

# BRITISH PACIFIC

## AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

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### BUENOS AYRES.

With this number concludes the *Quarter of the British Packet*.

### BRAZIL.

[Continued from last.]

It is proverbially difficult to account for tastes. To an impartial observer, Brazil from her position, dimensions, and natural resources, seems a evidently designed by Providence, to occupy a very prominent and distinguished place in the South-American continent. The consciousness of a mission so sublime, one would think, might have inspired her rulers with loftier thoughts, and a more dignified ambition. It is melancholy, it is provoking, to see the youthful giant of America, converted into an obscure and secondary satellite, by the grovelling views and paralyzing policy of her statesmen. It is more blessed to give than to receive; and when Brazil strikes, as a vulture she will, and it may be in no distant day, from her lethargic slumber, she will heap deep and bitter curses on the memory of those, who destined the post of honor to which she was entitled, for the boggy crumb of European sympathy and protection.

Once reduced to this false position, ignominy creeps into the folds of her nation. In her conduct with respect to Argentine and Oriental refugees, Brazil has shown, not only an utter contempt of international law, but a reckless disregard of truth and consistency and a lamentable ignorance of her own high interests. For years back, and especially since the intervention, the territory of the Empire has been a rallying-point for the malcontents of every hue and faction; they professed animosity to these fugitives being the safest passport, and strongest recommendation to Imperial favour and protection.

We have no wish to circumscribe the exercise of a glorious prerogative, distinctly recognised in every modern code. War is one of the greatest of social evils, and every thing calculated to attenuate its effects, should be held sacred and inviolable; but, in shewing the consequences of misfortune, of error, or crime, we must be careful not to foster the canker in which they originate. The duty of conceding an asylum is optional, and from its nature imperfect; but the obligations consequent on the exercise of the right are positive and obligatory. We may relieve the pressure of actual suffering and destitution, but it must be in a way that will not endanger the peace and security of unoffending neighbours. Pain and palpable as the distinction is, Brazilian statesmen seem to have a difficulty in apprehending it; and their aim to political refugees, have hitherto been a direct bounty on civil war; protracting and perpetuating *ad infinitum*.

The history of this episode, in the career of the Empire, furnishes abundant lessons of grave instruction, intermixed with incidents sufficiently ludicrous. Never was a system of so direct hostility carried to greater and more glaring extremes. Plain and palpable as the distinction is, Brazilian statesmen seem to have a difficulty in apprehending it; and their aim to political refugees, have hitherto been a direct bounty on civil war; protracting and perpetuating *ad infinitum*. They lived at large, assembled at pleasure, concerted their measures of invasion, and when the hour for action arrived, never found the least difficulty in quitting their retreat, armed, equipped and supplied,—leaving

an open door for the booty they might acquire, and a welcome asylum for themselves, in the case of a new reverse! A few prominent characters had been removed to the Court, but for their passports were obtained on one pretence or another; and if safe means of transport failed, Brazilian vessels of war were occasionally employed! And, as if all this were not injury, all this was done with solemn and repeated assurances of peace, friendship and neutrality on the part of the Empire; the burden and chorus of every official communication.

With the frequent changes of administration that had taken place in Brazil, and the necessary inexperience of a youthful Monarch, unable perhaps to hold the balance firm between the rival factions, it would be unfair to expect or exact an absolute uniformity of theoretic views, or a rigid consistency in practical details. Of such minor discrepancies we do not complain; but, as to the general principles of international law, a certain amount of uniformity and consistency is requisite; and without it a nation is not entitled to rank in the category of civilized States. And it is here Brazilian diplomacy has long shown a lamentable laxity, to the discredit alike of the Government and the nation. As an illustration, take the following case, fully recorded in the official correspondence with the Argentine Minister—

In 1845, General Rivera was residing at the Court of Rio Janeiro, as a political refugee. His presence was required in Montevideo, to give a fresh impulse to the war against the two legal Governments of the Plate, which had become languid and desultory; and Señor Magarinos, Agent of the nominal Government, requested of his passport. General Daño, the Argentine Minister, opposed the measure; and Señor Limpo de Abreu, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, fully acquiesced in his view of the case. The passport was accordingly refused, and the most conclusive arguments assigned in defence of the Imperial decision. But the triumph of truth and justice was doomed to be short; for in a few days the passport was granted, the doctrine of the previous week repudiated, and Señor Limpo and his administration exhibited in true Hibernic characteristics.

It was in line a high crime, Profoundly skilled in analysis; He could distinguish and define— A hair 'twixt South and South-west side; On either which he would dispute, Could change hands, and cast its side.

This unfortunate adventure, in which Señor de Abreu fell, transacted by his own sword, ought to have served Brazilian diplomats as a salutary warning, against the inconsiderate use of these double-edged weapons; especially against an antagonist so "standing at fence and dextrous in attack," as General Daño. Perilous in style, and courteous in manner; perspicuous in classification, and forcible in argument; by a process analogous to that of the practical chemist, he reduces the argument of his opponent to its first principles or constituent ingredients; detecting every stray particle of sophistry or fallacy; and by a converse operation equally rare and important, traces the bearing and operation of a principle; unfolding and estimating its remotest consequences.

