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BUENOS AYRES.

REVIEW OF THE MESSAGE.

The present Message, like many of its predecessors, concludes with the resignation of the Government. This question, we regret to begin to assume a serious aspect, that casts a gloom over the otherwise sunny prospect of the Province and the Republic. After the pronouncement it has acquired, and the intense anxiety suspended on the issue, we may briefly account, for the benefit of distant readers, the facts of the case.

During the war of Independence many noble and patriotic qualities were evoked; but with an almost inevitable ebb of personal ambition, accustomed to a life of activity and excitement, the monotony of peace only enhanced the recollections of military authority, with its cherished notions of danger and glory, of privations and fame. The very qualities that had given nerve and vigour to the contest, now endangered the public peace and order, for which our warriors had fought and bled; and the triumph of glory was the prelude to anarchy.

Each Province contained in its own bosom the germs of faction and discord, and mutual distrust and mutual jealousies arose Province against Province, in fratricidal collisions. To all these internal and organic evils, add the impatient efforts of European ambition, openly manifested, but perceptible even then to the penetrating glance and intuitive sagacity of our day; and the result was the estrangement and separations of an obscure but insidious instrument, the degraded Spaniard, the deceiver from, and traitor to, the American cause. In short, darkness and dismay brooded over the Republic.

In these circumstances General Rosas, in 1855, was appointed Governor and Captain General of the Province of Buenos Ayres, with extraordinary powers, or rather, with the plente of all the public powers. His mission was to save the liberty, independence and integrity of the State; a herculean task, and requiring many years for its accomplishment.

This opportune nomination placed a ray of hope, and averted the dismal gloom of our public affairs. In presence of his admitted superiority, as a Patriot and Statesman, the opposing and often hostile forces, that distracted the Republic, now began for the first time to gravitate to a common centre. All the Provinces of the Republic, with the single exception of Paraguay, concurred in investing him with the Supreme Direction of the National Affairs of the Confederation, and the Foreign Relations of the Republic. With a patient forbearance and persevering energy, above all praise, he has retained that high and honourable position, for the long term of fifteen years; with what success and glory, let the present position and prospects of the Confederation say.

Ardent and resolute in temperament, with a vigorous constitution and athletic frame, General Rosas measured his application to public business, by the necessities of his situation; regardless alike of his personal health and comfort. But the highest powers may be overtaxed, and the penalty of over-exertion, by nature's stern decree, is bodily lassitude and mental depression. These we may suppose aggravated in this instance, by a morbid susceptibility as by his exceptional position, and the direct individual responsibility that resulted from it. Under the joint influence probably of all these causes, General Rosas had repeatedly

signified his wish to retire from the career of office; but the situation of the Province and Republic, complicated latterly by foreign questions of no ordinary magnitude, rendered compliance with that wish impossible.

At the preceding Message, however, the position assumed by His Excellency, and the strong and decided terms in which the resignation was couched, aroused the Representatives to a sense of their danger, and a special commission was deputed to wait upon General Rosas, and impress upon him the absolute and inevitable necessity of his still continuing in office. The reception of that deputation, courteous and respectful of course, but firm and uncompromising as to the point at issue, acted like an electric shock on the Province of Buenos Ayres. The citizens partially resumed their delegated sovereignty, and submitted a Petition to the Legislature, that left no room for doubt or inference as to the public will of this Province; and representations to the same effect, have already arrived from several other Provinces of the Republic. Such is the actual position of this untoward question; and the final resolve of General Rosas is what remains to be known, and forms the all-engrossing and painful topic of public anxiety.

The plea of deteriorated health is unfortunately well founded; and for this there is but one cure, moderate exertion and reasonable relaxation. In the normal circumstances to which we are fast tending, might not this be accomplished, by a greater subdivision of duty, and an increased staff of subaltern employes? Thousands of precedents now exist, that may greatly expedite future resolutions; and what is wanted, is not so much the drudge that General Rosas has necessarily been, as a presiding mind, to inspire, superintend and sanction the labors of others. We think the view of the case greatly favorable to the course recommended in the Petition. It is doubtless the impulsion of ardent affection, and amiable enthusiasm, but, we believe, at variance all the while with the unchanging laws of our moral constitution. We greatly over-rate the prominent features of his character, the undeviating system and methodical regularity, that have raised him to his present eminence, if General Rosas could feel contented, or any health and happiness, with a progressively accumulating mass of undepatched subjects. In this respect the predispositions of the individual happily coincide with the interests of the public service.

For the other motives alleged we can find no more appropriate term, than an overwrought and sensitive delicacy; a rare and estimable quality in private life, but one that cannot and must not be deferred to, when the interests of a community are at stake.

To these mental ills, not the less real because imaginary, the Petition, with its unlimited confidence, its unbounded affection, and its unrevered professions of aid and co-operation, add ministers a soothing and healing balm; and we cannot fancy General Rosas capable of resisting appeal so unanimous, so earnest and so affecting.

Besides, a part, and the most important part, of his public career still remains. When the Republic has been fully organized, when its liberties and institutions have been consolidated, and when in its use, the health and the peace, tranquillity and prosperity, undoubtedly reserved for it in the compass of a beautiful Providence, they, and not till then, when his high mission be retired, with the dignity and fame of another Washington, to the peaceful and honored shade of private life.

The following are items of European intelligence to the 23d of December—

People in England were betraying some apprehension of an inundation in consequence of a prediction of Mr. Arthur Geary, the astronomer, announcing that on the night of the 29th of January there would be an extraordinary high tide, to such a degree that the water at London bridge would rise 30 feet above low water mark.

