

British Packet

AND

ARGENTINE NEWS.

(No. 1128.)

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, APRIL 8th, 1848.

(Established in 1826.)

BUENOS AYRES.

WE have accounts from Montevideo to the 3rd inst. The greatest reserve continued to attend the negotiations which were still going on between the British and French Envoys and President Oribe. Meanwhile, there had been no suspension or relaxation of hostilities between the besieged and the besiegers. On the contrary, a smart skirmish is stated to have taken place on Sunday last, in which the Cerro and the purloined Argentine brig now called *Cagancha* were engaged.

State of Montevideo on the arrival of the new Commissioners from Europe.

The Montevideo correspondent of the *Defensor de la Independencia Americana* writes to us as follows:—

As you are already aware, the *soi-disant* government called together the foreign agents to lay before them the distressed situation in which it was placed, and to state that, although it considered it had a right to employ strong measures to extricate itself therefrom, it wished to avoid them; but that it could not answer for public security unless it were furnished with the resources it stood in need of, that is to say, unless it were allowed to resort to a forced loan of fifty thousand dollars, the greater part, or rather the whole, of which—as there are no natives here to contribute—would fall upon the foreigners they represented. The Spanish Consul suggested that the government should address the agents officially in order to enable them to deliberate, and his colleagues acquiescing the meeting was adjourned to 7 o'clock in the evening at the residence of the Brazilian Chargé d'Affaires, as senior member of the body.

Meanwhile Herrera Obes' threat produced no good effect, among certain agents at least. Mr. Hamilton, the U. S. Consul, is said to have expressed his opinion very energetically on the subject. The view taken of this question by the American government has been duly carried out on this occasion by its representative in Montevideo, for he said he would not only maintain the neutrality which was observed by his fellow-citizens, in not taking part in acts which should favour, as was sought now, one of the belligerents, but that if the Montevideo government attacked any of the North American houses established in Montevideo, although he had not sufficient force to defend them, he would consider the case as one of public robbery, and hold the French Government as the ally of, and the only one which upholds, that of Montevideo, responsible.

Devoize replied to this that France was only the protectress of that government, and even that same he did not know whether she would be so much longer—that the new envoy from home would soon arrive and he should then know how to act. But in the midst of his excuses the French Consul revealed a project as paltry and ridiculous as it is criminal. He said he had been waited upon by some persons who proposed to give in company two hundred thousand dollars on the custom-house revenue, but that he was unaware of the bases. Probably all this was a mere hoax, for if such a proposition really existed, it could only come from the French agent himself, with money from his government, under the cloak of a private speculation. At all events everybody understood the plan, and Devoize has had the mortification of knowing and feeling it.

The foreign agents have had several meetings, without producing any relief to the intrusive government. At these meetings there have been two opinions: the French and Spanish Consuls admitted in the first—of course unduly—that this anomalous government has the right to take provisions wherever it finds them, provided it acknowledges the amount. They supported their opinions with instances and quotations which I can not repeat, but which could be applicable only in the case of this monstrous administration being recognized as a regular government—a thing which as yet has been too problematical for the foreign agents, for the structure is clearly baseless. In opposition to the abovementioned opinion the American, Danish, Sardinian and other Consuls loudly protested against exaction which should be made on their fellow-countrymen, making the French government responsible for all the consequences which might be entailed by the measure which the so-called government had in contemplation.

It has been said that the British Consul refused to attend any of these meetings. At the one which was held yesterday the French Consul did not make his appearance, for after reflecting well on the case he excused himself on the plea of "his belligerent position." The Brazilian did not attend either, being also of opinion that he was not authorized by his government to enter upon questions of this nature.

This was the state of things when Mr. Gore arrived last evening.

Yesterday the intrusive government was out of flour. It sent an adjutant to the house of Southgate & Co., requesting in its name a supply of the article to the amount of 3000 dollars. The head of the house resolutely refused to deliver without the money. Upon this the so-called government threatened him with the employment of force, and with this view ordered a party of thirty men to be brought to the fort from *extra-muros*. Although I say the house was Southgate & Co's, I will not be positive; but I know it was an American house that was so scandalously threatened.

I will cite you a fact characteristic of M. Devoize. At the meetings which took place a few days since, this gentleman asked Herrera Obes whether in convoking the Montevideo merchants he had done so with the French. Herrera told him he had called no French merchants, but only those of other nations. Devoize then mentioned the name of M. Duplessis, assuring him that through this gentleman's mediation it was probable he would obtain his request (50,000 dollars) from the French mercantile body and residents. The comical minister took the hint and sent for M. Duplessis, but this gentleman had the good sense not only to refuse to give anything himself, but much less to contribute to fleece others; and learning subsequently that the suggestion came from M. Devoize, he sent M. Faucon, a partner in the house, to expostulate with him on the impropriety of his conduct. This fact needs no comment.

M. Devoize in one of his generous whims, which are rare, and cost nothing, had offered his dear friends, the ruthless Unitarians, Don Joaquin and Herrera Obes, to take upon himself the support of the French legion until the arrival of the new Agents. Fortunately, that arrival has checked this quixotic freak, and saved the French tax-payers some franks.

