

# BUNION ARGENTINE

AND

## ARGENTINE NEWS.

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BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1849.

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### BUENOS AYRES.

We have received regular files of London papers to the 16th of May. The news is rather important. On the 9th the bill for the repeal of the Navigation Laws passed the second reading in the House of Lords by a majority of 173 to 163; the Duke of Wellington and most of the members of the late Peel administration voting with Ministers. The Marquis of Lansdowne had given notice that he would propose to go into committee on the bill on the 21st, and would take the third reading as soon as possible afterwards. Lord Stanley announced that several most important amendments would be proposed in committee. The President of the Council declared, on the part of Government, that he would adhere to the bill in its present shape, though of course he would not preclude himself from agreeing to any amendment that should meet his approval.

The House of Lords, after hearing the arguments in support of the Writ of Error in the case of W. S. O'Brien and others, affirmed the judgement of the Irish Courts without calling on the Counsel for the Crown to reply. On the other hand Government had abandoned the further prosecution of C. G. Duffy. There appeared to be little doubt that the sentence of O'Brien and his fellow convicts would be commuted.

The reports of the crops in Ireland were, all things considered, tolerably favourable, though a fourth failure of the potatoe crop was already anticipated. Emigration from that country still continued on an immense scale.

In regard to the political aspect of Europe the ministerial journal *Globe*, of the 13th, thus remarks— "We are now forced to fear that the phenomena of last year only prelude a drama of far more menacing moment, and far less peaceable solution. Indications are not wanting that Europe is entering a new series of these great periods, which posterity easily discerns, as impressed with novel social characteristics and a fresh delimitation of territorial boundaries."

The general elections commenced in Rome on the 13th, with an unusual display of military force. The entire garrison were under arms; it having been reported that a *coup de main* against the government was in contemplation. The rumoured discomfiture of the French before Rome is confirmed. Their loss in killed, wounded, and missing is estimated at from 1,200 to 1,500, whilst that of the Romans did not exceed 500. The fact is that Rome was crowded with desperadoes of all sorts, chiefly foreigners, many of them French refugees compromised in the affair of Juno, and some hundreds of Mobile and Republican guards who had received funds to proceed to Rome from the agents of the Roman republic in Paris. Garibaldi, who was still alive and kicking, was the principal leader of these worthies. A Neapolitan army was in full march on Rome with the King at its head, but General Oudinot had announced to His Government that he would enter first. An Austrian corps, also, had invaded the Roman states, and the Spanish expedition, of 8,000 men, was expected to land on the 11th or 12th. The following are the last accounts of the doings at Rome— "The barricades are augmenting in number and formidable strength. Immense use is made of the Church confessional boxes, which being ponderous articles of furniture are found quite suitable for blocking up the progress of a retrograde enemy. The Mint is coming silver and gold plate night and day. Ego Bassi, the regimental chaplain of Garibaldi's legion, having been made prisoner, was exchanged against the Tembour-Major of the 20th regiment of the French line. Six more Cardinals' carriages were burned last evening; but they only burn the body, keeping the axle, wheels, and frame work for carrying beams of timber to the barricades; the gliding and scaterly figures of these new carts is one of the features in this remarkable scene."

Meanwhile it was reported that the Pope had expressed his unwillingness to return to Rome under the protection of foreign bayonets, and that he intended to leave Italy for a time. It was believed that, as a compliment to the French people, his Holiness would, in the first instance, go to Marseille for a short period, but that he would eventually retire into Spain, until his subjects were in a situation spontaneously to call upon him to return to his dominions.

Sicily had unconditionally surrendered to the King of Naples. A revolution had broken out in Dresden, where a provisional government was established, but it was finally put down by the King's troops, assisted by the Prussians. Serious riots had also broken out at Leipzig, but were eventually suppressed.

The King of Hanover had been obliged to leave his capital and to repair to the Castle of Herrenhausen. The town was declared in a state of siege; 4,000 Prussians were expected. All the large towns of Prussia had been declared to be in a state of siege. The districts of Cologne, Dusseldorf and Coblenz had been the scenes of bloody conflicts between the troops of the line and the armed landwehr.

The city and fortress of Landau in Bavaria had been declared in a state of siege, and all foreigners had been compelled to quit the city. This distracted state of affairs in Germany was owing to the misunderstanding between Prussia and the Frankfort Parliament. The sittings of this body, meanwhile, were degenerating into daily scenes of the most irrational fury and disorder.

