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ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES.

We have the pleasure this week to announce the arrival in these waters of the new Commissioners selected by the British and French governments for the purpose of effecting an arrangement of the long-pending question of the River Plate. Many and painful disappointments warn us not to be too sanguine, but we cannot help cherishing the hope that the present mission is destined to be successful. The Howden-Walewski negotiation was confessedly frustrated by the inability of the plenipotentiaries, from the nature of their instructions, to find a regular and practicable form of convention which should be the most exact execution, the most complete expression of the bases of pacification presented by the confidential agent, Mr. Hood, and to doubt that this deficiency is now supplied would be to suppose a bad faith and bungling totally irreconcilable with the character and dignity of the two leading governments of Europe.

At the date of the last advices the Envoys still remained on board in the port of Montevideo. The *Alecto* is understood to have brought dispatches from them for this government, and on the day of her departure communications were also transmitted by them to President Oribe, of the nature of which, of course, nothing is known.

Meanwhile the sham blockade appears to be virtually suspended, the *Pandour* having been ordered from off the *Salado*, the *Astrolabe* from off *Ensenada*, and the steamer *Chimere* from off this port.

Welcome as will be peace to us in this city, its advent, we think, will be hailed with still greater joy by the unfortunate inhabitants of Montevideo, within whose walls scenes of the greatest horror and distress are daily witnessed. To add to the misery of the native residents, the intrusive government, after having been foiled in the attempt to induce the foreign consuls to consent to the levying of a forced loan on neutrals, under the plea of avoiding an outbreak of the mercenary garrison, has been authorised by the so-called Assembly of Notables to raise funds by all means within its power. Whilst the citizens are thus threatened with being despoiled of the wreck of their fortunes, the whole population, without distinction of friend or foe, trembles with dread of the assassin's dagger. Among the victims who have lately fallen is the editor of the *Comercio del Plata*, Don Florencio Varela, who may be accused of anything but a want of zeal in defending the foreign oppressors of Montevideo, and that too with talent worthy of a better cause. On the evening of the 20th inst., between 7 and 8 o'clock, while knocking at his own door, he was stabbed in the back, and a few moments after expired. No clue, we believe, has been obtained to discover the murderer, and even if it should inipantly will ensue as sure as it did in the case of the assassination of young Dickson and Captain Solari, which rather ominously marked the commencement of the last negotiations for peace.

The Brazilian cabinet has undergone another change. Signior Pimenta Bueno has been replaced in the department of Foreign Affairs by Signior Limpo de Abreu, who a short time since held the same post.

Seven persons who were standing on a gallery appertaining to a wooden building situated at the end of the Alameda, used as a ball alley, were on the afternoon of Sunday last precipitated to the ground by the joists giving way and severely injured, some having had their limbs fractured.

An awful calamity has befallen the city of Cincinnati and several towns of less note bordering on the Ohio. By an overflow of the banks of that river which commenced on the 15th of December last, and continued until the 17th, the former city and the towns of Neville, Moscow, Belmont, New Richmond, Point Peasant, Palestine, and others have been inundated, the inhabitants being obliged in many cases to flee to the highlands to avoid the encroaching element. The water is stated to have risen to within six inches of the height attained by the overflowing of the same river in 1832. The devastation caused by this sad catastrophe in the city of Cincinnati appears to have been very great, two thirds of the city, including all the lower part as far as Pearl Street, having been flooded. Upwards of 500 families had fled from their homes to the higher quarters of the city for shelter, and the Cathedral and other Churches of different denominations had been thrown open to afford them a refuge. All articles of food had risen to an extraordinary price, the vegetable productions in the surrounding country having been in great part swept away by the flood. The amount of property thus lost is supposed to be immense, and the number of victims considerable. To add to the horrors of this appalling scene bands of robbers in boats rowed through the streets whilst the tempest was still raging, pillaging the abandoned houses of everything they could lay their hands on.

Official Acts and Documents

A decree dated the 7th inst. prohibits the intervention of any person in transacting custom-house business, excepting shipowners, importers, consignees, licensed brokers, or actual clerks of commercial houses, under pain of being dealt with as an unlicensed broker.

The first clerk of the Police, Don Juan Moreno, has been appointed, under date of the 14th inst., Chief *ad interim* of that department.

House of Representatives.—The Committee of Finance has reported the following project of law—

Art. 1.—As long as there is no stock to redeem, for a period of one year, the administration of the Sinking Fund shall remit to the Mint the inactive capital there existing, and what may accumulate in consequence of the scarcity of stock on sale.

2.—The Mint shall receive and employ in discounting, at one and a half per cent monthly, the sums sent to it by the administration of the Sinking Fund.

3.—The interest to which the foregoing article relates, shall be appropriated, one per cent. to the Sinking Fund and one half per cent. to the Mint, for commission and guarantee.

4.—The Mint shall deliver to the Sinking Fund the sums it may require to redeem stock.

5.—The rate of interest to be charged in future by the Mint shall be one and a half per cent. monthly.

(The above project of law passed the House on the 20th inst.)

The Government of Cordova, in pursuance of a resolution of the legislature of that Province, has, by a decree dated the 1st inst., dissolved the house of Jesuits in the capital, and ordered passports to be given to the members of that society for any destination they may choose.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

New York, 15th January, 1848.

