

# The Standard

WEEKLY EDITION

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BUENOS AIRES, MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1896

YEAR XXXV

## Telegrams.

(Per Havas Agency.)

### United Kingdom

London, 22nd.—The Soudanese battalion has left Suakin and is advancing across the desert in the direction of Kenneh.

### United States

New York, 22nd.—In official circles it is asserted that the President of the Swiss Republic will be asked to arbitrate on the Amara question between France and Brazil. President Cleveland is making every effort to ensure the matter being brought to a successful conclusion as quickly as possible.

### Germany

Berlin, 22nd.—It is now asserted in Court circles that the meeting in Venice between the Emperor and King Humbert will not take place till the middle of April. No doubt is entertained but that the Triple Alliance will be renewed.

### France

Paris, 22nd.—Count Tornelli Brusati the Italian Ambassador in this Capital has just been summoned to Rome to confer with the new Ministers respecting the present state of political affairs.

### Italy

Rome, 22nd.—In the duel fought to-day between General Mocenni the ex-Minister of War and Deputy Barzani, the latter received a slight gash in the cheek. The weapons used were sabres and the encounter only lasted a few minutes.

Two other duels now being arranged. The one between Deputies Enrico Ferri and Muratori also originated in yesterday's debate; the other between Deputy Colajanni and a journalist having been brought about by an article published this morning which reflected on the Deputy to his disadvantage.

A telegram from Massauah announces the arrival at Adigrat of 40 more survivors from the disaster of Abdi-Gamma.

Rome, 22nd.—The Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Duke Sermoneta, has telegraphed to-day to Paris and Berlin summoning the respective Ambassadors Count Tornelli Brusati and Baron Lanza, to come at once to Rome, in order that they may receive detailed instructions respecting the pending international questions.

Baron Lanza will it is said remain here until after the meeting to be held between the King and the Emperor of Germany.

The Negus Menelik has demanded a war-indemnity of 25 million. The Russian Cabinet consulted with the King respecting this startling condition of peace but the decision arrived at has not transpired. Peace certainly looks less probable in the face of the Abyssinian pretensions.

## Review of the Week.

The week has closed with bombshell news from Chile, and according to the latest advices, the Chilean Government have refused to entertain the propositions of the Argentine for the settlement of the Limits Question. This points to a serious state of affairs, and as we said in our article yesterday, it is evident the Chilean Government are acting more in harmony with the military spirit of the nation than with the prudence which had so far prevailed in the councils of the rulers. We are at present witnessing a revival of a dangerous military spirit which the recollection of Peruvian conquest on one side and that of the glorious San Martin and his heroes on the other may fan into a flame. The Chileans continue to place themselves on a war-footing and are mobilising their National Guard. No less than 100,000 men, according to the latest advices, are to take the field, although it may be questioned whether this figure could be attained. The Chilean Government are at present in treaty for the purchase of an iron-clad from Great Britain at a cost of one million sterling. The new vessel, which will be equal to the best vessels at least so our Transandine neighbors assert—is to be called the O'Higgins.

The alarming news from Europe was one of the principal topics of the week, and although things are looking calmer the storm-clouds still darken the horizon. Complications may ensue, and pessimists even talk of war. The antagonism that exists between France and Germany is supposed to be a danger, although in this matter of fact age, it should be borne in mind that, according to the latest calculations, a war between France and Germany would involve a cost of two millions sterling per diem. The proof of the entire difficulty in Europe is the ambition of France to drive England out of Egypt—on the French principle "Ote-toi que je m'y mette!" and the Dongola Expedition is calculated to tighten the British grasp on the land of the Pharaohs. The Triple Alliance and Russia and France are brought by diplomatic intrigues face to face. One or the other must withdraw its pretensions, and the settlement of the question at issue will show to which side the balance of power leans. In the meantime an important side difficulty has cropped up. Austria, Germany and Italy have given their consent to the proposed arrangement of England that the expenses of the Expedition should be defrayed out of the Egyptian Treasury. Of course, France and Russia will oppose this move, and according to treaty, the money in the Egyptian Treasury cannot be removed without the unanimous consent of the guaranteeing powers, although there exists a clause whereby a maximum of 2½ millions sterling may be removed with the consent of the majority of the guarantors.

And thus the quarrel stands: it is impossible to say how it will end, but one thing is certain—Africa is in a blaze. As a pendant to the Jameson Raid, another expedition has been organized for the Transvaal, and no less than 200 Soudanese soldiers have been shipped from Suez to serve under the Chartered Company. These soldiers are commanded by English officers. There is a scramble for Africa.

The Cuban Revolution drags its slow length along. Maceo and Gomez, the rebel leaders, continue to outmarch and out-general the Spanish Commander-in-Chief, who, in spite of his strong divisions and the superiority of his armament, is powerless to arrest this struggle for independence. The rebels have burned down 31 towns and villages, and wherever the Spaniards go, they find nothing but ruins. The rebels continue to receive provisions and armament; so that the struggle may be prolonged indefinitely.

Although the weather has changed and the evenings are now fresh, people are still leaving the city for Mar del Plata and Necochea. The success of these two bathing resorts has been extraordinary this season, and every year no doubt it will go on increasing.

The arrivals in grain and wool were considerable during the week, but owing to the bad weather very little business was transacted. The European telegrams offered little difference, maize and wheat were somewhat slack, but prices revived towards the close of the week. The rates here came down some 20 cents, but this is due greatly to the local demand which keeps exporters at a distance. The favourable news from London about the colonial wool auctions has had a very good effect here; the greater part of the wool sales are done by French "artists" who still hold on to their old flame—fine merino. Cross Lincoln and mezzelas are not up to the mark, the absence of American and German buyers is telling heavily on these qualities.

## TIRO FEDERAL ARGENTINO

No matter how well a regiment of soldiers may be drilled, they must be quite useless unless they are perfectly acquainted with the use of the arms they carry, and the institution of the Tiro Federal is distinctly a step in the right direction, as it will give the necessary opportunity for practising with arms of precision. The stand opened yesterday is a very handsome structure, but is hardly large enough for such a crowd as assembled. Continual firing went on from a very early hour in the morning until five p.m. Space will not permit of a detailed account of the prizes, but there are 10 events for rifle shooting, at 350 and 500 metres, and 2 for revolvers at 50 metres.

At two p.m. His Excellency the President arrived, being received by the President of the Society, Gen. L. M. Campos. He immediately made a full inspection of the building, accompanied by Mr. Vidlanueva, Minister of War, Gen. Capdevila, Col. Garcia and Gen. Levalle. This being concluded, the bugle sounded attention, when the enemy, in the shape of twenty dummies, were seen passing along the front of the target at the distance of 350 metres. A second fire was immediately opened, with the result that the enemy was completely annihilated. The same mimic battle was afterwards tried at 500 metres, the enemy approaching in very open order, in a zig-zag direction, and with the same result. The dummies were exhibited in front of the stand and everyone had been hit, showing that the shooting had been very good.

After several vain attempts the flag dropped at an opportune moment with Demonio, Constance and Reine des Prés in front. When entering the straight Esfinge closed up while Hermit showed up at the rails. Passing the paddock Reine des Prés got in front, but could not stall off Hipolito who got through his field and won by 1 length. Reine des Prés 2nd and Constance 3rd.

## SPORT.

RACING AT PALERMO.

Beautiful weather favoured the races yesterday which attracted a very numerous crowd. The programme besides was such a good one that it lacked nothing of interest and race goers could not complain of a good day's sport. Fields turned out large in most events and the starting was very fair. The first event was an easy victory for Bab who although running well lately had not the number of tickets on him he so well deserved and therefore paid his backers a very fair dividend. Floresta then put a double victory to her stable's credit by pulling off the Premio Satanela. Coming to the mares' race it was reduced to 8 candidates of which Primera figured as a hot favourite while Esfinge and Mignone were not behind and if the latter had got away better the victory would have been hers undoubtedly while Esfinge cantored home ¼ length from Primera. The long distance was an easy victory for Ciro who shook off Citron and Stamboul in the straight. Hipolito gave an unexpected upset in the next event paying the biggest dividend of the day. Esfinge, the hot favourite and running for the second time, and Demonio as next favourite, were hardly ever in the race. The mile race was given to Primrose although it seemed that Yankee won by a good neck. After the numbers were put up the judges were hissed unmercifully by the crowd which lasted for some minutes and the mob even went so far as to try and prevent the horses coming out for the next event. Cantiniere's victory in the last event brought the meeting to a close. The following are the details:—

**Premio Cordelia.**

For all horses that have not won more than one race. Distance, 1300 metres. Prize, \$1,200 to the 1st and \$100 to the second.

**Yrs. Ks.**

Ecurie Lucullus, Bab by Babylon out of Ieni..... 3 55 1  
Ecurie Indecis, Besace..... 3 58 2  
A. Lincoln, Driade..... 3 58 3

**Premio Satanela.**

For 2 year old colts. Distance 1000 mts. Prize \$1,600.

**Yrs. Ks.**

Stud Salvador, Florista by Pan out of La Florida..... 2 50 1  
Petite Ecurie, Lady Beautiful..... 2 50 2  
Stud Recuerdo, Carlequin..... 2 52 3

**Premio Criadores.**

Weight for age for all mares. Distance 1200 metres. Prize \$3,500 to the 1st and 500 to the 2nd.

**Yrs. Ks.**

St. Solitario, (M<sup>a</sup>), Esfinge by Jupiter out of Glenshe..... 3 55 1  
J. B. Zubizar, Primera..... 4 62 2  
Ecurie Indecis, Mignonette..... 4 62 3

**Premio Liana.**

Handicap for all horses. Distance 1100 metres. Prize \$1500 to the 1st and 100 to the 2nd.

**Yrs. Ks.**

Stud Puri, Hipolito by Zanon out of Hippolyt..... 3 46 1  
Ecurie Indecis, Reine des Prés..... 3 49 2  
Ecurie Montevideo, Esfinge..... 4 54 3

**Premio Santa Lucia.**

Handicap for all horses. Distance 1600 metres. Prize \$1,700.

**Yrs. Ks.**

Gral San Martin, Primrose by Royal Rose out of Vanessa..... 4 50 1  
A. Lincoln, Yankee by Soukaras out of Antigone..... 4 60 2  
St. Rio Tercero, Coral by Keir out of Cora..... 5 56 3

**Premio La Prensa.**

Handicap for all horses. Distance 1,800 metres. Prize \$1,800.

**Yrs. Ks.**

Stud Paris, Cantiniere by Plutus out of Old Maid..... 6 59 1  
Stud Monf, Clendestino..... 3 48 2  
Ecurie Pergamino, Salteador..... 3 47 3

**Premio La Prensa.**

With a good start the lot was despatched. Salteador jumped into his stride and getting away by several lengths from the rest led his field into the straight where Aquilera on Cantiniere came from the outside and stalling off a challenge from Clendestino went on to win a good race by 1 length. Clendestino 2nd and Salteador 3rd.

**Yrs. Ks.**

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Also ran—Locust, Hipolito, La Fortuna, Rigolo, Sophist, Triunviro, Sardius, Kossaka, Voluptas, Princesse Catherine, Orbe.

At the second attempt the flag dropped to a good start from which Bab jumped in front first but was soon passed by Rigolo who led his field round the upper bend. Here Driade closed up and with Bab at her side got in front of the leader. When well in the straight Bab drew away and went on to win a good race by a head from Besace who came with a rush at the finish, but could only be placed 2nd, Driade 3rd.

**Sport—Bab 25.46; Placé 6.50. Besace 4.49; Driade 9.33.**

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**CRICKET.**

**B. A. C. C. v ROSARIO RAILWAY.**

The match was played yesterday at the Park and resulted in a crushing defeat for the Railway, who scarcely deserved a better fate as they turned up with scarcely half a team, so that the match was virtually a walk-over. Of the railway men only Shepherd shewed anything like form, though one of the substitutes, young Levy, shamed exceedingly well both with the bat and the field. Nearly all the B. A. team acquitted themselves well; Dillon's, perhaps, being the best innings 60, made without a chance for Gifford and J. O. Anderson both had good figures in the bowling analysis, and Ridd, who got all the wickets, except one, on the other side. The railway was beaten by 221 runs, as will be seen from the scores. The railway winning the toss sent in Ridd and Syer to the bowling of Knox and Gifford. Runs came very slowly and with only 13 on Syer hit round to leg missed and was ordered out by the umpire J. W. B. whilst a couple of overs later with only one more on Ridd was taken as point, total 14, equally divided between the two out-goers. McConnell joined Pettinger, and was almost immediately dismissed by a yorker from Gifford, Knox getting the next wicket, Higgins skying to J. O. Anderson, at cover 15, 4, 0. Matters now got a trifle livelier, Shepherd driving Knox straight for two and getting a couple of snicks which Justian followed by a nice brace past cover and a boundary to leg all off Knox, but he played on to same bowler next over, 34, 5, 10. The next item was a fine drive out of the ground by Shepherd off Gifford, which he followed up by driving Knox for two, but in repeating the stroke gave a bad chance to Graham, not accepted. He then turned his attention to Gifford and drove him beautifully straight. Dillon just saving the boundary finely. Runs continued to come freely and before the next wicket fell 59 were on. The first change was then tried, J. O. Anderson relieving Knox and sending down amaiden. Botting got J. O. to leg boundary the first ball of his next over and was then awarded, H. Woodgate left stumped and Shephard who had played exceedingly well failed to catch hold of one of the slows and put it up, retiring for a very creditable 38. The remaining men gave little trouble and the innings closed for 75.