Russian troops were pouring into Hungary every day. It was said that the young Emperor of Austria would place himself at the head of the combined forces. Advice from Berlin says that a joint note, the production of the courts of Great Britain and France, had been addressed to the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, intimating their disapproval of the intervention of Russia in the Austro-Hungarian dispute, and insisting that such interference be withdrawn.

Accounts from Hamburg to the 9th of May, announce a fresh defeat of the Danish troops near Fredericia. Prior to the Danes retreating, they set fire to the village of Gudsoe. The loss on both sides was very great. The Prussians had, it was said, taken the town of Velle. The siege of Fredericia had commenced. The last advices from the Danish army represented it as being in a very dangerous situation, in case they were attacked, as the easterly wind would prevent their crossing over to the island. The Danes would, it was said, have 10 battalions strong, whilst the Germans numbered 40.

A serious outbreak occurred at Montreal, the capital of Upper Canada, on the 25th of April last on the occasion of a bill, which had just been introduced into the Legislative Assembly, entitled the *Kebellon Losses Indemnity Bill*, receiving the sanction of Lord Elgin, the Governor General. The moment the assent was known to have been given to the obnoxious measure, a mob assembled outside the doors of his Lordship leaving the police held him with rotten eggs, dirt &c., an egg it is said, striking him in the face. The parliament house was subsequently invaded by the mob, the members dispersed and the building set on fire, the records and archives of the colony for several hundred years being destroyed by the flames, neither the police nor the military interfering to avert the outrage. The feeling of dissatisfaction evinced by the capital appears to be fully extended throughout the whole of Upper Canada, while the Lower Canada population of French origin, in whose behalf the bill which has provoked these outbreaks was passed, to indemnify them for losses sustained during the rebellion 1837-8, are anxious to uphold the British authorities in that quarter.

Later advices of the 1st May, via Liverpool, announce the arrival of a deputation of French Canadians at Montreal from Quebec to congratulate Lord Elgin on the quiet state of the country. Large meetings had, nevertheless, taken place at Kingston, Toronto and other towns for the purpose of petitioning the Queen to recall Lord Elgin.

### HOUSE OF LORDS, April 23.

#### THE RIVER PLATE.

(The report of Lord Harrowby's speech proceeds as follows:—)

[Here the noble earl read a long extract from the address of Ross expressive of his exultation at this result, and distinguishing the different positions in which England and France were placed with respect to the Argentine Confederation.] Surely that house, being under the impression that the Governments of England and France were acting together in harmony, had a right to know why and how that harmony had terminated. Their lordships only knew that Lord Howden went to Buenos Ayres, and left it dissatisfied with the reception which he met with; that he then went to Montevideo; that he commented with the Government at Montevideo, that he signified the proposition on which he thought that peace ought to be made; and that he went to the camp of General Oribe, who commanded the forces besieging Montevideo, with those propositions; that General Oribe modified them; that he (Lord Howden) carried back the terms so modified to Montevideo and submitted them to the Government there; and that, upon their rejection of those modifications, he had, without any communication to the Government of Montevideo, announced to General Oribe that his negotiation was at an end, and had written to the commander of our naval forces in the River Plate to raise the blockade of that river, which was the main instrument by which the British Government expected to force an arrangement upon the two contending parties. Now, the grounds stated by Lord Howden for the course which he had then adopted hardly warranted his pursuing it. [Here we lost several entire sentences of his indisinct remarks, which rendered it very difficult to follow him through the whole course of his observations; but when we next were enabled to hear him he was arguing to this effect:]—In the letter in which Lord Howden announced to the Commander of the British naval forces that he must forthwith raise the blockade, his lordship alleged that the Government of Montevideo was in the hands of natives but of foreigners. Now, that fact was well known before Lord Howden's arrival, and Montevideo was not, when he was there, more under the influence of foreigners than it was at the previous period during which the French and English Government had interposed. The blockade then was raised in consequence of the directions given by Lord Howden; and the same language was thereby given to President Rosas by the English Minister, who gained no object whatever for the Montevideans. He (the Earl of Harrowby) knew not how to explain the object which Lord Howden had in view in interposing at all, and he thought that the Montevideans, when he removed from Rosas the engine of pressure which he had upon him during the blockade, as soon as the Montevideans refused to accede to the modifications made by General Oribe on the propositions to which they