The last accounts from Vera Cruz up to the 29th December have at last enlightened us on the true state of affairs, as well at Queretaro as in Mexico. Far from confirming the pacific rumours which had been current for some time past, they inform us that General Scott ordered all the country to be occupied, which will remain in possession of the American army until the Mexican government shall be willing to sign a treaty of peace which the United States may accept of.

The orders of General Scott, both in regard to the occupation and in relation to the imposts which the conquered towns will have to pay for the maintenance of the American army are but the commencement of the plan traced out by Mr. Polk in his message. It is the inauguration of his system of permanent occupation and of forced contributions.

The task which the American army is going to undertake, appears an easy one. The Mexicans have not known how to derive advantage from misfortune and the union which at one moment appeared as the point of bringing the last representatives of expiring nationality to join in one thought and one effort, had only such duration as every thing appears to have in that unfortunate republic. The members of the congress dispersed after some fruitless discussions, and the governors of the States who, on a former occasion assembled at Queretaro, promised their aid to the Central government to save the country, scarcely reached their homes when they forgot their promises. The administration of President Anaya inaugurated a few weeks ago under such favourable auspices, and which led to anticipate a new state of things ere long, is now without resources and without a congress, without material aid and without moral support, in a word charged with the responsibility of a desperate situation, without any of the means which might allow it to meet such a situation or release itself therefrom.

The new elections are, however, terminated and it is expected that within a short time the senators and deputies chosen will assemble at Queretaro to install a new legislature. It may happen that this congress, less worn down by the vicissitudes of the two last years, may find in its political youthfulness the necessary energy to adopt a resolution. We may nevertheless doubt that such will be the case when we see the Mexican government's attention engaged at this serious juncture with the intrigues more or less real which the monarchies of Europe may be hatching against the republic. Secret measures, some correspondence pompously says, have just been taken to put an end to the intrigues and progress of the enemies more fearful than those with which we are at war. A singular hallucination, truly, at such a moment! And were we not right when we recalled on a former occasion that belief of the ancients, that the Almighty bereaves of reason a people condemned to perish?

Henceforth the conquest of the United States in Mexico and the projects of absorption cherished by some politicians at Washington, will only meet with a barrier or serious obstacle in the will of the American congress. The war in Mexico has now been carried to the Capitol for it may be now confidently said in view of what is taking place, that the consequences of this war will only stop where the United States may wish they should.

A change is in this respect spoken of which has suddenly manifested itself in the attitude of the

Whigs. The presence of Henry Clay in Washington has produced a complete reconciliation which became the more easy from the desire which exists of combatting the ambitious projects of the administration. It was decided in consequence that all measures tending to prolong the war and aggravate its consequences should be attacked. In pursuance of this coalition the ten thousand men bill which is now discussed in the Senate, is in great jeopardy, according to private letters, of being thrown out in the house of representatives.

In the course of this speech of Mr. Pease of Maryland who fulminated an anathema against this war and declared that he would not vote for one man nor one single dollar more to carry on this war, tho' he were disposed to vote the necessary sums for maintaining the troops at present in Mexico, may be considered as the new profession of faith of the Whig party.

It is a medium course of little value because it is the prolongation of the *status quo* and all its disadvantages. To that mixed measure we prefer the open and decisive propositions of those who wish to redouble their efforts to obtain peace from Mexico through the fear of an entire absorption, or who wish that the idea of conquest should be absolutely renounced.

In case this last resolution should prevail in Congress we shall have to see an extravagant epilogue of that drama so daringly commenced but of which it may be said with Horace: *desinit in piscem mulier formosa superne.*

(*Courrier des Etats Unis.*)

Correspondence of the Journal of Commerce.

Washington, Jan. 4, 1848.

The Senate chamber was the centre of the universal attraction to-day. At an early hour the galleries and lobbies were thronged by strangers, some of whom had come a great distance to hear the sentiments, on the great question of the day, of that man who has more friends and fewer supporters than any statesmen in the country. Mr. Calhoun, as usual, rose without a solitary book or scrap of paper before him.

At one o'clock, Mr. Calhoun's resolutions in relation to the Mexican war were called up, and Mr. Calhoun proceeded to speak in their explanation and support. In offering these resolutions, he said, he had been governed by the same reasons that induced him to oppose the war. He did not mean to explain the reasons on which he acted on that occasion any further than was necessary to illustrate his reasons for his course on the present. He opposed the war as unnecessary, and because it would lead to evils hazardous to the welfare of the country. After the war was declared he gave his efforts such a direction as would mitigate its evils. At the last session he proposed the adoption of a line, and he was now actuated by the same motives. He had no personal aim in this matter, but he should speak his sentiments with the freedom of one who had nothing to ask for from any one. His sole object was to diminish the evil of this war. He had proposed a defensive line, and at a time when we had territory in possession sufficient to indemnify us, and it was territory unoccupied to any great extent. The President's policy was, however, pursued, and our arms had everywhere been successful. But what had been accomplished? Had the avowed object of the war being gained? Had we conquered a peace? Had we obtained indemnity? On the contrary, our difficulties had been increased. The blame was to rest somewhere, for this failure. It was not on the army. The object and plan of the war was a mistake. We did not take the right way to obtain indemnity. We had wasted blood and treasure, and all for no purpose at all. We had obtained nothing but military glory. He was not going into detail, but he argued that his defensive line would have cost but an inconsiderable sum. Texas alone, for seven years, defended her boundary from Mexico when Mexico was more powerful than now.

