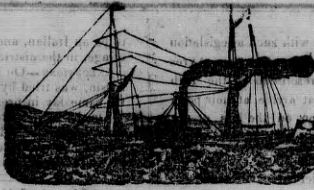


BRITISH PACKET AND ARGENTINE NEWS.



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(No. 1524.) BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1856. (Established in 1826.)

BUENOS AYRES.

Monthly Retrospect.

We have drawn so many dark pictures of our commercial situation and prospects during the year, that we need not offer any apology for the sombre hue of the retrospect of its concluding month. In the wholesale department, December in ordinary times is a dull month, as parties are then necessarily engaged in taking stock, squaring up their accounts, &c.: operations that would be retarded or complicated by the usual transactions of receipt and delivery.

But in addition to these general causes, there has been on this occasion; a decided languor in the local demand for manufactured goods. Owing to the restricted and often interrupted movement, we may say throughout the whole year, most of the retail stores hold heavy, though perhaps indifferently assorted, stocks; at the same time that there often has been and still a want of confidence, that damps the spirit of enterprise.

We have made little progress in settling and securing the frontiers against the Indians; and the frequent invasions that have been attempted, show that we have difficulties to contend with of different kinds, and dangers to apprehend from all points of the compass.

The oscillations too in our money market, though latterly less extreme, have been frequent; and their paralyzing effect on real business is too well known, to require repetition. In short, the evils under which we labour, are becoming more and more chronic, and it is not in one or two months that we must expect to escape from them.

The demand for the Interior Provinces and the Republic of Paraguay, has also fallen off during the past month. The rumoured collision, and the warlike preparations being made, may have had a share in bringing about this sorry result. In military equipments they are exhausting perhaps forestalling the resources, that should have been devoted to immigration, internal improvements and the development of the productive industries, that can alone sustain a healthy and profitable foreign commerce.

A dear bought experience might have taught them a better lesson; but the South American States are slow to comprehend the self-evident, and palpable truth, that peace and order are the surest and only basis of their power and aggrandisement.

In this State and the Oriental Republic of the Uruguay, it may safely be affirmed, that all the reasonable hopes and prospects of the past year, have been sacrificed to the Moloch of contention and war; to abortive attempts at revolution and invasion, that in so far as regards progress and civilization have resulted in nothing; and with such near and recent examples before their eyes, the conduct of Paraguay, Brazil and the Confederate Provinces, in allowing themselves to speak or think of the same suicidal course, for we cannot yet persuade ourselves that they will blindly rush into it, becomes an inexplicable enigma.

With our present overstocks and dull demand, any improvement in prices is out of the question. Among retail dealers a few failures have taken place during the month, but their liabilities have not been very large. Outstandings, however, are got in rather slowly, and we would not feel justified in pronouncing the state of the general market quite satisfactory.

With a larger number of arrivals than usual, it fortunately happens that the im-

Amount of Produce shipped from the Port of Buenos Ayres, from 30th November to December, 1855.

	GREAT BRITAIN.	FRANCE.	GERMANY HOLLAND BELGIUM	PACIFIC.	SPAIN.	HAVANA.	UNITED STATES.	BRAZIL.	MURITUS AND W. INDIES.	TOTAL OF DEC'R.	TOTAL OF JAN'Y TO NOVEMBER.	GRAND TOTAL.	
Number of vessels	4	5	5	2	5	4	4	5	1	35	339	394	
Tonnage	850	1321	1118	783	966	753	1311	916	202	8329	85157	94856	
ARTICLES.													
Peef-jerked, quietest						13014				9341	21357	266088	2274484
B- f. preserved, cas		180									180	1022	1095
Bones	23600									59900	2200161	2259761	
J. t. r. e.	57		10							67	1022	1089	
Fathers' ales											5222	6222	
Cu. m. t. s.											22	512	254
H. r. b. l. s.		71	27								199	25964	2785
Do. s. p. e. s. and bags		57								471	528	11770	12098
Hide cutting, bales		2889	4515			53					277	1448	1725
Hide, ox and cow, salted											10036	380998	391035
Do. do. do. dry.		23195	28512		32944	18	34925	300		119894	774000	893294	
Do. h. f. e.			755		2229	90				8215	27384	30599	
Do. do. bales		83	140								20298	100261	120554
Horns, ox and cow	14107	29900	24110							108565	1118808	1217868	
Ho. f. t. s.											2161	2162	
Skins, calf, bales						23		5			28	137	165
Do. do. dozens												54	54
Do. do. bales												4	73
Do. do. dozens												4	28
Do. goat bales		30									95	985	360
Do. do. dozens													2144
Do. do. bales											32	129	161
Do. do. dozens													1650
Do. sheep bales	121	675	86										1650
Do. do. dozens													882
H. c. do. dozens													5506
Mark. grosscupies	150	50											304
Do. do. boxes		54											181
Tallow, pigs	3104	6	25	24									4182
Do. boxes	150	9											2288
Tobacco, boxes and serous				2524		614							741
Wool, bales	197	530	953										2288
Do. serous and bags		2											57

