

*Te. res, Ossorio y Va.*



### The Argentine War.

Time wears on, but the pacific negotiations instead of creating confidence are looked on as a sham. No doubt the Foreign Ministers are doing their utmost; no doubt peace is the true interest of both parties, and foreigners regard the indulgence of these ephemeral hostilities as a foolish disposition on the part of Creoles "to knock their head against the wall to please themselves." Yet there is a moral certainty that one party must win, and the other run away before an accommodation can readily take place. Even those who are loudest for peace have a secret misgiving that as long as each party professes such contempt for its opponent, no treaty will be anything better than a patched-up compromise to be converted at will into a bone of contention for which "the dogs of war" shall again have a fight. After the usual amount of barking, they are beginning to show their teeth: Buenos Ayres has captured a barque and an Italian schooner laden with contraband of war, consisting of 2100 muskets, 200 swords and 350 tons of coal. This is a great prize, but possibly the *gringo* may demand compensation, alleging that war has not been formally declared, nor active hostilities begun. Otherwise it must appear strange that Urquiza, who generally knows what he is about, should send two small vessels to run the gauntlet with the Gibraltar of the River Plate. This intemperate has not, however, damped the hopes of our mediators: the diplomatic triad embarked, on Sunday last, in H. B. M. Steamer "Ardent" with the view of meeting General Mitre at San Nicolas, and it is rumored that the latter is to confer with the Captain General on board an English man-of-war; so that they can make a pleasant whist-party on their trip in quest of Urquiza.

In proportion as the fortifications advance, we see the growing probability of a protracted contest, and although "birds of ill omen" are not favorably received, there are certain signs of a siege with undefined anticipations of the nine years of Montevideo, and the famous walls of Troy. Of course it will be very difficult for Urquiza to do more than besiege, or even as much (for he took Buenos Aires.) But it is possible that the Argentine army if they gain one pitched battle may verify the threat imputed to Derqui of remaining in our province as long as there are cattle to compensate the trouble of his expedition. Men of semi-military experience describe our outworks as imposing, but in our plain judgment the less extensive such works are, the stronger they must prove. The horns of a dilemma are an unpleasant rest for any man however thick-skinned. Does General Mitre consider himself stronger in the open field or behind trenches? If the former why spend so much toil and money on the weaker point of reliance. But if the latter, as we frankly think, in the name of Vauban and the Faubourg St Antoine, stick to barricades. These require no extended lines, no immense forces, in a street fight, a handful of men stands together better than a whole legion, and cavalry is rendered useless. It is said we shall have the pleasure of bar-cades beset by fortifications, but slipping between two stools must be avoided, for if the enemy once seize the outworks, then it is more difficult to defend the barricades. However as we have not yet received commission from government and shall not be paid for our advice, it is gratuitous and ill-timed.

Latest news from San Nicolas mentions the arrival of Urquiza at Cor-

don, in the province of Santa Fé, with 4000 troops, 12 light field-pieces and two mortars. There is moreover a strong force at Rosario and Derqui's army is differently stated at 4 and 8,000 men. Nothing can be more uncertain than the respective estimates, as there is a due amount of exaggeration in inverse ratio; but we may, safely calculate the forces of Buenos Ayres at 15,000, and those of Urquiza, rather than over 20,000. In the hostile fleets, too, the National Government exceeds us in number of ships, but some of them, like a portion of their soldiers, are defective in arms. It is said coal is very short at Rosario, and this is an important weapon. Contrary to custom, we shall, probably, have no blockade, so that if the invading army respect the locks of the Irish shepherds we shall not suffer so much as might be dreaded, and the whole of the direct injury inflicted will fall upon the Portenos. Nevertheless some foreigners intend leaving, and commerce will experience a great check. All talk of peace will not be abandoned until the united armies of Derqui and Urquiza commence the crusade, and as the former was still, on July 11th, at Cordoba, at least a fortnight must elapse before the combatants come to a brush. In any other country this loss of time on either side should have tempted the adversary to make a surprise, but, in South America, as many weeks are spent in talking of the fight as sufficed for Napoleon to conclude his Italian campaign. We are now anxious to see "a good row", but we are naturally impatient to see it all over soon, since we are so coldly indifferent whether Mitre pulverizes Urquiza or vice-versa. Our local press has made much of the apparent desertion of one Colonel Baggioni from the Federal lines, who on pretext of going to visit his relatives forgot asking the usual permission without which, he runs the risk of being sent to the other world, without a passport; 500 men are said to have accompanied him. Similar desertions are reported as taking place in both armies, for the obvious purpose of damping any excess of animal spirits in their opponents. On our side to compensate for those who as Mitre says "have run away at the sight of peril" there are several volunteers, chiefly citizens: in Alsina's battalion 14 youths have enrolled themselves and merited the applause of that portion of the press devoted to Mitre. The number of our troops encamped at Villa Mercedes is about 5,000; in town a company of Italian rifles has been raised, but as yet they are not formidable in numbers or discipline; the police, of whom it was asserted that they did not hold the gun properly, are now mobilized into a corps under D. Mariano Gache, clerk of the Department, who has laid aside red-tape and goose-quill for the ash and sabre. The Minister of War, Gelly Obes has deputed the head-clerk to sign official documents, as he must now look after the active prosecution of the outworks. A bill has been proposed to the Chambers, restoring to Buenos Ayres the title of "State" instead of "Province". This looks very like a determination to have no more union with the 13 provinces in any form; and indeed many are of opinion that peace should prove more durable if an absolute independence were once established. But this is a state of things inadmissible to Urquiza, and beyond the original grounds of contention.