After lunch Arthur and J. O. Anderson went out to take the deliveries of McConnell and Botting. Arthur started with 4 and 3 off McConnell's second four, both drives and then runs came freely from Gifford and 30 coming up in quick succession, which brought on Ridd for McConnell and Taylor for Botting. The run-getting slowed down, but the 50 went up with the two men well set. J. O. then got a 3, 2 and 4 off Taylor, the boundary being a fine hit over the pavilion to square leg and the 60 went up, followed almost immediately by the 70, the railway score being only 4 ahead, when Arthur hit over from Ridd and retired for a very vigorous 38. Boyd who joined and J. O. then got boundaries straight off Taylor bringing up 80. With the score standing at 87, Ridd who had changed over enticed J. O. into the fatal error of trying to drive a yorker which did not come off, and he retired for a very pretty 37. Dillon joined Boyd and the 90 went up. Ridd began slows but found they did not pay Boyd driving the first straight clean out of the ground for six and cutting the next, the boundary. The tens came fairly easily. Dillon waking up with a triplet of threes, and then getting on to young Levy hit two boundaries and 2 and a single in one over, winding up the spell with a drive to the boundary off McConnell. Boyd chimed in with another boundary drive bringing up 150, and shortly afterwards opened his shoulders to McConnell and lifted him over one of the ground for six—a magnificent hit. The runs came at a terrific pace and when an adjournment for refreshments was made the B. A. C. C. had 175 to their credit, being exactly a century ahead of their opponents. On resuming the Flores pair gave the bowling a fearful handling; nothing that was tried, which was everything (to make a ball) seemed to come amiss, and 214 was the total score. Boyd played all round a trimming ball from Ridd and was bowled for a very fine 77 which included 2 sixes, 5 fours, 2 threes, 9 twos and singles. He gave a very palpable chance of stumping, from which he escaped by a miracle, and two hard chances in the field, but when he had made most of his runs. Dillon shortly afterwards had to retire run out for a splendid 60, made without a chance and composed of 6 fours, 3 threes, 2 twos and singles. Ridd then got Gifford out 1, b. w. and Mills bowled 240 up with a boundary off Levy, R. E. H. Anderson also got on to same bowler for a brace of four which brought M'Connell on again, but he continued to treat all alike putting boundaries on every over till taken beautifully in the long-field by Shephard—a fine hit and a splendid catch, 274, 6, 32. Graham then left run out, very smart bit of work by Botting and Syer. Barton drove Ridd for a brace and then repeating the stroke lifted the ball to Justian in the long-field—another fine catch 281, 8, 2. When just 4 short of the third century Webster tell a victim to Ridd's slows and Knox having left, the innings closed, Mills being not out for a hard hit 29.

**Rosario Railway.**

**1st inn.**

R. W. Ridd, c. Graham, b. Gifford..... 7  
B. B. Syer, l. b. w., b. Gifford..... 7  
J. D. Shephard, ct. Barton, b. J. O. Anderson..... 28  
H. C. Mc'Connell, b. E. R. Gifford..... 0  
A. H. Higgins, c. J. O. Anderson, b. Knox..... 0  
E. L. Justian, b. Knox..... 10  
R. Levy, c. Barton, b. Gifford..... 6  
Botting, b. J. O. Anderson..... 4  
H. Woodgate, st. Mills, b. Gifford..... 1  
W. Thompson, b. J. O. Anderson..... 2

**B. A. C. C.**

**1st inn.**

H. Plovers, not out..... 2  
Extras..... 8  
Total..... 75

**B. A. C. C.**

**1st inn.**

B. J. Dillon, run out..... 60  
J. O. Anderson, b. R. W. Ridd..... 37  
A. Anderson, b. R. W. Ridd..... 38  
A. Boyd, b. R. W. Ridd..... 77  
E. R. Gifford, l. b. w., b. Ridd..... 6  
R. E. H. Anderson, c. Shephard, b. Mc'Connell..... 32  
H. M. Mills, not out..... 29  
W. Graham, run out..... 0  
A. M. Barton, c. Justian, b. Ridd..... 2  
H. Webster, b. Ridd..... 2  
T. V. Knox, b. Abscut..... 0  
A. Higgins..... 13

**Total..... 296**

**BOWLING ANALYSIS**

**Rosario Railway.**

**o. r. m. w.**

T. V. Knox..... 12 31 3 2  
E. R. Gifford..... 18 28 5 5  
J. O. Anderson..... 6 2 8 2 3

**B. A. C. C.**

**o. r. m. w.**

H. Mc'Connell..... 24 79 2 1  
Botting..... 9 23 2 0  
P. Taylor..... 7 33 0 0  
R. W. Ridd..... 25 70 3 6  
R. Levy..... 7 48 0 0  
E. Justian..... 4 17 0 0  
A. Higgins..... 2 13 0 0

**Palermo A.C. v. Lomas 2nd XI.**

These teams met yesterday at Lomas, the game resulting in a victory for the home team by 129 runs.

Palermo suffered from the absence of their usual bowlers and the poor batting of the eleven, with the exception of Buchanan, lessened still further their chance of a win. C. M. Belton bowled in good form for Palermo taking six wickets, and for the locals, Messrs. Miller, Byard and D. Gibson run up good scores, though all offered chances.

**Palermo A.C.**

**1st inn.**

W. Buchanan, c. C. Comber, b. G. Comber..... 15  
G. H. Cooke, c. Griffin, b. C. Comber..... 5  
H. Calcutt, c. L. Jacobs, b. S. Gibson..... 4  
E. L. Rugeroni, b. C. Comber..... 4  
C. Belton, c. and b. G. Comber..... 3  
A. Rugeroni, b. G. Comber..... 11  
J. Breckon, Played on G. Comber..... 1  
T. Patcot, b. Byard..... 1  
L. G. Cooke, c. and b. S. Gibson..... 5  
R. Cooke, not out..... 0  
A. O. Jones, l. b. w., b. G. Comber..... 0  
Extras..... 15  
Total..... 66

**Lomas A.C.**

**1st inn.**

D. Gibson, b. Buchanan..... 33  
E. MacGregor, b. Belton..... 0  
G. M. Comber, c. and b. A. Rugeroni..... 5  
A. A. Miller, c. G. H. Cooke, b. Buchanan..... 59  
T. R. Griffin, run out..... 3  
T. Byard, not out..... 58  
L. Jacobs, c. G. H. Cooke, b. Belton..... 20  
S. Gibson, b. Belton..... 0  
C. H. Jones, c. E. Rugeroni, b. Belton..... 0  
J. Minturn, c. A. O. Jones, b. Belton..... 0  
C. P. C. Comber, b. Belton..... 2  
Extras..... 15  
Total..... 195

Letters lying at this Office.

A B
C. Alter, Burrows, H. H. Aslin, J. Brightmore, M. Bowen, M. Barker, Maggio Barrot, Juan Bacheu, A. Bales, Louisa Allen, C. Brul, W. Browne, Blanco, H. H. Asslin, W. Barkley, Miss M. Aspin...

F
Mary Devereux, K. Donogh, Dalton, Dr. Corbin, Ana Collins, Thomas Cassidy, H. Dickinson, Jorge L. Dupier, Miss Campton, Miss Ellen Conery, Henry Cram, Miss Chesborough, Th. Duran.

G H
Farrall, Finland, Ford, Friderichson, P. Ford, Eral, W. Ford, Mrs. Fimour, Charles Falck, J. Fusseck, Furness, Furesan, Michael O'Flaherty, Mr. Foster, Sr. Cayate Giacamo.

I J
Gibbin, Hagin, Harris, Hotchkiss, S. Hamilton, Hurlingham, Golding, F. Gerard, H. Gahan, Gilbert G. Gibbs, Harkney, Hawkins, Hutton, Miss Annie Hayes, G. Guiseppe, A. Gahan, C. Hagon.

K L
Jerrit, Jasper Jeffers, Mr. Jackson, J. G. Johnson.
Keogh, Keen, Kilgish, Lausson, D. Lewis, Mine Knox, Kilmartin, Klein, Levy Labor, H. Lagg, Littlechild, A. Keena, E. Kilmartin, Michael Kennedy.

M O
McAlear, Maddison, Mack, O'Brien, O'Neill, Morton, Maidment, McClay, Matthews, McAdden, Mott, Obendorfer, Mullen, McCarty, Moliva, Nielson, McLean, Nally, McKoon, Rev. E. O'Reilly, Moliroux, Mackintosh, M. MacMahon, Mich. Neagle, R. E. Morris, J. Morton, M. McDonald, N. Nally, M. O'Flannery, Thomas O'Sullivan, Miss Mary Mahon.

P Q
Palough, Rhoades, P. P. P. Robb, Pennington, Rogers, Peckitt Reynolds, Ponsibly, Rosbery, Ravisbrook, Fringie, Patterson, Pearce, Qungley Paull, Rileigh, Palmer, Passaggi, Rot, Pattison, John Reid, Miss Maria Rock.

R S
Arthur Schmidt, Stephenson, Sweet-Sherzer, Thomas Schmidig, W. Smith, Stephens, Stapleton, L. Thomson, Sefors, Tallow, Taylor, Jose Tarkin, Shaw Skotte, Stambognial, Thomas O'Sullivan, Miss Mary Simons, Samuel J. Smiler.

T U
C. Walsh, C. E. Williams, Helen White, F. Woolmer, Margaret Watts, H. Webb, Miss Helen Wheeler.

PAPERS LYING AT THIS OFFICE.

Bidell, J. Astely, Newbound, C. Alcock Mrs. R. Wallace, A. Higgins Miss Trving Patrick Glendon, S. Donohoe, Mr. Haefield, Mr. H. Howers, Miss Murgillie, Mr. A. Makepeace, John O'Connor, Julia Mahon, W. Lindsay, W. Keener, J. H. Koon, A. Lewis, G. B. Stephenson, H. Packer, A. Peckett, H. Symons, Wallis, W. Upton J. Williams, H. Wright, Mr. Janvan Soest, Mrs. Hallard Mrs. Steel Mr. Whittington, J. G. Westhorn, Hill, R. Wallace, Miss C. Cunningham, Drinkwater Joss Larkin, Mahony.

Missing Friends.

John Henry Campbell, arrived in Treasurer from Montreal in 1853, was employed in a laundry.
James Darcy, aged 90, supposed to have died of cholera.
William Power, from Melbourne, Australia, a carrier by trade, was employed by Jarvis Neasbitt, a tallow chandler, supposed to have died leaving property.
Henry Dal, formerly employed by Messrs Johnston and Co.
James Soutor Jones, age 43, supposed to have arrived in the County of Yarmout August 1880.
Hubert Herford, was employed on the Central Argentine Railway.
James Herbert Edward, supposed to be employed on one of the Railways here.
Duncan McCallum, a ship carpenter of Greenock, supposed to be sailing hence to Falkland Islands.
B. Aires, Feb. 18, 1896.
Ronald Bridgett, H. B. M. Consul.

Week's Telegrams.

United Kingdom.
London, 16th.—The first column of the Dongola expedition will start from Wady Halfa on the 23rd inst. The expedition includes several scientific men and the correspondents of the Times and Daily Telegraph. The Derivishes are concentrating near Kassala.

In the House of Commons this evening the sub-secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Curzon, declared that the reverses suffered by Italian arms in Africa amply justified the occupation of Dongola by British troops. Mr. Labouchere replied that the expedition was unnecessary as Egypt was not in any way threatened by the Derivishes. A motion to adjourn the sitting was thrown out by 142 votes. Mr. Curzon during his speech expressed the conviction that the bravery of the Italian troops would retrieve the recent disasters.

The troops to take part in the Dongola expedition are to all meet at Wady Halfa on the 1st April. From India 10,000 native troops are expected to march against the Derivishes.

The news has just been received of the loss of the British s.s. Matadi near Boma, the Capital of the Belgian Free State on the Congo. The disaster was due to the explosion of the cargo of gunpowder. It is known that 40 lives were lost.

London, 16th.—A Cabinet Council was held to-day to consider the question of the Dongola Expedition. General Wolsey was present, and he expressed his opinion that the expedition should proceed very cautiously in the Sudan on account of the difficulties of securing provisions, at least until September.

The Radical papers state that there is no longer any doubt as to the reality of Great Britain's assistance to Italy.

The Westminster Gazette states that the combined action against the Derivishes is the price paid by England for the support of Germany and Austria for the maintenance of British supremacy in Egypt. Hence the expedition to Dongola.

The Daily News correspondent in Rome says that Count Nigra, the Italian Ambassador in Vienna, is working for a renewal of the Triple Alliance and had a long interview with Count Guluchowski, the Austrian Chancellor, before leaving Rome, and agreed fully with him on the bases for continuing the alliance.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Curzon the sub-secretary for Foreign Affairs stated that the Italian Government had expressed satisfaction at the British expedition to Dongola.