portation of manufactured goods has been moderate; but it must not be inferred from hence that the stocks on hand are inadequate to the demand. On the contrary they are very heavy, though indifferently assorted; and it will require several months of a brisker trade than we dare at present anticipate to restore the convenient equilibrium.

ARTICLES OF DAILY CONSUMPTION.—This department has received abundant supplies during the past month, and of many articles the stocks on hand must be very heavy. For a length of time a clique of forestallers monopolized the wholesale market, buying up entire cargoes on joint account, which they resold to the retail dealers at their own price. We have frequently had occasion to notice the existence of this combination, of which both the retail dealers and the consumers were to a certain extent the victims. The days of the league have at last come to an end. Their operations maintained an artificially high price; but in the end this high price called forth a superabundant supply, and against a glutted market all the efforts of combination are vain and fruitless. Wholesale prices accordingly have declined; and even at reduced rates, it is difficult to push off some articles.

This forms a striking contrast with the course of our market for upwards of two years; and of course the complaints of languor and stagnation are long and loud. Hiiberto the benefit has hardly reached the consumer, as retail dealers naturally endeavour to run off their old stocks at prices somewhat proportioned to what they cost them; but this two has its limits, and things will eventually find their natural level and equilibrium, despite of all that can be done to the contrary. Importers have had a long and rich harvest, and it is only fair the consumers should now have their turn.

In building materials the stagnation is particularly marked; and the quantity of lumber on hand must be enormous, with little prospect of any considerable demand for the present season. Of salt it is enough to say that Cape de Verd has been sold at 54 rials the fanega, and Cadix at 6 and a

fraction! It would require a blockade of some duration to run us scarce of this article. Withal the arrivals continue.

EXPORT PRODUCE.—The saladeros are working on what appears to us now a large scale. From 75 to 80,000 hides may have been contracted for during the last month; and perhaps half the quantity has been delivered, or are ready for delivery. Owing to the unprecedentedly fine season, cattle are in prime condition; consequently the saladeristas can afford to pay a high price; and this, added to the insecurity of our frontiers, has induced many to kill at a rate they would not otherwise have done. Of course other relative produce will bear a direct proportion to the number of hides, and tallow and fat a higher proportion than usual. Withal, it will be little for the extraordinary number of vessels in port; many of which we suspect must leave in ballast. As to the probable supply for the present year, it would be unsafe in the actual circumstances to hazard an opinion.

Since the news by the "Pampero" wool has shown a slight downward tendency; but the bulk of the clip had previously been contracted for. Shearing operations have been considerably delayed from the unsettled state of the weather. The wool now comes in rapidly, and all parties agree that it is by far the best conditioned clip ever remitted from this quarter. The fact is, sheep have acquired an intrinsic value, and are attended to accordingly.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ASPECT.—For those connected with us by commercial relations, we cannot extract much immediate consolation or hope from either point of view. With monthly invasions and attempts at revolution, we are compelled to infer an internal disunion, with its consequent weakness; that can alone account for such a phenomenon. Were these emutes reprobated as they ought to be by the masses, they would not and could not be so frequently repeated with impunity.

Nor are the impressions less painful, if we reflect on the horrifying catalogue of murders and other outrages against person and property, that disgraces the annals of 1855, and seem to have reached a climax

during the last ten days of December.

Of our political relations, the nearest and by far the most important are those that unite us with the

CONFEDERATE PROVINCES.—As to the progress or prospects of the diplomatic mission to the Paraná, confided to Señor Peña, nothing reliable has transpired. The fact of the negotiations being continued is the only favorable symptom; and, we confess, in view of the personal character of our Plenipotentiary, we are disposed to allow it some weight.