Since the arrival of the Envoys, the question of the forced loan has ceased to be agitated; but among other measures adopted by the intrusive government to replenish its coffers, is an indirect war tax in the shape of an impost of six dollars on every barrel of flour used for public consumption.

Late advices from the interior confirm the report we mentioned some weeks since of a change of administration having taken place in Bolivia. In October last a revolution broke out, proclaiming the restoration of General Velasco as President and the re-establishment of the constitution of 1839. General Ballivian succeeded at first in crushing the movement, but a defection of his troops having subsequently occurred, he was compelled to abdicate and quit the country. Guirarte, to whom he delegated the command, has also, we believe, been constrained to resign. General Velasco has returned to that Republic, but we are not aware whether he has yet been re-installed.

LETTERS FROM LA PLATA.

No. 4 of a series written by an American resident. To such hard knocks has England exposed herself by her fatal French connexion in the River Plate.

To the Hon. James Buchanan,
Secretary of State of the United States.

Sir,—The present situation of the Republics of South America is one of unusual interest, and cannot fail to secure the sympathy of every statesman who watches with solicitude the progress of Republican institutions, and the onward march of the human mind towards that great political desideratum—self government. We behold two powerful nations of Europe associated to check the advancement of a rising Republic of America, lying aside for a time that jealousy of each other's movements which has distinguished them, taking sweet counsel together, and uniting with apparent cordiality in the most unjustifiable measures to accomplish their ambitious designs. On the one hand we find a series of aggressions, a forcible conquest of acknowledged foreign territory, a profuse shedding of human life and actual state of offensive war, while on the other there is a dignified stand in maintaining their national honor and merely a defensive firmness in vindication of their independent sovereignty. No one can impartially witness the course which has been pursued by England and France towards the Argentine Confederation without being impressed with the conviction that the European powers have violated every principle of justice and humanity, have trampled upon recognized international law, and future ages will brand their iniquitous proceedings with the condemnation which attaches to national as well as individual dishonor, and do ample justice to the unflinching moral courage of the master mind which has so successfully maintained the Argentine integrity and independence against their combined and powerful assaults. The forcible seizure of the Buenos Ayrean island of Martin Garcia within the very heart of its territory, is but a continuation of the piratical course which England has pursued for centuries in her foreign conquests. The Canadas, Acadia, the British West Indies, the Cape of Good Hope, Ceylon, and her depredation in India are full of similar incidents of gross injustice in her march of grasping ambition. The time, however, has now arrived when the question is to be seriously considered—How far European influence shall be permitted to intermeddle in American politics?

England with her overbearing arrogance, may, with her unquestionable power unsettle European thrones and interfere in their internal politics if the neighbouring nations do not interpose, but when she crosses the Atlantic forcibly to dictate European policy to American States, it behoves the whole continent to rise as one man and check her presumptuous interference. She has put forth the plea of disinterestedness in her intervention in the Rio de la Plata, and would wish the world to believe that her proceedings are governed by the humane object of checking the effusion of human blood.

How long, may I ask, has this sensitiveness for the protection of human life existed, and who made England the great moral governor of the world? When Poland was nobly struggling for her national existence, when her sons were performing deeds of valour in defence of their homes and firesides which recalled to the imagination the days of chivalry and romance, when a single foreign arm held out for her deliverance would have preserved a brave and distinguished nation from extinction, when her plains were covered with the dead and dying, and her rivers red with the carnage, where was the sympathy of England for suffering humanity and her pretended horror of the sight of human blood? She was busy in her piratical course of foreign conquest and shedding seas of unoffending blood in her grasping career. And yet England, forsooth, that has inflicted more misery upon the world by her sanguinary battles, and that has forcibly and unjustly wrested more territory from her powerless neighbours than all other nations of Christendom united, would now affectively startle at the sight of suffering humanity, and gravely ask the world to give her credit for sincerity. "Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in Ascalon."

To you, Sir, as the head of the diplomatic department of the government, the present position in which the intrusive intervention of these European powers have placed the Argentine Confederation and the injury which it inflicts upon our commerce is of immense importance. It is a principle of international law which cannot be controverted, that a blockade of any foreign port, to be recognized and respected by the commercial world, must not only be effectual but substantially impartial in its operation. Neither of these particulars govern the obstructions to the trade of La Plata. England and France it is well known have established and sustain the present assumed government in Montevideo, and all their influence is exerted to promote its temporary interests at the sacrifice of just considerations and to the exclusion of its lawfully constituted and legitimate government. Any measure which will probably benefit that city and relieve its usurped administration from its embarrassments is encouraged, however injuriously it may operate upon other interests. The writer of these remarks has seen upwards of twenty sail leave the harbour of Buenos Ayres in company and within sight of the blockading squadron destined for Montevideo, without any movement to check their course, simply because the commerce would benefit the latter city which they had undertaken to sustain. Day after day is this proceeding encouraged and yet we are told that the port of Buenos Ayres is under strict blockade. North American commerce is unjustly harrassed, the regular maritime operations fettered, while a contraband trade is encouraged to benefit their favourite usurped government of Montevideo.

