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OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

Department of War & Marine.
Buenos Ayres, 24th March, 1853.
It being requisite to fill the office of Commandant General of Marine and Captain of the Port, which remained vacant by the resignation of General Don Manuel Zaldívar, the Government has accepted and decreed:—
Art. 1st.—Colonel Don Manuel Escobar, formerly Assistant Commandant General of Marine and Captain of the Port of Buenos Ayres.
2d.—Citizen Don Manuel Lisch, who has been selected said duty previously, and by a special commission, will transfer the same to the Chief clerk, with the understanding that the Government recognises and services he has rendered to the Country, and accords him his gratitude.
And let it be communicated to whom it may concern, published, and given to the Official Register.
PINTO.
JOSE MARIA PAZ.

The Colonel Undergoes.

Buenos Ayres, March 25th, 1853.
To the *Minister and Secretary of State in the Department of War and Marine, Brigadier General Don José María Paz.*
I have the honor of receiving the date of yesterday's date, by which Your Honour was pleased to communicate to me the Superior Decree, by which you had been named Commandant General of Marine, and Captain of the Port of Buenos Ayres.
As a man foreign to the affairs of this Country, I have no difficulty, Mr. Minister, in speaking with the requisite alacrity. I yesterday mentioned Your Honour verbatim that I was far from possessing, and had not even a motive for possessing, the requisite qualifications for the discharge of the post which is assigned me. I now confirm in writing that manifestation, and in so doing, I wish to be ascribed an affected humility, for affliction never entered into my character.
Nevertheless Your Honour having manifested to me, that the Most Excellent Government decidedly wished me to accept it, I accepted it in the hope that I shall have to remain in it only while it lasts; but, on doing so, I regret to say, I can only offer to my Country a resignation, and not the best thing that may be in the sphere of my ability.
Only remain for me to express my personal gratitude to you, for the confidence and respect with which it is bestowed, and also to the Minister for the honorable and expensive services which he favours me with to do.
God preserve Y. H. many years.
MANUEL DE ESCOBARA.
The 1st Vice President of the Hon. Chamber of Representatives.—
Buenos Ayres, March 24th, 1853.
To the Executive Power of the Province.—
The 1st Vice President has the honor of transmitting to Y. E. the law sanctioned on this date.
The Hon. Chamber of Representatives in exercise of the duties of an extraordinary sovereignty with which it is invested, has sanctioned with the validity and force of law the following:—
Art. 1st.—The Mint shall emit to circulation four millions of current dollars, which it shall deliver to the Government by the present month, with destination to the ordinary and extraordinary expenses of the year, and to the amount to give account of its intervention.
Art. 2d.—Let it be communicated to the Executive Power.
God preserve Y. E. many years.
MARCELO GARIBAY.
JUAN PILO, Secretary.
To the Editor of the British Packet.
Buenos Ayres, March 24th, 1853.
Sir,
You will greatly oblige me by giving insertion to the enclosed; which, besides my personal vindication, involves the honor of the Royal jurisdiction, that nearly concerns all British residents.
Yours respectfully,
JAMES M. NOBLE.

THE PUBLIC.
Having suffered an arrest and short confinement, at the instigation or by the order

AND ILLUSTRATED BY ENGRAVINGS.

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1853.

of Martin Tupper Hood, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul in this City; and Mr. Hood now declining either to prosecute, or defend my former accusation, and which, I feel bound in justice to myself and my friends, to make the following statement of facts; any story of which I deny Mr. Hood to challenge or dispute.
I had been on terms of the greatest intimacy with the late Charles Smith, who had the misfortune of being casually wounded by a gun shot, that passed through both his thighs, and which occasioned the commencement of the present siege. Smith had often told me of the nobility of his family, or the existence of any relative in the world; and accordingly I was not surprised to learn that, a few days before his death, he had declared Miss Brown his sole heir, and in particular transferred to her, in presence of witnesses, a bill for \$5000, assigned by Mr. William Petty, as the balance of a small easting craft, he had purchased from deceased a few months before.
This bill, fairly come by, I am fully persuaded, Miss Brown placed in my hands, in order that I might render it amounting to her benefit, when it fell due.