In the House of Lords, Lord Salisbury stated this evening that the expedition to Dongola was intended to keep the Derivishes in check and to prevent the fort of Kassala from falling into the hands of the Mahdi.

The news is now confirmed that President Kruger will shortly pay England a visit in order to come to a definite settlement of the Transvaal Question.

London 18th.—The Rome correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette states that France and Russia are busily intriguing to get Italy out of the Triple Alliance. The question is assuming a serious aspect, owing to the attitude the French are taking as regards the Dongola Expedition.

The course taken by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs in reference to the Dongola expedition has created some impression here. The English papers, especially the Times and the Standard publish violent articles against France for her hostility to Great Britain and even threaten her. The English public is also greatly irritated and insists that the expedition must be carried out quite irrespective of what France says or does.

London, 19th.—The Marquis of Salisbury stated in an interview that he had a tour in the North of France in May. He received no advice respecting the evacuation of Kassala. He believed the news to be false.

London, 19th.—The Times states Kassala was evacuated on the 14th. The Italian Embassy has received no news to that effect.

London, 19th.—Mr. Curzon, in the House of Commons, stated that the Government had no intention of withdrawing from the Italian Government.

London, 20th.—The English Press is greatly pleased at the direction affairs are taking in the question with France about the Dongola Expedition. The papers express the belief that it will be carried out in the face of the opposition of M. Faure's Government and of their endeavour to obtain practical support from Russia. The Times does not apprehend that the peace of Europe will be disturbed and looks upon the present attitude of England fresh diplomatic triumph.

London, 20th.—The news of the evacuation of Kassala published yesterday in the Times has not been confirmed. In the House of Commons, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs said that the Government had no official information on the subject, and did not believe the telegram in the Times.

London, 20th.—In the House this evening Mr. Morley questioned the Government about the Dongola expedition and desired to know when Egypt was to be evacuated. Mr. Chamberlain replied that Egypt would be evacuated so soon as every danger to her peace and prosperity had disappeared.

London, 21.—A telegram from Cairo states that the Board of Directors of the Debt met this afternoon in that city to consider the question of the expenses of the Dongola expedition. All the representatives of the European Powers interested, were present. Opinions were divided and nothing definite was decided. To-morrow or on Monday another meeting will be held.

London, 21st.—Replying to a member, Mr. Arthur James Balfour stated that the measures adopted were of a nature to ensure the success of the expedition to Dongola. This expedition, he said, was not for British but Egyptian interests, since the territory acquired would be annexed to Egypt.

France

Paris, 16th.—The news that Russia intends moving in the question between Italy and Abyssinia has caused considerable satisfaction here. The generosity, moderation and tact of Manelik are greatly praised. His conduct according to the press would do honor to any European sovereign.

Baron Anthon, Belgian Minister, has been ordered by his Government to ask the French Government to cooperate against the Derivishes. As yet the French Government has not replied.

The Minister of Marine, Mr. Lockroy is about to ask for large extra credits to build ten new cruisers of high speed, and it is thought they will be granted. Government has given orders to press forward the completion of all the vessels now on the stocks.

The Chamber of Deputies voted this afternoon by a large majority the resolution connected with the holding of an International Exhibition in 1900. The Bourgeois Cabinet had declared that it would consider the vote as one of confidence or censure.

A motion in favour of bi-metalism will to-morrow be presented simultaneously in the Chambers of Commerce of London, Paris and Berlin.

Paris, 18th.—The news of the Dongola expedition has caused a deep sensation, and the Cabinet admit that the situation is very serious. M. Bourgeois, the Premier, is determined that the expenses of the Expedition shall not be defrayed by the Egyptian Exchequer.

The situation has given rise to the most varied comments, but the general tone is one of indignation against England.

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that country; and that the French interests involved were too serious to warrant such a perilous undertaking.

Such an explicit declaration must necessarily produce a serious source of difficulty with England, should she persist in her present pretensions in reference to the manner of defraying the cost of the expedition to Dongola.

Paris, 19th.—In military circles it is said the Minister of War intends to give the Chambers for extra credits to equip the army another regiment of artillery.

Paris, 20th.—The Matin states that Monsieur Berthelot has declared that the note sent to the British Ambassador on the 17th with reference to the Dongola Expedition was not of an official character.

Paris, 20th.—The report that England has joined the Triple Alliance is not believed, but there is a general conviction that there exists—and has existed for years—a secret agreement with Italy.

Paris, 21st.—Only a certain number of papers attack Great Britain with reference to the Dongola expedition. It is believed in high circles that France will directly oppose British policy in Egypt.

Paris, 21st.—The Press are quite silent on the subject of the Egyptian difficulty; and the public conviction is that fresh complications will soon be forthcoming.

Paris, 21st.—President Faure will make a tour in the North of France in May. The Prime Minister Bourgeois and other Cabinet Ministers will go with him, to Lille, Arras, Dunkerque and other large towns in the North of France.

Telegrams from Algiers report serious fighting on the Moroccan frontier between native tribes, with many killed and wounded on both sides.

The Deputies commenced this afternoon the debate on the income-tax proposed to be levied by the Bourgeois Cabinet. The committee report is unfavourable to the scheme and the majority of the Chamber is also believed to be opposed to it. Should the proposal be carried out, it is an open question what the Ministry would do.

United States

New York, 14.—The Cuban Revolutionary Committee have just received the following news: General Antonio Maceo, at the head of nine thousand men, fully equipped, has pushed right to the centre of the Province of Havana.

General Maceo is marching on the Province of Pinar del Rio, whilst the other is being directed on Batabano, which is well defended.

Several Spanish forces have been sent in pursuit of Maceo, and all the disposable Royal troops from the west of Pinar del Rio have advanced to cut off the retreat of the rebels, and prevent a further invasion of that province.

General Maximo Gomez is in the Province of Matanzas, at the head of a considerable body of fully equipped men. Gomez is following up the operations of Maceo with whom he will probably in a few days effect a junction.

All who sympathise with the Cubans are delighted at the success of Maceo and Gomez, and the official despatches from General Weyler are received with increased interest. The Cubans assert that they have received two fresh consignments of rifles and ammunition.

Advices of an authentic character have been received with reference to the steamer Bermuda. This vessel, on being released, left with the British colors flying, and her cargo of arms is said to have been safely received by the Cubans.

Advices just received announce that two Spanish columns, mistaking one another for the enemy, opened fire and caused many deaths in their own ranks. The number of wounded is considerable.

New York, 16th.—Fresh advices received state that the Bermuda will transport her cargo and arms to another vessel on the high seas. This second vessel is said to be one of high speed with two hundred well-trained gunners on board.

The Revolutionary Committee have received advice to the effect that in the encounter between two bodies of Spanish troops there were one hundred killed and 200 wounded.

Washington, 16th.—Great uncertainty prevails here as to the result of to-day's sitting in the Senate. All eyes are fixed on General Sherman, whose well-weighed attitude carries considerable weight in public opinion.

Washington, 17th.—At yesterday's sitting of the Senate, Mr. Elkins (Republican), presented a motion that goes much further than Sherman's. Mr. Elkins proposed that before voting on the Cuban question, the Foreign Affairs Committee should make the following inquiries:—

Whether the operations in Cuba are being carried out in accordance with the rules of modern warfare.

Whether the insurgents have an organized Government.

What towns and positions are held by the insurgents.

What effect would be produced on the rebel cause and on the relations between Spain and the United States by recognition of belligerency.

Senator Morgan proposed a conference to decide these questions.

New York, 17th.—There is no longer any doubt that Maceo at the head of nine thousand men has eluded the vigilance of Gen. Weyler and entered the province of Pinar del Rio.

New York, 17th.—The rebels are pillaging the factories in the province of Havana. At Guara they burned down a number of houses and stores. The inhabitants fled towards the sea-coast.

It appears that General Calixto Garcia is on board the Bermuda.

Washington, 17th.—Mr. Olney, Secretary of State, will, within the fortnight submit to Great Britain the basis of an arrangement of the Venezuelan Question.

New York, 19th.—The Cuban Rebels state that no less than eighty officers and gunners arrived with the cargo of arms on board the vessel from Florida.

The most contradictory telegrams have been received with reference to the fight at Candelaria. The Cubans, 4000 strong, were commanded by Maceo, and the Spaniards under General Linares, were in equal force. The rebels gave the following version: Maceo feigned an attack, while 2000 men wheeled round the enemy and came up from behind. A fight ensued which lasted four hours. The Spaniards were completely defeated. Linares escaped on the contrary that at the head of 2,500 men he attacked Maceo and his 5000 men and put them to flight. Spanish losses 11 killed and seventy wounded.

Washington, 20th.—President Cleveland had a long interview with Mr. Carlisle on the question of the filibustering expeditions to Cuba, and the advisability of the United States adopting some measures to prevent the violation of neutrality. Immediately after the interview Mr. Carlisle sent out a circular to the Custom House authorities ordering them to seize all arms destined for Cuba, provided it be clearly proved that the arms are for the insurgents. The ambiguous wording of the circular has given rise to much comment.

Washington, 20th.—The debate on the question of Cuban belligerency continued to-day in the Senate.

New York, 20th.—The following particulars have been received with reference to the supposed assault on the United States Consul in Puerto Rico. The Consulate is situated alongside the prison, whereas some soldiers fired off their rifles, the bullets whizzing by the Consul. One of the soldiers, on being cross-examined, stated that he aimed at the jailer and not at the Consul's house.

The official version of the incident is not yet received.

New York, 20th.—The insurgents have burned down the town Cabañas on the North coast of Pinar del Rio. Since the beginning of the revolution no less than 35 towns and villages have been burned down completely and 25 partially.

Revolutionary advices confirm the report that Linares was defeated by Maceo at Candelaria. The Spaniards sustained heavy losses. In the meantime late official advices state that although the Spaniards sustained heavy losses, they managed to defeat Maceo at Candelaria.

Gomez is now marching westward, having entered the province of Havana. Great alarm in the Capital.

Washington, 21st.—The debate in the Senate on the question of Cuban belligerency has been postponed until Monday next. This decision was carried in spite of the opposition made by the advocates of Cuban independence.

The vote of censure passed by the Chamber on Mr. Bayard, American Minister in London, on account of his outspokenness in regard to international questions, has given rise to much comment.

New York, 21st.—The armament recently seized near Cardenas is, according to Spanish versions, part of the cargo shipped from Cayo Hueso for the rebels.

London (New Jersey), 21st.—The students burned Wesleyan college last night. They then marched in procession through the streets shouting Down with Spain! and Long live Cuba! No disturbances occurred.

New York, 21st.—The North American Consul in Puerto Rico—with reference to the recent supposed assault—reports that the shots fired were not directed at him, and that the authorities immediately put the soldiers under arrest. The incident was very much exaggerated.

It is inferred that affairs must be serious in Pinar del Rio, for according to the latest despatches (from Spanish sources) eight trains left Havana yesterday with troops to reinforce the Royal forces in that Province.

Madrid, 21st.—The Government have received a telegram from General Weyler announcing the complete success of his military operations and the complete rout of the rebels. The General states that the rebellion will be soon over.

New York, 21st.—A member of the Cuban Revolutionary Committee stated to-day that the armament captured by the Spaniards near Cardenas is of little importance, since the bulk of the cargo has already been safely received by the Revolutionists.

Germany

Berlin, 21st.—The Finance Committee of the Reichstag has reported favourably on the Bill presented by Government concerning stock-exchange operation. It is almost certain that the Reichstag will also vote the measure.

Chile

Santiago, 21st.—The principal newspapers commented to-day on the international question between the two countries. Several papers consider that war is imminent, and that Argentina will take the first step, and as Chile is well prepared the intruders will meet with a warm reception. The cause of the bad feeling is put down greatly to some articles from the Buenos Aires Press.

The Argentine propositions seem to meet with certain obstacles which so far have not been explained. These items are taken from the Diario, which says that the Ministers and the Argentine Representative could not agree.

General Kerner is reported to have said that he did not like the idea of war and that he much preferred to see the two nations united.

It was known this afternoon that the Government had rejected Argentina's proposition for the settlement of the limits dispute. Later on it was said that the Argentine Minister had asked for his passports.

The earthquake shocks still continue in Valparaiso. The scars is so great that several families have gone to the camp. The fatal day of the 29th has caused a great depression, and for this reason the greater part of the well known families are retiring to their estates.

The Liberal Democratic announces that the military plans for the coming manures have been taken. Argentines are put down for the theft.

The rumour yesterday was that Chile had bought a powerful ironclad for one million pounds sterling. It appears the vessel was picked up in Germany. Other questions say that the vessel is still in construction.

The new ironclad is a 12,000 toner, built by Armstrong, and is said to be one of the most powerful afloat. The Chilean Government gives the enormous sum of one million sterling. The vessel is to be called the O'Higgins.

Argentine Republic

Parana, 21st.—The alarm was so great during the night that the police were kept under arms till this morning. Several arrests were made. General Leyria and officers have arrived. The river has risen 4 centimetres.

Rosario, 21st.—A meeting was held last night to form a petition on the present electioneering rules. The affair, however, is kept very quiet. The general movement is all in the political line. Nothing new in cereals, prices like yesterday, sellers stand out for a rise.