I am not Quixotic enough to advocate the interference of the United States in behalf of every government of this Continent solely because it is American. But I do contend that we have a right to defend our commerce against unjust and iniquitous restrictions, and that every consideration of justice, humanity and interest requires that we should boldly interfere in maintaining the principles of our own government when assailed by European oppression of a sister Republic. The blockade of Buenos Ayres is indefensible in consideration of the real motives which have induced it, and still more so from the partial manner in which it is executed, while the whole proceeding of England and France in their forcible mediation of the affairs of the La Plata call for their condemnation from every one who respects the cause of integrity and truth, and should secure the co-operation of American Patriots in defending American Republicanism from the intrigues and assaults of European power. The emphatic warning of our beloved Washington applies with peculiar force to this subject and I commend the sentiment to the especial consideration of my countrymen. "Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake."

VERITAS.

THE LATE EMPRESS MARIA LOUISA.

(Concluded.)

Maria Louisa's time at Schoenbrunn was passed in superintending the education of her son, in music, drawing, and the study of the Italian language; a proficiency which she would find requisite in the government of her new states. In the afternoon she rode on horseback, and surveyed with interest and pleasure the improvements and alterations carrying out in the imperial gardens and domains.

A letter from General Bertrand, bearing date the 25th April, 1814, and addressed to M. de Menneval, who, as it has been heretofore observed, continued attached to the service of Maria Louisa, may here find place:

"Your letter reaches me just as we are on the point of embarking for the Island of Elba. The wind is fair, and we hope to arrive in two days. Our journey has been sad enough, as you may well suppose. As we passed through France, the emperor received tokens of regret and respect, but in Provence we found ourselves exposed to insults, fortunately unaccompanied by any serious consequences.

"You may imagine that we are very desirous the empress should divide her residence between Parma and the Isle of Elba. Such a decision would be of immense importance to the emperor and ourselves, we should be so delighted to behold her occasionally, and she was so kind to my wife and myself, that I more than any one else desire it. Be good enough to lay at her feet the expression of my respect and devotion. The emperor has been well in health, notwithstanding the trying position in which he has found himself placed for a month past. He has entrusted his answer to the empress's last letter to the aide-de-camp of General Schowwaloff, who is on his way to join the Emperor of Austria. I send this letter by the courier, that you may be speedily informed that one from the emperor is on its road. You will be hardly able to read this, but I am so hurried, and my heart is so full, that I scarcely know what I am writing."

In July, 1814, the ex-empress undertook, with the consent of her father, a journey to the baths of Aix in Savoie. She travelled under the name of Duchess of Colorno, and left her son at Schoenbrunn. During this summer excursion, she took great pleasure in exploring the romantic scenery of Chamoury, and employed the Count de Menneval in writing a poetical relation of her rambles in search of the picturesque. During her stay at Aix, Maria Louisa for the second time beheld General Niepperg, who was destined thereafter to occupy so conspicuous a place in her household. Her first impressions of him were unfavourable. His personal advantages were indeed not very remarkable. He was forty-two years old, had lost the sight of one eye, and wore a black band over the wound which had caused that mischief; but this disfigurement was not altogether at variance with a decidedly military air and face. He had light hair, a lively glance of his remaining eye, features of ordinary mould, and a complexion tanned and impaired by the fatigues of war. His figure was good, and presented itself to advantage in his Hungarian uniform. He was a man of reserved and circumspect disposition, but his manners were polished and insinuating; he expressed himself and wrote with elegance, and was an accomplished musician. Quick at discovering the designs of others, he had the art of concealing his own beneath an appearance of amiable simplicity. Ambitious and vain, he contrived to win the reputation of exceeding modesty, by never speaking of himself. Numerous wounds had attested his courage in the battle field. Such was the person whose fortune it eventually was to win the affections of the ex-empress. At this epoch, however, she accorded him only the most formal audiences, for she had not yet been thoroughly weaned from her French predilections.

Extracts from letters written by Maria Louisa during her stay in Savoie, to the Baron de Menneval, who had gone to visit his family in France, will furnish specimens of her epistolary style and matter.

"With regard to my future lot, I am still in a state of cruel uncertainty. I wrote to my father by M. de Karaczai, to ask his authority for my establishing myself at Parma by the 10th of September at latest. Will he grant it to me? I fear not. If my misgivings should prove groundless, I will let you know immediately. If the emperor's answer be in the negative, I cannot make up my mind to return to Vienna before the departure of the sovereigns, and I shall try at once to gain possession of my son. I will settle myself at Geneva or Parma, pending the Congress, for I cannot prolong my stay here beyond the bathing season. I cannot express how impatiently I await your answer, and I treat you to aid my determinations by your counsels. Do not be afraid of telling me the truth.