On Smith's death Mr. James Laviracy called on me to assist in making the necessary preparations for the funeral. This I did the more readily perhaps in that it happened to me in the possession of a bill belonging to the deceased; balance of a larger sum than some time before fell in my hands, and for which he held no receipt, and about which Mr. Laviracy knew no more than my informant and Mr. Smith, some acquaintances of his fact. It was on my first visit to the house, on the occasion of the funeral, as I observed, that Miss Brown put into my hands the bill above alluded to.
On the day of the funeral, and after that of the friends who attended it had returned to their respective homes, Mr. Hood presented himself, called out Mrs. Hood's name in court yard, and as I afterwards learned, made some inquiries as to the property left by the deceased, and, I believe, gave some order as to the manner of proceeding with respect to it. To myself he absolutely refused to give any reasons which will hereafter appear. As Smith had transferred the bill to Miss Brown, I naturally supposed it to be her property, and considered it her *bona fide* property; and accordingly referred to it her bill.
On the 15th February, Mr. Hood called on me, and offered to discuss it, rather than the bill; stating however that he had given the amount of \$500 to Mr. Hood, and that he had considered it her bill; which he could produce vouchers for, and was naturally my own, Miss Brown, Mr. Hood or any one else having purchased it from Mr. Petty's lotter, I received the balance and took Petty's receipt for the \$500, on condition the requisite vouchers should be exhibited, if required.

Immediately after Petty's departure, I began to doubt whether I had not done wrong in parting with the bill, without receiving the full specified amount, and to solve my doubts determined to apply for advice and counsel to Her Majesty's Consul.

On presenting myself at the Consulate, certainly within half an hour after receiving the amount of Petty's money, I was immediately asked was whether I had brought the bill; which I replied, that I had brought what was better, and that I would present myself to himself into a towering passion, called me a liar, a robber, or oppressive terms to that effect, and ordered me to go, and threatened that I should suffer for what I had done.

The same evening two Police Officers called at my store, and made me a present of a charge preferred against me by Her Majesty's Consul.
On the following morning some friends kindly interested themselves in my case. Sr. Peña, then Chief of Police, who seemed to have some respect for my person, or the legality of my detention, received them with the utmost civility, and immediately cited Mr. Hood to come to his office, and made him state the charge on which I had been committed.
Mr. Hood replied that he would attend at noon; but made him make his appearance 3 p.m., Sr. Peña told me that he would not detain me longer, provided I could give security, and that he would present myself when called upon so to do. This point was speedily arranged, and I returned to my cell in the morning, at an agreeable capacity of a prisoner at large.

After a lapse of 14 days, during which Mr. Hood ministered to me, and attended to me as regards my individual case, and the affairs of the late Charles Smith, I addressed to him the following note.

Buenos Ayres, Feb. 28th, 1853.
Sir,—
As I do not choose to remain in my present anxious situation of a prisoner at large, I must request you will deign to inform me, at your earliest possible convenience, of the solution you propose to give to a situation created by your Official precipitancy; I being understood that I am ready, willing and anxious to give every information in my power respecting the affairs of the late Charles Smith, and to transfer to you certain funds belonging to his estate that happen to be in my possession.—
I am, Sir,
Your very obedient Servant,
JAMES M. NOBLE.
Martin Tupper Hood, Esq.,
H. B. Majesty's Consul,
Buenos Ayres.

After another delay of two weeks, without any answer to the proceeding, I again addressed to him the following:—
Buenos Ayres, March 14th, 1853.
Sir,—
I beg leave to remind you, that I have received no answer of any kind to my note of the 28th February. I need hardly repeat that I cannot remain in my present state; with a public slur on my credit and reputation, and indebted for my personal liberty to the kindness of some friends; therefore once more request your immediate attention to this matter; otherwise I must have recourse to other means for my vindication and retreat.
I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
JAMES M. NOBLE.
Martin Tupper Hood, Esq.,
H. B. Majesty's Consul,
Buenos Ayres.

By the person who took my second to the Consulate, Mr. Hood returned the following reply, which bears date the 1st March, but is written on that date, it had remained in Mr. Hood's own possession till the 14th—
"Mr. Hood has received a letter from James Noble dated yesterday."
"There has been no official precipitancy in the conduct of Mr. Hood, but on the contrary, excessive forbearance towards James Noble, whose conduct in this office on the 15th ult. and on a former occasion has been very violent."
"Country to Mr. Hood's orders, communicated to a number of persons, including James Noble, was present, on the 10th December last he took possession of and administered to the intimate Estate of Charles Smith."

