage war against us. The Government of France not satisfied that the fire of her guns should have illumined the barbarous scenes of Paysandú and others in which her *protégé*, the chieftain Rivera, at the head of immortal foreigners, gratified his thirst of vengeance on defenceless towns, and glutted his insane ferocity in innocent blood; the Government of H. M. Louis Philippe not satisfied with having stained our coasts with American blood, on that as on so many other occasions, nor yet content with having been for so many years the bane of these countries, still continues to oppress our languishing trade. But, what does France want here! Why does her Government ostentatiously display the power of her navy over nations destitute of any? The existence of Argentine troops in the Oriental Republic was nothing more than a pretext of hers, since the Con-

federation keeps them there with an evident right, under the orders of the legal Government, in pursuit of the common enemy, and, moreover, since that circumstance gives France no right to interfere. Y. E. has proved that nothing is sufficient to disarm the gratuitous hatred of the French Government against the Confederation, and if the former, confining itself at present to its perpetual blockade, does not advance in its aggressions, this is also due to Y. E. Your arm, rendered strong by the law, and your influence over your countrymen have been efficiently employed in protecting French residents. Thus has it happened that during the French blockade of the ports of the Republic, the French population has visibly increased therein; it fills the capital and spreads abundantly through the country districts. Thus, whilst the French Government, without any reason or pretext, delights in annoying the Argentine Confederation, obliging the natives to remain under arms for an indefinite period, rendering useless the rich productions of her soil and mortifying the inhabitants by painful privations. Frenchmen enjoy here unlimited guarantees and privileges which in their own country they never possessed. Thus the Republic, strong in her sense of justice, quails not at the superiority of her powerful adversary; thus will she save her independence and honor; thus does Y. E. know how to guide the destinies of a spirited nation which placed itself in your hands.

The Representatives feel gratified in observing that Y. E. in maintaining the friendly relations of the Confederation, wisely combines the demands of justice with the deference due to friendship, without the difficulties thrown in your way by the extraordinary position of the Republic causing you even for one instant to waver in your steady course. To that consummate prudence is in part to be ascribed the encouraging sympathy which neutrals have not ceased to evince towards the Confederation in her contest with England and France, and now with the latter and her *protégé* the intrusive Government of Montevideo.

The Representatives beg to express the tender emotion experienced by them on hearing in Y. E.'s message amongst so many names of friendly nations that of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. A close ally of the Confederation, and like it an object of the ambition of the powerful, she, as well as the latter, knows how to resist it in a glorious and determined manner. She is worthy of the independence she enjoys, and worthy of the President of her choice, the illustrious General Oribe.

The Representatives applaud the persevering resolution with which Y. E. upholds the sovereign rights of the Confederation to the Argentine Province of Paraguay. The convenience of the latter is happily in accordance with those rights, as are also the most positive interests of the Republic. As long as the illegitimate separation of Paraguay shall continue to be a fact, it is probable that it will not cease to excite the grasping ambition of certain powers, ever urging them to try the course of the Paraná to go in search of imaginary treasures in remote forests; without reflecting on their way that the valuable and easily-obtained productions which our immensely extensive plains offer to foreign commerce, can not fructify save under the shade of that peace which they with the most insensate inconsistency cease not to disturb.

The Representatives of the Province of Buenos Ayres look upon the interior of the Republic with the most unspeakable satisfaction. The Argentine Provinces, formerly so much troubled by discord, now lavish upon each other the most obliging proofs of union and confraternity. Internal peace, thanks be to Heaven, reigns throughout. Honor be to Your Excellency's administration, who has known how to establish and preserve it!

The Provinces of the Confederation, firmly united in bonds of harmony, uphold the national banner.

ner with unflinching spirit. The re-appearance amongst them of one of the oldest of the federal league, the important Province of Corrientes, has with good reason been a motive of national solemnity; and the illustrious General Urquiza, who aided her to burst asunder the chains by which the ruthless Unitarians had for a moment yoked her to foreign dominion, has deserved well of the country, and on this as on so many former occasions has covered himself with glory. He and the brave men under his command have displayed at Veneces that spirit of unconquerable fortitude which General Rosas knows how to inspire into the armies which he commands in chief,—that deep felt sentiment of victory wherewith they have everywhere marched virtuous and invincible.