"I have just received a letter from the emperor at the Isle of Elba, dated the 4th of July. He wishes me not to go to Aix, but to visit the waters in Tuscany. I will write about it to my father. You know how desirous I am to comply with the emperor's wishes, but can I do so in opposition to

those of my father? I send you a letter from Porto Ferralo; I have been much tempted to open it, but hope that you will send me any details which it may contain. I thank you for those you have already sent me; I needed them much, for I had been without news for a long time. I am altogether in a very unfortunate and critical position, requiring the utmost prudence on my part. My head is at times so bewildered, that I fancy my best course would be to die.....

"My health is pretty good. I have taken my tenth bath. The waters would benefit me if my mind were more at ease, but I cannot rest content under circumstances of so much uncertainty. I rejoice in the notion of your speedy return, for my poor head sadly needs some of your calm reasonings.....

"My son is perfectly well, and from what I hear grows every day more attractive. I long to behold that poor child again!....

"I have not yet received any answer to my last letter from my father. It is a long and painful state of suspense. I have sinister forebodings, but this is one of my black days, and perhaps I am mistaken. How can I be gay on the 15th, condemned to pass that solemn festival away from the two beings dearest to me! I beg pardon for intruding my gloomy thoughts upon you, but the interest and friendship you have always evinced in my regard, embolden me to do so, upon condition, however, that you will tell me when I trouble you.

"Believe in my very sincere friendship,

"Signed Louisa."

"I send you the copy of a letter from Prince Metternich, which will impart to you the news brought me by M. de Karaczai. I am very miserable at the idea of being compelled to return to Vienna, particularly as they give no good reason for my doing so. I do not intend to arrive there till the end of September or the beginning of October, and shall stop on the way a week at Geneva and a fortnight at Berne. If you are willing to share my exile, however painful I know the sacrifice must be for you, I am too selfish not to wish for it. I need your good advice and friendly conversation. You know the confidence I repose in you, and one of the projects in which I take the most pleasure, is to retain you near me.

15th August, 1814.

"I have received your letter of the 12th of this month, and I am glad to find that my communications at times reach you. You will doubtless have got the one in which I told you of the unsatisfactory answer I had received from my father. I am deeply moved by your expressed determination to follow my fortunes. I am greatly in want of your good counsels, and shall now stand in greater need of them than ever. I hope, therefore, very soon to see you.....

"I sent a letter to my father, and to Prince Metternich also. I made some fine speeches to the latter upon the confidence I reposed in him, especially dwelt on the satisfaction I derived from the promise made me of being permitted to proceed to Parma....

"I have received news from the emperor, dated the 6th of August. He speaks highly of you, and requests me not to lend faith to what may be told me to his discredit. He was well in health, happy and peaceable, and thinking much of me and his son.

"Your very affectionate,

"LOUISA."

M. de Menneval rejoined the ex-empress at Secherons, near Geneva, and formed part of her suite upon her homeward progress to Vienna, a journey which, as may be collected from the foregoing extracts, she had reluctantly undertaken at the express command of the Emperor of Austria. General Niepperg had been especially commissioned to escort her upon this occasion.

At Berne Maria Louisa received a visit from the Princess of Wales, afterwards Queen Caroline, which M. de Menneval thus describes:

"The princess appeared to be about five-and-forty. She was short and fat. She had very marked features, and eyes which seemed to betray some of her adventures. Four officers and one maid-of-honour constituted her suite. I was very curious to behold a princess, whose name had become historical, from the scandalous publicity attached to it by the English. The evening passed with great hilarity. Music was proposed, and General Niepperg presided at the piano. The princess, upon being asked by the empress to sing, consented, upon condition that it should be a duet. The empress would have declined, alleging that she could not sing a note in company, but the princess encouraged her, declaring that for her part she had never any fear but for her friends. She sang, and I will say

nothing more of her voice, than that its exhibition afforded a proof of the princess's personal courage. She expressed her intention to pay the emperor a visit at Elba. She was travelling with a boy of twelve years old, whom, however, she had not taken with her to the empress's. This was the well-known Austin, whose name has been so notoriously mixed up with alleged memoirs of her personal history. She told us that she did not know the father of the child, but that she loved it as well as if it had been her own. The princess was dressed in a flowing robe of white muslin, trimmed with lace. A large veil, resembling that of a priestess in a Greek tragedy, fell from her head, completely over her shoulders, and this veil was fastened on her brow by a diadem of brilliants. She wore round her neck a magnificent necklace of many rows of pearls, and was accustomed, it seems, to travel thus equipped. Withal, notwithstanding her style of dress and appearance, which certainly laid her open to ridicule, the Princess of Wales seemed an excellent woman; simple and frank in her manners, and placing every body at their ease. Her maid-of-honour was as strangely accoutred as her mistress. The gentlemen in attendance were, a son of Lady Craven, who subsequently married the Margrave of Anspach, two young officers of the Prince of Wales's regiment, and Dr. Holland, who had the reputation of being a good physician.