But the salient points in his diplomatic accomplishments are his irresistible application of the *argumentum ad hominem*; and his address in placing his opponent between the horns of a dilemma. During his lengthened residence at the Court of Rio Janeiro, in peculiarly "troubled and distempered times," he has had frequent opportunities of employing and dis-

playing these high professional qualifications; and the explicit approbation of General Rosas, and the confidence and grateful admission of his fellow countrymen, are the noblest tribute to his important services.

With this ingenuous expression of our sentiments, we beg leave to present the General Guido our hearty welcome and cordial felicitations, on his safe arrival in Buenos Ayres. (To be continued.)

### Legation of the United States, Buenos Ayres, 26th Oct. 1850. To the citizens of the United States, residing in Buenos Ayres.

The sad intelligence of the death of General Zachary Taylor, late President of the United States, which had come to us through the common medium of the public papers, has just now been received, in an official form. The authorities at Washington, have directed all those in official service, to wear cap on the left arm, for six months. I would respectfully suggest to my fellow citizens, residing in Buenos Ayres, at the observance of this mark of respect. The flag of this Legation, and of the United States Consulate, will be placed at half mast on to-morrow, and the captains of our merchant shipping will be requested by our Consulate, to display their flags in the same manner.

These are the feeble means which we now use, to express our grateful respect for the character and services of General Taylor, and the deep and sincere grief which afflicts us, for a hero's government so sad, and so sudden. The great nation over which he presided, and the free and patriotic people who placed him in that high position, have now but one feeling. The smitten heart sends forth no bitter waters. It now only pours out its pure streams of sympathy and regret.

General Taylor has left a name and fame, as unfading as they are glorious. It is chiefly, as a gallant and successful military commander; the incorruptible and devoted patriot citizen; the most distinguished, unassuming, firm, and candid man, that posterity will remember and honour him. In his military career, he earned for himself and his country, imperishable fame. His name and his deeds are inscribed on one of the brightest and most glorious pages of his country's history, and they will forever stand associated with those of Washington, and Jackson, and Scott! His political career, was too short, to permit him fully to develop his capacity for civilisation, but long enough to assure us of his honest intentions, and patriotic purposes. But, in the midst of his half developed policy; in the midst of the fiercest and the greatest conflict; in the midst of the stern contest of giant minds, and of excited passions; and surrounded by the sympathies of a

great nation, he is struck from the highest pinnacle of earthly glory, and carried to the mansions of his dead! "He endeavoured to do his duty!" let us honor his memory.

W. A. HARRIS.

The following extracts are from the *London Shipping and Mercantile Gazette* of the 10th of August.

### BRANCE.

The *Monitor* publishes the following telegraphic despatch, dated Lyons, August 17, at half past 9 o'clock in the morning:—  
"The President was present the day before yesterday at the banquet and the ball offered to him by the city. Yesterday morning he visited the school of Lamartiniere and several manufactories, and proceeded to a banquet of 1,300 covers offered to him by the merchants. On entering on the territory of Gullifove he was received by the municipal administration of that town. At 4 o'clock he visited the manufactory of the Grand Revoire and a factory of manufactures. He next presided at the inauguration of the savings-bank for the silk weavers. In the afternoon a banquet was offered to him by the Chamber of Commerce, and he visited the theatre for a few minutes. He everywhere received proofs of the warmest sympathy, and the speeches he delivered at the three banquets, as well as at the inauguration of the savings-bank, were received with enthusiasm and great applause."  
"The President has just left to continue his journey."

Mr. Arvi, a representative for Isero, who had in Switzerland after the sentence passed on him by the High Court of Milan, has surrendered at Vevey, and is to be taken to the National having asserted in its number of the 15th inst. that a captain of the National Guard of Montgard had taken the President by the hand and forced him to cry "Vive la République Democratique;" the authorities of the town have contradicted the assertion in the most formal manner, declaring it to be totally unfounded. "The numerous persons," they say, "who surround the carriage of the President, expressed to him their profound respect and devotion, and the captain of the National Guard aimed to loudly protest, by the cry of 'Vive Napoleon,' against another cry freely uttered by a group of individuals stationed at a certain distance on the square."

There is more than usual activity at present observable at the government manufactory at Nautes. The machinery for three water steamers now building at Cheringer are nearly complete, viz. the *Marquesa* corvette, of 120 horse power; the *Phlegonon*, of 400-horse power; and the *Austriac*, ship of the line, of 100 guns, to be fitted with a screw of 500-horse power.

### ITALY.

Accounts from Verona state that the Austrian government had rejected the proposition of the Lombard Venetian deputies relative to the loan of 120,000,000 florins, the government not wishing to pledge itself not to issue any paper money without previous sanction.  
M. Banchi Jovin, a Lombard refugee, and editor of the *Opinione*, had been ordered to quit the Austrian territory in consequence of the violence of his articles against the Austrian generals. His expulsion took place at the request of the Austrian cabinet.

The following interesting letter from California, from a person many years ago a respectable resident in this city, has been politely handed to us for insertion.

Benicia, April 28th, 1850.

Dear Sir—  
The place I write from is about 30 miles by water inland from San Francisco, it is the naval depot of the United States in pleasantly situated, and contains about 100 buildings, 400 or 500 inhabitants, among them 10 or 12 families, a great proportion for three parts.  
I started from New York with nothing but my carcass. On the passage I formed a company of seven fine young men [one of these a physician], for the purpose of mining. They had means, and in Valparaiso we provided ourselves with all we needed of tools and provisions. On arriving





