

BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL OFFICE

AND

ARGENTINE.

(No. 1241.)

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1850.

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BUENOS AYRES.

Although nothing positive has yet transpired in regard to the momentous question upon which diplomacy has been for some time engaged, yet it is proper to state that an impression pretty generally entertained that, if a satisfactory understanding has not already been reached, matters are in a fair train of early settlement. We can not undertake to say for this idea is warranted, but we have formerly been of opinion that, provided the assistance of the Flood convention were unimpeded, and the conciliatory spirit of the Argentine Government were honestly met that of France, all difficulties with respect to the form of the arrangement would be eventually overcome.

The statement we gave of the guns of the vessels composing the National flotilla is, it appears, inaccurate.

- The following is, we are informed, correct:
- Edgantine "Julio," 12 guns, Com. José Mariándo.
 - Brigantine "Mayo," 6 do. Capt. Lata Cabas.
 - Schooner "La Mercedes," 2 do. Lieut. Alvarez Sagay.
 - Schooner "Santa Clara," 9 do. Lieut. Thomas Pig.
 - Schooner "Chacabuco," 5 do. Lieut. Mariano Gero.

All the above guns have percussion locks and sum total of the crews is 405 men.

We conceive it to be a duty incumbent upon us to call attention to the advertisement published in another column in regard to the English Parochial Library, established at No. 64, Calle Igo.

This establishment has originated, we are informed, with a few benevolent individuals who are zealous of providing greater facilities of instruction and improvement to the British community generally and to the working classes in particular, have each liberally contributed a handsome sum towards a fund for the purchase of books. The English Parochial Library now numbers upwards of 700 volumes in the subjects of Theology, Antiquities, Science, Theology, Ancient and Modern History, Biography, Voyages and Travels, Natural History, Poetry, Plays, Tales, Novels, &c., &c. The number books will be progressively increased; it is stated in the advertisement that the subscriptions will be applied to the purchase of new works. Besides a large collection of books by English authors we find in the catalogue some of Bancroft, Washington Irving and Prescott, and translations of others, Pritchard, Fane, Schiller, Rollin, Froisart, Herberk, Galois, Lamartine, Humboldt, &c. It is our hope that this institution may meet with that support from the foreign residents in this city, which is our opinion all institutions of this nature are entitled to from the benevolent citizens which they necessarily exercise upon its community.

change in the Ministry as had been at first contemplated and attempted, and although the panic caused by the triumph of the Socialists in the capital has been mitigated by the success of Conservative candidates in some of the Red departments, yet these events have produced a powerful effect on the political state of the Republic.

This ministers have not resigned, with the exception of M. Ferdinand Barrot, whose retirement was caused by another incident; and he has been succeeded by M. Baroche, who is chiefly known for his legal activity in the conduct of government prosecutions.

But the whole position of the Ministry and of the President has been materially altered. The nominal structure of the Cabinet and the personal responsibility of the Administration remain the same for the present; but its powers are essentially altered under the control of a directing Council, which does in reality determine, at this crisis, the highest questions of political liberty.

The President has again made a vain effort, not unaccompanied with a sacrifice of his personal objects, to obtain the active and direct support of the chiefs of the Moderate party; but, although M. Moie, M. Thiers, M. do Breuille, M. Boyrier, and their friends, persist in withholding their personal services from the State in the capacity of Ministers, they have agreed to act in concert with each other and with the President as a sort of Committee of Public Safety during the present alarming position of the country.

To this extraordinary body the laws of a repressive character which are about to be proposed have been referred; and they will not be presented to the Assembly by the titular Minister until they have received the assent of these councillors.

In a constitution as anomalous as that of the French Republic, and so widely distant from our own notions of constitutional government and Ministerial responsibility, we can find no sufficient ground to criticize any distribution of power which may serve to meet the exigencies of the time.