had, under his guidance, acceded. The result of all this was that no trading on the banks of the River Plate knew what the policy of our Government was. All they knew was this, that the two most powerful Governments in the world had declared their intention of putting an end to the war in the Banda Oriental, and that General Rosas had defeated that intention. It might be well to mention here the mistake of Lord Howden, who was one on which Her Majesty's Government had not as yet publicly expressed any decided opinion. He asked them at once to say whether they approved of that nobleman's conduct or not. President Rosas had told the Parliament that the raising of the blockade had received the approbation of Her Majesty's Government. He rather thought that that approbation had not been entire. A rumour was afloat that that approbation did not extend to all points of Lord Howden's policy. He had heard that the raising of the blockade without any announcement of it to the French Envoy had excited great dissatisfaction in the bosom of the French Government; that that dissatisfaction had been strongly expressed to a member of Her Majesty's Government; but that, subsequently, the despatch expressing disapprobation, which was addressed to our Ambassador at Paris, was withdrawn at the request of the French Government. Such being the state of things, he thought that the noble earl had a right to know whether the Government approved of the course taken by Lord Howden, or not. The information which General Rosas had put us in possession of led us to believe that the way which he had declared for an accredited Minister of Her Majesty was not the best for the pacification on the basis formed by Lord Howden, with the modifications attached to it by General Oribe. Now, as far as any body could undertake what those modifications were, they were objectionable. He had a great faith, and the obligations of treaties. "We were prepared to submit to that tant, and to pay a compensation of 2,000,000 sterling for the very grave offences and the very serious damages which our Government, in concert with that of France, had suffered and were still undergoing during the Anglo-French intervention? We were prepared to give up the Falkland Islands to General Rosas, and to make a settlement of affairs to the Banda Oriental entirely dependent on the discretion of General Oribe. Such courses were not inadmissible by our Government a short time ago, and yet these alone were the terms on which President Rosas desired to receive an accredited Minister from Her Majesty. Again, and again he must repeat that their lordships and the country had a right to know in what position affairs were on the banks of the River Plate. The matter at issue was not trifling; our commerce with those regions was important. In the year 1843 the commerce of this country with Montevideo alone was £3,000,000 sterling, and, if the common company of nations were followed with regard to the waters flowing into the River Plate, that commerce might be easily doubled. He could not, in their lordships, to consider what had been the consequence of a single convoy sent out of those waters? In 1845, a convoy had sailed upon the river Parana, and the value of that convoy alone was 1,500,000 dollars. Here was a new source of revenue which would go on for some time increasing annually, and which would overflow into the coffers of the manufacturers of Manchester and the merchants of Liverpool. The welfare of the Brazilian empire was also staked upon this question. What was the original object of the proposition on different states on the banks of the River Plate? To place the river not in the hands of one state, but of several states, and to interpose an independent power between the Argentine republic and the empire of Brazil. Was that object less valuable now than it had been formerly? Had not Rosas done everything in his power to stifle—aye, and to "crio, caiso, and confine" the commerce on the River Plate? Had anything occurred to lessen the advantage of having an independent power interposed between the Argentine republic and the Brazils? It was most important that the question should not be settled in the way in which the noble earl had the benefit of Foreign Affairs appeared to design, namely, that Montevideo should surrender itself under conditions into the hands of the Argentine Confederation. From the course which had been pursued of sending out a Minister perfectly unprepared with instructions adapted to the state of things which had arisen, and from other not ambiguous indications of the noble earl's mind, spirit, and feeling, he was certainly led to the opinion that the unconditional surrender of Montevideo had been determined upon, and the consequent destruction of an independent power between the Government of Brazil, whose interests, as he had said, was of importance to the interests of this country. He would ask their lordships to join with him in calling for information in order that, for the sake of the mercantile interests at stake, they might know what was the destiny awaiting the R-plate, whose existence his country had almost guaranteed, which, if we had not guaranteed, it would be our duty and our interest to protect. He trusted that the noble marquis would be able to move from the Government the imputation of having abandoned their ancient policy, and of being prepared to hand over to the tender mercies of the Argentine Confederation the hitherto independent republic of Montevideo. The noble earl concluded by moving for 4 copies or extracts of all instructions given to Her Majesty's envoys in the River Plate

for their guidance in the intervention of Great Britain for the pacification of affairs in that river."