The proposition now was to prosecute the war with vigor. In this he could not support the policy of the President; the cost would be vast. We were to add thirty thousand troops to our force in Mexico, making the whole number 70,000; the campaign would not cost less than \$60,000,000. Last year, money poured into the treasury as well as out of it; now the treasury was to be drained. The drafts given in Mexico were cashed here, and off goes the money to Europe.—The U.S. stocks were below par. Treasury notes would be paid in, instead of specie, and no money would be left in the treasury. The great difficulty in carrying on the war, was in our finances—men we might get. A gentleman, well informed, had told him that money could not be borrowed by the government to the

extent of forty millions, that would be wanted, at a better rate than 90 per cent. Whether the war be successful or not, we cannot reach our object—to obtain a peace.

The more successful the war the more certain would be the defeat of our avowed object. We would be defeated by success. If we succeeded, where would be the nationality of Mexico? She would be blotted from the list of nations. She would be a mass of individuals, without a head. Her sovereignty would belong to us. The President speaks, of factions in Mexico, and says that the only course is to put them all down, and a new government is to grow up under the protection of our army, and with it we are to treat. He could not see how a free, independent republic could grow up under the support of military force. He had supposed that a free government must spring freely and spontaneously from the people. But the condition of the Mexican population did not allow of a free confederated government. The Priesthood was opposed to it. It would tumble down, as soon as we put it up. The mere shadow of a government now at Queretaro, could not, as officers of the army had assured him, make a stable peace. We should find ourselves in the situation of Great Britain as to Hindostan. The conquest of Hindostan, which we had always been censuring ever since he could remember, was not intended at first by Great Britain. It was the result of a mistaken policy. We go on, from step to step, till we find the conquest and occupation of the country a matter of necessity. After having conquered the country, at a vast expense, the argument and influence in favor of occupying it will be greater than ever. Vast interests in Mexico and at home will be found to be in favor of keeping possession. We shall have to maintain a large army to collect the proposed indemnities, and nothing that we could collect would pay the expenses of the army. This line of policy would lead to blotting out the national existence of Mexico. He would not do this, for the reasons stated in his resolution. It was contrary to the avowed object of the war. Every message had disavowed conquest as the object.

Such a policy would be an impeachment of our sincerity, after such repeated disavowals; or it would impeach our foresight of events.

Our army had won reputation, but it was confined to the army. The reputation of the country had suffered, for wisdom, justice, and discretion. To incorporate Mexico would be the first instance of incorporating a race of Indians. This was a government of white men,—a Caucasian government. The ruin of the Spanish and Mexican governments had been in their attempt to abolish all distinction of colors. The Portuguese had avoided this error, and were able to sustain a government. Were we to put on equal footing, as citizens, the mixed races of Mexico? The idea would not be tolerated. It would destroy this government.

But the conquest of Mexico would subvert this government. It would vastly increase the patronage of the Executive. It would convey all power to the Executive from the States.

It would give the Executive the means of conquering us. The Constitution could not stand the shock of struggles for the Executive power, when it was so increased. No free nation could maintain provinces in subjection. Great Britain was said to be an exception. That government had great capacity for conquest. But Great Britain had not escaped its consequences. She now felt the burden of her vast establishments, and was scarcely able to sustain them. He had often thought that in this way, only, could that empire come to an end.

In holding Mexico as a province, we should be subjected to vast expense. How long must we subject her as a province before she be fit for incorporation into the Union? Hundreds of years would not suffice. A portion of the Mexicans were of the old Castilian race, and had the highest sense of nationality, and would cherish it for ever. They were of the old Gothic race,—in some respects better than the Anglo-Saxon. The Indian races would never be fit for union with us.

Governments could not be established to order. No government had ever been established, except by the hand of Providence—by remarkable combinations of circumstances—such as enabled us to form our constitutions.

We did not hold liberty by patent from the Almighty. Formerly we talked of preserving our liberty, but now we talk only of increasing our military glory. We talked now of spreading our free institutions over the continent, imposing them by force on a people incapable of them.

There was, in Mr. C.'s opinion, not the smallest chance to disentangle ourselves from the difficulties we were in, except to take a defensive line, to take indemnity into our own hands.

When war was declared, he would have proposed, if time had been obtained, to limit our efforts to defence. He would now propose to fall back upon a line—he would not say what one. He would withdraw from the centre of Mexico. He would now be tied to a dead corpse. He would get rid of it.

Our policy was equity, forbearance, and justice. We must await events. We must avoid wars and conquest. This was not the first time he had raised his voice against war. He had the satisfaction of opposing the proposition of Gen. Jackson to issue letters of reprisal against France.

He warned gentlemen that, if they went on in this career of war and debt, they would seal the death warrant of the Constitution. Free trade would become but a mere name. High taxation of every kind would be inevitable. He appealed to his friends of the Administration side—for he considers them his friends—to retrace their steps. It would confer on them the highest honor. He appealed to gentlemen on the other side, who were to a great extent, in his opinion, responsible for this war,—not by voting to relieve Taylor, but by voting to get territory—which they refused to accept,—to take a different course—to agree to a defensive line. He should not now propose any thing, but, if he found he could be supported, he would propose to form a committee for the purpose of considering what would be the best defensive line,—and they would have the aid, in their consultation, of the officers of the army now fortunately in this city.