On the other hand the tone of the public press, there as well as here, is calculated to neutralize in part our fledgling hopes. In the relative position of the Confederate Provinces and this State, there unfortunately appears to be a divergence of opinion on points of paramount importance, both in our internal policy, and external relations.

On each side there is a constitution recently framed and sanctioned; and to harmonize the two, mutual concessions would be required. Is either party prepared to make the sacrifice of self-love implied in the modification of a fundamental law? In addition to the natural repugnance inherent to such an operation, that of the Confederate provinces contains an express provision, that prohibits any revision or change for the term of ten years. That difficulty has been invoked, and if adhered to precludes all discussion, and the remotest chance of an amicable compromise. It is too much to expect that Buenos Ayres will do every thing; and if disposed or prepared to do so, the course adopted is the most unfortunate we can imagine. It is like masticating a bitter pill, instead of gulping it by a single resolute effort. In place therefore of Minister Derqui's note, and the officious and inopportune comments of the "Nacional Argentino," obtruding and enhancing the sanctity of the ten years' reserve, we should have preferred seeing it placed in temporary abeyance, so as to make room for discussion, and give the hope and chance of a successful issue.

At the same time it must be owned that some of our journals have not been slow in taking up the gauntlet thrown down at the

Paraná; asserting a perfect equality, and consequently the necessity of a frank and unfettered discussion; with confident predictions of an unsuccessful issue to the negotiations, that tend directly to bring about that result.

Next comes the navigation of the interior rivers by foreign vessels of War; a delicate question, on which the views of the two Administrations are opposed, and in which third parties have not only a direct interest, but have acquired certain rights they are not likely to forego, on slender pretexts.

During the sway of General Rosas, this navigation was restricted to merchant vessels, under the National flag, or the flags of the littoral provinces; a right recognised and respected by all the great maritime Powers, and expressly stipulated in public treaties with France and England. Paraguay was then held to be a revolted province but still an integral part of the Argentine Republic. The right was fully established, the principle distinctly recognised.

After the battle of Caseros this right of the Republic was abdicated, by a spontaneous and voluntary declaration that admitted all flags indiscriminately into these interior rivers; and which was more important still, Paraguay was recognised as an independent State; an act that not merely confirmed the preceding declaration, but rendered it permanent and irrevocable.

It is true that in a subsequent declaration the State of Buenos Ayres hinted at a reserve as regards foreign Vessels of War; but it was then too late. The declaration might have been recalled or modified, but the independence of Paraguay placed the question on a still broader and immovable basis. If foreign interests may penetrate to Asunción, it follows as a necessary corollary, that the same path must be left open to the guardians of those interests. We believe Dr. Fortela saw the question in its true light, and perhaps ceded too much to the pressure from without, in asking from the Brazilian authorities, explanations that he considered unnecessary, and felt to be irrelevant. On the mere declaration, some modification might have been proposed, or some interpretation infringed; but the recognition of an independent State, with no other outlet to the ocean, places the point beyond all doubt; and is again masticating the pill that must eventually be swallowed. Hence we deprecate all agitation or discussion on the point as worse than useless; as capable of producing, and likely to produce complications of a serious character, and to our certain disadvantage. This the Statesmen at the Paraná, clearly see and comprehend; and by frankly ceding what cannot be withheld or retracted, congratulate themselves with foreign Powers at our expense. We need not stop to enumerate the positive and palpable inconveniences that result from this unfortunate policy.

Again, the surrender of deserters from merchant or war vessels, furnishes another example of the same contrariety of views. Buenos Ayres taking an abstract view of the case, and asserting her extreme right, annuls an existing practice, and declares against the extradition of naval deserters. On this hint the other party, viewing the matter in the light of its practical expediency, adopt the opposite conclusion; and here also they are certain to have the sympathy of foreign Powers on their side.

As an illustration of this unfortunate spirit of contradiction, and to show the dexterous use made of a step, correct perhaps in principle, but ill-timed in its adoption and practical application, we subjoin the concluding paragraphs of an Editorial in the Nacional Argentino of the 1st inst., whose reputed Editor is no less a personage than the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Confederation.

"To confine themselves exactly to the principles that certain old European Monarchies thought proper to adopt in their international relations, is to misunderstand the object of the foreign policy of these countries, is to show themselves unfit to govern.