"This illegal assumption of authority bore the appearance of a fraud being committed, and Mr. Hood had had this no other alternative but to communicate the facts to the authorities of the Country in order that they might protect the property of the deceased and punish the offence if any had been committed."
"The situation of James Noble's anomalous and whatever else may call, and has been protected by his own insolence, and to the most anxious whether legal or not."
"Mr. Hood can give no solution whatever but a denial, which he has given exclusively to the authorities, who have done their utmost to interfere with the subject demanded, and Mr. Hood himself has done his utmost to interfere with their decisions, and in the present case."
British Consulate,
Buenos Ayres, March 1st, 1853.
James Noble, Grocer.

Of the style and spirit of this official note I say nothing; but it is necessary to explain the change of form that it has undergone in § 24 paragraph—"James Noble whose conduct at this office, on the 15th ult, and on a former occasion, has been very violent."
"The former occasion" alluded to, was that of my marriage, and my "insolence" consisted in refusing to give Mr. Hood a charge of \$340 dollars for a licence! It is true that after some higgling Mr. Hood came down to \$150, equivalent to \$160, equivalent to about £2 sterling, at the then rate of exchange, an ample remuneration for the services rendered to me, and which I was enabled to charge by any rules or regulations he could propose. In consequence of this "insolence" my name was twice mentioned, and posted up for many months in the *Brit. H. Gazette*; and Mr. Hood it appears, has carefully measured the ground, and is now coolly addresses it as a negative for his conduct towards me.

I offer no comment on this scandalous transaction; but, in conclusion I must raise two simple questions, which nearly concern a large number of persons in this City—
Are Foreign Consuls authorized to order the imprisonment of their fellow-countrymen, being any thing above the grade of an illegitimate demand? Are the local Authorities justified in giving effect to such orders?
The discussion on these points I leave to other better qualified for the task, and equally interested in the decision. My object is to show my friends and the public at large, that I have done nothing of which to be ashamed; that I court inquiry and publicity, and that I do not shrink at any arrest and imprisonment, in such cases as the law sanctions, without a legal trial and formal sentence, from some authority competent in doing this thing for me. I ask nothing from the Executive Government, and expect no aid from the private courtesy of General Hood.
Buenos Ayres, March 1st, 1853.
JAMES M. NOBLE.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT.

The stagnation of the past month can hardly be exceeded; a sort of negative consolidation has obtained, and the naturally prompt and active has been entirely confined to a few unimportant remittances for the Farquary market. The demand for the future and interior has been entirely of a character of comparative buoyancy to the month of February, was completely checked, first by the hopes of a more activity by the fear of a war so true as it is that extreme measures, conspiring to produce the same effect. In ordinary times, a poor week is a season of ill-fortune and fiery, spring among the fairer sex, that gives a lively impulse to various departments of business; but in this instance, the contrary has been the case; every thing was conducted with a committal indifference and simplicity; the sentiments of patriotism, and a reliance on our own strength, being each other.
We are also excited at one time, that the suspension of hostilities might be followed a considerable outlet for the pressing necessities of the country districts; but the stringent interpretation of the resolution, the outrages committed by the besiegers in the neutral zone, rendered all these hopes in a dream, and the country has been severely and directly by this, but the effect has been severely and directly by this, but the effect has been severely and directly by this.

In these circumstances, and with the heavy arrivals of March, and we may add, the alarming amount of freight to be shipped, it is impossible that prices should rally. The supply of manufactured goods on hand is a heavy and enormous stock, and, in these circumstances, long ago filled to overflowing, there may be in this City alone, 100 varieties of British manufactures, worth more than half the price of the same commodities at the present time, and to mention the stocks accumulated at the Port, and the great extent of the Peruvian and the Uruguay.
In the face of these facts, which no impartial observer can deny, we must have seen which we consider our duty publicly and to the satisfaction of all parties, to take our side on the part of foreign is a voluntary suit, and to force promissory cargoes into the Plate. It is to separate the interests of the present and future, as the extent of the present is to add new combustibles to a conflagration that has already taken form; and to this, it is to add new combustibles to a conflagration that has already taken form.

There is nothing in our present, or immediate prospects, to justify the reckless course pursued, and to demand that we should ultimately recoil with unmitigated adversity on those most interested in preventing the suspension of hostilities.
As an ameliorating circumstance, it is proper here to note, that March has done much for the country, and the bill gratifying result was partly owing to the great success of the month of March, which falling on the tills of retail dealers, and partly to the means of communicating with their cities, and the names were well posted up for many months in the *Brit. H. Gazette*; and Mr. Hood it appears, has carefully measured the ground, and is now coolly addresses it as a negative for his conduct towards me.