HORACE TO ERIN.

THE LOST ODE.

(Discovered by "Scavola" in the belfry-tower of Notre Dame, Paris, Jan. 22, 1896.)

AD JUVENIUM.

Vos precor velle, lepida sorores, (Nam pias gaudet precibus Camena) Ante quam nervos ethare sonantes Pollice laqueam.

Que canam Sappho pino emallati Non motis unquam cecineo vates; Temporum tandem pateat ventura; Seda loquatur!

Me vocant molli materosque posant Qui jacunt dudum sine laque manas; Gesta juvenes veteris viqueque Carmine dicant!

E sinu forem medio videntem Insulas tollit tunc bona Tethys; Hinc piceo natas recreat profundum Via per equor!

Hinc minus circum farit unda litae, Floctibus malet querculis arenam; Concedunt venti; malet hic corvaceo Tetura omine!

Non domos novit populus superbas, Nec togas molles, nec ope avitas, Dura sed robur validis equatibus Mantibus audit!

Hic evant caeli juvenes pudorem Et gravit parenti dicitur astra; Arma vix belli miseramque nomen Novit lerne!

Milium nungam peregrina turba Trivis intactam pede litae alma Gaudet aeternum medium per equor lunula pace.

Perfidum facies face barbarorum Epe Britones (O mediantur astra) Ne jurei Tethys solus nos, cumqueque Servet oculum!

Invoca serenos thijuni paludum Gargiles imos habitant dracones; Sibilis repetit marmorosus hortes Ore vobantur!

Hic famen grate generosa proties Insule, nobis, maceo, Mylati, Qui colit mentem veneranda virtus Deorum omnia!

Me jurat testem lepida jomati Dum bibis vici pateras faustas, Et viti semper premaris, propago Veta signatum.

Qui stibivastos calices per arva Libeto plenas posuere proles; Igne succeno calidit trahentur Necivis hantur!

Hic bibas vinnu veta; hic, Mylati, Gesta majorum miki die tuorum; Festus ad letis reserit per oede Clamor lerne!

LITERAL TRANSLATION.

Ye by my prayers I beseech, graceful Sisters (for the Muses enjoy the prayers of the just), ere I touch with my finger the sonorous chords of the lyre. The poets who formerly rivalled Sappho never sang in numbers the things I shall sing. Let the antiquity of ages ubosom itself: let centuries speak. Many illustrious days who have long slept without praise claim me and my verses, but in this ode I will sing the exploits of old Ireland. Dark Tethys (the sea) displays on her bosom this green island like a flower, and seen from afar on the deep ocean it delights the sailors. The wave is less furious round this shore and with plaintive billows caresses the sand. The winds subside, and here reposes this bright gem of the sea. The people (of the island) know not superb palaces nor effeminate dress, nor hereditary wealth, but hardship addito their vigorous minds. There the chaste youth cultivate virtue, and death of a wide old age (listen to the wisdom of years). Ireland barely knows the arms or the unfortunate name of war. Never have a wandering crowd of soldiers trod this untouched shore; the island in the midst of the sea, eternally enjoys a beneficent peace. Fly the treacherous treaty (alliance) of barbarians, Behold, the Britons are preparing the crimes, and protect the apple of their eye! Call to thy aid the terrible snakes that inhabit the depths of thy marshes. They crawl with hisses and they will eat up the unfortunate invaders. Nevertheless, remain here with us, Mylatius, generous son of the beautiful island, whose mind is adorned by courage and every quality. It delights me to joke with thee, whilst, jovial, thou drinkest many a cup of wine, while thine ever oppresses thee, thou descendant of those giants—who erected for themselves throughout the land like vast bowls towers filled with liquor; lighting a fire, they drank deep draughts of the hot nectar. Here thou shalt drink old wine, here, Mylatius, thou shalt relate to me the deeds of thy ancestors, and let a joyful clamor resound through the gay house the name of Ireland!

"FREE AND EASY" TRANSLATION.

(On my shoulders is thrown the task of presenting in a modern garb to the readers of the classical SPANISH this incomparable Horatian Ode, whose exquisite sweetness and genuine melody leave not the faintest doubt as to the authenticity of its origin. In the appended stanzas I seek not (for it would be impossible) to convey the Horatian spirit and graceful cadence of the pentameter, but I flatter myself that I have given a modern touch to the ideas, and I feel—in penning the translation—that I am playing on the barrel organ a tune that was meant for Melpomene's lyre.

To General Mitre, of course, I leave the task of clothing the ode in the sonorous abundance of pure Castilian. And now one word more.—In the 4th stanza I have rendered "a sinu medio" (on her bosom by "her watery stays"—in reference to the sea—which is more in accordance with our modern notions of female attire—while indirectly conveying the "fin de siècle" impression of the ocean being "decollé."

It will be seen that I have sailed as close to the text as practicable, but occasionally the breeze of verification and the current of political opinions have pushed me out of my course. For instance, in the 7th stanza, I have gone out of my way to pay a compliment to the sires of the illustrious gentleman (dona) of Erin, but the idea the bard intended to convey has been rendered—strange coincidence!—by Moore (Les beaux esprits, etc.)—thus: "For although they love woman and golden tresses, Sir Knight, they love honour and virtue more!"

The snakes mentioned in the tenth stanza are unquestionably the very reptiles St. Patrick, with Christian zeal, but little political foresight, drove away from Ireland. Horace says they would come in handy—like the monkeys in Gibraltar, to defend the land; and especially up the Britons or Tories. (We can imagine what dreadful snake-stories that jolly dog Mylatius must have related at the inn in Brundisium.)

The 13th stanza is of the very greatest importance, since it explains the origin

of uses of the Round Towers of Ireland. These mysterious structures were nothing else but immense punch-bowls used by a race of giants now extinct. "Igne succenso" indicates that these Titans "liked it hot," and it is most probable that the liquor was drunk flaming, more or less in the style in which a punch is served up in the Café de la Paix on the Boulevard or an omelette au Rum in a restaurant. This, of course, explains the tradition that the towers were used by the fire-worshippers.

The frequent recurrence of the word "hic" in the original shows that Horace and Mylatius drank very hard during their jolly at Brundisium. But who was this jolly dog Mylatius? This question has yet to be settled. "En fin," here is the translation.

Ye Muses who smile on the poet sans guile And rejoice in just application, On me bestow your fire, ere I take up the lyre To sing with divine inspiration.

No poet so bold, not even Sappho of old Ere sang of a subject like mine, Let axes unroll the long-cut-covered shore! And the truth of past centuries echo!

Though many a brave, now forgot in the grave, Has a claim on my thoughts and my verse, This ode I'll dedicate to the courage and might Of which Erin has lost the nurse.

Dark Tethys displays on her watery stays A flower of a beauty most rare; And sailors delight, when the tide meets their sight, And forget all their troubles and care.

The billows that roar milder grow round this shore And ceaselessly play with its sand. The tempests subside and the murmuring tide Plaintive breathes its soft sighs to the land.

Wealth's luxurious train Erin's race doth disdain, Now to fashion her sons have e'er bent; From hardship or toil they would never recoil, And their only misfortune's the rent!

And there all the lads are as good as their dads, And they bow to the wisdom of years, War is but a name, and they seek not for fame On the field drenched with blood and with tears.

the pilgrims formed in procession and went on foot with the Irish orphans, the nun, the Irish boys from one of the schools, the Passionist Fathers, the Irish chaplains and the native priests of the country districts. It was indeed a beautiful sight. Nearly all the Irish estancieros wore green sashes and rosettes, the Irish chaplains were all trimly dressed, with ribbon bands around their necks with the inscription "Pray for us." The band played; the cross was elevated, the banners hoisted, and praying and chanting the procession marched along from the station to the new Basilica, which is a distance of a couple of miles. A portion of the road is a long avenue with tall trees on each side, and as the procession wound along this road we never saw a more captivating sight. In the town of Lujan of course all was stir, crowd and bustle, and we had hardly time to drive out to the hill to survey from the height the shape and size of the new Basilica when the Bishop arrived with a crowd of clergymen and proceeded at once, headed by the band of music of the school of Arts, to bless the new altar of Santa Rosa, at the conclusion of which the band played the Argentine Hymn, Dr. Bonoce celebrated Pontifical High Mass, and Father Salvatore, the parish priest, preached an appropriate sermon. At the conclusion the congregation moved off to the other side of the half finished Cathedral to the little chapel of San Patricio, where the real ceremony of the day began. The arrangements were so complete that not one of the vast congregation could get within view of the beautiful altar, the blessing of which and its dedication to Saint Patrick, the Patron of Ireland, formed the main object of the whole religious ceremony.

The Bishop Dr. Bonoce took his seat within the little "capilla" and in front of the new altar, and at his side sat the pious Mrs. Morgan, through whose munificence this stately Basilica is endowed with an altar of the purest Carrara marble worthy of the grandest Cathedral in Europe. Beside her sat Miss Shannon, the "madrina" of the gorgeous Irish flag donated by her to the "capilla," and which the Bishop now blessed. The Rev. Dr. Sheehy, the much esteemed Irish parish priest of Rosario, officiated as high priest at the Mass, and through the great attention of the Passionist Father the Rev. Father Martin, and the Irish Chaplain the Rev. Father Mulleally, we obtained a place in the unfinished circular aisles; the large open space with unfinished pillars; the future grand aisles of the cathedral; the roof over the grand altar that is to be in the centre of the Basilica, all were crowded with the faithful; the band was posted in front of the little "capilla," on the roof, and we really think we never experienced anything more captivating, more enraptured, more sublime than the moment when High Mass began and the band beautifully played that most favorite of all Irish airs "The last rose of Summer." There is a certain enchantment about music which only the poet can define:

When thro' life's unblest we rove,  
Losing all that made life dear,  
Should some notes be heard to love,  
In days of boyhood, meet our ear  
Oh! how welcome breathes the strain!  
Wakening thoughts that "were fast asleep;  
Kindling former smiles again,  
In faded eyes that long have wept.  
Music, oh! how faint, how weak,  
Language fades before thy spell!  
Why should I feel thee ere I speak,  
When thou canst breathe words so well?  
Friendship's balmy words may float,  
Upon the human brain—champagne—  
Oh! his only music's strain,  
Can sweetly soothe and not betray.

At the conclusion of the gospel, Dr. Bonoce, representing the Most Rev. Dr. Castellanos, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, blessed the Irish flag which was brought up to the altar by a strong, powerful, young Irishman, Mr. Morgan, son of the lady who donated the altar to the Cathedral; close on a hundred Irishmen, all decorated with green sashes and green rosettes, accompanied Mr. Morgan in the presentation of the flag. The band now played "Saint Patrick's day in the morning" and played it well; the voluptuous strains echoed throughout the half finished building; and as we stood before the altar with the statues of St. Patrick, St. Malachy, St. Columbkille, St. Bridget, and a large fresco with the good St. Patrick standing beside a Celtic cross, and the round towers of old Ireland in the distance, the kneeling crowd of upturned Irish faces whose high cheek bones and marked profiles testified to the imperishable national character of the assembled congregation, the strains of Irish music still ringing in our ears, we asked ourselves if this Buenos Aires or is it Ireland? The Rev. Father Martin, representing the Rev. Father Eugene, Superior of the Passionists, who was unavoidably absent, preached a most eloquent sermon on the life of St. Patrick, and the congregation then retired to breakfast. Mrs. Morgan, Miss Marigetta Mooney, Mr. John Cunningham, Dr. O'Farrell, Mr. Patrick Ham and others superintended the breakfasting of the orphans, the school boys, the band and many of the pilgrims. Some pious devotees from town ascended the little stair to the shrine of the virgin and, like the early Christians, lighted candles to her honour. Every pilgrim gave his contribution to the building fund of the Basilica. At 2 p.m. the Bishop administered confirmation, and the ceremony closed by the procession of Irishmen carrying their flag up the steps to the shrine of the Virgin and placing it there. The band now played "Adios a la Virgen," and the congregation then left for the Railway Station, where special trains were waiting and owing to the admirable arrangements of the excellent manager Mr. Roberts, the people arrived back at the Plaza Once at 6 p.m. without a single hitch or inconvenience.

We give our readers the following short sketch of the Virgin's shrine of Lujan, and we do so say that in the long record of 241 years since these pilgrimages to this shrine began has there been one to outrival that which it was our good fortune to assist at on last Sunday. The history of the Virgin's statue in Lujan is nothing short of a religious romance. A devout estanciero in Sumampa, some 40 leagues from Cordoba, having built a little Church on his land, asked a friend in Brazil to send him two statues of the Virgin. In 1630, a Portuguese Captain brought the two statues to Buenos Aires, loaded them in a bullock cart, and went himself, with a little African slave boy he had brought from Rio, in the cart to deliver the statues. All went on well enough until the cart arrived at a little Arroyo called the Cañada de la Cruz, and here the cart stopped for the

night at the estancia of D. Rosendo de Oramas. In the morning, when they tried to start, the bullocks refused to go; they were beaten and thrashed, but nothing could make them stir. The neighbours came and one man said "take out the two boxes with the statues" which was done and the bullocks at once went on; but when the boxes were reloaded they again stopped. Another cart and bullocks was then got, but with the same result, and then it was that one of the neighbours pronounced it a miracle and that the statues should remain. In the humble "rancho" or estancia of Don Rosendo de Oramas one of the statues was set up on an improvised altar, and then the Portuguese Captain got another cart and proceeded on his journey with the other statue, which he duly delivered to the pious estanciero of Sumampa; but the Captain left the little nigger boy with Sr. Oramas to mind the statue, having, as documents say, donated the little slave to the Virgin. Soon crowds came from all parts to visit the wonderful statue, and Oramas found his house insufficient and his estancia too small for all the people coming. A wealthy lady offered to build a little chapel on her land; there was then no town of Lujan, and the Indians were all around.

