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BUENOS AYRES.

With this number concludes the Quarter of the British Pocket.

Our great diplomatic mystery has not yet been unveiled. Whatever guidance and expedients may say to the contrary, nothing has occurred as yet which affords any clue for the formation of a correct opinion as to the actual state or prospects of the negotiation.

Brazil is putting the languorancy of the Argentine government to a cruel test.

The Baron de Souza Lima Chico Pedro, with his "California" has been suffered once more to display the territory of the sister republic. On this occasion the whole vandale horde were united, consisting of 500 men and numbering amongst its leaders several Oriental rebel officers. Col. Lamas, with his gallant division had the good fortune to fall in with it on the 12th inst. at Tucumbi, and soon gave a good account of it. A single charge was sufficient to put the brigades to the rout, and in the course of a hot pursuit of four leagues numbers of them were slain, whilst several others were drowned in attempting to swim across the Cuzarein. A party of 40 infantry were either killed or taken prisoners, and the bandits left on the field all their baggage, arms and spare horses mired in the sea-water. A most important triumph was achieved without the loss of a single man to the victors, Col. Lamas' casualties consisting only of four wounded.

Several questions have been addressed to us on the subject of the act passed in the last session of the British Parliament for facilitating the marriages of British subjects in foreign countries. We are going briefly to answer those inquiries. In the first place, there is nothing obligatory in the act for British subjects to have their marriages solemnized under its provisions. But if parties are disposed to dispense with the intervention of a clergyman, a marriage so solemnized will, doubtless, be as valid in England as the Archbishop of Canterbury in *propria persona* performed the ceremony. Such, however, we apprehend, is not the case as regards this country. British residents here are subject to the laws and statutes of the land, and those laws already provide for the solemnization of marriages among individuals of different religious denominations.

A marriage otherwise legal, therefore, produces no legal effects here. Besides, the warrant under which the Consul would act, is, in our opinion, inoperative until it receives the formal assent of the supreme authority of the country, and, for reasons which appear to us perfectly obvious, we do not think that such assent is likely to be given. It is the duty of all governments jealous of national independence to discountenance every step tending to the creation of an imperium in imperio, and the severe penalties of *permanente* in England owe their origin to no other cause but the avowed maintenance of this very correct principle.

Under the new existing Navigation Laws of Great Britain, the first British vessel that has been chartered in the port for the United States, is the Iron bark *St. M. de Oros*, of 1,000 tons, bound for San Francisco, California, with a cargo of 100,000 lbs. of iron. It is to be chartered and separately be chartered for California, and the British schooner *Swift* for New York.

H. M. Queen Victoria has been pleased to issue a commission for the promotion of an Exhibition of the works of Industry of all Nations to be held in London in the ensuing year, at

which prizes and medals, to the value of at least twenty thousand pounds sterling, will be awarded to the exhibitors of the most meritorious works then brought forward. The exhibition will be divided into four sections:

- 1.—Raw Materials and Produce illustrative of the various productions on which human industry is employed.
- 2.—Machinery, for Agricultural, Manufacturing, Engineering and other purposes, and Mechanical Inventions, illustrative of the Agents which human ingenuity brings to bear upon the production of nature.
- 3.—Manufactures, illustrative of the results produced by the operation of human industry upon natural productions.
- 4.—Sculpture, Models, and the plastic art generally, illustrative of the taste and skill displayed in such applications of human industry.

Parties resident here desirous of taking part in the above exhibition may obtain further information by applying at the British Consulate.

STEAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ENGLAND AND SOUTH AMERICA.

Some time in February last, a contract was entered into by the Royal (West India) Mail Packet Company, with the British government, for the establishment of a monthly line of steamers, from Southampton or Liverpool, to Pernambuco, Bahia, and Rio de Janeiro. Though nearly a year has elapsed, nothing has been done in execution of this contract, farther than to determine the point of departure from England, the kind of steamers to be employed, and the route to be pursued. The Southampton line has been definitively fixed upon as the port of departure, in preference to Liverpool, for reasons principally connected with the existence there of the Company's present establishment. It has also been decided to employ paddle-wheel steamers; because having been thoroughly tested, they are found to answer in every respect, as regards speed, safety, efficiency and precision. For doing an experience of ten years, it is believed that no damage to or dislocation of machinery in the British ocean steamers, has so thoroughly disabled any one of them, as to prevent the continuance of her voyage. In case of accident, one or other of the paddles or engines has continued serviceable, enabling the vessel to proceed at a speed varying from one half to three-fourths of her maximum. On the other hand, if the propeller of a screw steamer is broken or deranged, the vessel is forced to rely on her sails, from the impossibility of repairing the propeller except in port.