Your Excellency's views in regard to the hostile Indians of the desert it is to be hoped will meet with the concurrence of the Governments of the sister Provinces. The frequent robberies which they in several of their commands and the necessity of protecting the roads against their Vandalic incursions call for attention. There can be no doubt that there being an uniformity of action, and only one Government to treat with the Indians or to direct the necessary operations in peace or war, the suppression of that evil would be attained. Since it is a pleasing fact that that terrible host of hostile Indians which at a period not far back carried rapine and death even into the midst of our country towns, have been reduced to insignificant remains compared with the resources of our frontier Provinces; since it is no less so that the memorable expedition of 1833 and 34 commanded-in-chief by Y. E. produced so distinguished a benefit, it is to be believed that under the same direction the subjection of the Indians of the desert which make those transient incursions would be obtained. When they were formidable from their numbers and the means at their disposal, Y. E. reduced many of those warlike tribes, which by their submission escaped Y. E.'s sword; thus, and thus only would the good work of the total pacification of the Indians, so loudly called for by civilization and Christianity, be attained.

Another point of great importance in the Department of the Interior calls the attention of the Representatives. They deplore, with most lively sorrow, that in the heart of a Republic such as ours, in which foreign influence has been so painfully felt; a Republic wherein anarchy, secretly and publicly stirred up by that malign influence, has caused so many and so bloody disasters; a Republic in which the lovers of their country labour so strenuously to preserve union amongst citizens, obedience to the law and to the authorities who rule in her name—holy ties atrociously sought to be dissolved by foreign influence—a house of Jesuits should exist. These congregations organized abroad; devoted to foreign power by means of a most submissive and unreasonable oath; receiving privately and in common their impulse from abroad, make that authority which they artfully obtain amongst families; and the preponderance which they but too soon usurp over the people, subservient to the absolute orders of a foreign power. It is not to be wondered at that eminent authorities, both civil and ecclesiastical, should have declared the existence of the Jesuitical order incompatible with the peace of the Church and the State, tending to introduce in the Church and amongst all States a body politic, the essence whereof consists in a continued activity in order to attain by all and every means direct and indirect, public and secret, an absolute independence, and even the usurpation of all authority. The Representatives of Buenos Ayres the more readily concur in these decisions, since in the short period during which the Jesuits have resided in this Capital with an open college, they have been seen to oppose the force of inertia to the action of the authorities which called for the co-operation of the inhabitants in circumstances of overwhelming danger for the country: the disaffection which they inspired against the national cause has been transparent in their followers, and the total neglect of the exercise of highly respectable political, social and even domestic duties has been but too evident.

And in view of such powerful considerations the Representatives doubt not that Y. E. will exercise the persuasive voice of truth in order that every Jesuitical association may disappear from the Argentine territory, and that all Jesuit Priests who may have remained therein, and who may not have already become secular clergymen, leave the Confederation.

The Representatives rejoice that the Province of Buenos Ayres, ever enthusiastic and heroic, gallantly occupies the distinguished place which appertains to her in the national war. They also feel

pleased and return to the Almighty the most fervent thanks, that, notwithstanding so sad and lasting a calamity, Buenos Ayres continues to increase in splendour, and does not fall off in solid prosperity.

The Representatives learn with satisfaction that the extraordinary powers which they confided to Y. E. have been employed in acts of clemency, and in upholding the rights and guarantees of all persons and property, without exception, against individual violence or abuses of authority. The salutary effects of that preserving measure are but too evident. It has adequately supplied the deficiency of the laws during the horrid tempest we have undergone, and will be of benefit until the fitting opportunity arrives for reforming our legislation. In the meantime, the spirit of anarchy which had contaminated our society being extinguished, licentiousness curbed, idleness and vagrancy pursued everywhere and amongst all classes, we have arrived at this happy state in which crimes are rare. Thanks to the wisdom and to the wholesome severity with which Y. E. has punished crime, and after your example the magistracy, the most tranquil security is enjoyed in all the vast expanse of our Province, as well in the most lonely country districts as in the midst of our towns.

The disappearance of evil passions, and the happiness diffused by internal harmony, have caused that industrious activity which has ever distinguished this Province to be renewed with greater vigour; and one at a distance aware of the shackles with which her commerce is fettered in consequence of the war, will not easily be enabled to form an idea of the stir in business in this capital, and of the unceasing arrival of rural productions into her market. It is much to be regretted that the feast days within the week should be a means of corrupting laborious habits, causing thus an injury to public morals and to good order amongst families. Since it is a well known fact that the feast days within the week are of immense injury in every respect, and are not devoted to the pious purposes for which they were consecrated by the Church—it being, besides, impracticable to re-establish discipline in all its rigour in this respect,—it is but natural to suppress those which admit of being so, as Y. E. has solicited from the Diocesan Prelate. If this is everywhere expedient, it is specially so where great losses are to be retrieved and where there are pernicious tendencies to root out. It is natural to expect that the very just exposition which Y. E. made on this point to the Rt. Rev. Bishop, which you mentioned in your former Message, and which has not yet been attended with any result will ultimately produce a happy issue.