When Oramas died, the little nigger Manuel, who played such a conspicuous part in the early history of this shrine, passed to be the property of the first Captain, named Montalbo, who, having heard of the wonderful cures made at the shrine, left Buenos Aires dying of asthma, got immediately cured at the shrine, and remained for 20 years afterwards as its Capellan. The most wonderful cures were now reported, and the "negrito" Manuel, who became a kind of Apostle of the shrine, bled his fame over the whole country. Governors, Generals, Viceroy, Ministers, Prefects, Intendants, all came to the shrine. Padre Montalbo died, and a relative of his, a priest of the curia of Buenos Aires, claimed the nigger as his property; a heavy lawsuit ensued, and at last a charitable lady came forward and settled the suit by paying a hundred gold dollars to the claimant. This lady, who was very wealthy, gave a site on her land on the Lujan river for a church for the statue, and subsequently gave a square league of land whereon to build a town, which is the present site of Lujan to-day. It is impossible to follow further the history of the statue and its shrine, suffice it to say that the statue founded the town, the frequent pilgrimages gave life and vitality to the town; the little statue, which is of the rudest workmanship, is literally covered with diamonds and ex-votos, and they are now building the Duomo or Basilica in Lujan of great dimensions, right over the very site of the present church and over the very spot where for the last 150 years the statue has stood.

ST. PATRICK'S BANQUET.

More select than numerous, less boisterous than sedate, there was still learning and intelligence enough around the gay and festive board, backed by native wit and foreign wine to keep things pretty lively from start to finish. Indeed conversation never lagged an instant, the sharp assault and less brilliant repartee flying about like mosquitoes on the war trail, in perfect harmony and good fellowship, long before that grand eye-opener of the human brain—champagne—made its artillery-like appearance on the scene of action.

Indeed in this important particular the success of the evening could not possibly be more pronounced, and did I not myself form part of the committee, at least a column or two would now be spent on well-merited compliments to that active, that honourable, that most worthy, but only a used corporation of self-sacrificing men. (Bravo, old man, go it again.)

Some gaps being noted at the table, it was observed that seats had been reserved for the following gentlemen:—

- Mr. E. T. Mulhall, Dean of the Argentine press.
- Mr. Edward Hoaly, the Bolea King, absent at Mar del Plata.
- Mr. Edward Torney, Lord Mayor of Capilla del Señor.
- As also Messrs. James Carthy (Navarro), John Harrington (Arceifes), John Dugan (San Antonio), Morgan (Giles), Frank Rath (San Pedro), and a few others of the "old brigade," who gave to the nation its grandest staple—wool. All good men and true, but prevented from attending by some weighty reason or other.
- Immense credit is due to Messrs. David Sulfren, Patrick Ham and Professor Thomas F. Murphy, for the energy and talent displayed by them individually and collectively during the week's canvass. But for their tact and savoir faire the movement must certainly have failed at the start. Everyone threw cold water on the affair, as though it was a Carnival scramble instead of an intellectual feast that was proposed to be given. But energy and determination will accomplish anything in a good cause.
- The banquet table set in horseshoe form was beautifully decorated. The national colours, as may be supposed, reigning supreme. In the centre was the harp of old Ireland lovingly intertwined with the glorious blue and white whilst the banners of all the chief nations of the earth draped the walls in admirable order and good taste. The "menu" got up in George Mercer's best style was more calculated to create an appetite than to alioy one. Nevertheless, strange as it may appear, there was no complaint.
- On the opening of the campaign the toasts opened at the request of the chairman with—"The land we live in," admirably well proposed by Mr. Wm. Bullfinch, the talented editor of *The Southern Cross*. The reply from the chair by Dr. O'Farrell was equally good and well may the Argentine nation be congratulated on having elected this gentleman to Congress if he but possess the same knowledge of English law that he does of our literature for it was difficult at times to believe that our chairman was born and educated in a foreign land, never having even seen the shores of that great progressive nation whose language he possesses so fluently and whose best qualities form the ground work of his character.
- Mr. Sulfren gave us, "Ireland a nation," in powerful but well measured terms, being careful to quote English authors only; there was much to shock, but nothing to offend any honest minded Cockney. Professor Murphy's reply was severe but not rude nor exaggerated.

"The Irish in the River Plate" proposed by Mr. James Murray was responded to by Mr. F. H. Mulhall who having dwelt at length on the suffering and triumph of the early settlers exhorted his audience to unity amongst themselves and their kindred beyond St. George's channel for it must not be forgotten that Gladstone's best backers in his "Great Home Rule" campaign were from Scotland and Wales. And did not Protestants and Presbyterians vie nobly with us in feeding and clothing the poor Dredentians. In conclusion he called on every one to back the Government, in colonising the rich lands in and around Lake Fontana gold mines, then securing for themselves solid fortune at little or no risk. Having alluded to the disgraceful electoneering brawls often witnessed at the very portals of our churches, your correspondent's speech suffered at interruption, and the chairman settled matters by calling on Mr. W. 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slightest particle of cultivation, bisected by limpid, crystalline streams, fringed with the richest and most voluptuous of tropical vegetation, they possessed an "El Dorado" which when brought under proper cultivation would yield untold fortunes to the lucky proprietors of such earthly paradises. The Nile, the Mississippi, the Orinoco, even the very Amazon, with all their histories, their productions and their wealth, fell far short of the incomparable Delta of the Paraná which was embraced within the lovely arms of that majestic river called.

"Paraná de las Palmas"  
"Caracas"  
"Paraná-Mini"  
"Paraná-Guazú"

forming one vast isosceles triangle with a base of fifteen leagues and stretching to a height, to the town of San Pedro, of thirty leagues. Sastre rowed through every rivulet, bathed in its limpid waters and passed from island to island studying the flora, the fauna, the humus, and came to the conclusion that if, according to Lyell, the solid deposits brought down by the Mississippi that forms its Delta required at least the transgression of sixty-seven thousand years, and the Delta of the Nile, according to Beaumont which grew with still greater lenticude needed ten times that term, then the Delta of the Paraná, whose luxuriant vegetation far surpasses that of the Nile, formed by the piling up of cañales, called for at least one million of years!

But the enthusiasm of Mr. Sastre's memorable work "El Tempe Argentino" was but short lived. Some few Englishmen like Crabtree, Harratt, Alexander, Grigg and a few others captivated by Sastre's book and the beautiful scenery of the Delta, bought a few islands, but the effort was a sickly one, and that which in those vanished years most helped the cause of the islands was the starting of the English Rowing Club at the Tigre, and the enterprise of our old friend Captain Bruce, who ran his steamers through the Palmas and the Lujan river. Close on thirty years have elapsed since those pleasant days, and the islands of the Paraná and the glorious Tempe Argentino may be said to have slept ever since, notwithstanding the efforts of Sarmiento, when President of the Republic, to call them up to life.

Dr. Udaondo, the Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, has at last assumed the mantle of Sastre, and caught at the idea of bringing these lovely but neglected spots again into life and notice. About a year ago he named a Committee to visit these islands to study them and report on them. This Island Committee was composed of the following gentlemen:

- Juan S. Müller
- Amancio Williams
- Dr. Enrique Navarro Viola
- Carlos A. Altgelt
- Carlos Cernadas

Their report was drawn up by the engineer Mr. A. Gilard and placed on our table yesterday a beautifully compiled and most interesting book of 241 pages, with a pretty map of the first, second, third and fourth sections of the islands which appertain to the Province of Buenos Aires; and it is on the turning over of the leaves of this well printed book, and taking a hurried glance at its chapters, that this forgotten subject of the Tempe Argentino comes back to the mind and revives an interest that time had long since dulled.

It is impossible of course for us, owing to our limited space, to give anything but the most hurried sketch of this most useful book, which every foreigner who takes an interest in the country should obtain from the government and study. For the better administration of these island territories the government of Buenos Aires has subdivided them into four zones or sections. The first section lies between the Paraná de las Palmas and the River Lujan, and is for the most part composed of low lands which suffer from frequent inundations from the Plata, but which are only momentary, due to the numerous rivers and streams and little canals that divide the various islands.

The second section lies between the Paraná Guazú, Paraná de las Palmas, Rio Caravelas, and Paraná Mini. These islands are much more elevated than those of the first section and are rarely inundated, and are not so intersected by Arroyos; there are evidences of ancient rivers and arroyos that have been closed up by the ceaseless growing vegetation. The Arroyo Carapachay would have been long since closed up but for the work of the "Isleños" who are constantly at work keeping it free.

The Arroyo Pay-Carabi and many others are in a similar condition and are gradually being silted up; the river Caravelas will soon be no longer navigable owing to the same cause, which is most prejudicial to the future of the islands. Mr. Francis Portek on the Arroyo Rio has cut a canal of 3200 metres long which puts his island in communication with the Arroyo Durasso.

The third section, which is surrounded by the Paraná Mini, Paraná Guazú, and the River Plata has a perfect system of natural canals, but the committee thinks that the government should drag the mouth of the Paraná Mini, which is so frequently blocked up that the unfortunate islanders who come down in their little boats laden with fruit for the market of Buenos Aires have frequently to throw it all into the river owing to the delays waiting for the river to rise to cross the mouth of the Mini.

In one of those islands to the West of the Arroyo "Las Rosas" and on the margin of the Lujan, there is an extensive zone covered with what the committee terms, "Sales de Sodio, casto puro sulfato"; this salt kills all vegetation and allows no crops to grow. It is the opinion of the committee that in the second and third sections there are large stretches of land which are especially adapted for the growth of rice. Many years ago some enterprising foreigners tried rice plantations in those islands and with the most brilliant success, and the committee is astonished that with such results rice growing in the islands has not been more developed.

In connection with this subject we may state that some thirty years ago when Captain Bruce commanded one of Captain Bruce's steamers, an Irish gentleman Colonel Tottenham, made an excursion to these very islands for the purpose of starting rice plantations; he came back to Buenos Aires, and in the tip top room of the Globe Hotel drew out plans of his projected rice farms; he found no one in Buenos Aires to help him in his scheme, and he went up to Rosario to see Don José María Cullen, who, he was told, would go into the rice business with him. Our senior editor accompanied Mr. Tottenham on that trip. Captain Bruce was in command, and Tottenham, who was rowing with some Santa Fé deputies who were on board, which very nearly ended badly. Tottenham, as he sailed up through the Palmas, kept pointing out with an old green umbrella some imaginary rice field which greatly attracted the curiosity of the deputies; he went down to his cabin and brought up a map which every one studied and every one admired; the deputies swore that they never before saw such a beautiful map of the Delta of the Paraná, whereupon Tottenham burst into a horse laugh and shouted out half French, quarter Spanish, and quarter English.

As a postscript to this chapter, I have a suggestion to make, and it refers to the sleeping carriages lately built. These are magnificent in all details, but some mistake must have been made in the dimensions of the upper row of berths, which are veritable hen-coops and most uncomfortable. I tried one of them, and after doing a monkey climb to get to it, found it narrow, short, and with very low roof. If to this is added, the vitiated atmosphere, which the "upper row" get from their "low neighbours" who are stretched on magnificent and well ventilated couches you will not be surprised that I came down in a hurry and commenced to philosophise on the fallacy of the old saying about "he who pays his money gets his choice." Why, said I to myself, as I stepped on the leg of my under neighbour, should this fellow stretch on a fine, semi-matrimonial bed for two and a half dollars, and I and the other top chaps be obliged for the same money to travel in hen-coops? I refer such grave matters to our friend the Traffic Manager, in the hope he will take notice of this "voice from the clouds."

Mrs. Wiggins, who is a wise and bright old lady, predicts fine weather till her next phase—then a jolly good storm for which the Chilean earthquake vibrations will have mainly to be responsible. She also predicts, (her scope of knowledge goes beyond that of her Pergamino namesake)—that good old Menelik will shortly shake hands with King Humbert, if the latter means not to lick him out of his own native land. Also, that the game of hide and seek going on in Cuba between Macco and Weyer will come to an unexpected end, through an unsuspected cause, and much to the disgust of the latter.

There is a long chapter in this book on the timber industry of the islands which reminds us that some thirty years ago one of the first merchants of Buenos Aires threw up his house of business to start tree planting there he planted; millions and millions of Eucalyptus, then, tired of the solitude, he came back to town, and how many of us are the same? At our first visit to the island we are fairly captivated by the scenery and wish to close our life's chapter in such an earthly paradise; we settle down in a most bewitching spot, on the Carapachay, and before a month is about we tire of the scene and wish to get back to town.