But we confess that we entertain doubts of the efficacy or duration of a system which screens the looseness of the composition by an aversion of the public duties of Government, and seeks to sanction, by a sort of anomalous authority, measures which the Ministers of the State have not the strength to carry in their own names.

Nor can we conceive any honest government in a free State in which the real advisers of the Executive do not assume their full share of responsibility. Perhaps, in reality, no one gains more real influence by such an arrangement than the President himself, inasmuch as, whilst every one is consoled, the decision rests in himself alone.

The measures which have been suggested or discussed by these mutual and rather unconstitutional methods are not of a nature to require the suffrage to citizens who have passed the age of 35, or have lived a year in one township—and even a prolongation of the powers of the President and the present Assembly are not measures which will change the face of the country. The last expedient would amount to a coup d'état, and is a direct violation of the constitution; and the former is an indirect but real infraction of its spirit, but none of them would supply the indispensable want of confidence in the following respects:—to the laws, faith in the constitution. The danger would be augmented without any adequate addition to the means of defence.

(Times, May 29, 1848.)

large and important portion of Europe, which some "fortitious congregation of atoms" has collected under the Austrian sceptre, has not acquired from these events some hope at least of political and social amelioration; we may deplore that Italy, having awakened to the necessities, the freedom, and the independence of the 19th century, has been flung back to the régime of the 15th.

We may somewhat console ourselves, however, by reflecting, that if the events of these years have not everywhere secured liberty, they at least guaranteed peace. If a war of any magnitude did not spring out of the catastrophes and danger of 1845 and 1849, such a war, we may safely conclude, will never spring up. These years have had no more striking result than to tame down and extinguish every fiery particle in the breast of the nation most prone to warlike impulses, and most apt to gratify it. We always supposed that the elder Bourbon and Louis-Philippe held the war-spirit of France like a lion in a cage. The revolution destroyed the bars of that cage; the lion walked forth, and has proved a surly, irritable, and self-asserting animal; but one that vents all its rage on himself. To other powers he is as docile and as little provoking as the tamest of domestic animals. Even French rivalry towards Russia has disappeared. Secure of continental alliance, and desirous of spreading the root of Bourbon influence, France was a rival in developing her naval strength, and colonial rivalry with us. But 1849 has put an extinguisher upon France's naval ambition, and upon her colonial aspirations, and upon her dynastic coherings with absolutism.

If France has thus ceased to be formidable or quarrelsome, Russia has proved little less so. In 1847 and 1848, when she was in a martial spirit; 1850 shows her to be poor and mendacious as ever, whilst the Hungarian campaign, the result of more vigorous than fighting, shows her to be anything but invincible. Russia, indeed, may have grown more formidable to Turkey; but we never form her despotic power may have gained by the absorption of the Principalities, and by reducing Austria to her servitor, has been fully counterbalanced by the creation of an independent, free, and constitutional kingdom in the north, willing and able to counteract Russian influences and ideas, not so much by war, but by her title, by freedom, and by example. A good understanding between the three great defensive and constitutional powers, Britain—England, France, and Prussia—must henceforth, and without any set or written alliance, imperatively secure and enforce the peace of Europe.

The partisans amongst us of high war expenditures and preparation seem fully convinced that such are the results of the last two years, and consequently they admit that we are not threatened with any real patent or foreseen cause of war. They make this up, however, by the theory, that war is a product of chance, not calculation; that it is not to spring from an accident, or collision, and that although our prudence may avert any serious, regular, or open war, it is not to prevent a spark or a brawl which precipitate the country into that policy which never have produced so complete a triumph.