The Representatives congratulate themselves in the most lively manner on the progress of public education which Y. E. informs them of; it, indeed, flourishes under the auspices of Y. E. even in the midst of the cares of war. Thus are the detractors of the Argentine Government once more contradicted, and those who at a distance entertain exaggerated and mean notions of the state of Buenos Ayres in consequence of so long a war, without reckoning sufficiently on the capacity of her Government and the vigour of the nation, receive an agreeable surprise.

The fine work along the river side which sumptuously rises in view of the blockaders, affords them an unexpected proof of the activity of the Government and of the resources of the country. The facilities with which the population at fitting opportunities repair to this and other places of public resort and entertainment is very far from that despondency which our enemies expected to bring us to, and is an evidence that the evils of war in no manner daunt the Argentine Confederation when she defends her national independence and has a popular government at her head.

The military exercises at which all the citizens of the Province attend, express sufficiently their martial bearing; and the prudent economy with which Y. E. has regulated them precludes them from prejudicing the occupations of the latter or causing them fatigue.

The armies of the Confederation are a sufficient assurance to us that this country will never be abased by the foreigner. The glory of the first champions of American Independence is reflected from their arms: they respond with enthusiasm to the animating voice of the gallant General San Martin; the virtues and undaunted spirit of General Rosas are incarnate in them.

The Finances of the province—the solidity of public credit, the funds whereof have risen and are at present the estimation in which the circulating medium is held—the credit enjoyed by the Treasury bills—the punctuality with which Y. E., despite the clogs upon the ordinary resources of the Pro-

vince, provides for the imperious demands of so protracted and extraordinary a period, all this, Sir, constitutes so lively, so palpable, so new an event as no one, perhaps, could ever have conceived. To Your Excellency's deep and unremitting attention to public business, to your tact, to the nice uses to which you apply the resources furnished by public credit, to the unflinching fidelity with which you cultivate them, to the solid and great value which the stability of your Government gives them, to this is due so surprising a result.

With scarcely one million and six hundred thousand hard dollars you have met all the expenses of the past year, and have paid the civil list and the armies of the Province.

Under Y. E.'s administration the doctrines of financiers have proved to be illusory, and the predictions of experience have been falsified; and when history devotes lengthened pages to Y. E.'s memory, those relating to this branch of government will, assuredly, not captivate the least attention.

The Argentine Confederation commanding respect, and even commendation, abroad—proudly withstanding, and overcoming also, the injustice of a powerful coalition formed to her prejudice—strongly united at home—the ruthless Unitarian traitors everywhere vanquished—the germ of anarchy, which has produced so many and so doleful convulsions, suffocated—Buenos Ayres tranquil in the very midst of the agitation of warfare, calmly encountering its hazards, and cheerfully filling her post—every citizen obedient to his duties, and scrupulously respected in his rights—such is the aspect of the Republic in general, and of the Province in particular. The dark period of misfortunes which rebellion brought upon us is now passing away, and the still greater evils, with which we were threatened, will not fall upon us. The sovereign rights of the Confederation will suffer no impair, nor shall we perish drowned in our own blood. The heroic determination of the nation has saved it; but its resolution would have been unavailing had it not placed itself in Y. E.'s hands.

We have not yet, nevertheless, surmounted the dangers in all their extent; and are still far enough from the normal state. The Representatives are, therefore, thoroughly convinced that they would not be acting judiciously if at this stage they were to make an essential alteration in the march of affairs, by admitting the resignation earnestly and repeatedly tendered by Y. E. of your so protracted administration.

The Representatives rejoice to see in Y. E.'s resignation a patriotic protest against the duration of your own command, in behalf of republican principles: in this sense they accept that protest, for those principles form their convictions as well as Y. E.'s, and receive their fervent homage. But if, on the one hand, it is a fact that in Y. E.'s re-election for a period which has not yet expired, no principle suffered, no constitutional law was violated, it is also true that sound sense would stigmatize as overweening, veneration for a principle, when it should accidentally compromise vital interests. The onward course of the Republic is now intimately connected with the wise system upon which Y. E. leads it, with your government and your person: your retirement now would be loudly reprobated by the national voice, and regarded with a melancholy presentiment by those States which observe us with friendly interest.