The Resolutions were then laid on the table, and the Senate went into extensive business.

ENGLAND AND BRAZIL.

We confess we cannot think Lord PALMERSTON'S reply to Mr. THORNELEY'S inquiry as to the present state of our commercial relations with Brazil at all satisfactory; for while the noble lord admits the substantial accuracy of the announcement lately made by the *Daily News*—viz., that the government of Brazil had refused to re-open negotiations for a new treaty of commerce with this country so long as the Slave Trade Act of 1846 be unrepealed—his lordship announced that her MAJESTY'S government had no intention of repealing that act, until Brazil again exchanged the right of search and of condemnation by Courts of Mixed Commission over ships engaged in the slave trade. Now, this announcement on the part of Lord PALMERSTON is equivalent to a declaration that there shall be no treaty of commerce between England and Brazil; for it is notorious that public opinion in that empire would not tolerate for an hour the existence of a cabinet which would conclude any negotiations with this country, so long as we persist in maintaining and carrying out an act that Brazilians believe to be inconsistent with public law, and with their national independence. The commercial interests connected with Brazil had, therefore, better look to what they were about in time. At present our commerce in Brazilian ports has not a single stipulation to protect it; it is literally at the mercy of Brazilian prejudices and of Brazilian judicial venality; its only safeguards are the strength of the British nation, and the pecuniary interest which the Brazilians, in common with the rest of mankind, have in honesty and fair dealing. Up to this time our commerce has not suffered greatly; but there are not wanting indications that it will have to undergo retaliatory measures. Already, it is reported, the Brazilian government have prepared a decree, imposing differential duties on the ships and goods of all countries with which they have not exchanged treaties of reciprocity; and as we have not now a commercial treaty of any sort with Brazil, we shall of course have to trade with that country on terms of great disadvantage after the promulgation of such a decree. And, as Brazil is our third, if not our second, best customer, the pecuniary consequences of Lord PALMERSTON'S announcement to our manufacturers and merchants may turn out to be very serious. The United States have, we believe, renewed their treaty with Brazil; and once let them fairly get possession of the Brazilian market for a few years, by means of preferential duties, and we shall find great difficulty in recovering our lost ground there—for we shall have to contend against American cuteness and Brazilian ill-will.

It is as inconsistent as it is provoking to see Lord PALMERSTON, who laughed to scorn the pretence of humanity when our trade with Brazil was risked by our sugar duties, now endangering that trade on a point of legal construction, involving the very same pretence of humanity. If there be a subject on which enlightened public opinion is more rapidly rising to unanimity than on any other, it is certainly on the proved inefficiency of our right of search treaties to suppress the slave trade. Member after

member has this session given notice of motion after notice of motion, all directed against the continuance of our present system; yet, in spite of these significant warnings of its coming abolition, here is Lord PALMERSTON persisting in its application, with all the fondness of a virgin love. The more the rest of the world is disgusted with it, the more Lord PALMERSTON appears to grow enamoured of it. But the existing difference between England and Brazil is not as to the efficiency or inefficiency of our system; it is the legality or illegality of its enforcement to Brazil. Brazil does not deny that she has contracted an engagement to suppress the slave trade with England; but she does deny that she has now given England any right to suppress it for her. She admits that she is bound to carry out the intention of the treaty of 1826 by Brazilian laws and Brazilian agency, but she protests against the intention of that treaty being carried out for her by English law and English force. She is resolved never to submit her independence to our legislation and our cruisers. And in this resolution she has the sympathy, and may in the long run find the support, of other nations. Why, asks Lord PALMERSTON, will not Brazil renew the right of search treaty, which has expired? Because, we reply, she had twenty years' experience of its uselessness to achieve its object—of the injustice that was practised on her rising commerce under its stipulations—and of the monstrous infractions which we made on its provisions. That treaty gave to the Courts of Mixed Commission the right to condemn vessels captured with slaves on board only; we extended, without the shadow of authority, that right, until we actually searched and seized Brazilian vessels in Brazilian waters; and refused apology or the expression of regret for the invasion of independent territory. Can we wonder that under such circumstances, and with the knowledge that the right of search has proved a total failure, and that it has been abandoned to France and the United States, Brazil should refuse to renew it? Why, so far from Brazil being obnoxious to reproach for this refusal, she ought to be thanked; for her refusal will, at last, force on the British legislature the reconsideration of a system which, though it has failed, is now costing this country upwards of one million pounds a year.—[*News.*]

ENGLAND.

Our National Defences.

The Earl of Ellesmere has published a letter on the inadequacy of our present military force for the purpose of resisting invasion by a foreign enemy. After glancing at the effect of steam navigation on warfare, he exposes the delusion propagated by Mr. Cobden and other professed economists, who press for a reduction of the expenditure of our army.

"Within a few days of the time I am writing, one who has acquired no inconsiderable influence over public opinion in this country, in an address to an important constituency, has held out to them the old and hackneyed delusion of the feasibility of making large reductions in the expenses of the army, navy, and Ordnance. The mere fact that such a topic can be so handled by a popular orator, before an applauding assembly, and once demonstrates the prevalence and intensity of the torpor with which a long peace and the absence of visible and conspicuous danger have benumbed the faculties of the nation.