Upon their further progress, General Neipperg, who had been especially instructed to recall Maria Louisa's thoughts to associations of home, induced her to pay a visit to the ruins of the castle of Rodolph of Hapsburg, the founder of the Austrian dynasty. Here he discovered an iron fragment of a lance, which he pretended to identify as having appertained to the redoubted Rodolph. Maria Louisa adopted the notion, had rings made of the rusty metal, and distributed them to General Neipperg, Count de Menneval, and others, as the insignia of an order of knighthood, playfully founded by herself in recollection of her Austrian tour.

Upon arriving at Schoenbrunn, she was greeted with much tenderness by her child. The emperor and empress welcomed her back with great affection, and General Neipperg was named chamberlain to their Majesties, in reward for the manner in which he had executed his mission.

The allied sovereigns were at this time assembled in Vienna, partaking of the emperor's hospitality. A succession of magnificent fetes relieved, or took the place of the more important duties of political deliberations, the purpose of which had brought them together. Maria Louisa kept aloof from all these festivities, but had the curiosity to witness incognito a splendid ball given at Schoenbrunn, from an attic window overlooking the grand ball-room of the palace. But four years before, in that very saloon, she had assisted at an equally brilliant entertainment, given in honour of her marriage! The reflections which the contrast of the past and the present thus brought to her mind, must have been anything but cheering!

The young Napoleon was not very affectionately noticed by the Austrian imperial family, and the empress and archdukes were in the habit of discussing the propriety of making him a bishop, on which occasions they were often silenced by the emperor.

General Neipperg, whose various functions placed him in close affinity with the empress, gradually created for himself an interest in her estimation, by the energy with which he strove to secure for her the free and independent enjoyment of the sovereignty which had been guaranteed to her by treaties. Every day he came from Vienna to Schoenbrunn, and devoted all the faculties of his mind to the accomplishment of the mission which had been entrusted to him,—that of inducing Maria Louisa to forget France and Napoleon.

The empress had written to her husband from Aix, since which time she had been interdicted the means of further correspondence. A short time after her return to Schoenbrunn, the Baron de Menneval pressed her to enclose a letter for the emperor with other despatches that he was about to send to Elba. She replied, that in the course of a long interview with Prince Metternich, that minister had exacted from her a promise never to carry on any correspondence with Napoleon without her father's consent, and to this cruel necessity she felt herself bound to submit.

Whether this preference of filial to conjugal duty ought to elevate or lower the character of Maria Louisa in general estimation, is a nice question. Napoleon, upon learning that his letters were subjected to the surveillance of the Emperor of Austria, before they reached his wife's hands, discontinued writing altogether.

Of the Emperor Alexander's occasional visits to

Schoenbrunn during the protracted sittings of the Congress at Vienna, it is related that on such occasions he arrived without being announced, and unceremoniously sat down to breakfast with the ex-empress. In speaking of his then recent visit to England, he expressed himself with some acrimony, having, it appears, been extremely shocked at the English custom of remaining at the dinner table after the return of the ladies to the drawing-room. Alexander courted popularity at Vienna. When he walked abroad, he saluted all the officers he met, frequently grasping their hands, and uttering some words of friendly greeting. He commonly wore plain clothes, and would not allow military honours to be shown him. Upon observing soldiers, unaware of his wishes, preparing to present arms, he would beckon to them to desist and pay no attention to him. Alexander loved Eugene Beauharnais, the late Viceroy of Italy and step-son of Napoleon. He pleaded hard at the Congress to obtain for him a French principality, evincing thereby no particular enthusiasm for the security of the restored Bourbon dynasty, of whom indeed he is known to have observed, "They are once more on the throne,—let them keep there; if they fall again, I shall not lift them up."

In February, 1815, it was announced to Maria Louisa by General Neipperg, who had ascertained the decision to that effect from Prince Metternich's lips, that one of the questions which interfered with her induction to the sovereignties allotted to her, was the impossibility of permitting her son to accompany her to Italy. To the condition, however, of leaving him at Vienna,—a hard one for a mother's feelings,—Maria Louisa eventually acceded, and through Neipperg's strenuous exertions on her behalf, eventually substantiated her claims to the Duchy of Parma.

The proceedings of the Congress of Vienna were drawing to a close, and the arrival there of the Duke of Wellington had given a fresh impetus to the festivities by which they had been marked, when, like the sudden explosion of a bomb, the news arrived that Napoleon had quitted Elba.

The ex-empress was out riding with General Neipperg when the news arrived at Schoenbrunn. She took no especial notice of it the first day, but on the ensuing one, spoke of it with much seeming interest and emotion, expressed great anxiety on the score of the dangers to which the emperor was exposed, doubts as to the success of his attempt, and some apprehensions as to the prejudicial effect his enterprise might have upon her own affairs with respect to Parma, and the future prospects of her son.

Great doubts prevailed as to the design and destination of Napoleon. It was most currently believed that he would have landed at Naples, and joining himself to Joachim Murat, attempted in the first instance the reconquest of Italy. His invasion of France seemed too wildly chimerical a scheme to be ever dreamt of.