The Representatives deeply regret the shattered state of Y. E.'s important health; but the flame of your existence will never be better spent than before the altars of the Country, and it also demands this sacrifice of which it is so worthy.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

The London *Times* of the 4th January makes the following pungent strictures on the position of affairs between the above countries;—

The Americans are beginning to pay for their whistle. In their own graceful vernacular, "We guess they find Mexico a tarantula bad spec." Fifty thousand men in the field are a very costly investment. The glory indeed is immense. Buena Vista, Vera Cruz, San Juan de Ulloa, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Cherubusco, and several places with almost unspellable names, are doubtless by this time hisped by infant Polkists in conjunction with the triumphs of new-born independence. But the capital sunk in the purchase of that ethereal commodity is still more immense. In fact, it is all loss, with nothing but more loss in the prospect. Military toys are very heartrending affairs. Go to the "Noah's Ark," or the "Rocking Horse," and you will find that a miniature army in good

training and condition, with every arm of the service complete, costs not less than ten shillings. After a month's marching and fighting on the table or the floor, the once imposing force will be woefully shattered. Infantry will have fallen, cavalry will be prostrate, cannons dismantled, waggons out of gear, and a debris of arms, legs, caps, wheels, guns, and trumpets at the bottom of the box will bear melancholy witness to the casualties of even a bloodless campaign. Of your ten shillings there is not much to show. The beautiful new toy called the "Mexican Invasion," sold at Polk's store, and constituting a sequel to the "Noble Game of Texas," brought out at Tyler's emporium, shows by this time about as much for the dollars it has cost. Scott, Taylor, Worth, and a few other fine fellows are written on the page of American fame, and some ten or a dozen millions of British pounds sterling are added to the sum of American debt.

It is only the other day that the politicians and moralists of the United States hailed the near approach of a millennium which we unfortunately on this side of the Atlantic are compelled to assign to the sublimest futurity. In one or two more years the Union, it was confidently asserted, would not owe a dollar. In fact, the public debt due March 4, 1845, was only 17,788,799 dollars,—not four millions of our money. There are people, however, to whom it is positively dangerous to have money in hand. They require the discipline of debt. Our American cousins bear too strong a family resemblance to our own humble selves to do without some such control. Any how, in March, 1845, they showed themselves purse-proud and pugnacious. The result is, that since that day they have added to their debt 27,870,859 dollars, and, even with an immediate increase of taxation, will require a further loan of 17,000,000 dollars for the next half-year. By the end of next June, therefore, the additional debt entailed by the war will be about 45,000,000 dollars; more than £10,000,000. of our money. The cost of the war, however, has been a much greater figure. But for Mexico there would have been an annual surplus of some million dollars. The mere produce of the sale of public lands for the current year amounts to 3,500,000 dollars. Perhaps, therefore, we ought to put down to the expenses of the war up to next June every dollar of the then existing debt, which will be near 63,000,000 dollars. This money, be it observed, the Union is borrowing at 6 per cent.; nor is there much likelihood of their soon borrowing at more comfortable terms. This is a good price for glory, especially of that sort which is won off the miserable Mexicans.

Meanwhile, two interesting questions occupy the American public. First, how is the tide to be carried on? Secondly, how is it to be paid for? With regard to the first, we forbear to inflict on our readers various ingenious plans for carrying on "a little war," or half a war; for drawing a line and suspending invasion, like one of our railways, at a certain point. Whatever may have occurred to the imagination of Mr. Clay or Mr. Calhoun, there are, in fact, only two alternatives in the matter. The one is to conquer Mexico, hold it, and ultimately annex it,—if the Americans can. The other is to pack up bag and baggage and beat a retreat. Now, we entertain no doubt that the whole male population of the States would rather take Sappho's leap down the falls of Niagara than consent to the latter. So the former, viz., the annexation of Mexico, at a great sacrifice of life, and a most enormous expenditure of dollars, is the only probable, the only possible result. Mr. Polk himself hedges off every other conceivable alternative. His message exhibits all the rigour of a mathematical argument. On the axioms, definitions, and postulates of American morality and ambition, and on the admitted circumstances of the case, annexation is a necessary conclusion, or rather is involved in the premises. Mexico must compensate, not only for her original damages laid to her charge, but also for the whole cost of the war. She cannot pay in money, but she can pay in land. Meanwhile, she is incapable of making any treaty at all for the want of a Government. The conquest, therefore, must proceed till it is total and complete, and by that time its cost will far exceed the value of the whole Mexican territory.