The book before us contains so many chapters of special interest on the struggling industries of these islands that we close it up now, with the promise to open it on a future occasion when we shall have more space to discuss those industries and convey to our readers some idea of the most beautiful, the most enchanting, the most neglected and the most distressful paradise of the River Plate, called "The Tempe Argentino."

ROSARIO.

SEWAGE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

TRAMWAY CO. P. MUNICIPALITY.

HARVEST AND C.A. NOTES.

PREDICTIONS OF MRS. WIGGINS.

(From our own Correspondent).

March 15th.

Dame Wiggins still continues to fulfill her forecast of a wet season, much to the disgust of the harvesters. Last night we had a jolly good and steady down-pour, accompanied by thunder and lightning, which lasted till the small hours of the morning, and "it is an ill wind that blows nobody good," so this rain has come down on us as an emmissary of health by cleaning our streets and our imperfect, or rather unfinished sewage system, which is a continuous source of danger to the public.

As our city fathers take more interest in launching into unjust lawsuits, than in looking after the public welfare, this sewage business is left in "statu quo," and Mrs. Wiggins is likely to look down on our city in her full and waning beauty for a very long time before anything definite and common sense is done towards removing this Dionysus sword, which is hanging over the Damocles head of our population, and probably not till a stiff reminder in the shape of some epidemic or other brings our communal authorities to a sense of the responsibilities they incur by not attending to nature's most important law—that of public health.

Even now, when no resident epidemic reigns amongst us, the rate of mortality in Rosario is shameful, it being worthy of note and comment that something like 75% of the deaths are children. Badly, if filtered at all, river water, and a want of proper sewage is answerable for this as primary causes, and our Municipality for not taking immediate steps to remove them.

Mr. Ross is on the highway of winning his question against the Municipality. He is usual, does not let the grass grow under his feet, and, I believe, went to Buenos Aires to consult a lawyer, (this looks bad for our local wig and gown fraternity) who I think was Dr. Pellegrini, and it seems that the municipal council have commenced to lay their wise heads together, in order to make an honourable retreat, before the amount which Mr. Ross demands for daily damages, while his tramways are stopped, grows up to a figure that will take our Municipality's receipts for a year. All the same, it will cost a good penny, and the pity is that it is the community who will pay for the whistle, and not, as it should be, those who acted precipitately in the affair, without consulting either the rights of the "empresario," or the convenience of the public.

The news of the harvest are slightly more satisfactory, although a great part of the crop, linseed principally, is being found fault with, on account of dampness. Great quantities of grain are daily being brought in the Central Argentine doing the most in this respect, owing to the number of their cargo rolling stock, the facilities and additions supplied to shipping stations, and the admirable discipline which reigns throughout in the administration of this company. Mr. Loveday, the sub-manager, is displaying a competency and activity of which we are not surprised, as his reputation preceded him, to his actual post, in which, and in the eventual one of manager he will hold, the experience of the country will find a wide field of action for developing and increasing the traffic of the C. A. R. and the extensive districts it serves.

As a postscript to this chapter, I have a suggestion to make, and it refers to the sleeping carriages lately built. These are magnificent in all details, but some mistake must have been made in the dimensions of the upper row of berths, which are veritable hen-coops and most uncomfortable. I tried one of them, and after doing a monkey climb to get to it, found it narrow, short, and with very low roof. If to this is added, the vitiated atmosphere, which the "upper row" get from their "low neighbours" who are stretched on magnificent and well ventilated couches you will not be surprised that I came down in a hurry and commenced to philosophise on the fallacy of the old saying about "he who pays his money gets his choice." Why, said I to myself, as I stepped on the leg of my under neighbour, should this fellow stretch on a fine, semi-matrimonial bed for two and a half dollars, and I and the other top chaps be obliged for the same money to travel in hen-coops? I refer such grave matters to our friend the Traffic Manager, in the hope he will take notice of this "voice from the clouds."

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THE ENGLISH ABYSSINIAN CAMPAIGN.

The following sketch is merely intended as an introduction to the intelligent study of the English and Italian campaigns in Abyssinia. The striking contrast between the results obtained by the two expeditions is incomprehensible to all except the initiated. At the moment of writing, not having the works of reference to hand, the figures given are only approximately correct. But the bulk of the information in this article was obtained from both Abyssinians and English who took part in these stirring scenes.

In order to fully understand the question it is necessary to revert to past events. In many respects the history of Abyssinia presents a striking similarity to that of Scotland. In both countries the character of the feudal chiefs and the wild, turbulent nobles made the establishment of a strong central government a difficult problem for their rulers. As a consequence civil wars and revolutions were common. At this article was obtained from both Abyssinians and English who took part in these stirring scenes.

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little more than a huge military exploring expedition, the peasantry to a man being friendly to the British. Like all similar expeditions, almost everything hinged on the transport and commissariat departments. Theodore's son, who was taken to England to be educated, died of lung disease, and Kassal or Yohannes of Tigre rose to the supreme power as a mere boy, had been Menelik who, a prisoner by Theodora, gradually extended the boundaries of Shoa till it included most of the Galla countries in the South. Shoa has always been the most civilized part of Abyssinia. Of late years progress and centralisation of Government has been rapid. In conclusion, I might say that the undue sensitiveness and imperfect knowledge of English of my countrymen, plain statements, and to see uncomplimentary references to the Italian nation where none existed. My sympathies are with the Abyssinians because they are defending their native land. If they were invading Italy my sympathies would be reversed. The charge of duplicity—reiterated by the anti-Africanist party in Italy at the present time—was not made at random. It is well known in Abyssinia that Ras Makun, "believed" himself a prisoner in Italy, although his chains might have been gilded and varnished with champagne. For this reason Menelik assented to a treaty, which he openly stated would not be worth the paper it was written on, once his favourite nephew and adopted son had safely returned. To make the intention more evident, a large sum of money was lent to Abyssinia by an Italian bank, under a Government guarantee. On his return Ras Makun never rested until every penny of this money was refunded, in order that Italy might have no valid right to base her claim to a protectorate. As I said before, the Italian nation knew nothing of this, some half-a-dozen clever diplomatists being only responsible.

THE BIGGEST DESERT IN THE WORLD.

Few people in the River Plate, or even in the Antipodes, have any idea of the fact that the biggest desert in the world exists in Australia; yet so it is. Much has been said and written about competition between Argentina and Australia. To anyone knowing anything of these countries as a whole, the idea is absurd. In the Argentine Republic, the pastoral stage is rapidly being transformed into the agricultural, and the picturesque gaucho herdsman with his 'lazo' and 'holas' is making room for the matter of fact European farmer with his steam thrasher and plough. Australia, on the contrary, still remains in her pastoral stage of existence, and as a continent there she must remain until a vast amount of capital is expended in the way of irrigation and water conservation. Speaking broadly, the present population of Australia is confined to a narrow strip of coast line extending from Spencer's Gulf to Cape York. The coast districts have a fair rainfall, but on the average the soil is wretchedly poor, the good agricultural land being confined to the alluvial deposits on the banks of rivers and creeks, with occasional patches of rich volcanic soil. Beyond this coast belt, and after passing the coast range, the interior is a vast, level, and for wheat cultivation for a distance of something like 200 miles. But in the interior the rainfall is too uncertain to make agriculture profitable. There is a good deal of very fair stock country of course. In the great interior we find a solid block of a million square miles of the worst desert in the world, with an average rainfall of five inches for the whole; say an area of from 120 miles East to West, by 300 North to South. This zone includes the south-west corner of Queensland, part of the Western districts of New South Wales, the whole of the interior of South Australia and Western Australia, extending in the South right down to the shores of the great Australian Bight, and very nearly over to the West Coast. This country consists of a succession of stony table-lands and waving sand hills. The formation is a loose, sandy drift, mixed with shingle, and in this dry climate, the surface soil becomes finely pulverised and is blown away by the wind, finally forming wavy sand hills, or more correctly sand ridges. Many of these ridges are up to 300 feet in height and can be traced continuously for a hundred miles. But the average is from 40 to 60 feet, and usually a number run parallel with each other. The stones in the drifts become heavier and more numerous as they eventually completely covering the surface of the ground, giving the country a most Satanic aspect. The salts of lime, sodium or magnesium are more or less intermixed with the dust, and consequently ophthalmia is common. There is very little surface water. The lower parts of the Cooper and Diamantina are pretty well supplied, as they have their sources in the water-catchment parts of Central Queensland. The Finke river and a few smaller streams are more or less permanent. The vegetation is pretty well confined to shrubs and herbage, with a few stray tufts of dry grass which spring up during the rains. As an instance of the wonderful adaptability of nature, we find a kind of grass which germinates, matures, seeds and dies away inside of three weeks. So too with the annual life. The lower part of the Cooper only runs periodically, on an average every seven years; at other times forming a chain of water-holes. The instinct of the waterfowl has taught them only to nest when the river is in flood. Stock does wonderfully well on the variety of bush and herbage, but the trouble is that they have to range over such a large area in search of food, and the distance they can roam in this way is so small, that the conservation of water is not pay for the limited amount of stock which can be grazed on any given area. Consequently the few estancias which exist are confined to the permanent water. One of these, Cowarie Station, on the lower part of the Diamantina, is very well known to the writer. With an area of 4000 square miles, it was only possible to keep about 5000 head of cattle and 500 horses. Yet it was considered one of the best in this desert country. The aboriginal natives have been compelled to face the population question, and in their own most peculiar manner have effectually solved it. Being confined to the neighbourhood of the permanent waters, naturally the supply of fish and game available only sufficed for a limited number, for of course they could not exist right away back in the waterless country in the desert. Hence the necessity of restricting the population. The writer has seen something of most of

the deserts of the old world, but nowhere has he seen such a continuous area of howling desolation as this waterless country in the land of the Kangaroo.

The desert on the west coast of South America may be of a worse class, but I doubt if very much. From this sketch of Australia, by one of her warring sons, it will be obvious that the future of that country is limited.

THE ENGLISH IN EGYPT.

THE DONGOLA EXPEDITION.

There is no disguising the fact that John Bull and his island are playing a big part in the destinies of the world. The old man has been a hard hitter and a hard drinker ever since he quaffed his wine from the skulls of his slain enemies. The same old rascal has a lot of fight in him still, and what is almost of equal importance is the fact that his long purse makes it possible to pay others to fight his battles for him. He has the commerce of half the world at his back, and history teaches us that commerce and civilization have ever been twin sisters.

Beyond the expansion of the Anglo-Saxon race, the mission of England has been to carry the blessings of a strong central Government and a powerful administration to millions of human beings in an empire which stretches across the globe. In Egypt Britain has acted a part not unworthy of her traditions. She found an empty treasury and enormous debt, where to-day the revenue shows a yearly surplus. Irrigation works have been constructed, and the whole country has been put under a better form of government than it has previously enjoyed since the time of the Pharaohs. In spite of the protests of Madame France and the Russian bear, it is very evident that John's burly hand is tightening over the "Land of the Nile." One little year ago a detachment of British troops occupied Wadeli, the capital of the Equatorial provinces, so long and gallantly held by Emir Pasha. To-day we have a British expedition being fitted out for the conquest of Dongola, in the Nubian desert, ostensibly to create a diversion in favour of the Italians in Kassala. That, of course, is absurd. The Sudan is a big country, and it is hardly probable that the people of the Eastern Sudan will ever hear of the expedition to Dongola much less be affected by it. However, that does not matter to John. He has now to face the problem of connecting the links of his chain along the valley of the Nile.

The Dongolese will be more or less favourable to British rule. When the writer was serving under the Egyptian flag in the Sudan, the Mudir of Dongola made a most gallant stand against the Mahdists, driving them back time after time, but he was eventually overwhelmed by numbers. The habitable portion of Dongola is a mere strip along the valley of the Nile, made productive solely by the facilities for irrigation afforded by the great river; the creek of the "Sakeoyah" or water wheel used for raising water is one of the things which are not easily forgotten. The strip of palms, the mud huts, the rapid flowing river, and away at the back, the parched surface of the desert, quivering in the sunshine, form the limits of the world to most of the inhabitants of Nubia. The Nile is nameless to Africans. In its lower courses, it is variously termed "El Bahr," The River. Its tributaries are named respectively, Bahr el Aswat, (The Black River), Bahr el Azrek, (The blue river), and Bahr el Abiad, (The white river).

This reverence for the great river is easily understood when it is remembered that for the last thousand miles of its course the Nile does not receive a single tributary; most people are more or less familiar with the story of the various English expeditions to the Sudan. The Nile campaign was in its way a wonder, although it failed in its object. It is truly a terrible country to get through with regular troops, the difficulties of transport are almost insuperable for an army of any size. The Sudanese showed all the traditional bravery of the old Ethiopian race, and on more than one occasion made things so warm for a time, that the issue was somewhat doubtful.

In this Dongola affair, however, no serious fighting need be expected. The Dongolese, as settled agriculturists, will be either favourable or passive; and the Mahdists will not send a force so far north capable of offering any serious resistance. Dongola is very near the cradle of our civilization. The celebrated Nile of Merop, enclosed by the Nile, the Bahr el Aswat and the Bahr el Azrek, was at one time the most civilized part of the world; and it is now a moot point whether the current of civilization flowed up or down the valley of the Nile. By the way, we shall soon see the British flag flying in Dongola; and from this base it is comparatively easy to conquer Khartoum. This expedition will also do much to popularize British rule in Egypt.