The route proposed to be adopted is described as follows:

Southampton to Funchal, Madeira	1396
Madeira to Santa Cruz, Tenerife	300
Tenerife to Rio de Janeiro	965
(allowing 20 miles for winding the Islands)	945
Cape Verde to Pernambuco	1285
Pernambuco to Bahia	410
Bahia to Rio Janeiro	620
Total (Southampton to Rio Janeiro)	5126
Rio Janeiro to Montevideo	1390
Montevideo to Buenos Ayres (allowing 20 miles for winding the shoals)	636

By this route the distance is not increased more than 100 miles over the direct route from Southampton, to either Pernambuco or Rio. The time, at an average speed of 10 miles the hour, allowing for stoppages, will be, to Pernambuco 18 days, to Rio 24.

The cost of the proposed service will be loaned to the British Exchequer, but that now incurred, in maintaining the communication from Funchal to Brazil, by the monthly line of mail-boats, will be a heavy one. Hence, it is apprehended that our own countrymen may anticipate them, by establishing a line of steamers from Southampton to Rio by way of Bahia, Pernambuco and Bahia, some impatience manifested at the dilatoriness of the company in postponing the execution of their contract. At the same time, it is believed that the vessels have been constructed for this service, and none can be spared from the West India service for the South American line until the vessels to be employed under the new West India arrangement are built, and their preparation will occupy at least six months. It is, therefore, probable that it is proposed to raise four of the West India

ships, and prepare them, by improvements which will bring their average speed to two knots, for carrying the Brazilian mails—the South American service will not be commenced till sometime in the year 1881.

[New York Journal of Commerce.]

NICARAGUA QUESTION.

Mr. Clayton, on the part of the United States, and Sir H. Bulwer, on the part of England, have agreed to a certain arrangement embracing four, five, or six leading points, by which the whole of the business will be settled effectually, provided the United States Senate, on the one side, and Lord Palmerston, on the other, agree to the result arrived at by their respective negotiators. By the proposed arrangement the United States and Great Britain agree in convention to constitute themselves the protecting powers of the great canal to be constructed between the two oceans, guaranteeing neutrality to the canal about to be constructed and opened through Nicaragua, under a charter from the Government of that state. By that convention the sovereign right of Nicaragua to the whole of the territory lying between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, embracing both sides of the route of the proposed canal, and the navigation leading to each end, is acknowledged and guaranteed by the two powers, and thrown open to the whole commercial world under certain general conditions. Another point of the arrangement attracts the attention of the public, even in time of war, to place the canal in a neutral position, open to all nations, with a neutral office on each side of the lake, and embracing about two degrees of each of the great oceans. Within those limits, even in a state of maritime war, no force is to be employed, and no vessel of one nation on those of another, but fall asleep in every beyond them on either side. Another point of great importance is, that the authority vested by the state of Nicaragua in the canal company is to be complete and perfect over the route of toll, and over the financial and commercial management of the whole line. It is also understood that the Russian Government, and even the French Government, may become parties, and occupy the same position as protective powers as the others, looking towards the construction and use of the canal.

[New York Herald.]

The London *Britannic* of the 21 of February gives the following from its Paris correspondent—

The two great literary and political rivals, Thiers and Guizot, have given the public this week a rather peculiar display of the envy which divides the Guizot family. Guizot, in a discourse on the success of the English revolution, and is delighted to find that everybody reads it and talks of it, and in case M. Thiers to cast completely into the shade. This gives Thiers the jaundice, and he immediately publishes in real time an elaborate article in which he accuses assistance, which he had undertaken to draw up in the form of a report to the National Assembly. A discussion in the National Assembly, and Guizot falls several degrees in public estimation, whilst Thiers rises. Guizot and Thiers like to be called the French Pitt and Fox; but they should bear in mind that the two great Englishmen, notwithstanding the keenness of their personal, political and party rivalry, would never have descended to petty acts of spite which would have been scarcely creditable to two eminent chamberlains.

