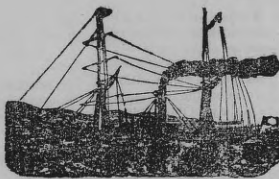


BRITISH PACKET



AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

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No. 1515.

BUENOS AYRES, Saturday, May 31, 1856.

Established in 1826.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

The Diplomacy of England and France.

England and France are now in a position to confer immense benefits on the rest of Europe. Their united diplomacy can be brought to bear on any given point with a certainty of success. We are convinced, however, that the huge moral power which the Allies command will be employed with that moderation which conscious strength ever inspires in the generous, and which benevolence is sure to dictate to those who are aware of their moral responsibility. Nevertheless, we feel assured that it is the intention of the cabinets of St. James's and the Tuileries not to forget the duties they have to perform towards those countries where there is no harmony between the government and the governed; where every law which holds society together is violated; where the King is the king of an army and not the Sovereign of a people; and where the wants and prosperity of the nation are systematically neglected. There are certain laws belonging to the civilised world, the more sacred because they are based on a conscientiousness and honour which are self-imposed. It is by this unwritten code that the individual man governs himself and his family; and, by a similar morality, those whom Divine Providence has placed over millions are responsible, although their power has no apparent human limit. If a Sovereign prove himself utterly devoid of principle, and continue to inflict injustice and cruelty on those around him—abusing all law, human and Divine—his neighbour has as much right to come in and render him impotent for mischief, as society has to shut up a madman. We fear the advisers of his Majesty Ferdinand II. of the Two Sicilies are very much in this position, and demand this treatment. We would hope that the King himself simply commits an error in countenancing the infamous abuses of the Executive of his government, and not that he inspires them with action. It has been our painful duty since 1848 to observe little else but one long and unbroken series of crimes, injustice, and cruelties committed by the government of his Sicilian Majesty against what are supposed to be political offenders. Whilst other Sovereigns, whose capitals were convulsed by the revolutions of 1848, have been gradually according amnesties for political prisoners and exiles, King Ferdinand of Naples has employed himself in building new prisons, which the police furnish with a rapidity of action which does not generally characterise the people of the "sunny South." Bion Porcio and his companions are still in chains; and those delicious islands, which look like Fairyland to the navigators of the Mediterranean, contain gloomy retreats still occupied by men who believed in and supported the constitution of his Sicilian Majesty. Mr. Gladstone has made all the world familiar with the mode in which these victims of royal perjury were treated and condemned. We have no desire to dwell on the immoral picture which the late Chancellor of the Exchequer has drawn with all that minuteness of detail which are the results of his extreme conscientiousness and almost painful caution. Unhappily, no improvement has taken place since 1849, in the government of the Two Sicilies, and many acts similar to those which awoke the indignation of Europe when Mr. Gladstone spoke have disgraced the Crown, and lowered the judicial courts of the Two Sicilies. In that unhappy country, to the present day, the police extort money from the people for imaginary political offences, and the prisons, instead of being used to punish offenders against the laws of the country, are tenanted by those who are victims of the personal vengeance of certain ruling powers, or such as are unable to buy their freedom from the police. So great is the amount of boldness which the *sherrif* have acquired by receiving the smile from those above them, that on a late occasion M. Mazza, it will be remembered, insulted one of her Majesty's representatives at the Court of Naples, whilst about the same time the flag of France was publicly disgraced in the eyes of the Sicilians. These offences led, it is true, to the dismissal of M. Mazza, the chief of the police, but no change has taken place in the system of government, which may any day produce similar events. On more than one occasion the Foreign-offices of England and France have vainly called the attention of the Neapolitan cabinet to the danger of maintaining political persecution, year after year, simply to fill the pockets of the police. It has

also been suggested, we believe, that Naples should not be the only country which has not given even a partial political amnesty for the events of 1848; but, on the contrary continually, and without intermission, imprisoned men for those constitutional opinions which govern most European countries. The same irritating and unwise abuse of power, has been equally applied to Sicily. But it must be confessed that the late governor of that island, General Filangieri, ruled with far more intelligence than has been visible in the continental dominion. He tried to make roads and improve the condition of the people, and for such reasons he was no doubt recalled, and replaced by Prince Castellecaia, who thoroughly understands the do-nothing policy which is sure to find favour with King Ferdinand. We believe the people of the Two Sicilies to be a population easily governed—moderate in their political opinions, and naturally inclined to love their Sovereign with the affection of children. That they are equally capable of resenting long-continued abuses we know from the revolutions of 1820 downwards. It is quite possible that the governments of England and France will once more employ their diplomatic action to remove some of the causes of the popular discontent—some of the abuses of political injustice (the seeds of revolution)—which characterise the present system of the rule in the Two Sicilies. Should they decide on doing so, we sincerely hope that his Majesty will not misinterpret the intentions of the governments of England and France, for we feel convinced they have only one object in view, and that is to remove the inhuman scandal from the political prisons of Naples, which has done so much to divide the people from the Crown, the responsibility of which since 1848 has been so unwisely abused.