"For the man who thus gives the weight of his authority to such dangerous delusions I entertain, in his character of political economist, a respect founded on accordance with his view, as well as on the acknowledged ability which he brings to their advocacy. With him I look forward with hope and confidence to the eventual consequences of that increase and multiplication of our commercial relations which he endeavours to promote. Can any man, however, be sanguine enough to suppose that these results, whatever their eventual value, will be arrived at *per saltum*, or imagine that, when attained, they will eradicate evil propensities, obliterate recollections of former national rivalries, or stifle every cause of fresh dissension? It is the failing of successful propagators of systems that they almost invariably ascribe universal as well as specific efficacy to the offspring of their invention, their talent, and their perseverance. This propensity has now led Mr. Cobden, while he gravely proposes to denude this country of the notoriously insufficient means of defence she now possesses, to descend from the station of a leader of

the intelligence of the people to that of a representative of its ignorance.

"There are two modes of refutation or consolation by which Mr. Cobden, and the disciples who cheer to the echo of the dangerous doctrine he has uttered, may endeavour to soothe the apprehensions or confute the predictions of Cassandras like myself. They may hold that the attempt at an invasion of these islands is either absolutely impossible, or too improbable to be admitted into calculation; or, secondly, that, if attempted, this country has already the means to frustrate and chastise such attempt. The first mode appears to be that adopted by Mr. Cobden; the second no person of any authority has yet been rash or ignorant enough to maintain.

"Mr. Cobden's opinion on the naval and military question of the possibility of the landing of an invading force in this country being worth as much as mine would be on the merits of a new moriant for printing calicoes, time would merely be wasted in its discussion. The possibility of such an operation rests upon authority entitled to as much weight as human authority can claim. The probability of such an attempt is certainly one of those political questions which defy exact calculation, and which afford no data to the actuary. The expediency of effecting an insurance, and the amount of sacrifice to be incurred for that purpose, are to be measured rather by the magnitude and value of the stake than by the probability of the occurrence. That stake is neither more nor less than our capital, our arsenals, our lives, our property, our wives, our children, which I, for one, believe a few hours might, in our present state of military preparation, place at the mercy of an unscrupulous and resentful enemy. I do not believe that it would be impossible, in our present state of preparation, for a French minister of war, favoured by circumstances, to land on British ground, a force sufficient in numbers, discipline, and equipment to march along the turnpike roads of England."

The noble lord is of opinion that the French people entertain mingled feelings of contempt and hatred towards the people of England; and that the mass of the French nation—he excludes its monarch, its statesmen, and its philosophers—is desirous of an opportunity to strike a blow, the doublet the better, at the vitals of England. With time for England to waken her dormant power, and to collect the inert elements of strength and resistance she possesses, he would not dread the result of a contest against the world; but his fear is for surprise, and surprise alone. He considers that the present condition of our defences presents a direct and positive invitation to an attempt at sudden invasion; and that a wise economy would deter us from incurring the risk of having to do in haste, and at the enormous expense, that which should be done at leisure and with reflection. He recommends first a sufficient increase to our regular army, especially in the artillery; next, a re-organization of our militia, and the encouragement of yeomanry cavalry; and last, the fortification of our arsenals and such harbours as an enemy might most probably attempt to seize by surprise. In conclusion, he says, it will be found that all this may be done at an expense scarcely equal to what has been annually lavished, not for the suppression, but for the aggravation of the slave trade; and we should have some security for the continuance of peace unpurchased by the sacrifice of national honour or interests.—[*Britannia*]

SPAIN.

Espartero—Debate in the Spanish Cortes.

The debate which took place on the 16th in congress was by far the most important which has occurred since the opening of the session. A motion had been signed by Sagasti, San Miguel, Lujan, and other leading members of the opposition, for an official list of the payments made by the treasury of the Havannah since 1844 to government orders, and of the persons in favour of whom such orders had been given. This was the signal for a tremendous party-battle. Sagasti's motion being aimed at the Queen-mother, the majority rushed to the defence of their idol, assailing the Duke of Victoria by way of retaliation. So, under these two names, as standard-bearers, the conflicting hosts fell to work, tooth and nail, keeping up the combat till half-past eight—three hours beyond the usual time—when a strong craving for dinner making itself generally felt, and hostilities flagging as stomachs grew imperious, the house divided: for the motion, the votes were 29; against it 141.

Senor Sagasti, after prefacing his matter with remarks upon the sacredness of the obligation, under all representative monarchies, contracted by the government to present a public statement of the

expenditure of the nation, keeping no item back, but faithfully entering into details, without mystery, proceeded to observe that he had lately read much in the newspapers about sums which had been paid by way of arrears to the widow of Ferdinand VII., now Duchess of Rianzares and Monmorot; also, of a considerable sum that had been entrusted to the Spanish representative at Mexico, for the purpose of establishing a monarchy in that republic; also, of 12 millions that had been spent upon the unfortunate expedition to Ecuador. If the documents for which he called accredited the delivery of the sums mentioned to the Duchess of Rianzares, he would like to know what right any minister had to dispose of sums which were not set down in the estimates? Was the money to be given to her as being the widow of Ferdinand VII.? Everybody knew that that illustrious lady had contracted a second marriage. Was it as queen-regent and gobernadora of Spain? But she had voluntarily renounced the regency in 1840. In bringing forward this motion he wanted to see whether the majority were actuated by the morality to which they pretended, or by a spirit of vengeance, in calling for documents upon which to found an accusation against the two preceding ministries.—Bertran de Lis, Minister of Marine, said the government had no objection to Señor Sagasti's motion being taken into consideration by the house.