The President was to march from Cordoba on the 26th and leave Olmos as Governor of that province. A deputation of Cordovese nymphs had begged of Francia the liberation of Marcos Paz, who was, however, sent in chains to Rosario and thence to Paraná, his companions having been al-

ready set at liberty. Urquiza's two sons-in-law, Santa Cruz and Victoria have been named, the first, commander of artillery; the second, military secretary. Bartolo Cordero, captain of the "Pampero" is second in command of the Argentine fleet, which has been reinforced by the "Argos" and "Hercules"; the latter has run aground. A skirmish between pickets at the Arroyo del Medio resulted in favor of Buenos Ayres; but there is no return of the killed, wounded or missing.

From this city another body of troops marched yesterday for head-quarters; the battalion "Sud" counts nearly 600 men, and is commanded by Major Gallan; they went by rail to Moreno, and are said to be well drilled. Our fleet is still at San Nicolas; it comprises 4 steamers and a brig, and is to be reinforced by two more steamers. Mitre arrived at Rojas on the 19th and addressed an order of the day to the army, congratulating it for its good morale. The old story about Tucuman, Salta and Santiago is revived, representing these provinces as waiting the signal for revolt. Taboada, they say, will not give Derqui a single man; and the three liberal provinces are busily preparing to side, with Buenos Ayres [?] Yet it is remarkable that the government organ of Tucuman has not published any Philippics against the President, on his arbitrary conduct in Cordoba. Letters from the last named city give a miserable picture of the national army; Derqui had ordered a public ball, but found some difficulty in finding the necessary cash. At length some Mr. Funes having paid the piper, the university boys were treated to a dance. Busenthal, says the same oracle, brought peace-proposals to Derqui, whose troops were lamentably short of beef and cigars. At the same time rich gold mines have been discovered in San Juan, one vein called "Moradito" presenting a superficial 2 yards wide and 8 or 900 long. It the report be true, it is possible the belligerents may forget politics and warfare, and make off to the diggings, leaving the opponents to fight it out between them, or arrange matters through that very convenient go-between called, foreign mediation.

### SOUTH AMERICA.

The Chilean *Mercurio* gives the following particulars of the *Pacific Republics*:

#### Central America.

In Honduras the existing authorities had gained some slight advantages over the irregular bands of insurgents whose cause is now annihilated. The Congress of Costa Rica, up to May 13th was still in session, but passed no acts of any importance. At San Salvador there had been abundant rains, which gave reason to hope for a good indigo-crop.

#### New Granada.

The revolution has been completely triumphant. Mosquera, Obando and Gutierrez had united their forces under the walls of Bogota. Arboleda was hemmed in among the mountains of Antioquia; he made an attempt with his heavy artillery, but his prospects had grown hopeless.

#### Ecuador.

The fortifications of Guayaquil were actively carried on, as an invasion was hourly expected. Garcia Moreno has proved himself a traitor. Aviles and G. de la Torre, members of the provisional government published a manifesto against the French protectorate.

#### Peru.

This republic and the adjoining States are at present tranquil, and offer no news of interest.

#### Chilo.

The great failures that recently occurred have led to others of lesser mag-

nitude. The crisis of money matters still continues, but the efforts to establish a bank were redoubled.

#### Another National Calamity.

First San Juan, next Mendoza, then the war. All these have not sufficed to verify the old proverb "misfortunes never come singly." We now read of a alarming conflagration that has destroyed lives and property, devastating a great part of the province of Tucuman. The origin is unknown, but the consequences have been truly terrific. At Manacora and Condor Guasi twelve or fourteen persons have been burnt alive, three sugar-factories destroyed, and all the houses and properties around, reduced to ashes. Several victims overtaken in the open camp are dead or dying; to these latter the government at once despatched relief: the full extent of the damage caused by this prairie-fire is yet unknown.

#### Montevideo.

An amnesty for political offences has been published. In the University there was an election for the President and Vice, which resulted in the continuation of office, on the part of the general assembly in possession of the right to restore the *Junta* was still spoken of. At Cerro Largo it was stated that a revolution was on foot, in which the Chief of Departmental Police was prime-mover and General Flores commander of the army, and that a wagon-load of arms was expected from Brazil, by the imaginary insurgents.

### LOCAL EVENTS.

**Immigrants.**—The *Epigrafo* conveyed, on Saturday, 100 Italians to this port, who had arrived at Montevideo on board the *Chibabera*: 150 have come from Bayonne and 50 more Italians in the barque "Ernest."