The other question is one of more interest, because it admits of more than one answer. How is the war to be paid for? The President is taking an honest and manly course in at once advising Congress to raise 3,000,000 dollars by a very trifling duty on tea and coffee. There is a certain historical prejudice against such a duty, which may possibly excite some opposition. The experience of the last year, however, is proof against the other alternative,—viz., a repeal of the new tariff, and a renewal of the protective scale of duties upon imports.

The increase of revenue under the new system of revenue duties has been beyond all expectation, and the Union now finds that it cannot recede in the career of free trade without serious loss to the Exchequer. Brother Jonathan, therefore, will probably submit to pay for the sweets of glory with a trifling per centage on his coffee and tea. A graduated scale of prices to be fixed upon certain public lands, which for thirty years more or less have been a drug in this market, is to raise another odd million of dollars. These two expedients, however, are by no means enough in a nation whose principle it is to contract no permanent debt, but whose practice it is to annex all its neighbours, one after another, and assert a paramount claim to a continent. So something else must be done.

This great difficulty as to the sinews of war is solved by recurrence to the ordinary practice of invaders. Mexico is, for the future, to pay for its own conquest. Not only is an account to be run up, but ready money, or ready something, is to be exacted forthwith. The American Executive has frequently urged upon its Generals the duty of exacting from the Mexican population some decent equivalent for the favours conferred by their respectable visitors. Of course, it has somewhat provoked the Americans to see that the invasion has been in some respects a positive gain to the Mexicans, who have had an army of wealthy customers at their own doors, and at their own terms. The Generals, however, have replied, with evident regret, that they found themselves under the painful necessity of paying or starving. A hint of confiscation or plunder would have laid waste the country even before the invaders could do that for themselves. This was the difficulty so long as the army was on the march. It is now in possession of some very wealthy cities. In fact, it possesses the keys of the populous districts. So the screw is to be applied. The President looks askance at the decorations of the churches. He would be sorry to lay his hands upon them; but this sentiment comes out so frequently, that it evidently is maintained at the sacrifice of some rather pressing considerations; so we cannot help fearing that the superstitious Indians will some day be taught a simpler religion, and one more convenient to the American Exchequer. For the rest we forbear to speculate; but when churches are ransacked will houses be sacred? When saints are despoiled will citizens be spared?

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

In regard to the present condition of those usurped dependencies of the Argentine Republic, we find the following in the late English papers. It will be observed, that here, as in everything disgraceful to the British name in these countries, the notorious Lafone connexion figures conspicuously.

Portsmouth, December 17.

By the arrival of the Government transport Nautilus, Captain Surfen, Lieutenant Saunders agent, which came up to Spithead this morning from South America, we have news from the Falkland Islands to the 14th August, at which time they were in the most abject state of distress.

The Nautilus lay at the islands three weeks before she could get a bullock. All the improvements contemplated for giving character and employment to the place were stopped, the Government not having hands, or anything for them. The islands, in short, were in a fair way of being deserted. The three roads laid out by the Governor were not proceeded with.

The Nautilus called at Ascension, which island she found exceedingly healthy—water, turtle, sheep, vegetables, and every commodity of good and wholesome living, as well as luxuries, were abundant. About 300 sheep had arrived from the Cape, and many more were expected. Ascension has never been so healthy.

The Nautilus is laden with condemned naval and ordnance stores.

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir,—Being interested in the prosperity of the Falkland Islands, I read with much surprise the unfavourable report respecting their condition, contained in your paper of the 18th inst., stated to have come by the brig Nautilus to Portsmouth. Although I felt confident that the report was not correct, still I wished to have it officially contradicted, and I therefore addressed Lord Grey on the subject, begging his Lordship to inform me if the Governor's despatches confirmed the dismal report. Believing that you will be glad to rectify an error which might do serious injury to a colony in

its infancy, I am happy to have it in my power to enclose you a copy of his Lordship's reply, by inserting which in your paper as early as possible you will greatly oblige,

Sir, your most obedient servant,
A. R. LAFONE.

Liverpool, Dec. 30.

(Copy.)

Downing-street, Dec. 27.

Sir,—In answer to the inquiry contained in your letter of the 22nd inst., I am desired by Earl Grey to state that he has much satisfaction in acquainting you that the unfavourable account of the state of the Falklands, contained in *The Times* of Saturday week, is not confirmed by the official despatches. The rumour was, that the Nautilus having brought news up to the 14th of August, all the roads and other improvements previously contemplated had been stopped, the Government not having hands or anything for them.