Amidst the thousand conflicting rumours to which Buonaparte's adventurous expedition gave rise, Maria Louisa lost all self-composure. At one moment she protested that nothing could induce her to return to France, for that she saw no prospect of peace for that country; at another, she expressed her belief that if the emperor would renounce his projects of universal conquest, and be content to reign in peace, his return to France might be successfully accomplished; in which case, she should herself have no objection to return thither, for she had always had a fancy for the French!

The Countess de Brignole, one of the French ladies who had followed the fortunes of Maria Louisa, fell at this time dangerously ill, and in the presence of her mistress and suite received the last rites of the Church. From the dying chamber of her attendant, the ex-empress was heard to issue somewhat peremptory instructions to General Neipperg to go and finish his letter. The object of the missive thus referred to, was a positive disclaimer addressed to Prince Metternich, on the part of Maria Louisa, of any foreknowledge of, or participation in, the designs of her husband!

The feelings, indeed, of Maria Louisa at this juncture, appear to have partaken of mingled hope, dread, and doubt. She was heard to say, as if involuntarily thinking aloud, "If I could only be assured that blame would not be imputed to me for not having gone to the isle of Elba"—and then after a pause, as if in conclusion of a train of inward thought—"But I am surrounded by persons who cannot fail to have inculcated me."

Upon being remonstrated with by M. de Menneval, on the declaration she had been induced to sign a few days previously, at the instigation of Prince Metternich, Maria Louisa replied, that she "regretted the necessity that had driven her to do so, but that she was not mistress of her actions; that

she had promised to submit herself entirely to her father's counsels; that she could not, without violating her oath and filial duty to a parent, now become her child's sole guardian, oppose herself to his wishes; that Austrian princesses were only instruments in the hands of the chief of their house; that she had been brought up in principles of absolute submission to authority; that she must either bend to the yoke imposed upon her, or place herself in open rebellion against her family; that she was born under a malignant star, and was destined never to be happy."

On the 20th of March, 1815, the day upon which Napoleon retook possession of the Tuileries, from which Louis XVIII. had decamped with such unceremonious haste, the grand-chamberlain of the Emperor of Austria was commissioned to inform Madame de Montesquieu, that her services as governess to the young prince were thenceforth to cease. He had been removed from Schoenbrunn to the imperial palace of Vienna, the better to counteract certain partly detected schemes which had been organized by secret agents of Napoleon for carrying him off.

Maria Louisa addressed an affectionate farewell letter to Madame de Montesquieu, upon that lady's compulsory separation from her infant pupil, and enclosed a lock of her hair.

At the religious solemnities of Holy week, solemnized that year at Vienna with peculiar pomp and solemnity, the ex-empress assisted with extreme assiduity, declaring that in exercises of devotion alone she found some diversion to her thoughts, and solace to her sorrows.

Of the frame of mind to which, however, she had very shortly after arrived, the following extract of a letter from the Count de Menneval to Caulaincourt Duc de Vicence, bearing date the 7th of April, 1815, will furnish some idea:—

"Sunday last, being alone at dinner with the empress, her Majesty informed me, that by an act of Congress, just signed, the possession of Parma was guaranteed to her, though, for the present, Austria would continue to direct its government, securing to her a monthly payment of a hundred thousand francs; that she had not been able to secure for her son the hereditary succession to her Italian states, but that he was to enjoy the fiefs of the Archduke Ferdinand of Tuscany, amounting to six hundred thousand francs revenue, and that she had formed an irrevocable determination never again to rejoin the emperor. Upon being pressed by me to explain the motives of such a resolution, she acknowledged that not having shared his disgrace, she could not consent to partake of a prosperity, which she had done nothing to promote. She added, that she had not written upon the subject to any one; that she deferred communicating her intentions to the emperor, until she could do so by letter, uninterruptedly, and that, however, painful the sacrifice, she was prepared to accomplish it."

The ex-empress was one day much nettled at overhearing the following remark, from one of two persons, who were conversing together in French:—

"That lady is much to blame to be playing the spy here upon her father; she would do far better were she to return to France and live with her husband."

On the 16th of April, religious processions and solemnities were organized for the success of the war. All the Austrian Court assisted at them in grand ceremony, but notwithstanding the earnest representations of the empress mother, Maria Louisa could not be induced to do so. If, however, she obstinately declined on the one hand to join in prayers offered for her husband's discomfiture, she adhered with the utmost pertinacity to her avowed determination not to return to France.

The hasty and inconsiderate attempt of Murat to drive the Austrians from Italy, having been quickly and completely crushed, the thoughts of Maria Louisa became wholly engrossed by the prospects of entering upon the sovereignty of Parma. She entered into all the minutiae of her projected government, planned summer excursions to Florence, Genoa, Rome, England and Naples, and with a mind apparently quite freed from all further anxiety on the score of Napoleon's mighty, and still undecided enterprise, indulged with all the self-satisfaction of a proprietor just come into possession of a good estate, in dreams of future comfort and prosperity.