"To disavow the principle of the extradition of deserters from war or merchant vessels is to put obstacles in the way of commerce, and consummate an act of profound immorality. Countries such as these will hold out inducements to foreigners for many

years to come; and with such a legislation as that the Government of Buenos Ayres has adopted in its resolution of the 10th November, vessels that arrive at their ports may certainly reckon on the loss of the greater part of their crews, if not of the whole.

"The non-surrender of naval deserters, is an immoral principle, because it stimulates the desertion and demoralization of the sailors, and in those of the merchant marine, protects men who violate formal engagements, exposing shipowners to serious conflicts, by the difficulty of substituting deserters, in countries so thinly populated as these are.

"Does the Government of Buenos Ayres wish to copy the example of that of Paraguay, that declined signing treaties with Spain, because it disavowed the principle of the surrender of naval prisoners, on the pretext that there was no reciprocity in said stipulation; or does it expect to derive great benefit from these deserters as settlers?

"That Government makes choice of aid means for the encouragement of immigration. Doubtless it is not aware, that men who violate their military engagements or other compacts, cannot be so advantageous to a country, however scanty its population, as to justify it in incurring these serious and prejudicial consequences to its commercial interests.

"We are happy in being able to announce, that the Government of the Confederation thinks very differently from that of Buenos Ayres on this point. We are also aware, that if the Argentine Government has not hitherto recognised the principle of the surrender of marine deserters, by treaty stipulations, it is only because the present state of the Confederation does not admit of its rigidly performing this part of treaties; it has always been, and always will be prepared to cooperate in the capture of said deserters, whenever it is requested by the competent authority.

"Besides, the principle adopted and followed by the Argentine Government on this point is not new in this part of America. In the Oriental Republic of the Uruguay and in Chile, the Governments of these Republics have never refused to facilitate the capture of naval deserters and effect their surrender."

We cannot therefore help thinking, that in all cases that involve a departure from established customs, and especially where international principles are concerned, it would be better to suspend the practical adoption of measures, till after previous consultation and concert; so as to avoid these eternal jarings and the recurrence of such "curtain lectures" as that we have reproduced; which must have sounded harsh in the ears of Commissioner Peña, though it will find a ready echo in those of the foreign Consuls, Captains, Commanders and Consignees; who attend more to their own interests and convenience than the fine spunefinnions that established an abstract right.

MONTEVIDEO.—Disunion, anarchy and prostration appear to have reached a climax. We need not stop to speak of its social or commercial prospects.

DIPLOMATIC MOVEMENTS.—Sr. Vargas has arrived here, on his way to Rio Janeiro, as Minister Plenipotentiary of Paraguay, and a similar mission has been confided to General Guido near the Government of Paraguay, as a Representative of the Confederate Provinces. We trust their efforts in behalf of peace will be crowned with success.

HORREYING CATALOGUE.—On the 21st ult., two men named Gorroito, were mortally wounded in San Isidro and both expired on the following day. On the 23d Bernardo Egui, a Frenchman, was found murdered at Arco. On the 23d Cipriano Layente, a Portuguese, 60 years of age was found murdered in his hut, in the district of San José de Flores. On the 26th Domingo Filiberti, a member of the Military Colony, stabbed two of his comrades while asleep in bed, killing the one, and mortally wounding the other. On the 28th Juan Solari, was found murdered in his house in the district of Moran. On the 31 the body of a girl 12 years of age was found on the beach in front of Palermo; but it has been ascertained that this was an accidental death.

On the morning of the 1st inst., Juan Debito, an Italian, who had a retail store in Calle Santa Clara, opposite San Francisco Church, was audaciously murdered in his own shop, between 6 and 8 o'clock; an insurrection beginning for 1856. Besides which we have heard of a pedlar, supposed

to be an Italian, and a native lad of 12 years of age, in the district of Quilmes. EXECUTIONS.—On the 27th, Filiberti the assassin, was tried by court martial, and shot the same day in presence of the Legion. On the 28th Victorino Pecheo, a young man, but an old and incorrigible offender, suffered the extreme penalty of the law in the plaza Independencia.

Mr. Achille Malavasi.

This distinguished artist is to give a concert in the Hall of the Philharmonic this evening, the 5th inst. The greater part of the active Members having generously volunteered their co-operation to Mr Malavasi, a very superior entertainment may be expected. The programme will be announced in due course.