Now, we must deny altogether this view of national quarrels, or their probability. When such sentiments existed as great national rivalries, long kept alive by mutual jealousy, in times when there was neither a press to correct, nor commercial nor other intercourse to counteract such feelings; it was then easy for a king, or a minister, or a royal mistress, either to kindle war of itself, or take advantage of some trifling incident to produce it. Such people were not arrested then by considerations of either humanity, expediency, or risk. Now, however, there is a public opinion every where, as well as public control. A man who a thousand times more costly, and a thousand times more to great results. More crimes are stalked through than martial studs are made. We defy any Prince or people to play expensively at such a game. And yet pretends are each day abundant occasion for war, if it were desired. Each week and month comes fraught with accident, collision, misunderstanding. And what do they all end in—the smoke, not of cannon, but of diplomacy. A contemporary tells us that if the Emperor Paul resigned in Russia at present, we should have had war. Mr. Mag to say the Emperor Paul

would not be allowed to reign in Russia. Despotism as well as constitutional countries have their remedies, though perhaps different ones, against insane monarchs and despotic policy.

Mr. Cobden, therefore, will feel no quins in presenting his measures for reduction of expenditure. If it be admitted that we need no longer spend eighteen or twenty millions to meet the threats and the designs of war from a colossal rival, it cannot be sustained that we are still to expend these twenty millions in order to protect us from the imperiousness from accident or collision. In that state of general politics in which war is by every power and on every side so reluctantly contemplated, there is not the least fear of trifles or unforeseen accidents producing it.

Having thus met the durnal argument of the Times for keeping up the present high pressure of taxation, let us continue our refutation of another advocate who has risen in the same cause. We mean Mr. Norman. Alas! pleading our increased ability to bear taxation, compared with former times, Mr. Norman seeks to show how much lighter our fiscal burdens are than those of the French. This is but little consolation, even if proved. But it is far from proved.

Mr. Norman calculates that the French paid about £1. 8s. per head in 1816 and 1817, and that they paid £1. 38s. even previous to their late revolution. Whilst we, having an expenditure of fifty-two millions for twenty-eight millions of people, pay but £1. 17s. a-head. But, to compare expenditures with the French, to compare the income of our church, and universities, and tithes, we are to compare the French budget. We will omit these last; but, adding local taxation, our expense in collecting revenue is—we may think, our fifty-two millions to seventy. This upon twenty-eight millions of population would pay £2. 10s. a-head. But then again it must occur to every one, that Ireland does not give its own expenses, and that consequently the burden of taxation must be apportioned out the subtraction of twenty millions of Britain, which, if Mr. Norman will calculate, shows something much more like £2. 17s. a-head, than the English taxation, that £1. 17s. a-head.

To calculate, moreover, the comparative weight that is imposed upon the Englishman and upon the Frenchman, we should also take into account how it is collected. Of the £28 millions of which the French revenue consisted in 1847, one half was raised by direct taxes or stamp duties on the transfer of property. Therefore the French owner of property, and especially of landed property, does certainly pay more to the state than the English landlord or capitalist. But, on the other hand, the industrious and earning Englishman pays three and four times more, even according to his means, than the industrious and earning Frenchman.

Will Mr. Norman draw from these premises the conclusion that our commercial and industrial classes ought to be reconciled by the example of France to the present amount and the present system of taxation?

(Daily News.)

THE NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA—THE NEW SPIRIT OF THE AGE.

New York, April 6.

This metropolis has again on Saturday by the arrival of the steamship Cherokee and Empire City, bringing us late news from San Francisco and Monterey, California, and many and remarkable character in its progress of society, government, trade, commerce, mining, and civilization, in that new territory on the Pacific. The mails by the Cherokee are larger than those which used to reach New York from Liverpool, when Steamships first started on their regular routes, nearly thousand letters having been received by the Cherokee. These vessels brought about two hundred and thirty passengers, and a cargo in gold dust. Every month tends to increase the movement in the California trade, and create additional employment for the public mind. Scarcely two years have elapsed since the annexation of that country to this republic, and already a train and emigration have sprung up equal to what it required to establish relations between Europe and America, on the first discovery of the latter by Christopher Columbus.

ENGLAND.
Although the French elections of the 10th of March have not been followed by so decided a