The British government have finally contracted with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the conveyance of the mails to Brazil by public steamers. They are to commence running within four months, and are to make the voyage to Rio Janeiro in 30 days. It appears that Southampton is to be the port of departure.

The President of the French Republic had been seriously indisposed, as well as MM. Thiers and Lamartine. M. Guizot had made his first appearance in public in France since the resolution of February at the sitting of the French Academy on the 30th of November.

A large number of the principal merchants, shipowners and manufacturers of Paris, Havre, Bayonne, &c., had addressed a petition to the National Assembly against the continuance of French intervention in the River Plate, which was also signed by the Paris papers *Journal des Debats*, *Press*, *Revue des deux Mondes*, and *Univers*.

The six remaining battalions of the *Garde Mobile* had been disbanded. After a warm debate the Assembly had sanctioned a bill for the re-establishment of the impost on spirituous liquors.

The fortress of Zaatch in Algeria which had remained for some time in the possession of Arab insurgents was finally carried by the French on the 26th of November.

It was still confidently asserted that a wide misunderstanding existed between Austria and Prussia as regarded the question of the convocation of the Diet at Erfurt, and that Austria was increasing considerably her army in Bohemia, and was preparing to occupy Saxony.

On the 26th of December the Archduke John, vicar of the Empire, delivered up the central power to the plenipotentiaries of Prussia and Austria.

The principalities of Hohenzollern with 60,000 inhabitants were ceded to the King of Prussia. This cession enables the Prussian government to establish firmly its preponderance in Southern Germany.

Prussia claims the sovereignty of the canton of Neuchâtel; the French government offered its mediation between the King of Prussia and Switzerland; the King replied that he was resolved to abandon any of the rights conferred on him by the treaty of 1815. The French government had in consequence thought proper to send a private agent to Geneva.

The assembly of the duchies of Schleswig-Holstein had met at Kiel for the purpose of appointing the commissioners who were to conduct the negotiations with the delegates of Denmark at Copenhagen. The King in his quality of Duke of Holstein and Lauenburg had joined the Prussian Zollverein, and it was thought that he would not have done so if he foresaw any chance of another war with Germany.

The British squadron still remained in the Bosphorus, but the French squadron had withdrawn in consequence of orders from its government. This movement had caused a great sensation at Constantinople, but was con-

sidered as an evidence that France would not cooperate with England in the question of the East.

The new Constitution had been promulgated in all the districts of Hungary, and had been received much more favorably than had been anticipated.

The Spanish troops composing the expedition to Italy had returned to Catalonia. Several French brigades had been recalled from Rome. It was said that the Pope's return to that capital depended on the conclusion of a loan and on the solution of the petty question of the future garrison of Rome. The French army in the Pontifical States would be reduced to 40,000 men after the departure of the regiments which had been ordered back.

The new Piedmontese chambers were about to assemble. The majority of the members were Conservatives. The government had refused offers of naturalization to Count Mamiani, returned for the city of Genoa, who had been a minister of Pius IX.

According to intelligence from China, a squadron of 13 piratical junks had been completely destroyed by H. B. M.'s brig *Columbus* and steamer *Fury*.

The American steamer *Golden Hunter*, bound for California, arrived at Rio Janeiro on the 17th, from New York, bringing dates to the 29th of December.

The House of Representatives had been finally organized on the 23d, the standing rules having been set aside in order to arrive at the choice of speaker. After sixty ballots without any definitive result, Mr. Stanton moved on the 26th of November that the election should be *stricto sensu*; that three calls should be made, and the votes taken three times; and that, if no member obtained an absolute majority, a fourth call and division should be resorted to, and that the member who then got the largest number of votes should be acknowledged as speaker. This motion having been carried by a majority of 113 to 106, the divisions specified in the proposition were proceeded to and produced the following result, 223 members being present—

Winthrop.....	11	94	31
Cobb.....	95	98	97

Neither of the two candidates having obtained an absolute majority, the House divided for the fourth time, when Mr. Cobb, the Democratic candidate, was chosen speaker by 102 yeas, Mr. Winthrop, the Whig candidate, having had 103 yeas.

The House then organized the President transmitted his message to Congress on the 23d. In the extracts given of this document we find nothing particular, except the announcement that the night conference with France had terminated, and that the new American Minister, in respect to whose admission some doubts were entertained, had been duly received.

Mr. Henry Balwer, H. B. M.'s Minister to the U. S., was received in his official character at Washington on the 24th of December. There was news from California to the 15th of November. The election for Governor, and President and members of the Legislative body were going on. Mr. P. H. Burnett was at the head of the poll, far outdistancing his rivals for the governorship. The new Constitution had been approved by the people, only five votes having been given for its rejection. There were 112 yeas and one no yeas for the vote of San Francisco. From the 10th of April to the 10th of November 697 had arrived in Providence, and these considerably, and the laborers were striking for wages, though they were receiving, it is said, 12 dollars a day.

The British ship of war *Herald*, which went in search of Sir John Franklin, was at Maclean on her return from her exploring voyage, without having been any more successful than Sir James Ross's expedition, which was at Maclean as far as latitude 73° 10'. The *Plover* stop was drawn in consequence of the Herald, remained in Behring's strait, and was unable to winter. Her boats had gone up Mackenzie river, to the hope of obtaining some information there.

