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BUENOS AYRES.

It is with no ordinary sensations of sorrow we record in our *Obituary* of this week, the demise of our esteemed contemporary, JAMES BRIDMAN, Esq., Administrator and Responsible Editor of the *Gaceta Mercantil*. Whilst we have in much excitement to the decease of an all-wise and all-gracious Providence, we mingle our tears with those of his bereaved family and afflicted relatives; and humbly implore the Father of Mercies to pour the balm of his divine consolation into their wounded spirits.

Eminently republican in his principles, and ardently devoted to the national cause of his adopted country, the military intervention of 1829 excited his youthful ardour, and in giving expression to his patriotic feelings, his abilities as a public writer were gradually developed and matured. From choice and conviction he became an early and attached adherent of General Rosas, and throughout the long and eventful career of his public administration, continued a sincere, zealous and consistent advocate and supporter of his cause and measures; a circumstance which drew down upon him an ample share of the eulogy and abuse, so recklessly heaped, especially by the Montevideo press, and all sundries connected with the national party; but, to his credit be it recorded, no one ever dared to impugn the sincerity of his motives and professions, the consistency of his public conduct, or the unassailable purity of his private character. And when time has cleared away the mists of prejudice, allowed party antipathies to subside, and fully developed the merits and results of the comprehensive and prudent policy, so ably, indefatigably and successfully maintained by that illustrious Statesman, we fearlessly anticipate a verdict, flattering alike to the talents, the honesty, the mild independence, and the patriotic devotedness of our departed friend.

But it is to the personal worth and domestic qualities of the deceased, that memory fondly adverts on this melancholy occasion. Exemplary in all the relations of life, his conjugal affection and parental tenderness were only exceeded by his filial reverence. Sympathetic, obliging and generous, his heart and his hand were ever open to the appeal of distress. Charitable and social, frank and communicative, he enjoyed with zest the hour of social intercourse, which he alleviated from the stores of a retentive memory, amply furnished with general literature as well as politics. Embalmed in these enduring associations, his memory will long be cherished by a numerous and an attached circle of friends.

REQUISITE IN PLACE

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

Our date, by H. M.'s pocket Streguli, reach the 4th June; but the news they contain are very meagre and uninteresting. For the present we can only offer a hurried outline of a few interesting details for a subsequent number.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Internal affairs began to wear a comparatively gloomy and uninteresting aspect. Food is abundant, and compared with former prices, very cheap, but compared with the average remuneration of labour, not so cheap as to prevent much suffering and privation. Trade appears to be in a firm and healthy, rather than a flourishing

condition. Cotton has lately risen a shade, not from any extraordinary demand for manufactured goods, but from a real or supposed deficiency in the supply of the raw material. The raw produce of this country, we are happy to say, keeps its ground firmly, and indicates a tendency rather to advance. Considering the immense quantity that has been remitted from the River Plate during the last two years, we cannot account for the present buoyancy on the plea of a scanty supply, and must therefore have recourse to a gradually increasing consumption, and progressive appreciation.

In politics the party warfare, inseparable from the British character and constitution, is gallantly maintained. The low prices, consequent on an abundant supply, press heavily on a numerous and important class, the agriculturists; and assailed the Protectionist standard pretence for affording the whole system of free trade. Still they are the mere tactics of party warfare, and no more, we presume, now dreams of restoring high duties, restrictions and monopolies, as a cure for the present evil. However, judging from the dolorous complaints, death from rejection is quite as horrible in prospect as death from starvation. When once the rent of tenants, and the expenditure of landlords have been adapted to the new order of things, we have no doubt that it will proceed smoothly and satisfactorily. All events, any attempt at now prohibiting the importation of food into Great Britain, would be quite as ridiculous, if not impracticable, as to prohibit the importation of labour and capital into the United States, Brazil, or the Argentine Confederation. The recent modifications in the Navigation Laws of Great Britain come in for a due share of vituperation, and we elsewhere give a letter from Buenos Ayres on the subject, interesting rather than from its local associations, than any sound and comprehensive views of trade and policy therein advocated.

In her external relations, the gloom that lately obscured her horizon begins to dissipate; to the chagrin and disappointment, we may suppose, of the Alarmists, who have long been creating their distempered imaginations with the anticipations of a general European war. Diplomatic relations are re-established, or about to be re-established with Spain, and it is said that our old and respected friend, Lord Howden, is to have the honour of being Her Majesty's Representative at the Court of Madrid. The frays with France, arising out of the Greek mutation is understood to be settled. Sir Henry Bulwer progresses with rail-road celebrity and higher prestige, in his amicable arrangements with the Cabinet of Washington; whilst Mr. Southern has been equally successful in restoring matters to their proper and natural equilibrium in the River Plate. In fact we see more cause to congratulate Viscount Palmerston on his success, than console with him on his perplexities; and, in behalf of the common interests of humanity, we hope to see the great principles of free trade and free navigation fairly and impartially tested under his presiding auspices. Reciprocity of trade and commercial intercourse between England, France, and the United States, is a better guarantee for the peace and prosperity of the world, than all the political alliances that have been, or that can be formed. In this view we accept the Peace Association, as the product and index of a just and pacific sentiment, and we extend to it all the commutations of Christendom; and the harbinger of a brighter era for the destinies of our race.

FRANCE.