The Governor's despatches received by the Nautilus extend to as late a date as the 23d of September. They include the usual periodical returns of the progress of public works up to the middle of the year, and neither mention that they have been arrested, or that there has been any emigration of the small number of settlers hitherto located on these islands. They are about to be recruited, as you are aware, by some additional emigrants from this country. The returns received from the Governor show that he had in his possession an ample store of provisions for the subsistence of the settlers, and active measures were in progress to tame and render available portions of the large herds of cattle belonging to the Crown in the Falkland Islands.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) B. HAWES.

Mr. A. R. Lafone. Liverpool.

MARINE LIST.

PORT OF BUENOS AYRES.

March 11.—Wind N. N. E., in the afternoon changed to E. N. E.

Sailed, United States brig of war Perry, 10 guns, Lieut. Tilton, bearing the broad pennant of Commodore George W. Storer, for Montevideo.

March 12.—Wind N., at noon changed to N. W. heavy rain.

No arrivals or sailings.

March 13.—Wind E., fresh, heavy rain.

No arrivals or sailings.

March 14.—Wind S. S. W.

No arrivals or sailings.

March 15.—Wind N.

No arrivals or sailings.

March 16.—Wind E.

No arrivals or sailings.

March 17.—Wind N., heavy rain.

No arrivals or sailings.

ARRIVALS AT MONTEVIDEO.

February 27.

Sardinian polacre San Antonio, 81 tons, M. de Soria, from Rio Janeiro 17th February, to Manuel Grandin.

Prussian barque Freihandel, 300 tons, C. Martwig, from Stettin 26th November, to Beecher Preuss & Co.

French brig Automne, 113 tons, Noel, from Havre 5th December, to John Greenway.

February 29.

Hamburg galliot Carl Heinrich, Hamschild, from Rio Grande and Maldonado 25th February, to Bunge Hutz & Co.

Danish brig Emile, 140 tons, M. Olsen, from Rio Grande 25th February, to Freyer Brothers.

American schooner Benjamin Biglaw, 153 tons, Mayo, from Rio Grande 25th February, to Southgate & Co.

American brigantine Florence, 96 tons, F. Malcolm, from Rio Grande 25th ult., to Zimmermann Frazier & Co.

American brigantine Cronstadt, 273 tons, E. Match, from Boston, 24th December, to Zimmermann Frazier & Co.

British barque Christiane, 243 tons, J. Smyly, from the Falkland Islands, to Samuel Lafone.

Brazilian schooner Neptuno, 40 tons, F. Fernandez, from Rio Grande 25th ult., to José Avegado.

March 4.
Brazilian three masted schooner Josefine, 273 tons, Francisco R. Pires, from Rio Janeiro 15th February, to order.

March 5.
Sardinian pilot boat Pio IX., 44 tons, Antonio Gasso, from Maldonado, to order.

March 6.
American barque Success, 203 tons, Benjamin Dexter, from Rio Grande 29th February, to Southgate & Co.

Oriental brigantine Hydra, 100 tons, John Williams, from Rio Grande 25th, to D. Davison.

Oriental brig Rümilly, 150 tons, Javier Lanchanten, from Rio Grande 26th, to Lafarge & Tonnier.

American barque Louisa, 267 tons, John Lake, to order.

March 7.
Sardinian schooner of war Ninfá, Lieut. Riboly, hence 6th inst.

British brig Wilton Wood, 243 tons, Matthew Russel, from Liverpool 31st December, to Carlisle, Smith and Co.

Bremen brig Charles Ferdinand, 270 tons, L. Hettmeyer, from Salt Island, 25th January, to Zimmermann, Frazier and Co.

March 8.
H. B. M.'s steam frigate Firebrand, Captain James Hope, from Rio Janeiro 3d. inst.
Prussian brig Graffin Von Brismark, 196 tons, Frederick Hell, from Memel 1st, Elsinore 11th December.

American brig Carrier, 198 tons, M. Halle, from Rio Grande 29th ult., to Southgate and Co.
H. B. M.'s packet Kestrel, Lieut. Henry Baker, hence 7th inst.

French barque Sultan, 227 tons, L. Beargran, from Havre 9th January, to Duplessis.

March 9.
Brazilian brig Carejô, 245 tons, Jose Ferreyra, from Parnaguá 21st ult., to Eneas and Co.

Brazilian brig Sem Par, 393 tons, Santiago Anease, from Paraguá 21st ult., to order.

March 12.
Danish brig Atalante, 158 tons, C. Hansen, from St. Ubes 12th January, to order.

March 13.
Prussian brig Carl Buslaw, 191 tons, C. Niemann, from Memel 17th October, Elsinore 7th November, Clevon 20th December, to Bunge, Hutz & Co.

