

# AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

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WITH THIS NUMBER CONCLUDES THE QUARTER OF THE "BRITISH PACKET."

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

The Times makes the following reflections on the attempted assassination of the Emperor Napoleon.

On what slender chances do the destinies of nations hang! On Saturday we might the Emperor Napoleon was the honoured guest of England, and on the evening of Saturday last an assassin's hand was raised against him in his own capital. Had the French Emperor been the bitterest foe, and not, as he has shown himself, the consistent friend of England, we should have been equally prepared to congratulate him upon such a success. On the sudden aim of the dastardly assassin. No doubt, it adds vigour to the man against whose life the murderer's hand has been raised has just quieted the hospitality of your board the shelter of your roof. It was but a week ago that the Emperor was among us, proud of our welcome and of our homage proffered still of the lovely lady who sat by his side as he paced all our streets, radiant with illuminations, gay with dancing and fireworks, and wearing in crowds, met by thousands and tens of thousands to do him honour as he passes along. The sight was one which will not readily fade away from the recollection of any person who witnessed it; and yet the Emperor, passing by hidden under that gorgeous pageant than any which met the eye. The two countries had been long growing into union. Common interests, the common sympathies of civilization, were at length making themselves felt. We were beginning to know of each other, to acknowledge that six centuries of warfare had passed without advantage to either side. History is there with her inexorable proofs to convince both nations of the fact. Not only the two countries, but the two Governments, had comprehended the fresh necessities of the time. Diplomacy had passed from caution into cordiality, into full confidence. In the whole history of political relations we know of nothing more admirable than the one at present existing between the Courts of the Tuilleries and St. James'. From the first there has been no reserve, no misunderstanding, no fencing for either side. It is but just that we should extend this honorable testimony to the Emperor Napoleon and his Government. One thing, however, was still wanting, which was that the extraordinary man into whose hands Providence has confided the destinies of the French people should himself be the object of the sympathy and regard of Englishmen and of their Queen. His rise had been looked upon with apprehension and suspicion. The traditions of his name might arm the sympathies of France in his cause; but on this side of the Channel that name was heard as the blast of a war trumpet summoning us to arms. Why return on the errors of a bygone time? We looked for a mad spirit of conquest, and it is peace instead. Where we instinctively raised our hands to ward off a blow we find them seized in the cordial grasp of a friend.

It was not until he had given us the most convincing proofs of his real policy and character,—not until he had united the army and navy of France with the navy and army of England,—not until he had satisfied both nations on both sides by side on more than one bloody field,—not until the wild "Hurrah" of the Zouaves had resounded in the ear of our own Guards, bringing them tidings of help in their extreme need in the

gray that of memorable morning of Inkermann,—not until the French and English hosts were pouring down in concert the iron storm upon the bastions of Sebastopol, that the Emperor Napoleon came among us in person, an honoured and most welcome guest. We should have been more or less than men of ordinary feelings and passions could we have been unmindful of such recollections, or seen his carriage pass along without emotion. Among the million faces which lined the streets as he went upon his visit of courtesy to the Chief Magistrate of the City of London many bore the marks of recent anxiety or grief. They were of those who feared or who had already mourned for friends and relatives engaged upon that field of honour on which the French soldier has sided us so loyally and so well. The Sovereign who was passing along amid such enthusiastic acclamations had inaugurated the policy which had borne such fruit; and are we to be told that the English nation are not to feel warmly towards him for his own sake, and still more for the sake of that great nation whose representative he is? There can at least be no doubt as to the spirit in which he was received here. It would almost seem as though this reception, implying as it did a continuance of friendship and cordiality between the rulers and the nations, had served the hand of the assassin for his dastardly assault. The cannon of the Russians and the mighty strongholds of the Czar had not availed to destroy the alliance of the Western Powers—the timid subservience of Prussia had not inoculated us with her own servile disease—the efforts of the Viennese negotiators, begun in insincerity, had ended in verbiage—the French and English drew closer and closer together, despite of violence, lukewarmness, and fraud. The assassin's knife or pistol was the only weapon that remained. As yet we know nothing of any disclosures which the prisoner may have made, nor of any clue which the French police may have obtained which may help them to arrive at his accomplices and destroy; but it is a singular fact that the attempt should have occurred so soon after the personal meeting of the two Sovereigns, and the enthusiastic reception which the Emperor Napoleon received in England.

