

THE STANDARD.

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The Political Pamphlet.

THE news from the interior, coupled with Urquiza's attitude, and the utterances of the various newspapers, lead us to think that we must dread that party reports had perhaps more sunshine and less cloud, than the provincial barometer actually indicated. Certainly, the yearling "Urquiza-bum" let slip some ugly prognostics, and while our attention was daily concentrating on the coming Congress, we are suddenly roused by the *réclat* of Entre-Ríos, and see at the same time a storm gathering northwards.

Every man who desires peace as earnestly as ourselves will be regret to read of Pehalosa's negative success for he is apparently bound up in his present, and leaving Urquiza in a ferment. Numerous accounts of his defeat have been published, and when we expect to find him fleeing with a dozen followers or hiding in a cañon, he suddenly presents himself with a force of several hundreds. On March 31 he entered the city of Rioja, and was received (as a matter of course) with the Viva! the shout of "Tucuman, Viva, Savior of the North and Father of the Poor!" Probably his acclimizers would as soon sing "Death to the *caudillo*!" It is probable he did not count on the treatment he received, soon after, marched out and Colonel Paz marched in (March 29). Since then he has ridden rough-shod over two or three provinces, having frequently encountered the forces of the Gobierno arms. Still he is *at large*, and it is rumored that he refused the offer of "a full pardon, with permission to reside in any part of the Republic and a pension of £200 per month."

At the same time we learn that Col. Ortiz has given up his command. S. Luis Brice vice-Governor of Rioja has been imprisoned. Governor Villafra de Cerezo has resigned. In Salta, Gen. Rojo is given the administrative, removing the Federal officers of the State. Santiago del Estero has agreed to the Convention suggested by Paz, and the other northern provinces.

The greatest interest is Urquiza's review on May 25th. At the very hour that our Congress meets in this city to reorganize the Republic, the Gov. of E. R. will make a grand display of his legions, almost in plain gunshot of our Senate House. He has received a personal invitation to attend, for any eventuality; this review is ominous, and may be received politely hearding our Deputier. He sends, however, his Senators to Congress as guests of honor, that he will not interrupt the national councils, but remain, meanwhile, resting on his arms. Gen. Mitre's good fortune may carry us safely through the summer, but it is impossible to deny that there are "breakers ahead."

The Country Branch Banks.

The proposed scheme of establishing 3 branch banks in the country has met it appears with some impediments from high quarters, which none but "counselors" could see.

Nothing in financial measures is so desirable as discretion: it was supposed that with the numerous advantages accruing to the country at large, which the bank set on foot, would carry away all opposition or cool calculations, but we are proud to say that the concurrence which the Country re-

ports in our Finance Minister is by no means unqualified, and that discretion guides his judgment in all these new undertakings for the benefit of the Country.

At the outset we cautioned the public against the extension of a Bank such as the Casa de Moneda we advised all to regard with suspicion every advance made to help the circulation of a depreciated paper currency, and we are more than repaid when we read the sound and unanswerable remarks which are contained in the Governor's address touching this subject.

The Governor, it is clear, agrees with us to the very letter: he says that it is an impossibility to expect that the currency of the Country can go up in its value. In such a position of the Government, it is impossible to suppose that they will ratify a measure which instead of diminishing actually increases the evil. We want much to be paid, but we want them on a sound footing, and not miserable ground-bread things which we hold would be of more profit to the manager and clerks than to the people, whom they enrich in the Villa Mercedes.

Foreign Claims.

We learn that our Minister's visit to Paraguay was attended with complete success. The Paraguayan Government has recognized the claims and agreed to pay indemnities, and the Little Polly question has been finally settled. So, although there is no Admiralty court in Asunción, our claims have not passed through collisions, &c., are recoverable in Paraguay.

Too much praise cannot be given for the promptness and activity with which Mr. Thornton, after the close of his first instructions from the home government, had this matter settled. We hope soon to see our friends in the Banda Oriental righted in the same manner. We have not passed away since the occurrence of the disorders which gave rise to these claims; many of the sufferers have passed from amongst us; but it is to be hoped that the claims of the children of these beggared and destroyed foreigner will be attended to, and that a rigorous and exemplary satisfaction will be exacted, once and forever, by the British Government.

Our new Prima Donna.

It will interest most of our readers to learn some particulars respecting the brilliant cantatrice, who had lately triumphed at *debut* in our Colon Theatre.