It being agreed by congress that the motion should not pass to the sections, the debate opening, Mon left the president's chair to take his seat among the deputies on the right, and Rios Rosas, vice-president, took his place.—Bertran de Lis admitted that, by a decree of '44, the Queen Mother's pension had been re-established; and the arrears of the pension, from the time when it was suspended by the Regent Duke of Victoria, had been paid up. What right had the regent to suspend the pension? It was not only illegal to do so; it was an infraction of an article of the constitution. The arrears had been paid out of the Havannah treasury. Nothing was more just or proper. The Duke of Victoria's arrears had been lately paid also. The government would oppose the motion, as disrespectful to the throne and inexpedient for the nation.

Then Mon rose. He read the decree of the Regent, by which the pension of Christina had been suspended, and taxed the Duke of Victoria with ingratitude for robbing his benefactor, who had covered him with honours. (The noise was tremendous at this part of Senor Mon's speech.) He made an elegant eulogy of his financial administration; and denied that a single penny had been given by the government towards the Ecuador expedition of General Flores.

Sagasti returned to the charge, saying that the Queen-mother had been abundantly recompensed for the services which she had rendered to the state by the blood which had been shed in defence of her daughter's throne. (The uproar here was tremendous. All the deputies stood up and demanded the right of speaking at the same time. The hon. deputy's words were taken down by the secretaries.) Sagasti, after a hearing had been obtained, proceeded. There was a document in a certain ministerial office which he wanted to see, in which the motives for suspending the pension of Donna Maria Christina had been consigned.—Senor Sagasti then explained his words, which had been taken down, which, so far from being disrespectful, were in the highest degree decorous; and he was as ready as anybody to shed his blood for the Queen and the Queen's mother. Concerning the conduct of Gen. Espartero while he was at the head of the army, he had been minister during the time; and during all that period he had observed that ministries had been set up and pulled down at his nod, and the most important arrangements of the government had been entirely subjected to him, and altered according to his fancy.

Bravo Murillo, in a most servile speech, which reminded his hearers that he had been a friar, lauded to the skies the Queen-Mother, and promised the government's strenuous opposition to the inquiry proposed.

Sagasti, after explaining the words of his speech which had caused so much disorder, offered to withdraw his motion. But congress agreed to go on with the debate, each party being in a high state of excitement.

Pidal spoke next. He used Espartero worse than any of his predecessors; but his speech was manly and straightforward. No doubt he said the regent and his ministers had acted illegally and unconstitutionally in suspending a pension which was consecrated in the marriage capitulations of Christina with Fernando VII. The regent was said to be irresponsible as the Queen. That was not true. But was not the mother of the Queen an irrespon-

sible person! And what served her responsibility before the man whom the minority proposed to them as a model? How did he behave towards the mother of the Queen? Why, being at the head of all the armies of Spain, the commander of even the royal guard, he allowed a miserable mob of 300 ruffians to tear from her side the ministers who possessed the confidence of the crown and parliament. And when the Queen called upon this general for succor he refused it. This general refused to obey his Queen. He did more. He printed his refusal: he distributed his printed refusal over all Spain to inflame the people. He was at a loss to account for the hostility which Señor Sagasti had shown now, and in preceding parliaments, against the Queen-Mother. The resentment of the opposition had gone to the length that they deprived her of the title of Reina-Gobernadora, calling her by names of inferior rank—a poor and unworthy mode of showing spite. They could not, by suppressing her title, wipe out the remembrance of her benefits.

Señor Infante spoke next, and was replied to by the Duke of Valencia, who, in answer to an expression which had fallen from the last speaker, that, in the Duke of Victoria's place, any general would have acted in the way he had done, said that that general had no right whatever to intermeddle in public affairs, failing in discipline and subverting the order which ought to prevail.

After a rejoinder from Infante, Mon (speaking in rectification) said that Signor Sagasti had mentioned a secret document drawn up with the purpose of justifying the suspension of the Queen-Mother's pension. Such a document, if it had been drawn up, which he believed it had not, ought to have been presented to the Cortes, since any secrecy or mystery concerning personages of such high dignity was highly improper.

The Duke of Sotomayor said that in the Foreign office there was no such document as had been mentioned by Señores Sagasti and Infante.

After a speech from Señor Rubio, Señor Lujan said he was sorry to perceive the disposition that reigned among the deputies opposite to stifle the voice of the minority. He had signed the motion with the best faith in the world. The house knew that the budget of Cuba was not presented before congress. It was of the highest importance to the public to know what became of the considerable revenues of that island, and of the Philippines. Therefore, under a preceding government (that of Señor Mon), he had asserted the right of the nation to look into those accounts. He regretted that the question had been transferred to a purely personal ground.

Señor Arrazola said that if he were the Duke of Victoria he should look twice before coming to Spain, and entered into some explanations in answer to Infante and Lujan, speaking with much passion. When he sat down the house proceeded to divide.