Approval of Thiers—A most indefatigable worker. The midnight lamp, the morning dawn, and the whole day long find him toiling in one way or another in the service of his country, his parliamentary projects, his superintendence of the Government, his labours in committee, his formidable reports. Rarely does he take a social relaxation, and then only for brief intervals. It is no rare thing for him to give appointments at six o'clock in the morning, and those who are permitted to come to converse with him are generally expected to be at his house at eight o'clock or thereabouts. Go to his house, as we are not permitted to do, you find him in his study, reading, writing, dictating, or making searches. At whatever hour or in whatever duty you may see him, he is sure to be in full dress—never actually appearing that his black dress-coat is never off his back,

and his spectacles never off his nose. He is very cordial in his manner of receiving his visitors, talks with great volubility, and like all talkative people, expects to be listened to with great attention. Like Cesar, he is able to conduct difficult matters at the same time, and not frequently dictates to two or three secretaries at once. His favourite hobby of writing and talking in military affairs; a more warlike soul than his was never placed in so small a frame, and no soldier ever had a keener admiration for the phantom glory. In the general management of the army he takes great interest, and unconsciously dictates to the Minister of War what is to be done and what left undone. Of his famous (or rather infamous) siege of Rome he was the great adviser, and he watched the progress of the military operations day by day with the liveliest concern. He was better informed as to the state of affairs than the Government, and it was he who issued directions for the reinforcements and war material to be sent. When the siege was finally successful his joy was unbounded; and a journalist of my acquaintance who happened to call on him just after the intelligence had reached him, was very much surprised to find all the details of the affair, and, to make him self understood, planned out an imaginary siege of a flower garden in his garden. He literally said: "I would have taken the garden."

"Pough the Duke of Orleans." And Thiers he vanquished all his foes. And Thiers he was the slain! Behold the politics become continually heart talk of schemes being on foot for the reconnoissance of the two branches of the Bourbon family, which has lately been said to be a solemn convulsion of some influential Legation recently held at Venice the basis of an arrangement was nearly come to. However, again repeat that no reliance whatever can be placed in any statements of this kind. No reconciliation of the nature generally forth is possible which can be clearly foreseen, and none assuredly can hope to be able to control, which will decide the alliance or coalition between the two rival branches; if, for example, one of the Orleans should be called to the restored throne of France, would take a moment's hesitation, utterly disregarding of the rights of the Duke of Bordeaux; if, on the contrary, the latter should obtain the crown of Spain, the Orleans to a man will rally round him. But what is most positive that no arrangement is probable in that M. Thiers and his class are trying to get up a political palafax, from which the Legitimists are to be excluded.

There is some squabbling in the Legation ranks, in consequence of the unfortunate split in the party which led to the triumph of the Socialist candidate in the recent election for the department of Gard, and Guizot, a discourse the editor of the *Gazette de France*, who caused the split, has been greatly blamed, and there has been some talk of his being taken to court judicially unworthy the confidence of the party. But this is nonsense. M. de Lourdeux may have made some mistakes on public assistance, his newspaper are of far too much importance to the cause to be prevented. Why do not the Legitimists give their vote to M. de Thiers in the Assembly, and thereby prevent them from damaging the cause by seeking undue gratification of their legitimate ambition? These are not times in which to put the sword under a bushlet—to exalt its mediocrities and slight its talents. Yet the Legitimists seem to think different, and maintain in a city that plain common sense is so rare in France!

Nonsense though the Republic be, it has effected a great deal, and has done it in a way which assuredly it was least expected—the stage. Under Louis Philippe, who boasted of being a man of letters, and who was a man, and who thought that money-getting was the most noble occupation of life, nothing could exceed the scandalous immorality, and even grossness, which reigned in the theatre, and of ten of the pieces represented on the stage. Adultery, seduction, concealment were the constant themes of the day, and the most outrageous scenes, and the most natural amusement in the world—was things not only without a name, and not only without a name, but without a name, and the dissonance which was unobscuredly held up to public ridicule, and was more than enough to be in full dress—never actually appearing that his black dress-coat is never off his back, and his spectacles never off his nose. He is very cordial in his manner of receiving his visitors, talks with great volubility, and like all talkative people, expects to be listened to with great attention. Like Cesar, he is able to conduct difficult matters at the same time, and not frequently dictates to two or three secretaries at once. His favourite hobby of writing and talking in military affairs; a more warlike soul than his was never placed in so small a frame, and no soldier ever had a keener admiration for the phantom glory. In the general management of the army he takes great interest, and unconsciously dictates to the Minister of War what is to be done and what left undone. Of his famous (or rather infamous) siege of Rome he was the great adviser, and he watched the progress of the military operations day by day with the liveliest concern. He was better informed as to the state of affairs than the Government, and it was he who issued directions for the reinforcements and war material to be sent. When the siege was finally successful his joy was unbounded; and a journalist of my acquaintance who happened to call on him just after the intelligence had reached him, was very much surprised to find all the details of the affair, and, to make him self understood, planned out an imaginary siege of a flower garden in his garden. He literally said: "I would have taken the garden."

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