If there be any point in this atrocious story upon which an Englishman may look with satisfaction, it is that the treacherous shot was not fired upon English soil. It would have been in vain for us to protest that we have done our utmost—in vain that the assassin should have been torn summarily to pieces by the fury of the Emperor Napoleon. We would have believed in the sincerity of our protestations, or the reality of our indignation. And yet, with thirty millions of English people as his body guard, who could have prevented the Emperor against the discharge of a pistol from a window? It would not certainly have been an English finger that would have pulled the trigger, but what would that have availed? As it was, all went well here—we may add, as it was, all has gone well in the hands of the dastardly murderer. It is well to think of what the consequences might have been had he succeeded in his design. Very rarely indeed in the history of nations has so much depended upon the life of any single man as hangs at the present moment upon the life of the Emperor Napoleon. Essayists and speakers have been writing and discoursing for the last half-century upon the impending collision between the Eastern and the Western world. Here we are in the midst of it. It is a task laid upon

the shoulders of the present generation. The success of the West depends upon the close and cordial alliance of France and England. Not only for his own sake, but that the world may be spared many calamities, it is our cordial prayer that the life of the Emperor Napoleon may be long preserved.

### PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES.

To account for the delay that has taken place, and moderate the impatience of spectators, we call attention to the following impartial remarks on the real difficulties attending the enterprise of the Allies before Sebastopol.

The latest despatches from Sebastopol apprise us that the fire of the Russian batteries still unavailingly assailed the bastions, accordingly, at the conclusion that the defences of a besieged town, after having been twice exposed during six months of hostile approaches to concerted cannonades of the most destructive character, are still in a position to offer resistance to assault. This result is so contrary to all received assumptions on the subject, and tends to excite so great an influence upon the theory and practice of war, that we may be permitted to consider it for a moment in the abstract, without reference to the immediate interests involved in the struggle. Of course, the non-investment of the town, and the inexhaustible resources thus opened to the garrison, are considerations of a most influential kind; but it is clear that the defences themselves possess some novelty of character, and it is this novelty which deserves our attention. To make our observations more readily intelligible, we premise a brief and simple sketch of the leading theories of fortification successively adopted, and of the doctrines which each involves.

The earliest idea of a strong place implied the existence merely of walls too high to be escaladed and too thick to be battered down by any force then known. When gunpowder, however, was discovered and heavy ordnance invented, these defences soon lost their strength; and then recourse was had to the expedient of a sunken wall and ditch. By digging a ditch and building the wall, as it were, in a defence of masonry was still provided, which was not so brittle and therefore exposed to fire except on very close approach. The loss of height, however, thus occasioned reduced the armament of the defenders to a single line, since cannon could only be mounted on so much of the crest of the wall as overtopped the ditch, and this, consequently, was the measure of the defenders' force. The ramparts of a fortified town, instead of presenting the lofty walls of an old city, scarcely seemed to rise above the ground, and the guns were all on this level. To strengthen the defence, therefore, and augment the means of fire at the command of the besiegers, the system of bastions was adopted. This system consisted in throwing out from the ramparts angular projections, the fire from which would sweep along, and thereby protect, certain portions of the face of the wall. The theory itself was as old as the oldest scheme of fortification, for the same object was sought in those projecting towers which may be seen at intervals in the remains of plans of any old walls or castles, but the idea was first applied by Italian engineers so skillfully and completely that at last forts assumed the outline of stars;—every front of a fortification appeared protected by the flanking fire of one or more batteries, and it seemed as if such places must be impregnable. A very simple dis-