PRUSSIA.

ACTION TO RECOVER A LATE SOVEREIGN STATE OF GERMANY.—An important case was submitted on the 17th of December to the Civil Tribunal of Munster, in Prussia, being nothing less than an action to recover a principality which, forty years ago, was one of the sovereign states of Germany. Prince Frederick IV. of Salm-Kyrburg demanded that Prince Alfred Constantine of Salm-Salm should be obliged to give up all his possessions, consisting in the two provinces of Ahold and Bouchaus, to which he succeeded in August last. Prince Frederick based his demand on the fact that Prince Alfred is the issue of a marriage which his father, Prince Alfred Florentine, contracted in 1810 with Mlle. Rossi, of Ajaccio, niece of Napoleon, such marriage being a misalliance, and in consequence thereof he contended that all the territory forming the principality of Salm-Salm ought, by virtue of the laws of the old German empire, to pass to him, as the only legitimate heir. To this the Prince of Salm-Salm replied, that at the period at which his father married Mlle. Rossi he was a member of the Confederation of the Rhine; that, consequently, he was married according to the French civil code, which establishes equality of rights for all, without distinction of birth and rank; and that, therefore, the laws of the old German empire were not applicable to the case. The Prince of Salm-Salm further contended that, even if the marriage of his father should be consideredmorganatic, the principality could not be inherited by Prince Frederick, his opponent, for that he himself had married a lady who is not noble, Mlle. Prevot, of Bourdeaux, daughter of a simple French citizen; and that, consequently, according to the laws which he had himself invoked, he could have no right to possess the principality of Salm-Salm,

nor even that of Salm-Kyrburg, of which he calls himself the proprietor. The tribunal held the first answer presented on behalf of the Prince of Salm-Salm to be sufficient, and, accordingly, dismissed the application of the Prince of Salm-Kyrburg, condemning him to pay the costs. The Prince of Salm-Kyrburg immediately appealed against this decision to the High Court of Appeal of Munster.

MARINE LIST.

PORT OF BUENOS AYRES.

March 18.—Wind S. E., fresh much rain. No arrivals or sailings.

March 19.—Wind S. E. No arrivals or sailings.

March 20.—Wind S. E. No arrivals or sailings.

March 21.—Wind S. E.

Arrived, Sardinian schooner of war Niña, Lieut. Riboty, from Montevideo 20th inst. Passengers, Messieurs George Dowse, lady, 3 children and servant, John Bayley, Alexander Rodger, Joseph Green, James Wilde and lady, Hubert Bechem, Henry Lafourcade, John Selton, Bernard Ray, Joseph Esler, Joseph Carheim, William Lange Daniel Perez, Zenon Garcia de Zuniga, Delfino Huergo, Rafael del Sar, Santiago Coquet, Mariano Castel, Rafael Costa, Felipe Miguez, Gerónimo Riso, Luis Riso, Miguel Gambetta, Angel Croce, Carlos Croce, Felipe Viera de Silva, Sebastian Chairino, Francisco Amier, Luis Fidanza, José Reibernal, Geronimo Carroni, Antonio Ysnardi, Angel Baaraco, José Parodi and lady, Felix Furin, Juan Bautista Balbi, Antonio Piri, José Boquet, Maximiliano, José Pereira, Domingo Maceio, Juan Bujean, Domingo Magallanes, Francisco Borel—Mesdames Josefa Porra, 3 children and servant, Maria Marchena and 3 children, Jane Farrell, Sarah Mannix, Josefa Tarragona and 2 children, Rosalia Pita, Nicolasa Roldan, Elvina Fidanza and 2 children, Dolores Torres, Maria Braditzi, Mariana Laserre, Prudencia Blanco and 3 children, Francisca Peña, Julia Budises and daughter, Rosa Rainella and Josefa Bellosa, daughter, and servant.

March 22.—Wind S. No arrivals or sailings.

March 23.—Wind S. S. E. Arrived, H. B. M. steam sloop Alcega, Commander Vincent A. Massingberd, from Montevideo 22nd inst., at 5 p. m. Passenger, Mr. Henry A. Green.

March 24.—Wind N. Arrived, Brazilian barque Berenice, 16 guns, Lieut. Mancebo, from Montevideo 22nd inst. Passengers, Messieurs Charles Bunge, Augustus Storp, Henry Ochoa and Miss J. Ochoa. French brig of war Malouine, 4 guns, Lieut. R. de Resencourt, from Montevideo 21st inst., Salado 22nd, Ensenada this day.

This vessel after communicating with the Chimere and Alsacienne sailed in the direction for Colonia.

ARRIVALS AT MONTEVIDEO.

March 15. Brazilian brig Florencia, 123 tons, J. J. da Motta, from Rio Janeiro 28th January, Santos 20th February, to Diego Calvo & Sons.

Brazilian schooner San Manuel, 26 tons, Pedro de Oliveira, from Rio Grande 8th, to Albani & Co.

March 16. Brazilian brig Desiderio, 127 tons, Francisco Machado, from Rio Grande 12th inst., to order.

Danish brig Emile, 138 tons, M. Olsen, from Rio Grande 12th inst., to Frers & Co.