The Baron de Menneval took leave of the ex-empress on the 6th of May, 1815, previously to his return to France. She appeared much affected on the occasion; said that she was well aware every tie between herself and France must thenceforth be severed; but that she should always retain a kindly remembrance of the land of her adoption. She charged de Menneval to assure the emperor of her warmest good wishes, and expressed her hope

that he would comprehend all the difficulties of her position. She several times protested that she would never lend herself to any measures for obtaining a divorce, but hoped that Napoleon would consent without difficulty to an amicable separation, which circumstances had rendered indispensable, and which would never interfere with her feelings of esteem and gratitude in his regard. Maria Louisa remained another year in Austria after the battle of Waterloo, before she was allowed to go and take possession of her new dominions. General Neipperg had returned from his Italian campaign, with additional claims to the gratitude of the Imperial family, and had resumed his post in the household of the ex-empress. He attended her to Italy, and upon the occasion of her solemn entry into Parma, appeared at her right hand, occupying the first post of honor and authority.

For some years Maria Louisa justified the hopes of her Italian subjects, by the mildness and moderation of her sway, and the able administration of General Neipperg introduced content and prosperity among states, which the ravages of war had rendered the scene of wretchedness and disorder. Separated by jealous motives of state policy from her only child, she sought in a private marriage, contracted with General Neipperg after the decease of Napoleon, some consolation for the severance of former ties. Perhaps the untimely fate of the Duke of Reichstadt may have awakened in her mind some remorse at having consented, for the sake of ruling a petty state, to have resigned the care of an only son, by such a father, into the hands of those to whom his existence was a perpetual watchword of suspicion.

General Neipperg died in 1828. Maria Louisa bore him three children, the eldest of whom is a daughter, married to the son of Count San Vitale, grand chamberlain of Parma. A son, the Count de Montonovo, is an officer in the Austrian army, and a second daughter died in her infancy.

The revolutionary movements in Italy in 1831, compelled the Grand Duchess of Parma to take flight and invoke the assistance of the Austrians against her own subjects. She returned, escorted by their troops, and lent her name to all the harassing vexations which the cabinet of Vienna thought it expedient to enforce against her rebellious states. She had lost the popularity she had once attained, more from weakness of purpose, than want of natural kindness of disposition; and Parma, under her nominal rule, was a mere Austrian dependency.—*Dolman's Magazine.*

MARINE LIST.

PORT OF BUENOS AYRES.

April 1.—Wind S. S. W., opposite coast visible.

No arrivals or sailings.

April 2.—Wind S. S. W.

Arrived, during the night, a French armed launch, apparently from Colonia.

April 3.—Wind N., the town of Colonia visible in the afternoon.

No arrivals or sailings.

April 4.—Wind N.

No arrivals or sailings.

April 5.—Wind N., opposite coast visible.

No arrivals or sailings.

April 6.—Wind N., fresh, opposite coast visible.

No arrivals or sailings.

April 7.—Wind N. E.

No arrivals or sailings.

The sailing hence, on the 27th inst. of the French war steamer Grondeur, for Montevideo, was inadvertently omitted in the list of sailings in our number of last week.

ARRIVALS AT MONTEVIDEO.

March 25.

French brig of war Malouine, 4 guns, Lieut. R. de Resencat, hence 24th.

French war steamer Chimere, Captain Poudra, hence 24th.

March 26.

H. B. M's steam sloop Aleto, Commander V. A. Maasingberd, hence 25th.

H. B. M's steam sloop Hydra, from Rio Janeiro 20th.

British brig Leo, 130 tons, William Thompson, from Cadiz, 27th January, to Nicholson Green & Co.

March 27.

British brig Zuleika, 194 tons, Montgomery, from Liverpool 29th January, to Parlance McLean & Co.

Spanish brig Alfonso, 206 tons, J. Maristany, from Barcelona, 13th December, Rio Janeiro 14th March, to Uhagon & Co.

Spanish brigantine Generoso, 136 tons, L. Pages, from Havana 16th January, to Henry Ochoa.

French barque Astrolabe, 16 guns, Captain Montavel, from Ensenada.

FOREIGN VESSEL OF WAR IN PORT.

FRENCH—Brig Alsacienne, 4 guns, Lieut. Fournier.

Blockade of the Port of Buenos Ayres.

April 3. A brigantine being in sight this afternoon to the eastward, the Alsacienne sent a boat in pursuit, which she shortly afterwards recalled.

No other movement worthy of notice has occurred this week.

This day (8th inst.) completes the 928th day of the blockade.

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

Saturday	67
Sunday	69
Monday	71
Tuesday	72
Wednesday	74
Thursday	62
Friday	64

GENERAL STATEMENT of the operations of the Public Stocks from their commencement on the 1st January, 1822, up to the end of December 1847, together with Cash Account from 1st September to the 31st December of the present year.