American brig Oriole, 218 tons, Chapman, from Rio Grande 10th inst., to M. Monjardin.

Sardinian schooner Union, 157 tons, Christian Hansen, from Rio Grande 10th inst., to Murguondo & Nin.

Ditto zamaca Felicidad, 59 tons, Vallaro, from Rio Grande 10th inst., to José Massena.

French schooner Paraná, 71 tons, P. Michel, from do. 6th inst., to Bertram, Le Breton & Co.

Dutch galliot Anna Augusta, 200 tons, Mayo Peters, from do., to order.

Brazilian schooner Rosa, 76 tons, José de Jesus, from do. 8th, to M. Monjardin.

Oriental barque Avelina, 256 tons, Burmester, from do. 11th inst., to order.

March 14.
American barque Hermitage, 318 tons, Forrest, from Baltimore 10th February, to Zimmermann, Frazier & Co.

SAILED FROM MONTEVIDEO

February 27.
American brig Prairie, Hutchinson, for Rio Grande.
Do. do. General Pinckney, J. Broughton, for do.
Do. do. Harriet, Duling, for Boston.

February 29.
Prussian barque Carl Friederich, Woseron, for Antwerp.
British brig Albion, Alsop, for London.

Sardinian brig Angelo, P. Bozano, for Genoa.

March 1.
American brig Rival, T. Bruke, for Rio Grande.

March 2.
British brig Premier, J. B. Criller, for do.
Do. do. Forrester, R. Steils, for Parnaguá.
Sardinian do. Maria Teresa, P. Badaraco, for Genoa.

March 3.
Sardinian polacre San Antonio, M. S. Dasori, for Rio Grande.
Hamburg galliot Carl Heinrich, Hamschild, for Rio Grande.

March 8.
French barque Paquebot de la Plata, Cugneau, for Bordeaux.
Danish ship Ospra, J. Holadt, for Antwerp.

March 9.
Oriental brigantine Hydra, John William, for Rio Grande.
American barque Success, B. W. Dexter for do.

March 10.
H. B. M.'s brigantine Griffin, 3 guns, Lieut. James P. Thurburn, destination unknown.

British brig Arno, G. Mandosen, for Parnaguá.

March 11.
American brigantine Florence, R. Malcolm, for Rio Grande.
Oriental brig Rümilly, X. Lanchanten, for do.
Spanish brig Juanita, A. Gasino, for do.
Spanish polacre Gertrudiz, F. Cadenas, for Cadiz.

March 12.
H. B. M.'s packet Kestrel, Lieut. Henry Baker, for Rio Janeiro, with the mails from the River Plate.

March 14.
American barque Louisa, John Lake, for Rio Grande.
Do. do. Lotitia, Lewis, for Brazil.
French do. Fauvette, Eruzart, for St. Malo.
Oriental do. Manuelita, B. Berril, for Patagonia.

Do. brig San Pio, José Scotto, for Havana.
Brazilian schooner Amelia, for Rio Grande.

The Brazilian brigantine of war Landorinha, sailed from Rio Janeiro for Montevideo on the 29th ult.

Blockade of the Port of Buenos Ayres.
March 11. The British schooner Eliza Cornish of whose capture and detention by the blockading forces we made mention in our last, was this day sent to Montevideo by the same.

March 12. The Brazilian brigantine Florencio detained on the 10th, sailed this day down the river. A small pilot boat detained same day, having been subsequently set at liberty, this day entered the port.

March 13. The British brig Agile of whose detention we made mention in our last number, this day entered the inner roads.

March 12. Six small craft, viz: 3 pilot boats, 1 schooner, 1 balandra and a ketch were detained the preceding night. Having been set at liberty during the day, one sailed down the river and the rest entered the port.

March 16. A schooner which attempted to enter during the night was captured and obliged to anchor alongside the Alsacienne. She was subsequently released and sailed down the river, but having again made the attempt in the afternoon was again captured, as were also three other schooners.

March 17. Several small craft bound for the northward were on the preceding night detained by the blockaders, they were all released and this day entered the port. One of the schooners detained yesterday, though twice fired at by the Chimere, entered the port during the night, she proved to be from Montevideo with 31 passengers on board. All the other schooners detained same day sailed subsequently down the river.

This day (18th inst.) completes the 907th day of the blockade.

FOREIGN VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

FRENCH—Steam sloop Chimere, 5 guns, Lieut. Foudrà, Brig Alsacienne, 4 guns, Lieut. Fournier.