EXCHANGE.—JANUARY 5th.

Table of exchange rates for various locations including Spain, Paris, London, and Buenos Ayres.

EXPORTS.—JANUARY 1st.

Table of export goods and their prices, including bull and cow hides, wool, and various oils.

MARINE LIST.

Port of Buenos Ayres ARRIVALS.

Table of ship arrivals including the Asuncion, Georg Heidrich, and other vessels with cargo and passenger details.

boxes merchandise, 2 barrels beer, 2 kegs herrings. Passengers 80. Barrick, British barque, 350 tons, G. Betts, from Lisbon 24th Sept., to Briscoe Steward & Co., with 676 moyos salt, 30 dozen mats.

December 29th. Prince Albert, British brig, 289 tons, R. Pattie, from Cadiz 12th Oct., Montevideo 27th inst., to P. E. Hartenfels and Sons, with 180 lasts salt.

December 30th. Menai, British steamer, J. B. Schiaffino, from Montevideo, 29th inst., with 29 boxes and 3 bales merchandise. Passengers 52.

Buenos Ayres, British steamer, D. Bruce, from Paraguay 22d, Corrientes 25 h, Paraná 28th and Rosario 29th inst., with 694 tercios yerba, 17 boxes cigars, 1 package and 195 serobas tobacco, 11 do hair, 652 dry ox and cow hides.

Nueva Burdeos, Paraguay steamer, J. M. Martinez, from Paraguay 24d, Corrientes 25th, and Rosario 29th inst., to Dec u l & Co., with 852 tercios yerba, 557 dry ox and cow hides.

Hannah Thornton, American barque, 407 tons, Swasey, from Hamburg 7th Sept., Montevideo 29th inst., to Treussen & Co., with 100 pieces bagging, 138 boxes codfish, 500 do candles, 100 do wine, 400 demijohns vinegar, 150 do spirits, 4682 planks and boards, 49 lasts coal, 187 rolls cordage, 35 boxes cologne water, 30 do soap, 10 casks zinc, 7 do, 15 packages and 280 boxes merchandise.

December 31st. Virginia, American barque, 298 tons, J. Miller, from New York 15th Sept., Montevideo 30th inst., to Freyer Brothers, with 300 casks whiskey, 100 bales wicking.

N. B. The following vessels have arrived and are entered in our list: manifests and details in our next:— Belizario, Brazilian brig; Vaillant, French sp.; Duque da Bra.

SAILINGS.

December 27th. Antonito, National pilot boat, for Montevideo. Monarcn, Spanish brig, for Havana despatched by Llavalal & Sons, with 3129 qq. jiked beef, 614 boxes tallow, 40 dry h rse hides.

December 28th. Union, Spanish ship, for Cadiz, despatched by S. Sariano, with 7588 dry ox and cow hides, 516 do horse do, 5260 horns, 1 bale wool, 1 do goat skins, 13 do calf skins, 16½ do slunk calf skins.

December 29th. Marion Macantyre, British barque, for Ceylon, despatched by H. A. Green, with 150 boxes beer. Eolo, Brazilian brigantine of War, for Montevideo.

December 30th. Constitution, National steamer, for Montevideo.

December 31st. Manuela, British barque, for Montevideo, despatched by Nicholson Green & Co., with 60 tons coal.

Menaí, British steamer, for Montevideo. Lucitano, Oriental brigantine, for Montevideo.

N. B.—Vessels sailed and retired from our list, cargoes and details in our next:— William Woodside, American bgn.; Floresta, Spanish pol.; Golden Eagle, British bk. E. L. Bremen sp.; Blossom, British bg.; Abbot, British bk.

SHIPPING LIST OF Henry A. Green, Ship Broker.

FOR LONDON. British bark Jane Anna, 393 tons, AN Morton master, has only disengaged room for bales. Consignee Saturnino Soriano. d22

FOR LONDON. Mecklenburg barque Frederick & Louise, 300 tons, at J. D. Bradkoring master, a most superior first class vessel, has all her cargo engaged and shipping. Consignees Messrs. J. N. Bieber & Co. d15

FOR LONDON. American bark, St. Mary's, 279 tons, H. Milliken, Master, has only room for a few bales. Consignee Messrs Treussen & Co. d15