Public Stocks.			
Dr.			
4 per 100.		6 per 100.	
Ds.		Ds.	
To Amount created by laws 29th October 1821, up to 29th March, 1840.	2,000,000		52,360,000
	2,000,000		52,360,000
Cr.			
4 per 100		6 per 100.	
Ds.	Rs.	Ds.	Ra.
By Amount of Stock, not in circulation, belonging to corporations and Pious Establishments	146,923 2½		867,045 5
By Amount of Stock unclaimed	10,397 6¼		7,438 ¼
By Amount of Stock redeemed to 30th September 1846 by the sinking fund	802,936 ½		35,701,183 3
By Amount of Stock redeemed between the 1st September and 30th December last 6½ at the price—per 4 ½ 67	2,011 1½		108,545 1½
By Balance, being amount in circulation at this date	1,037,731 4½		15,675,787 5½
	2,000,000		52,360,000

Cash Account.				
	Ds.	Rs.	Ds.	Ra.
To balance at the end of September last			1,796,332	6½
To Amount received from the Customs to pay interest and sinking funds October, November and December			938,799	7½
			2,735,132	5½
By Amount of inter. 4 per 100 est in October last ½ 6 per 100	12,038	4	861,983	
By Amount invested in redeeming Stock in the present quarter	382,899	7	109,892	5½
By Balance to For interest next month ½ For sinking fund 1,380,417 1½			2,363,317	½
			2,735,132	5½

Buenos Aires, December 20, 1847.
John Alsina, President—Miguel de Ríglas, Vice-President—John Baptista Peña—Bonifacio Huergo—Simon R. Mier—A. Ibañez de Luca, Secretary and Accountant.

The Battery Libertad fired a salute of 21 guns on the 4th inst., at 1 o'clock, in honor of the anniversary of the Queen of Portugal's birth day.

Advertisements.

To let to a single gentleman, a handsome dry room, furnished with every convenience, in the house of a respectable family; please apply at No. 14 Calle de las Piedras or at Calle de Cangallo No. 62.

Notice.

English and Spanish Grammars and Dictionaries, with other suitable works for students of the Spanish language, for sale at No. 894 Calle de Cangallo—also plain note paper of superior quality.

YOUNG LADIES' ACADEMY.

THE MISSES HALLET have the pleasure to announce that they have opened an Academy for young ladies in those commodious premises, Calle de la Federacion, No. 138, (altos), and that they are now prepared to receive pupils, either as boarders, half-boarders or day scholars, on the most moderate terms.

The course of studies embraces the various branches of elementary instruction, together with those which constitute the higher departments of an accomplished education.

Tuition in English, Spanish or French at the option of parents; the Misses H. being equally conversant with the three languages. Italian, also, will be taught, if required.

Supplementary List of Second-hand Books,

No. 894 Calle de Cangallo.
McCulloch's commercial dictionary; Murray's encyclopaedia of geography; Ure's dictionary of chemistry; Picture of London; Historical account of the provinces of Rio de la Plata; Debreit's peage of the United Kingdom; Don Quixote; Bland's algebra with key; Ivanhoe; Marryat's pirate; Gibson's treatise on land surveying; Lardner's geometry; Park's chemical catechism adapted to the present state of chemical science; a variety of novels, &c., &c.

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.

PRICES CURRENT.

Doublesons, Spanish		345	346	each
Do. Patriot		344	345	do.
Plata, macuquina		19	19½	do. for one
Dollars, Spanish & Patacones		23	24	each.
Do. Patriot		21	21½	do.
Six per cent. Stock				at par.
Exchange on England				no transac.
Do. France				do.
Do. Rio Janeiro		34	4	per cent prem.
Do. Montevideo		204	21	per dollar.
Do. United States		50	52	per pesada
Hides, matadero or saladero 27 & 28 lbs. ea.		42	45	do.
Do. matadero, country		39	40	do.
25 & 28 lbs.		36	38	do.
Do. Spain		35	40	do.
Do. North America		38	39	do.
Do. of all states		39	41	do. each
Do. do. salted ox		15	18	do.
Do. do. cow		37	40	per pesada
Horse hides salted		27	28	per dozen
Do. do. dry				without price
Calf skins from 8 to 12 lbs.		55	65	per arroba
Sheep skins washed, fine & ordinary		50	53	do.
Goat skins		190	130	dol. per arroba
Nutria skins		32	22	do.
Horse hair, mixed		8	9	do.
Do. short		25	35	do.
Do. long, 18 to 24 in.		12	20	do.
Wool, ordinary, washed		40	50	do.
Do. do. dirty		20	35	dol.
Do. mestiza, washed		23	24	do.
Do. do. dirty		32	33	do.
Do. fine washed		25	26	do.
Do. do. dirty		45	46	per quintal.
Tallow, matadero, raw		550	600	per thousand
Do. do. melted at class		160	200	do.
Grease and tallow		8	8½	per lb.
Jerked beef		10	11	per dozen
Burma Ox		10	11	per quintal
Do. cow				without price
Ostrich feathers, long black				per fanega
Salted tongues		1½	2½	per cent. mon.
Hide cuttings				
Shin bones				
Salt, on board				
Discount				

The highest price of Doublesons during the week 354 dollars.
The lowest price 342 dollars.
The highest rate of Exchange upon England during the week, no transactions.
The lowest do.
The market continues dull and no transactions take place. Some lots of saladero tallow have been sold at from 24 to 26 dollars.

GEORGE THOMAS, Responsible Editor.