covery, however, entirely demolished all this system. If the reader will look at or draw upon paper one of these bastions, in the form of a half diamond or top of a lance, he will observe that a position can be easily taken by an assailant outside the walls so as exactly to catch one face, or side of the bastion, at right angles. For instance, if the line or face of that side is prolonged upon the paper, and then a battery is supposed to be planted across this prolonged line, it will be evident that the shots from such battery would strike the guns of the bastion on their sides. In aid of this idea a mode of firing was adopted, by which shots were so fired as to splash over the parapet, and run along inside the face of the bastion by successive rebounds. The consequence was, that in these rebounds they struck the guns of the defences, and dismounted or disabled them; the fire of the bastion became extinguished accordingly, and the besiegers, having no longer with which to bring their own batteries as close as they pleased without fire, breached the wall, and effected an entrance into the place. All this while, he it is observed, the bastion between the besiegers and the town was still wall—a perpendicular wall, to get at which, so as to escalade it or batter it successfully, was the single object, and the continued superiority of the assailants consisted in this, that they could always secure an ascendancy of fire. If the place, indeed, could be protected by high walls, with two or three tiers of defences, then this condition might be changed, but in that case the walls themselves, being fully exposed, must in the end yield to the stroke of cannon shot. They were therefore sunk, and we have described to the level of a single plane or floor above the ground, and, when the attempt to compensate for this weakness of defence by the bastion system had failed, there appeared no longer any escape from the conclusion that the means of attack were superior to the means of defence.

Recently, however, an engineer of our own country projected a new system of fortification, the leading principle of which was to construct the defences of such material as would bear exposure to fire, and consequently permit such an elevation of the ramparts as would allow of an accumulation of guns for direct firing sufficient to overpower a besieging force without recourse to the bastion system. This engineer was Mr. James Ferguson, and all that we need say of his system at present is, that it consisted in the erection of earth works instead of walls of masonry, and that it threw considerable light upon the operations now processing before Sebastopol. Here, by the construction of earthworks *Mr. Ferguson*, which secures the present system, of the guns of the defence can be made almost as numerous at any given point as the guns of the attack, and the first condition or assumption, therefore, on which sieges used to proceed, viz. that the besiegers could always, at a selected point, command a superiority of fire, entirely fails. There is no wall whatever, or next to none, between the allied forces and Sebastopol, and there is in front of the town a long line of earthworks, mounting apparently at some points as many as three tiers of guns, and it is against this line that the own batteries are planted. Here and there, as at the Flagstaff Battery and the Redan, the defences do assume the bastion form, and here our fire seems to have told with the greatest effect; but, as the works are constructed of earth

and therefore easily repaired, and as the Russians are apparently nearly as strong in artillery as we are, the ordinary advantages on the side of the besiegers have been wanting.

If we consider these results for a moment it will be seen that the strategy of the Russian defence is sufficiently simple. The earthworks are well constructed, the advantages derivable from the conformation of the ground have been adroitly seized, and the courage and ability in resisting the damage done by our projectiles has been, as our correspondence informs the public, very great. But all this would probably not have been effective except for the extraordinary aids supplied by the resources of the town itself. Had the supply of guns and ammunition at the command of the Russians not been practically unlimited, we might have obtained a superiority of fire some time ago, and then, as earthworks, it must be remembered, do not present the obstacle of a perpendicular wall, and the masonry of the town masonry consists in their being easily raised, and as easily repaired; but, as earth, unlike masonry, will only stand when raised at a certain slope, they can be surmounted by breaching batteries, whenever the fire of the defence has been sufficiently subdued. This fire, however, in the case of Sebastopol, has been maintained at a prodigious strength and for an extraordinary length of time, through the resources, and next through the non-investment of the place. Sebastopol contains not only enormous arsenals, but an entire fleet, with all its guns and men; and, as the town is open on the north side for further supplies, there is scarcely a limit to the reinforcements obtainable. Hitherto, in short, the defence of a besieged place could be battered as soon as approached, and the garrison has been restricted to the means contained within its walls at the commencement of the siege. Sebastopol is defended by earthworks which are not destructible by shot, and which are mounted with artillery so powerful that the besiegers can scarcely obtain a superiority of fire, while at the same time the losses occasioned by the attack admit of reparation by incessant reliefs, reinforcements, and convoys.