The effects of Peace.

The consummation of the Act of Peace must now soon open to English enterprise fresh commercial combinations, new sources of foreign trade, and increased development of colonial wealth. These vast international benefits must in the sequel tend incalculably to promote the civilisation of the human family, contributing to spread the blessings of a pure and beneficent religion to the uttermost parts of the habitable globe. The restoration of peace in Europe must command a pacific solution of minor differences, and silence the spirit of contention, by which a few bellicose agitators on the other side of the Atlantic seek to stir up their excitable countrymen to engage in a parietal war. Napoleon III. in one of those pitiful apothegms by which he, like his great predecessor Buonaparte, delights to address the French people, said a few years ago, "When France is satisfied, Europe is at peace." We wish not to mimic this oracular style of prophetic inspiration, but we may say with perfect truth that when France and England are satisfied the world must rest in peace. During the week the Temple of Janus will be closed—we trust for a lasting period. Peace arrives at a most opportune season of the year. The spring trade to India, China, Australia, North and South America, and now once more to the Baltic, will assume an activity which cannot fail to find a record in future trade tables, equally satisfactory to the Merchant and to the statesman. The trade with Russia, especially, must assume a new aspect. The war has wrought a considerable change in the commercial prospects of our Commerce with the great empire. The importation of 40,000 tons of palm oil annually from the new market of Africa, has rendered us almost independent of the Russian supply of Tallow; and Italian hemp has proved a satisfactory substitute in the government dockyards for that important naval store. Still the consumption of Russian produce has not insignificantly decreased during the late war. The demand in England for articles of raw produce used in the arts and manufactures knows no bounds, and only increases with the supply. A glut of a commodity is now never heard of. With the reopening of the trade with Russia a very great impulse must be given to our manufacturing industry. The stocks of cotton twist, sugar, tea, coffee, oil, and tobacco, must now be reduced to the lowest point. A relaxation of the absurd protectionist system throughout Prussia would enable us to exchange all these valuable products, so much wanted, for timber, grain, hemp, flax, and tallow; and the trade with Russia, instead of being a monopoly only valuable to a few moneyed bankers, would grow into a beneficial reciprocal Commerce, lucrative to all parties. However circuitous the navigation,

it cannot be doubted but that, under a sound commercial system, the south of Russia would become the granary of Europe. But as the freight constitutes one of the chief elements of the cost of grain delivered at our ports of discharge, it is essential for the successful and permanent prosecution of the corn trade that Russia should receive some valuable and bulky articles in return. We cannot too frequently urge the adoption of a liberal free-trade policy upon the ruler of the Russian Empire. The old Muscovite faction would no doubt interpose every obstacle, but as the proprietors of the soil are obviously interested in finding the best market for their produce, they have only to discover their true interests, and then we believe the great work of free-trade would be carried out effectually. The establishment of a stable, liberal government in the Principalities would contribute materially to the extension of British Commerce in the south-east of Europe. The unrestricted navigation of the mouths of the Danube, and the conversion of Nicolaeff into a free port, are now eventualities within, we hope, not very remote accomplishment, and will be hailed by the Merchant of Europe as two important practical results of the war. The cessation of our commanding position at Kertch, will, we trust, secure to us by way of acknowledgment the future perfectly free navigation of the Sea of Azoff. In a commercial point of view, this is of incalculable importance. When amicable relations are restored between the Russians and their late foes in that quarter, the navigators of the sea of Azoff will find us exhibit quite as much alacrity in restoring their trade, as for military reasons we exerted ourselves to its destruction. We anticipate that a very heavy demand for capital will continue for a long time to come. We are prepared to learn that the occupation of some important points of Turkey by English and French troops will be required for a limited period. This would occasion a heavy expenditure. Capital will be in demand for the prosecution of all the various enterprises which have been long in abeyance by reason of the war, but which will be renewed now with fresh vigour. Russia must inevitably come into the general European market for a new, and, we should anticipate, a heavy loan. The punctuality with which she has fulfilled her money engagements will of course facilitate such an operation. But with similar appeals to the resources of capitalists from France, England, and perhaps also Turkey and Sardinia, will our system break down under the money difficulties which still crowd upon us? It is time, therefore, for the Banks of England and France to review their position. Will the reflux of gold back to Western Europe enable us to surmount all pecuniary difficulties, and pursue the bright career before us, unchecked by panics, or commercial pressure? Will our Chancellor of the Exchequer look our financial difficulties in the face; and, by placing at once our income and expenditure in equilibrium, lay the foundation of future commercial prosperity and greatness? Will he make the attempt to place our monetary laws upon a safe and secure basis, or will he evade the subject altogether, leaving the commercial fortunes of England to the blind effect of chance, or the action of our mischievous banking system? The adventurous British Merchant is now about to embark upon the ocean of speculation. He will with characteristic energy conquer success. But with the laws of partnership unsettled, with a currency inadequate to his wants and unfixed in its character, he must proceed to sea without a compass, with nothing but his own experience to guide him, or to save him from those shoeks which, even in times of peace, have made shipwreck of many a noble fortune, solely from the want of wise, durable, and comprehensive commercial and monetary laws.