All developments in this direction will be watched with interest.

Alex. K. McDonald.

STORM-CLOUDS IN EUROPE.

The political situation in Europe has become suddenly most serious, and that at a moment when the French and their friends the Russians were going chattering at the British blunders in Great Britain. Not a month ago the Boulevard press satirically urged Lord Salisbury to counteract a second Jameson Ride, mildly insinuating that another such failure would throw Egypt into the lap of France. In the meantime, the intervention of Germany in that Transvaal business and the threatening attitude of the United States—of Cleveland's "gaucherie"—enabled the British Government to announce that France reaped some advantage from the Jameson blunder there can be no question, and even the opposition papers joined in a chorus of praise which must have been balm to the troubled feelings of the aged chemist minister on the Quai d'Orsay. Monsieur Berthelot blushed to find himself famous and possibly attributed to his own talents—so remarkably exemplified in the study of atoms and molecules,—a French success born a British failure.

and his "spirited foreign policy" has suddenly burst through the mask of apparent isolation and indifference.

There was a time when the shrewdest statesman believed that the Balkan States would set Europe on fire, but it is becoming every day more apparent that Africa is the great danger ahead. The dark continent swallows up men and money. The field of Zama still exists, and another Hannibal may yet encounter another Scipio. Events may transform the very cradle of humanity into a sepulchre.

An idea of how matters stand will be gathered from the following telegram:—Paris, 17th.—There can no longer be any doubt as to the real motive of the Dongola Expedition organized by Great Britain, and great excitement prevails not only in the vicinity of the Quai d'Orsay, but on the Boulevards, where the news fell like a bombshell. It was soon known that Lord Dufferin had had a long interview with Minister Berthelot. It is significant that the British Ambassador had barely got into his carriage, when Baron Mohrenheim, Russian Ambassador, entered the Foreign Office. The Baron and Mons. Berthelot were closed for a long time. Nothing, however, of those momentous interviews has so far transpired, although it is asserted that Mons. Berthelot informed Lord Dufferin that the French Government considered itself directly affected by the expedition to Dongola. It is also asserted that Mons. Berthelot told Baron Mohrenheim that the French Government would interfere energetically.

In diplomatic circles it is considered a foregone conclusion that France will now directly oppose British policy in Africa, and it is feared that the clashing of interests will involve a serious conflict.

The press urge the Government to adopt an energetic policy. The excitement amongst the deputies is very great and the indignation against England dangerously high, and it is said that to-morrow a note of protest will be passed.

Paris (later).—It is now known from semi official sources, that the object of Lord Dufferin's visit to the Foreign Office was simply to place in the hands of Mons. Berthelot a communication from Lord Salisbury duly announcing the Dongola expedition. Mons. Berthelot immediately called a Cabinet Council, and informed his colleagues that he had given no answer to Lord Dufferin, The Cabinet Minister of the Foreign Office have considered that the French Government considered that the expedition would involve the gravest consequences.

The situation is most serious. The intrigues of European diplomats and the events reported in the appended telegram are calculated to inspire the most serious misgivings. The question of the evacuation of Egypt throws its shadow across the continent. It is the culmination of all the difficulties which the various Foreign Offices have been grappling within the last three months. Events would seem to be impelling the powers to test their much-vaunted strength.

- The Cuban Revolution.
- The Venezuelan Question.
- The American Difficulty.
- The Abyssinian Campaign.
- The Malagasy Raid.
- The Madagascar Protectorate.
- And now the Dongola Expedition.

which unveils the great question of the evacuation of Egypt, have been isolating certain powers, uniting others, and setting all to prepare for the emergency. The Franco-Russian pact, the Triple Alliance, the proud isolation of England, the pretensions of the United States—these are the great features of the moving tableau. Three Continents are playing with their destinies, and one feels that the laurel crowned Clio has finished a chapter of history and is beginning another.

Such events are marching fast the appended telegrams show, and there is quite a River Plate mutability of affairs in Europe. Only the other day the great ambition of France was to close this marvellous century by a colossal exhibition of industry—in a word by the triumph of peace. Nothing else was talked of. The site for the exhibition was chosen and the money voted. To-day the voice of France is for war, and instead of industry and art galleries, our mercurial neighbors talk of sending a fleet to Alexandria and precipitating events that may change the map and destinies of nations.

The following are the latest telegrams depicting the ominous turn of events in Europe and Africa:—Paris, 18th.—Within the last 24 hours the position of international affairs has become most serious, and it is said that the French Government will send the Mediterranean fleet under Admiral Gervais to Alexandria. The squadron comprises seven first class battle-ships, two first class cruisers, eight third class cruisers, and a fleet of torpedo boats. The Figaro states that the second Mediterranean squadron under Admiral Cuverville will also be sent to Egyptian waters. The squadron comprises five first class battle-ships, one first class cruiser, a third class cruiser and nine torpedo-boats.

All the papers, without distinction of political color are hostile to England and urge the Government to stop at nothing until Great Britain evacuates Egypt. In the course of an interview, a diplomat informed the Figaro that he thought France, Germany and Russia would act in concert to oblige England to evacuate Egypt.

A telegram from a press-correspondent in Constantinople states that the Sultan is quite indignant that the Khedive should defray the cost of the Dongola Expedition.

The French and Russian Ambassadors have had a long interview with the Sultan. France, Russia and Turkey have filed a formal protest against the Dongola Expedition. London, 18th.—The papers comment violently on the attitude of the Parisian press and deny the right of France to interfere in Egyptian matters. The opinion of the London press is that England will carry out the Dongola Expedition in spite of all opposition. The report that France is sending a fleet to Alexandria has created little or no sensation here. Cairo, 18th.—The first corps of the Dongola Expedition has left. It comprises the 5th, 6th and 11th battalions of auxiliary troops, headed by the 1st battalion of the 6th Staffordshire infantry, under Colonel Alfred Thomas Beale. General

Nitchener is the commander-in-chief. The Khedive harangued the troops.

Although less alarming, the telegrams received yesterday depict a situation that is by no means tranquillising. The cool determination of England to assist Italy, and the feverish indignation of France, are reflected not only in the press but also in the parliaments of the respective countries.

The Hon. George Nathaniel Curzon, representing the Government, replied. The Italians, he said, were friends not allies of England. There is no alliance between Great Britain and Italy, and there is no obligation, therefore, on our part to come to the assistance of Italy, but our friendship for the Italians is sincere.

This last sentence is significant, since, under the mask of a hope of friendship, it points to an underlying feeling of indifference and to a coolness of determination truly Britannic.

Turn we now to the French. The Max Lebaudy scandals, the coming exhibition, the scandals of the "monde" and "domestic" and all the usual topics of the Boulevard have started the "Le Figaro-Albion" as the pivot of conversation.

THE STORM IN AFRICA.

Havas and Reuter are throwing more light on the Dark Continent than ever did the Bible, Homer, Herodotus, or the scientific Maspero. New names, new places, not to say anything of new expeditions—the public must be quite bewildered, but it can never be forgotten that Africa has swallowed up thousands of men and millions of money.

And yet with all these sad experiences, and the failure of Italy's efforts to conquer Abyssinia, the powers are scrambling for Africa and organizing fresh expeditions. The latest is an expedition headed by English officers, which has left Suez to place itself under the command of Cecil Rhodes—another Colossus perhas.

This new venture seems to be a preparation for another Jameson Ride, as if the Chartered Company were determined to step from disaster to disaster in search of the mineral treasures of Transvaal. Men and money there are for the expedition—there is nothing wanting but a pretext.

The following are the new Committee of the British Hospital at Montevideo: Grenfell, T. F. Lane, E. O. Crookgate, Rev. S. F. Handcock, W. Murray Wilson and J. Adams.

CLANGOR TUBARUM AGAIN.

The whole town was thrown into commotion last evening by the telegram from Chile announcing the complete rejection by the Chilean Government of the terms proposed by the Argentine. Nothing could be more serious, since it is rumored that Minister Quiroga Costa has telegraphed for permission to demand his passports, and the great danger now is that any overt act by some irresponsible officer on the frontier may precipitate events, as it is not to be supposed that either the Chilean or the Argentine Government will declare war.

JOHANNESBURG.

We have received to many letters enquiring about this now most celebrated African city, that we readily make room for the following, which has been kindly sent us by a subscriber, and which will satisfy the curiosity of all intending emigrants from the P. ate to South Africa:— "Johannesburg, the London of South Africa, which was nine years ago barren veldt, eight years ago a miners' camp, is now the centre of some one hundred thousand inhabitants, and increasing about as fast as bricks and mortar can be obtained. It is situated directly on the edge of the gold, and on looking down from the high ground above, it looks to an English eye like a huge, long-drawn-out mass of tin sheds, with its painted iron mine chimneys running in a straight line all along the quartz gold reef as far as you can see in either direction.

For those who go to earn their livelihood, or to make money, I would say, do not go out without a fixed trade or handicraft, or money to start upon, or a good introduction to some friend already there. But, remember that the Transvaal is a veritable Paradise for the working man who knows his business. All the heavy part of the labour is put out; the Kafirs do it, directed by him in a few Kafir words, and generally many English operatives. Wages are paid monthly. Miners make their twenty-five or thirty pounds a month, if first-rate, and the blacks drill their holes for blasting where and as they order them. Carpenters, blacksmiths, masons can get about the same; and whenever a billet is lost or cannot be obtained, a short tramp along the mines generally brings success. Vacancies are constantly occurring, for miners, especially when full of money, are inclined to "go on the burst," and their places are ruthlessly filled up (on Monday mornings is the best time to apply) by new comers, in order to keep the work going at fever heat, and the output up to the mark. When in cash, these miners often spend six or eight pounds at a sitting, and twenty or thirty pounds in a day or two.

A necessary exists among them, when one gets into trouble with the authorities, half a dozen turn up to bail him out, or to pay the iniquitously heavy fine imposed by the cunning Dutch officials, who know they will be paid, as the alternative time is too valuable to the delinquent.

"The miners, except when close to Johannesburg or a town, live in white men's quarters built of wood and corrugated iron; and the mines succeed one another some few miles apart along the open veldt or plain, without a tree to break its bareness, so the surroundings are grim and uninviting enough. Many miners have horses, many bicycles, the latter just the thing for the long, dry, sandy roads. They feed at a common boarding-house for five or six pounds a month, and sleep two, often four or more, in a small room. No class ever cared less for personal comforts. They pay highly, as money comes in so easily, and without grumbling. Their relaxation, as is natural in places so monotonous and unlovely, is dissipation, and so a steady man can save a small fortune in an incredibly short space of time. Most of those inclined to save have their banking accounts, and very large sums of money are sent monthly to wives and families at home.

"Ten shillings for shoeing a horse should tempt a blacksmith. Go out, by all means, anyone who has a trade and good health, and you have what is in serious language the best chance in the

world of making money there. The utterly free life of South Africa has such a charm also, that, as the colonists tell you, put on the velvet shoes (quantum needed leather shoes) and drink "Cape Smoke" (local attempt at brandy), you will never leave the country; and it has a fascination which is believed invariably to attract back to it all who have been there. —Chambers's Journal.

LONDON LETTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

February 19th. The constitutional question in France between the Deputies and the Senators, arising from a financial scandal upon which the democracy and the wealthy hold different views, is watched in London with special interest. It is supposed to resemble what might happen here a few months hence, when the Chartered Company is supported by the Government and certainly the fiery spirit of Chile since the conquest of Peru has always been a dangerous element and every Government that has succeeded since the fall of Balmaceda has been obliged to coquet with that bellicose tendency. The Argentine Government has, for the last twelve months, had the same difficulty to contend with, and whilst the policy of every Argentine Cabinet has been notoriously in favour of peace, the military spirit in every barracks of the National Guard has been raising its head. The danger, therefore, that surrounds last night's telegrams from Chile is that the slumbering ashes of militarism in these countries may be fanned into a flame, and the slightest indiscretion of some subordinate officer on either side of the Andes or the tipsy patriotism of some frontier "stamian" may plunge both countries into a war the sequel of which heeded would be a wise man who could fore-tell.

We shall not despair, however, of the peaceful solution of this seemingly interminable Chilean Question, so long as the public men of both countries appear at its full value the mediation of friendly European powers which, we feel quite certain, will be most willingly accepted, since the European interests at stake are almost tantamount to those of the very disputants themselves.

- 1. A full inquiry into the connection between the Chartered Company, the raid, and the revolutionary movement at Johannesburg, and into the financial origin and history of the Company.
2. A British guarantee to President Kruger that any reforms granted to the Outlanders shall not be used as a cover for upsetting his government, or establishing an Outlanders' Republic at Johannesburg.
3. Some compensation to him for what has occurred.
4. A policy of suasion from Downing-street rather than one of coercion.