## BUENOS AYRES.

The act of disbanding the National Guards took place on the 15th, in the Plaza de la Victoria. Notwithstanding the muddy streets and leak weather, the concourse of spectators was considerable. His Excellency the Governor, who was attended by the Minister of War, and other persons of distinction presided at the following address:—  
"National Guards, worthy successors of the Partisans of May 1810!—Honor to you citizen soldiers! On other occasions you are saved by your arms the Country, in the hour of conflict. Once more you have responded with alacrity to her call, and shown as usually the peace of the city, which she owes to the peace of the bay earned by your prowess, is not to be shaken. You have once more proved to irrepressible denunciations that their influence has disappeared for ever, and that their wicked passions and perverse purposes will find no echo among the free men of our beloved country."

"Compatriots! The Government has the satisfaction of proclaiming aloud, that public order is unassailable, since the constituted authority is based upon the reasonableness of the law, and on the force wherewith your patriotism courageously defends it."

"Valiant Defenders of Liberty! Retire in peace to your homes, apply anew to your ordinary occupations, with the assurance that the Government watches incessantly for your security."

"The brave troops of the line are sufficient in the meantime for the ordinary service. They have given on this occasion a luminous proof of their exemplary morality: the veteran troops of the garrison of the State, have shown that they possess the pure blood of free men, and that their loyalty and patriotism are above all price."

"National Guards of Cavalry! It has been your lot to do the most active service

on this occasion. Neither the severity of the season, nor the inclemency of the weather has been able to abate your ardent enthusiasm. With exemplary alacrity you have resisted to whatever point danger called you."

"Compatriots and companions all! On dismissing you after these light military figures, I have only further to recommend you not to allow the splendour of your arms to tarnish; to be always ready at the call of the authority, of the authority that commands in the name of the law; so you will worthily fulfil your duty as citizens of a free State, and so you will also merit at all times the gratitude of the Country, which your friend and companion now awards you in its name. *Ten is Patria, Ten is Libertad, Viva la Constitucion del Estado!*"

These patriotic aspirations were responded to with due fervour; after which the 1st altonas, doffing before His Excellency, retired to their respective barracks to deposit their arms; where we trust they [the arms] will remain for many months forgotten because unneeded. Peace, peace and tranquillity, are the aspirations of every good man in the State, whether native or foreigner.

### MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

By a felicitous inversion of the established order, the Legislative Chambers met, at the request of the President, on Monday evening, to be informed as to the proceedings adopted in consequence of the late conspiracy. Colonel Mitre, the Minister of War, briefly related the circumstances that led to the discovery of the plot, and the means adopted by the Government to defeat the object.

Without positive criminalizing evidence, that would have justified it in proceeding against individuals, it appears that the Government had been in possession of certain vague information, for a considerable time back. At last an officer and a soldier perpetrated themselves, and denounced the fact that they had been tampered with, and invited to take part in a movement against the Constituted Authorities; at the head of which were General Flores and Colonel Boses.

As this amounted to an overt act of treason, the National Guards was called out, and precautionary measures adopted, including the apprehension of various parties supposed to be implicated. All this was done in exercise of the ordinary jurisdiction, without declaring any part of the State in a state of siege, or deviating in a single instance from the line of conduct marked out in the Constitution. Military defaulters had therefore been submitted to a Council of War, and the military tribunals. That in these prosecutions the Government acted without passion or resentment, having no other object in view than the defence of public order, and the vindication of the laws.

Accordingly, the Ministry neither required a bill of indemnity for the past, nor any extension of the faculties accorded them by the Constitution; feeling strong and secure in the legality of their measures, the loyalty of the armed forces, and the adhesion of an enlightened and a patriotic community.