Brazilian brigantine Baron de Caxias, 123 tons, Antonio G. Viana, from Parnaguá 26th February, to Ennes & Co.

March 17. Brazilian brigantine of war Andorinha, from Rio Janeiro 4th inst.

British brig Catherine, 194 tons, J. Drisdale, from Glasgow 1st December, to Rennie, Macfarlane & Co.

Oriental schooner Irene, 45 tons, Chiesa Nova, from Rio Grande, to order.

French barque Joinville, 208 tons, Noe, from Marseilles 3rd January, to P. Duplessis.

March 18. H. B. M. frigate Leucanast, 36 guns, Captain Shepherd, with the Honourable Mr. Gore on board, from Rio Janeiro 9th inst.

March 19. Sardinian zamaca Margherita, 45 tons, M. Pittis, from Genoa 10th December, to M. Gradin.

Hamburg schooner Carl Heinrich, 146 tons, Hamschild, from Rio Grande 16th, to Bunge, Hutz & Co.

March 19. French steam frigate Magellan, 14 guns, Capt. Pennaud, from Toulon 21st January, Cadiz 2nd February, Rio Janeiro 14th March, with Baron Gros on board.

March 20. Brazilian brigantine of war Olinda, from Rio Janeiro 12th inst.

American ship B. Aymar, 435 tons, B. Carrer, from New York 10th January, to Zimmermann, Frazier & Co.

Spanish brig Primero de Mayo, 176 tons, José Antonio Munitategui, from Havana 7th December, to Bunge, Hutz & Co.

SAILED FROM MONTEVIDEO March 20. Danish brig Emile, Olsen, for Rio Grande.

March 22. U. S. frigate Brandywine, 44 guns, bearing the flag of Commodore Storer, for Rio Janeiro.

FOREIGN VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT. BRITISH—Steam sloop Alcega, Commander Vincent A. Massingberd.

FRENCH—Steam sloop Chimere, 6 guns, Lieut. Poudria. Brig Alsacienne, 4 guns, Lieut. Fournier.

SARDINIAN—Schooner Niña, Lieut. Riboty.

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

Saturday.....70 Sunday.....68 Monday.....64 Tuesday.....65 Wednesday.....70 Thursday.....68 Friday.....69

Blockade of the Port of Buenos Ayres. March 20. A schooner which was taken when attempting to enter the port on the 15th was this day allowed to do so.

March 24. A whale boat taken by the blockaders on the 27th ult., and subsequently armed and used by them for cruising off this port, was this day, by an order from Admiral Leprudour to that effect, delivered to the owner.

This day (25th inst.) completes the 914th day of the blockade.

BIRTH. On the 20th inst., the lady of George C. Deetjen, Esq., of a daughter.

DIED. On the 16th inst., aged 44 years, Mr. THOMAS HARDY, a native of Rochdale, Lancashire.

PRICES CURRENT.

	£	\$	
Doublons, Spanish.....	312	4 320	each
Do. Patriot.....	317	4 318	do.
Plata, macuquina.....	18		do. for one
Dollars, Spanish & Patacones	19 1/2	20	each.
Do. Patriot.....	19	19 1/2	do.
Six per cent. Stock.....			at par
Exchange on England.....	no transac.		per doubloon
Do. France.....	no transac.		per doubloon,
Do. Rio Janeiro.....	34	4	per cent. prem.
Do. Montevideo.....	14	2	per cent. prem.
Do. United States.....	19	20	per dollar.
Hides, matadero or saladero	56	58	per pesada
descarado 27 a 28 lbs. ea.			
Do. matadero, country	45	55	do.
25 a 29 lbs.....			
Do. Spain.....	41	42	do.
Do. North America	31	42	do.
Do. of all staks.....	40	45	do.
Do. salted ox.....	41	44	do.
Do. cow.....	35	39	do.
Horse hides salted.....	39	41	do. each
Do. do. dry.....	18	30	do.
Calf skins from 3 to 12 lbs.	40	43	per pesada
Sheep skins washed, fine	20	31	per dozen
and ordinary.....			
Goat skins.....	without price		
Waxia skins.....	do.		
Horse hair, mixed.....	65	75	per arroba
Do. short.....	58	62	do.
Do. long, 18 to 24 in.	110	140	dol. per arroba
Wool, ordinary, washed.....	32	54	do.
Do. do. dirty.....	10	11	do.
Do. mesta, washed.....	25	35	do.
Do. do. dirty.....	14	20	do.
Do. fine washed.....	40	50	do.
Do. do. dirty.....	20	35	do.
Tallow, mactacera, raw.....	23	24	do.
Do. do. melted 1st class	33	35	do.
Do. pure, second class.....	32	33	do.
Grease and tallow.....	27	28	do.
Jerked beef.....	45	46	per quintal.
Horns, Ox.....	550	600	per thousand
Do. cow.....	160	200	do.
Ostrich feathers, long black.....	8	8 1/2	per lb.
Salted tongues.....	10	11	per dozen
Hide cuttings.....	10	11	per quintal
Shin bones.....	without price		
Salt, on board.....	new.		per fanega
Discount.....	1 1/2	2 1/2	per cent. man.

The highest price of Doublons during the week 320 dollars. The lowest price 310 dollars. The highest rate of Exchange upon England during the week, no transactions. The lowest do.

GEO. GEE THOMAS, Responsible Editor.