Comparative tranquillity prevailed both in the Capital and Departments; though not sufficient to inspire the capitalist with the necessary confidence in its permanency, or give a steady impulse to industry and business. The new electoral law has been carried by a small majority of the Assembly, and with much less popular excitement than was anticipated; but the real danger is perhaps not the less imminent, that the outward expression of dissatisfaction is suppressed. As the eruption of a volcano may spare the horrors of an earthquake, so a little latitude in discussing real or imaginary rights, may often save the worse evils of a revolution. Besides the Parisians are becoming adepts in revolutionary tactics, and possibly the first indication of any crisis may be the *de facto* erection of a barricade.

That there is a positive pressure upon without, may be inferred from the adoption of the electoral law, and other precautionary measures. The periodical "Napoleon" has also been suppressed; the head and front of whose offending we have been unable to discover.

The recent rupture with England, is ably epitomised in the following extract from a provincial paper—

"France, and Russia, and England, had made a Greece a King, and we have given it to the Bavarian repudiator. To France and Russia, then, did England willingly submit her case, and hold these powers, as if she had the money question was concerned, gave a verdict for the English creditors for a larger amount than the English creditors. Mr. Wyse, has received, France did more. She volunteered in the best spirit to become peace-maker between Great Britain and Small Greece; and our ministry in an equally candid manner accepted the good offices so tendered. A French gentleman, Baron Gros, set off for Athens; but when he got there, his logic and his reasons, and his good intentions, were equally unavailing with those that had been tried before by others. The Greek would not agree to pay his debts, and Gros admitted he could do nothing. Meanwhile, another arrangement set on foot by the friends of peace and conciliation was going on in London, in which the French minister at St. James', and Lord Palmerston were the active parties. They after many conversations and some correspondence, decided upon terms for the final settlement of the difficulty. These terms were known and agreed to by the Russian ministry; and having been signed, were despatched to Athens. Meanwhile, however, Mr. Wyse, the representative of England in Greece, had felt that when Baron Gros had given up his mission as impracticable, it was time to settle the matter by the only arguments that King Otho was capable of admitting. He was instructed accordingly; the bombardment of the re-established, bombardment of the palace was hinted at, and the money was paid.

After this termination of the dispute—when the repudiator had been forced to be honest against his will—the French steamer, with London letters, bore in sight of the Piræus. Amongst these letters was contained the decision of the French Ambassador and Lord Palmerston. But the latter, who was in Paris, the ministry of President Louis Napoleon were in a terrible state of alarm. The Emperor Law, which they want to get passed. The people of France were believed to be ready for revolt against the authority who sought to abridge the suffrage. Something was wanted to turn French attention from French politics. The Greek business came on a Goldenrod, and was settled with activity. The *Albion* was the cry. M. Drouyn d'Arny received sudden orders to leave London for Paris. Lord Brougham got into the news made the most of the fact in the House of Lords. Lord John and Lord Palmerston and the Marquis of Lansdowne got themselves into something like a false position by attempting to avoid a frank admission of the whole facts at once; and stock exchange bears and political croakers went

work to predict all sorts of mischief, and to assert all sorts of good grounds, but the true one, for the recall of the ambassador to his republican friends in Paris. A day or two passed, and the funds recovered their declining state; the newspapers began to reveal the true state of the case, and the public must soon appreciate its real merits. The moment they do so, they will see that France and England cannot possibly have any serious quarrel when no insult or quarrel was intended."

MONTEVIDEO.

"A tragical and disgusting episode has been brought to light. It appears that about the middle of June last, a party from the Cerro, a military dependency of Montevideo, despite the suspension of hostilities, consequent on the Ledredor negotiations, had surprised a quantity of cattle belonging to the besiegers, under the charge of three individuals, two men and a lad. The act of robbery was consummated, the cattle being carried off, and their keepers along with them.

President Oribe naturally reprimanded against the violation of the armistice, and very properly demanded that the cattle should be restored, and the individuals who had been in charge of them, set at liberty. The Government of the town of Montevideo, consequently, offered to pay the value of the cattle; but a horrible mystery still hung over the fate of the unfortunate keepers.

The worst suspicions of H. E. President Oribe were speedily excited, or rather confirmed; and a direct appeal was made to the French authorities on the Station. M. Thiers, Commandant of the French naval forces, took up the subject with a laudable zeal. Attended by M. Drouyn, General Consul of France in Montevideo, and various Officers of the French squadron, he commenced an active search, at the head of a party of French sailors; accompanied by Señor Batlle, Minister of War of the Government of Montevideo, and Señor Ruiz, Commandant of the Cerro.

After a long and anxious investigation, the hapless victims were at last discovered, naked & murdered! and their threats cut! "Demanding proofs of criminality, within gunshot of the Fort; and to which Batlle and Ruiz, upon being interrogated by Commandant Thiers, could answer nothing more than that "They knew nothing, had heard nothing; that the fact is to them very singular—strange, new, and astonishing. They must have seen it to believe it."

We abstain from all comment on such a startling and despicable conduct; congratulating the French authorities on their many and independent department on this trying occasion.

M. THIERS.

In the heat of debate on the electoral law of France, in the Session of the National Assembly of the 24th May, Mr. Thiers made the following startling admission—"Though for the last two years I have conformed to many things, I have been converted to none of them." Astonishing as the audacity of the avowal must appear, Mr. Thiers is perhaps entitled to full credit for its truth and sincerity; and coming, as it does, from the recognized leader of an influential, if not numerous party of Frenchmen, it throws a flood of light on the actual position and future prospects of France.

From it we are entitled to infer, that the cooperation of M. Thiers, and we may add, of his party, is hollow and deceptive; in other