The Minister of Government, Dr. Alsina, simply referring to and ratifying the account of the conspiracy, given by his colleague, the Minister of War, estimated a brief programme of the internal and external policy of the Administration of which he had so recently become a member.

That policy embraced reforms and improvements of every kind, to the utmost extent of the public resources. That the situation of the country districts demanded a special attention, and that no pains or expenses would be spared to fulfil the municipal regime, and other appliances for maintaining order, and accelerating the march of civilization and progress.

In reference to the external policy, the Minister remarked, that the difficulties to be encountered, were of a still more pressing and formidable character. That on withdrawing the contingent from the Provinces, Buenos Ayres had reserved the exercise of her foreign relations; but that these in fact had remained at bay; the attention of the Authorities having been occupied with local incidents of more pres-

ing and immediate concern. That the Government considered the time to have arrived for attempting the reconstruction of the Argentine Nationality; and that there was evident risk in prolonging indefinitely the *status quo*; stipulated in the Convention of the 10th December, more especially in view of the grave questions pending between the Governments of Brazil and Paraguay. That an attempt in this sense appeared in dispensable, and even if in some respects unsuccessful, would rebound to the credit of Buenos Ayres. This indication was received with marked approbation by a numerous audience.

The remarks of the Minister of Finance were altogether apologetic and deprecatory. The long absence of the Minister of War on the frontier had prevented the Government from getting ready so early as it would have been, the estimate of income and expenditure for the ensuing year, and that this with other measures of importance, especially a law regarding the disposal of public lands, had subsequently been delayed by the change in the Ministry of Government, and latterly by the formation and discovery of the conspiracy. That the Government was now zealously engaged with these measures, and probably some of them would be submitted to the Legislature in all the current month.

The Chamber have not yet emitted any opinion on the important suggestions referred to.

### WHOLESALE MYSTIFICATION.

General Flores and Colonel Boses have published a paper, in which they have not only denied the charge of conspiracy, but have asserted that they were employed by the Government, to contract an agreement, said to be headed by Gen. Thorne, Colonel Mitre, the Minister of War, and Dr. Lorezo Torres, and to give a certain plausibility to their tale, affirm that several of the partisans, some of them serving in the military, were admitted to the Senate House, with definite and authorized instructions, on the night of the memorable 23d of June.

While others, more interested and better qualified to keep silence, we need not attempt to explain the mysteries of this apparent enigma.

### ITALIAN HOSPITAL.

We have been politely furnished with a report of the Italian Hospital, which contains a statement of the industry up to the 15th May last, with a full list of the subscribers to this interesting Institution. This publication cannot fail to excite a lively interest in all those who look forward with satisfaction to the prompt conclusion of an enterprise, undertaken for the benefit of our fellow citizens, and calculated to be at once an ornament to this City, and a noble monument of the Italian nationality.

The subscription list analysed and classified, affords several striking and gratifying results. We find contributors from Rio Janeiro, Paraguay, and we may say all intermediate points; showing that distance has little or no effect in impairing the noble ties of Italian sympathy and co-sensuality. The report rather exceeds one million currency dollars. Of this, the rich, say paragon who gave one thousand dollars and upwards each, contributed in the proportion of 32 per cent, a magnificent liberality, when we take into account that the number is only 96! The minor contributors, including the poor, make thirty-five and a half per cent, and the royal bounty with other sums of an official character, make up the balance, or twelve and a half per cent. of the whole.—The musical art in which the Italians so greatly excel, figures for the handsome sum of 60,000 currency dollars, including the services of a great society given by the Italians at Rio Janeiro.

These facts show a generous sympathy on the part of the rich, with a commendable spirit of independence in the middle and lower classes; and it must add, the paternal solicitude of an illustrious monarch in behalf of his beloved subjects, irrespective of locality.