The French in the Crimea.

The *Moniteur* publishes the following:—"The last advice brought from Constantinople are of the 20th of March. At that date the fears which had arisen from the progress of the malady in our Eastern army had begun to diminish. The number of sick in the last few days had considerably lessened. The erection of numerous spacious and thoroughly ventilated huts upon elevated points not hitherto occupied by troops had enabled such of our men as required particular care to be placed under the best sanitary precautions. Distributions of fresh vegetables and preserved meats, with which the army has always been well provided, took place regularly, and everything led to the hope that the return of the fine season would completely put an end to the baneful

influences to which our army has latterly been exposed."

The Armistice in the Crimea.

The Crimean correspondent of the *Press* has the following upon what occurred immediately after the promulgation of the armistice:—"The Russian officers along the banks of the Tchernaya were well furnished with bottles of champagne, and they gave the first signal to us. 'Gentlemen of the French corps of officers,' they cried out, 'never mind the distance, to your healths!' We answered, 'To yours, Messieurs les Russes!' The toasts came in rapid succession. 'To peace!' 'To the health of the conferences!' If we could we should have shaken hands. Unable to do so, however, a young Russian officer conceived the notion of exchanging bottles. He had one arm in a sling. Coming to the extreme edge of the river—'Are there any Zouave officers among you?' he cried. 'Yes, here we are,' was the reply. 'Well,' was the retort, 'I owe my wound to you; to your healths!' and with his unwounded hand he threw a bottle of champagne across, which reached us quite safely. Frenzied bravos followed this invention, and the imitations were numerous. Bottles and flasks of all sorts and kinds flew into the air, and this curious scene lasted for a considerable time. When came the moment of separation the cry was 'Au revoir in Paris!' I cannot tell you the outburst of enthusiasms at this,—the hope expressed in the words 'in Paris,' seemed to inspire a delirium of joy. If peace is concluded, you may expect a literal inundation of Russians."

THE FRENCH IN THE EAST.

The state of the French, both at Constantinople and the Crimea, ought to occasion some anxiety to the home government. The deaths from Typhus are most numerous, and in the Crimea are said to be not much below 100 daily. The sudden change from a most active to a half-lifeless life has produced *canai*, always fatal to a camp; and home sickness is general among the soldiers. A private letter speaks of the deficiency in food and clothing among the French. The men do not look healthy, nor in their wonted spirits. There is reason to fear that their rations are insufficient for the climate, or to support them under work, and to keep them comfortable in their tents. The letter I allude to says that many of them throne about the British camp, and pick up waste biscuits, and even the refuse food which the English soldiers throw away. Surely the rejoicings for the birth of an Imperial Prince should not make people forget the condition of an army which has contributed not a little to consolidate the power of the throne, and which their work is done. Sickness, perhaps, cannot be helped, and no one could force the surprising mortality that has swept away so many of the medical staff, but that the army should be deficient in comforts, even in necessities, is incomprehensible and inexorable.

Times Paris Correspondent.

ANGLO-FRENCH MEDAL.

Marshal Pelissier has issued the following order of the day:—

Soldiers,—A medal, commemorating the war in the Crimea, has been instituted by the Queen of England. That August Ally of our Emperor has wished to decree it as a testimonial of the estimation in which she has always held the many fatigues and dangers shared with her own soldiers. You will receive this noble sign which will testify on your breast the glorious and fatal achievement accomplished in many combats, and in a siege memorable for ever. Re-entering your families, this medal will commemorate in the most remote villages the alliance of two great people.

MISCELLANEOUS.

We are assured that all recruiting for the army and foreign legions and contingents is at an end, and that all further naval preparations will cease.

The French intendant at Constantinople have received orders from Paris to suspend all purchases, and were about to quit the buildings of the Russian Embassy.

A letter from the camp informs us that when Sir Colin Campbell's arrival in the Crimea became known, the regiments of the Highland division all turned out to a man, and loudly cheered the gallant general.

FRATERNISATION IN THE CRIMEA.—The *Mercurius Herald* has published the following