Giuditta Altieri was born at Kings town, Co. Dublin, in the year 1840, before she was eight years of age, she was the youngest of five children, the youngest and most respectable in rank, having large estates on the delightful shores of Coro (Queenstown). She has assumed the name of her maternal grand-father, Count Altieri (a Roman). From an early age, the subject of our memoir resided in Italy, where her musical talent quickly developed itself and was improved under the best teachers. Her singing of Pucciniotti learned from the same maestro as Giuditta, and, after her first lyrics successes, often listened to the lessons of our heroine in the favorite opera "Traviata."

Having given good promise of a happy career, Miss Altieri made her first appearance some 15 months ago, and was hailed with such applause, that she quickly met with an engagement in Russia, where the audience on one occasion enjoyed the honor of her services, leaving her home in triumph.

The popular ovation the cantatrice has given is especially disagreeable to nervous persons, who would fancy themselves about to jump through the window. She was, last of all, singing at La Scala in Milan, starting it among the enthusiastic Italians, when this South American engagement was offered her.

It is easy to understand that so tedious and trying a voyage must a little discompose the voice; we may therefore expect that Miss Altieri will even improve on her splendid *debut*, and lay claim to the sobriquet of the late Katherine Tllyer—"the high nightingale."

In personal exterior, she is of very fascinating comportment, dressarily and tastefully, and displays some valuable jewels on her beautifully modelled hands and arms. Her conversation is varied and animated, and she carries a bewitching smile playing across her truly striking features, light up the sweetest *pi-er-oe* of eyes that ever radiated in Cupid's sphere. She is of medium height, elegant figure, and full habit. Her English accent is rich, and betrays Italian extraction, although when speaking in French of Italy, it would be impossible to detect the least foreign admixture, so perfectly is she the mistress of both tongues.

Her love of Ireland is the more admirable, as she has so long resided abroad, and she expresses a decided preference for Cork, Glanville, and Ahanda, over the grandest scenery of Lago Como, Maggiore, or the Apennines. It is to be hoped that she will give us some of our National ballads, before leaving us. We should like to hear her charming a congress in "Kathleen Mavourneen," "The Rose Tree," or could we hope for the Bohemian Girl (*La Zingari*)? or some other of our Countrymen's (Bards) splendid compositions.

One thing we will engage: that Miss Altieri will draw numbers among of English, Irish, Scotch and Americans, if any evening of her appearance she favors us with one of her own National Melodies or Old English songs.

We heartily wish her a brilliant success; and whether the native press treats her fairly or otherwise, the new prima donna may count on a warm Cord Millo Follies from her countrymen of the "Standard."

The Governor's Message.

(Continued.)

The Government is highly pleased to be able to inform you, in the important branch of Public Education, the year, in which the province has been engaged has had a pernicious influence. The impulse given to it is department by its indefatigable initiator, Sr. Sarmiento, has not been interrupted. Experience has proved how opportune and forethought were the laws which destined special funds for the construction of appropriate buildings for schools, and for their support. Thanks to them, even in the most difficult times, the Government has been enabled to continue the projected plans it had in view, of enlarging the capital and country with fine and comfortable edifices, which, facilitating the heavy task of the teacher, serve as an incentive to parents, to send their sons to school.

It is, in fact, besides those existing last year, new edifices are now ready at the Lomas de Zamora, San Martin, Bahia Blanca, Arrecifes, and Navarro. There are also already finished, and very soon to be opened, the schools of Lujan, San Antonio de Areco, Villa del Mar, the principal at Baradero, and that of the Once de Septiembre, in the plaza of the same name; and there are actually in construction other similar buildings at Quilmes, San Isidro, Rojas, La Plata, and that destined for the Swiss colony at the Baradero.

At the same time, all the necessary funds for the repair of the public schools in other country towns, where it was of urgent necessity, have been allowed.

There exists at present in the Bank, the sum of \$3,574,787 in public bonds of the nation, as a fund for the building of schools, and \$1,148,000 for their support. With the interest which these sums produce, and the product of other special laws voted for the same object, the Government proposes gradually to enow the city and country districts with edifices suited to such locality. It may, therefore, be affirmed that the day is not far off in which these shall not be a parish in the capital, nor a district in the camp, which shall not have a temple erected to education, which is to regenerate these countries.