The Marquis of Lansdowne said that, although he felt compelled to object to the motion of the noble earl, he was disposed to give him every information in his power on the subject, which he agreed with him was one of the greatest importance, connected as it was with the affairs of an important portion of the globe and a very extensive branch of our commerce, which ought to be fully examined, to receive ceasing attention from the Government. When, however, he stated the situation in which those negotiations were at the present time, their lordships would feel that this was not the moment at which all the instructions given to the British Envoy in the River Plate should be laid before Parliament. A negotiation was now pending, which rested essentially on the terms contained in the instructions given by the noble earl (Aberdeen) to Mr. Hood. The noble earl (Harrowby) was aware that the instructions laid down by Mr. Hood was that on which the negotiations, with some modifications, were now proceeding; and which negotiations, he was happy to state, were now assuming a very promising aspect. Such being the case, he felt it incumbent upon him to say what those modifications were at the present moment. It would be in the recollection of their lordships that the noble earl (Aberdeen) was induced to agree with the French Government in sending to that part of the world a special mission, leading to a general mediation between the conflicting powers in the River Plate. Mr. Ouseley, the British representative, arrived there in the month of May, 1848, and the mediation, with Mr. Ouseley as the French Envoy, went on. Subsequently a modification took place in Mr. Ouseley's policy, and he was induced to carry on operations against General Rosas, which were of a nature to meet with the disapprobation of the noble earl (Aberdeen), from the extent to which they had proceeded. That disapprobation was expressly stated by Lord Aberdeen, and the noble viscount (Palmerston) entirely concurred in that view, and signified his own disapprobation to Mr. Ouseley. In the month of May, 1848, Mr. Hood was sent out by the noble earl (Aberdeen) with fresh instructions; but he was not able to carry his negotiations to a successful issue, and he returned. Afterwards Lord Palmerston conferred with the noble earl (Aberdeen) on the subject, and Lord Walewski proceeded to the Plate, and Lord Aberdeen, and endeavored to conclude a satisfactory arrangement, which would produce a good understanding between the conflicting parties. It was true, that Lord Howden had taken the same course, on account of the refusal of the Government of Montevideo to agree to certain points in Lord Howden's proposals. Lord Howden thereupon raised the English blockade on the River Plate; and, although the French Envoy did not raise the French blockade at the same time, yet it was agreed that he had arisen which had not been provided for in the instructions of either the British or French representatives, and that the French were differently circumstanced in some respects from ourselves. But to suppose, as the noble earl (Harrowby) appeared to do, that the Government of France in raising the English blockade was entirely without foundation, was to suppose that the Marquis of Lansdowne had intended to do any trace of disapprobation of that act on the part of the French Government. It was perfectly open for each party to put a different construction upon his instructions in the case which had arisen, but the Marquis of Lansdowne did not consider that the blockade, unless it were required by the most pre-emptory necessity, was a state of things that ought to be prolonged for a moment longer than could be helped. The raising of that blockade had been most beneficial to the trade of Buenos Ayres and also to the trade of England, and the British Government were only justified in suspending such a trade under circumstances of the strictest necessity. It was also right to state that a considerable increase of trade had occurred since the blockade in consequence of the system of smuggling which prevailed there during the continuance of the blockade; and which he could very well understand the gentlemen connected with the trade of Montevideo were very reluctant to lose. The direct trade, however, between this country and Buenos Ayres, was a trade which it was exceedingly important to us to maintain. He would not examine the general principles of General Rosas's Government, but if the object of the noble earl who brought forward this motion were the general and not the partial benefit of British trade, he could state that at no time was our trade carried on with greater benefit to those engaged in it than was that carried on under the Government of General Rosas. That trade was increasing from month to month, and the gentleman commissioned to attend to British interests at Buenos Ayres described the present anxiety for British intercourse, and the demand for British commodities, as represented by nothing but "hunger and thirst." This demand was supplied by one of the most beneficial trades that the merchants of this country were at present carrying on, and there were no facilities which the authorities of Buenos Ayres and General Rosas himself did not grant to British commerce. He was not there to justify General Rosas's conduct in these disputes; but he believed that there was no sort of personal honour that could be conferred upon the British Envoy, Mr. Southampton, in the course of his reception, or the style and manner of the communications made to him, that were not marked by the desire to exhibit the respect of the Buenos Ayres Government to a gentleman known to be commissioned by Her Majesty's Government to bring about a negotiation and settlement of the disputes in the River Plate. The noble earl had departed to a speech of General Rosas; but he appeared to him to overrate the importance of that address. It was not from his words but from his