**Martin Garcia.**—It is asserted in the "Pueblo" of Montevideo that this island belongs to the Banda Oriental, and the foreign ministers are invoked to guarantee its neutrality.

**Pastor Obligado.**—This gentleman, at present Minister of Government has set out for the encampment, with the view of giving Mitre a wrinkle about the peace conference. Dr. J. M. Cantillo accompanies him as secretary.

**Hector Varela.**—The chief of the "Tribuna" excuses himself from active service, for the present, on the grounds of illness, and special commission from Government. In proof of his intrepidity he refers to his engagement in Italy on October 1st under General Garibaldi. Anyone who doubts his valor, he will seize by the nose and chin, and spit down his throat.

**"La Verdad."**—The editor of this puny production has been lodged in close confinement. In his last number he indulged in a lampoon against Irish papers that were not aware of his existence, and will suffer little from the exuberance of his Carbonari sentiments. *Dios le castiga.*

**Mendoza concert.**—The net proceeds of this philanthropic enterprise amount to 60,000 mpc, and have been deposited with Wanklyn & Co. Bankers.

**Fortifications.**—No less than 1,000 men are employed in the works progressing at the Retiro, Convalecencia &c. It is proposed to form an effective battalion of the workmen.

**Missions.**—D. José Marmol had passed through Montevideo enroute for Rio Janeiro; and D. Lorenzo Torres arrived at Rosario and continued his voyage to Paraguay.

**River Pilots.**—Lieut. Bertora, who captured the coals at Martin Garcia, complains that the pilots and quill-drivers in government pay, are not enrolled, and ascribes this favor to the fact of their having *comprados* and *condones*.

**Medical Staff.**—Dr Parrott, late of Cranwell & Co. has received a surgical appointment on board our fleet.

**Excommunicated.**—His Lordship the Bishop has refused a funeral Mass to be sung for the late Count Cavour. The man who declared he would never rest till the Pope was expelled from Rome, is not a fit subject for the pious honors of the Roman Catholic Church.

**Captain Mazzano.**—Our worthy friend has received command of the Rio Banda which is now ready for sea, and will sail to-morrow or after.

**Admiral Warren.**—This distinguished naval officer who replaces Admiral Keppel on the S. American station has arrived at Montevideo on board the "Forbes." We understand the late Admiral was accused *officio*, con. which led to a disagreement with Sir George Grey.

**Mon eidos Lottery.**—As usual the great prizes have fallen here: 500 ounces has come to the fortunate player.

**French Charity.**—His Majesty Napoleon III. has contributed 3,000 francs to the Mendoza fund.

Marshal McMahon has given a like sum for the construction of a statue to St. Patrick, in the city of Lille, on the French frontier of Belgium.

**Irish College.**—This institute of education will be shortly opened under the auspices of our esteemed pastor Rev. Mr. Fahey, who has already identified himself with the best interest and advancement of our Irish community in this country.

**English Packet.**—The "Mersey" leaves this port on Sunday next at 4 p.m. with mails and passengers for Europe.

**The weather.**—During the last few days, some rain has fallen both in the city and country to dispel our fears of a continued *seca*; but the frost which has since set in will not favor vegetation.

**M. Navarro Viola.**—This eminent lawyer is lodged in the public prison, on account of some correspondence attributed to him, but which he declares a forgery.

#### Galway Packet Station.

The English government has withdrawn the subsidy from the Irish transatlantic steam Company. Never before has any act of an anti-Irish administration produced such universal discontent. All the hopes of an afflicted but struggling nation were anchored in this great enterprise, and the ruin of our broadest aspirations must cure a terrible reaction against an oppressive legislation.

Ireland pays twenty-two million pounds sterling to England every year, in this manner:

National tribute. . . . £ 6,000,000  
English imports. . . . 15,000,000  
English Church Estate. 2,000,000  
A revenue far exceeding that of any state in Europe, (in proportion), and not including the enormous rentals held by English noblemen and Irish absentee which drain our very hearts blood to fatten our neighbours. Still a pitiful £70,000 are grudged us, and reports say that a certain Mr. Baxter has more weight with the English Parliament than the interests of seven millions Irishmen.

Of course there is a pretext for this arbitrary spoliation, as Cromwell had a pretext for the massacre at Drogheda, and William for violating the Limerick treaty. It is pretended that the Galway line had not vessels to fulfil the postal contract. For this purpose the enemies of Galway picked out two worthy surveyors who certified that the vessels were not sea-worthy, and by a stroke of the pen annulled the contract. Thus the speediest communication with America is cut off at the very time that direct intercourse is most desirable. It may be said, cannot the line continue still? but we have Mr. Cunard's testimony that no such company can hold out, without a parliamentary subsidy. It is just to observe that the House of Lords has nobly protested against this tyrannical act; but, as the Commons are supreme, there is no hope for Ireland unless in a change of Ministry, for the Derby party is strongly in favor of this one act of justice to Ireland.



France — 82 fis.