The worthy man who composes the Society of Beneficence are highly entitled to the consideration and gratitude of the honorable Legislature and the country. The Government, on its part, has the greatest pleasure in declaring that the establishments under their charge leave nothing to desire. Their dedication and self-denial know no limits. The Hospital for Females, under their direction, has been improved, as in other not very remote times, improve far in the patients, who now frequently refer to the assistance they can receive at their own homes, and the founding children have ever found in them solicitous mothers. This is also the opportunity for the Government to signify its gratitude with which it is animated towards the Sisters of Charity. To their indefatigable zeal, in part, be attributed the fact that the factory state of the hospitals and foundling asylum; and that they are also entitled to special merit from the country. At the approximation of the battle of Pava, they volunteered generally to go and take care of the wounded. Accepting this philanthropic offer, five Sisters went to the military hospitals at San Nicolas, and subsequently to those of Rosario. Their evangelical charity and unequalled self-denial have contributed efficaciously to soften the sufferings of our soldiers.

(To be continued.)

Catolcos.

This flourishing little Country town has been universal host to the army of those imposing ceremonies, which speak for the moral tone of the foreign community of the whole paritido.

On Thursday last the foundation stone of the new Catholic Church was laid, in the presence of a large concourse of natives and resident foreigners, without distinction of country or religion.

It was a regular day for the whole town: everything passed off in the finest style: speeches, refreshments &c. The Gaudio and the Gorman, the Irishman and the Englishman, the Scotchman and the American all blended together in one peaceful harmony, evincible in any country much more so in this where co-operation is so much required.

When we reflect that the funds for building this Church have been liberally subscribed by even dissenters from the Roman Catholic religion we cannot refrain from congratulating ourselves on the enjoyment of a society which is composed of some of such sterling worth.

And we consider it but right and proper that the trustees of

this church should supply us with a list of the subscribers, which the "Standard," ever foremost in giving true merits due, will publish gratis for the information of our foreign readers.

Italian Opera.

"Primo Cattedo" Manager Triumphant—Public and Successful, New Style of Advertising—Fourth Night of the Second "Alonso" of the Season, &c.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the current week, in glancing over the Spanish papers of this metropolis, my eye was attracted by the following ominous advertisement:—"Il Barbiere di Siviglia, per la Sta. Parodi," which, to my understanding, in English would signify, "The Barber of Seville, by Miss Parodi." Now, having my own particular ideas as to grace, beauty, &c. of the said Parodi, I thought, as a single man, who through the dramatic Parodi should appear as the gay barber, "I fancy, I saw, I ——" No, I did not concur (for I paid full price at the railings)—that is, not that I know of; and, to tell you the honest truth, I did not see—that is to say, I did not see the tragic Parodi, as per advertisement, in the maculine habiliments of the mischievous barber. No; she had not donned them by mistake, else it be in the advertisement, and "ad quippe culpan suam." However, the said artist did appear as the piquant Rosina.

I have sympathized with Parodi as Lucrezia Borgia, as Rosina, as the scolded hair, La Favonita, and would concede to her, as Rosina, merits that I knew not of. The first net passed off fairly. In the second nothing awoke mediocrity, excepting the *tableau* in the last scene, which, both for impersonization and effect, was worthy of a fuller house. But it was in the last act, where the Rosina of the evening "won golden opinions from all sorts of people."

The trial lesson in this net was, perhaps, as correct a musical banquet as was ever witnessed within the Colon Theatre. Artistic, true in time and cadence, and a gushing forth of difficult notes, entirely of study in masterpieces, yet comparatively, in effect, a failure, still, amounting to my impression that the cantatrice before you possessed resources of voice which might be called forth at any moment, and almost in any character, to electrify you and baffle your shrewdest criticism. Parodi evidently feels the heroic of the night; she betrays it in the cellophane changes of countenance, the varied expression of the eye and mouth, and the suggestive and often gestures put forth as by the spirit's convulsion: "is there that often wring from you applause, when the mere singing, of itself, would be but cold and listless. I do not consider Rosina the character she has the best means of, but for, as yet, pronounce (as a whole) in favour of her Romeo.

Sr. ——— has much improved since his first appearance here, and at each successive performance gives evidence of being a careful and studious musician.

The management is superlatively bad and unfair: a psychopathic system is shown; as, for instance, an *alano* of so many nights is advertised; so far so good; but not so when the general public, who *always* are informed that they are to see all the seats and boxes (worth having) for that *alone* have been called for by