THERMOMETER in the Mirador of the Commercial Rooms since our last:—

Saturday	70
Sunday	71
Monday	70
Tuesday	72
Wednesday	72
Thursday	72
Friday	72

☾ To-morrow evening at 20 minutes after six the moon will rise emerging from a total eclipse of one hour and forty minutes duration. At 7 h. 14 m. will be the last contact with the dark shadow of the earth—and at 8-34 with the penumbra.

To the Editor of the British Packet.
Sir,—I have derived much gratification from the perusal of a short Poem lately published in this city, from the pen of Mr. Abraham Robinson. Its unassuming title "EAST AND WEST," is in strict union with the characteristic modesty of the author's personal deportment. The versification is terse and easy, although somewhat plaintive, and appears to harmonise with the tone of the author's

spirits, whilst he portrayed the scenes which he describes, and which are evidently as well as felicitously drawn at the moment of actual contemplation, and are thus brought to the reader's imagination in a vivid and impressive form. The cadences are decidedly correct and euphonious, and the construction of the stanzas in six lines is, I believe, original. There is a great deal of minute observation compressed into a small compass, and which indicates a reflecting and comprehensive mind. Altogether the work is one of very considerable merit, and I would strongly recommend its perusal to all, especially to those who have not personally visited the various countries and climes therein illustrated, as containing a great variety of useful and interesting information, and happily combining instruction with entertainment.

A friend to unpretending and deserving genius.

Advertisements.

Notice.
Divine Service will be celebrated in the Scotch Church on Sunday the 19th instant.

Wanted,
A good active English lad, not less than twelve years of age, who can read and write his own, and speak the Spanish language; whose duty it will be to sweep out several apartments daily, go on errands, collect accounts, and make himself generally useful. Apply at the Buenos Ayres Commercial Rooms, No. 59 Calle del 25 de Mayo.

FOR SALE,
A House, in one of the principal streets of San Fernando de Buena Vista. It has eight rooms, kitchen, well, and a fruit garden.
Also a piece of ground in Punta Chica, between San Isidro and San Fernando.
For further particulars apply at 130 Perú Street.

Hiram Hunt,
Has removed his Carpenter's shop from Calle de Canello N.º 194, to Calle de Corrientes N.º 23, from Calle de Veinte y Cinco de Mayo half a square towards the Camp.

PRICES CURRENT.

Doublons, Spanish	322	323	each
Do. Patriot	321	322	do.
Plata, macuquina	18	18 1/2	do. for one
Dollars, Spanish & Patacones	20	20 1/2	each
Do. Patria	19 1/2	20	do.
Six per cent. Stock	20	20 1/2	at par.
Exchange on England	64s.		per doubloon
Do. France	85f.		per doubloon.
Do. Rio Janeiro	34	4	per cent prem.
Do. Montevideo	41	2	per cent prem.
Do. United States	20	20 1/2	per dollar.
Hides, matadero or saladero	56	58	per pesada,
Do. matadero, country	45	55	do.
25 a 29 lbs.	41	42	do.
Do. Spain	40	42	do.
Do. North America	40	45	do.
Do. of all staks	43	44	do.
Do. salted ox	38	39	do.
Do. do. cow	39	41	do. each
Horse hides salted	18	20	per pesada
Do. do. dry	40	43	do.
Calf skins from 3 to 12 lbs.	30	31	per dozen
Sheep skins washed, fine and ordinary	30	31	without price
Gout skins	65	75	per arroba
Horse hair, mixed	58	62	do.
Do. short	110	140	dol. per arroba
Do. long, 13 to 24 in.	22	24	do.
Wool, ordinary, washed	10	11	do.
Do. do. dirty	25	35	do.
Do. mestiza, washed	14	20	do.
Do. do. dirty	40	60	do.
Do. fine washed	30	35	do.
Do. do. dirty	23	24	do.
Tallow, matadero, raw	35	36	do.
Do. do. melted 1st class	32	33	do.
Do. pure, second class	27	28	do.
Grease and tallow	45	46	per quintal
Jerked beef	550	600	per thousand
Horns, Ox	160	200	do.
Do. cow	8	8 1/2	per lb.
Ostrich feathers, long black	10	11	per dozen
Salted tongues	10	11	per quintal
Hide cuttings	none		without price
Shin bones	14	21	per fanega
Salt, on board	14	21	per cent. mon.
Discount			

The highest price of Doublons during the week 325 dollars.
The lowest price 320 dollars.
The highest rate of Exchange upon England during the week, 64s.
The lowest 63s. 6d.
The market still continues in the same state, and the observations we made last week in regard to produce may with equal justice be applied to this.

GEORGE THOMAS, Responsible Editor.