In the absence of statistical data, we may form an approximate estimate of the Italian population settled in the States of the Plate; the 6000 names in this subscription list, representing at least many families of five individuals each. So far all is right, and we only find matter of praise and con-

gratulation, but we must be frank and impartial in our judgments. We are not without our own magnificent designs, and trying it so far out; but other efforts and great sacrifices have been required to raise the sum to 15,000,000, the amount of the complete subscription; it is utterly inadequate to the needs of the States of the Plate, and we shall be sorry to hear that M. Corrucci and his worthy colleagues are at a stand still for want of money.

We see in this the danger of undertaking public measures on too large a scale; but great sacrifices have been required to raise the sum, and it would be ungenerous to doubt of the energy and constancy of the Italian community.

### INTELLIGENCE BY RAIL STEAMER.

The bombardment of Sebastopol recommenced on the 6th June. On the nights of the 22d and 23d May, the French made two desperate attacks, on the outer approach of the Russians of which we condense the following account from the Times.

The assault was without doubt, one of the most gallant and sanguinary actions of the war. After this momentary fire of a second morning the works which had been shelled and shelled by the French with 1,200 shells, and the total loss of the enemy in killed and wounded must have exceeded 6,000 men. The French could not admit a loss of 650 men killed and nearly 2,000 wounded, among whom the Valentin was lost, and the French could claim and once the heaviest amount of casualties and the most brilliant share of the victory. It is not possible to say how many of the French were killed on the night of the 21st of May. General Fleischer instantly resolved to attack it before it could be completely surrounded, and to strike against the enemy—on other words, to storm it, to hold it, and to reverse it. This difficult task was taken up by the French on the 22nd of May, and after two nights of incessant fighting by the daring and firmness of the French. The works were taken on the 23rd of May, and at the point of the bayonet, and it was not until they had sustained enormous losses that the French were able to enter the city. For six or eight hours of the night the battle continued; and when morning dawned, and compelled the combatants to withdraw from the fire of the batteries, the battle was but half won. On the following evening, however, General Levallois's division renewed the attack in the same place, and in three quarters of an hour the French had carried every thing before them.

A force consisting of 20,000 French, British and Sardinian, had obtained a triumph on the 15th of May, and had secured a superior force of the enemy to the left of that river.

A more important operation still is the capture of Krich and Yenickale, by Admiral Lyons and Sir George Brown; but we cannot enter into details, which have not been tried on with vigor and success, and we need not be surprised to hear by the next Mail that the Austrians have given up Sebastopol.

Concerning the military movements, we have not seen anything of consequence. The Vienna Conferences had closed without any result; and the young Emperor of Russia, who has been adopted as the policy of his father.

Buenos Ayres, 23d June, 1855.

Col. Joseph Gibran, Sir,

It having pleased our Government to relieve you from the post you have held for nearly ten years at this Port, the undersigned American Citizens cannot permit their official relations with you, which they have collectively tendering to you the expression of their high appreciation of the manner in which you have discharged the duties of Consul and Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim*.

To your firmness and prudence during the past few years of political oscillations, your countrymen have been in numerous instances indebted for the efficient protection of their persons, and interests, and they beg you to believe, that in returning to private life, you carry with you their most ardent good wishes and most grateful remembrance of the urbanity and obliging disposition which have characterized your intercourse with them.

Henry W. Gilbert.—Samuel B. Hale.—F. H. Dorr.—B. P. Vinton.—J. E. Spring.—Gardner Ball.—Edw. Zimmerman.—A. B. Brown.—Henry H. Rippe.—James Carman.—Daniel H. Brown.—G. C. Carrow.—H. W. Kennedy.—A. Lines Van Ropes.—John G. Lowry.—W. T. Livingston.—Joseph Barth.—M. Parker.—James Rockwood.—W. Barcroft.—H. P. Aldison.—E. F. Johnson.—J. H. M. Adams.—D. Barker.—Justin Barker.—T. B. ...

Buenos Ayres, 14th July, 1855.  
To the Citizens of the United States of America residing in Buenos Ayres.