We hope, therefore, that we may conclude that we no longer stand alone in the London morning Press, the popular evening Press, and the continental Press both Home Rule and Unionist, have always been on the right side—in insisting, first, that a debt of honour was due by this country to the Boer Republic, and that the peace of South Africa was concerned in its discharge; secondly, that the raid was "no mere detail," as it has been called, but that it involved considerations vital to the safety of the Empire, the peace of Europe, and the good name of Great Britain; and, thirdly, that the system of government by the Chartered Company, with its inevitable mixture of political and financial interests, must come under searching review. For ourselves—grateful as we are to the Spectator for its generous reference to our aims in this matter—we desire no solitary eminence in pressing for sound principles of government, and we shall welcome such co-operation as the Daily News, under its new editor, will afford us.

From what we can gather this morning, although no one from one moment to another can guarantee Transvaal and Cape-town news, it does appear that President Kruger will after all accept Mr. Chamberlain's invitation and that, accompanied by a Commission, he will come to London and aid in a settlement of South African affairs.

The debate on the address came to a sudden termination last night. The Government will be now released from interpellations on their foreign policy unless something unlooked for occurs. The Times this morning does not condescend to allude to subjects. Only the Morning Post, which took a day to consider the new blue book, ventures to once more tell Lord Salisbury that nobody can rise from a perusal of the last Armenian blue book without a stinging sensation of national defeat. You must remember that the Lord Glenar, who owns and directs the Morning Post, is the bluest of blue Conservatives, and a staunch supporter of the present government as he was of Lord Beaconsfield. The Post divides the blame between Lord Rosebery, Lord Kimberley and the present foreign Minister who, as it insinuates, sacrificed his own views to the doctrine or foreign office views to the doctrine of policy. This excuse has been advanced before, but were it valid in regard to our policy in Turkey, I do not think it is, it would not account for difficulties with the Transvaal, with France, Venezuela, Germany and the U. States.

The real evil was not so much a mistaken policy, as a blustering, unassuming manner and a too easy going habit of attending to business—a habit well enough some years ago, but quite out of keeping with the intensity of present day life. The Marquis of Salisbury is doubtless chastened by recent failure and stirred by the activity of a more pushful if not a less daring colleague. His lordship may even take notice of the alarm he finds to-day in the North German Gazette, in which Prince Bismarck's scribes warn him of the constant rivalry between British foreign Ministers to "accentuate" the democratic character of the British Constitution. This is only another version of what the Post meant when it accused him of abandoning his own policy to please the sentimentalists and philanthropists. But instead of listening to the Morning Post or to the North German Gazette it seems that Lord Salisbury, from his late motion in the House of Peers, his newer views as to the policy of the United States, and an apparent desire to follow the recent advice of Mr. Gladstone in leaning towards Republican France as the political and geographical ally of this country, he is inclined to still further accentuate the democratic character of the British Constitution. In this he will have the support of Liberals, who in spite of a temporary eddy and swirl in the political stream, still form the majority in the

United Kingdom. Questions of foreign policy and Ministerial faults cannot be well thought out in letters written at a moment's notice, as facts occur, and often with most imperfect information. In the main, I think you have been correctly guided both as to fact and opinion in regard to foreign affairs in these letters, although they do not seem to please some of you in Buenos Ayres.

Feb. 19.

It is quite a treat to get back to general topics and see the debates on the address closed and Parliament hard at work on parochial business: 'horrible murders, fires and divorce suits have gone up quite high. The last thing in the "haute politique" was the election of Mr. Dillon as chairman of the Irish Parliamentary party, in consequence of Mr. Sexton's decided refusal of that thorny position. There was no other candidate, but the Healyites opposed Mr. Dillon as a matter of form. He was, however, elected by a majority of 38 to 21 votes. The very same night in the House Mr. Healy completely took the lead, as if he were representative of the party. There is no doubt about Mr. Tim Healy's exceptional talent, and in writing to Mr. Sexton assuring him of his highest consideration and regard, he appeared in an amiable light. But Mr. Sexton knew him, as you will see by his reply, and pointed to scathing accusations against himself in Mr. Healy's newspaper. Mr. Sexton's future is mysterious. Some of his friends are inclined to imagine he will sever his connection with the Irish party, and eventually sit for an English constituency as a simple Liberal, preparing himself for office when the Liberals return to power. He is a great loss to the Irish party. Many attribute the collapse of the debate on the address to the disorganisation of the Irish Nationalists, whom Mr. Dillon has not got in hand, and perhaps never will. This is a pity, because the quasi Home Rule debate on the release of the dynamite prisoners discovered a certain softness on the Unionist side. A softness partly occasioned by telling but not very accurate comparisons between the treatment of our Irish political prisoners and the magnanimity of the Boers in Jameson's case. As just said, the comparison is not very accurate, but it served poor Mr. Davitt's purpose in again airing his own reminiscences of unjust incarceration, and it gave Mr. Swift McNeil the opportunity of making an apt quotation from the Bible about the ten thousand talents and the hundred pieces. The debate was also made illustrious by the parliamentary debut of the great historian Mr. Lecky. He acquitted himself well. His maiden speech was delivered with ease, excepting a nervous action of the hands. It was also sound and liberal for a Tory (Dublin University member. He did not vote, but was evidently half disposed to do so on the side of clemency. So also Mr. H. Plunkett. Even less than Balfours were mercifully disposed, but like Mr. Asquith, the responsibility of office prevented or to come, hardened their hearts. The end of it will be that sooner or later an amnesty will be granted. Mr. Bowles, the Cissie Loftus of the Lobby of the House, was very successful in taking off what are called the "leaky" oddities of the gaunt but striking-looking historian. These are repeated in the comic papers.

In reference to Sir Horace Farquhar's puffing of the Chartered Company in Parliament, Truth launches into a financial statement of its own regard to its position of that concern. The Company says Sir Horace will have £900,000 in cash when it has paid off all its debentures, and he pointed to the railroads that had made as evidence of its wealth. "Now," says Truth, "what are the facts?" When formed its nominal capital was £1,000,000 in £1 shares. Two thirds were promoters' free shares and one third for public sale. This £250,000 seems to have been speedily expended. The Company borrowed large sums from the De Beers diamond Company, of which Mr. Rhodes was the leading spirit. This, too, was exhausted. Mr. Rhodes and his gang made advances to the Company in order to stave off collapse. Finding no gold in Mashouland, after an abortive but expensive attempt to steal territory in Portugal, they forced a quarrel on Lobengula and seized on Matabeleland. At once the capital was doubled by the simple process of giving to Mr. Rhodes and his gang one million of shares in consideration of certain promoter's rights that they had reserved to themselves. This, of course, produced no money. The shares, which had stood at about two thirds their par value, were forced up to a huge premium, and these 600,000 new £1 shares were issued at £3 10s per share. This gave the Company £1,750,000. With this sum it paid off its debt to the De Beers Company and to the Rhodes financial gang, and as would appear from Sir Horace Farquhar's statement it has in hand £600,000, these repayments and costs of the Matabele war having absorbed £1,500,000. As regards the railroads, there has been no expenditure on the company of them. They are separate concerns and have been made with money procured "ad hoc" from the public. The nominal capital of the company, being, therefore, £2,500,000 in £1 shares, of which only 750,000 represent any cash payment; they were forced up by means of puffs and Stock Exchange manoeuvres to £9 per share, i.e., to £22,500,000. They now stand at £5 per share, i.e., they are supposed to represent a capital of £12,500,000, obviously both figures are absurd. No paying gold has been discovered in Matabeleland in such quantities as to make it a valuable asset. Only pocket gold and in a very refractory ore has been found.

Your readers will refer to Truth for the long article, some parts of which I have quoted. "Scrutator" refers to Mr. Rhodes' opinion in the Daily News, that Charterland has an agricultural value as a proof that he has not much faith in its mining capacities. "Scrutator" does not believe much in its agricultural value and estimates the maximum value of Charterland at one million pounds. Shut up in the four corners of Charterland, without power to steal, its shares he thinks are a very doubtful investment at any price.

I write again by the Danube and see nothing to-night worth encumbering your space with further. The stock market is firm, and Argentines and Uruguayans are sought for. The inquest on the old gentleman, Mr. Smith, who in his lonely residence at Muswell Hill was robbed and murdered,

has taken place with a verdict of found murdered by some one unknown. There are reports of confession which are not much noticed, and in point of fact there is yet no clue to the culprits. We do not know if they were "cracksmen" or, as some think, family connections of the deceased.

Jameson is to be defended by the pick of the bar, Sir Edward Clarke, Sir Frank Lockwood, Q. C. M. P.; W. F. Carson, Q. C. M. P.; and Mr. C. F. Gill.

February 21st.

Her Majesty's reply to the address was read only last night by the Lord Chancellor, and already in the lower house our active Government have successfully launched bills of social importance such as those relating to Light Railways and Boards of Conciliation, while the London County Tramways Bill suspended from last session has been read a third time. This looks like business; but it does not satisfy the First Lord of the Treasury, who wishes to be up to date and increase the speed by the only effectual means, the reform of the procedure of the House. The discussion of the question is adjourned till the 24th inst. Meanwhile it is no exaggeration to say that both benches and all parties have been entranced—in modern phraseology, hypnotised—by Mr. Balfour's persuasive, argumentative, novel, plausible, clever explanations of his proposals to be formally debated next week. There will be no objection in troubling you with the technical details of parliamentary procedure commonly known as the "business of the House," and involving questions of form few but experts and very old parliamentary hands can venture to touch. It will be sufficient to say that for the excellent motive of facilitating parliamentary business, by clipping the wings of private members, by relieving the House and the public from delays caused by faddists and parliament-bored, Mr. Balfour proposes to limit debates on supply to 20 days, and to place more time at the disposal of Government measures. By such limitations he hopes to accelerate legislation and afford members the pleasure of grouse shooting on the 12th August, and the benefit of a fair share of a holiday at the end, as he says, at least, of an English summer. When the proposals were printed and before Mr. Balfour had spoken, there was the usual outcry from certain parties against this attack upon the privileges of parliament and the British Constitution.

Our philosophic and almost democratic First Lord of the Treasury had carefully anticipated obvious and common-place objections. In his speech, filled with honeyed words and sweet reasonableness as well as a highly intellectual appreciation of modern conditions, he reminded us that we were no longer in the days of Mr. Hume, who at even such a comparatively late period of our history, had to deal with extravagant and jobbing Governments. No such thing now existed. He blandly assured us that all he wanted were more modern instruments, and to substitute the guillotine for the rack. It was perfectly rational, and to-day and to-morrow and on the morrow, respectively, members of Parliament will roll in their minds their choices of evils, and who knows if they be not almost persuaded to accept the guillotine. The Liberals cannot object, for it was they invented it. Some old Tories who oppose innovation may give Mr. Balfour most trouble. On the other hand, it has been pointed out that with regard to rapid legislation there is a qualitative as well as a quantitative theory. Mr. Gladstone's principle of evolution has been referred to as already employed in Europe and the United States, and if Mr. Balfour's proposals get through, the probability is they will undergo considerable amendment in the direction of grand Committees, and as Sir Charles Dilke suggests, closure by compartments. It is true that Mr. Balfour has divided his scheme into halves—relating respectively to the privileges of private members and to the vote on supplies. He will not allow one half to be taken and the other left. If his resolution does not in the main meet the views of the House, it will simply be abandoned.

As he says with great truth, if it be abandoned some other resolution of the kind, will have to be passed. Still there is some distinction between the naked axe Mr. Balfour wants to handle, and which made the Irish members wince, and that thorough reform of parliamentary procedure proposed by the Radical Government might propose. Mr. Balfour's sweet reasonableness and frankly advanced and even democratic eagerness for revolution may be only the mask of the executioner. Just at this moment, if one speaks of the devil, Mr. Chamberlain appears. It is very absurd, but Mr. Gould's caricatures have accustomed us to see a Chamberlain, within a Salisbury, and Kruger inside a Robinson. Perhaps it is, that finally the primitive man is inside Kruger and all of us. Stirring events bring him out. It is foolish to hint, as is already done, that Mr. Balfour's resolution was inspired by Mr. Chamberlain. Both statesmen are only younger than their colleagues. Their speeches present the antithesis of that old House of Commons full dress oratory I spoke of in a recent letter. They mean business, and whatever may be their political prejudices and ambitions, they know well that all roads lead to Rome; or as a Scotch member, Mr. Shaw, lately reminded us, the present Unionist Government must do the work of the Liberals. It cannot help itself. The million—"that paltry sum" as Mr. Allan the member for Gateshead calls it—to be voted for light railways may grow into many millions. The Board of Conciliation which is to settle labour disputes may ultimately mean the enthronement of Labour. The present is a delicate position for far seeing Conservatives like Mr. Balfour. "When other hearts shall wear a mask, 'twill break your own to see, in such a moment"—Balfour may say—"I but ask, that you'll remember me! High-minded, metaphysician, musician, no far above vulgar deceit and dog-like combatsiveness. On the brink of strange waters, he is ready for a plunge. An honourable and natural attachment to an older statesman who clings to ancient traditions causes him to fence with destiny. Many may see Arthur James Balfour Prime Minister. Some will live to see him social demagogue.

It is quite in accordance with the real drift of the epoch, in spite of Jameson worship and the meteor-like rise and fall of Cecil Rhodes, that Major Arthur O.

Leonard Consoled of the Niger Coast protectorate should upon landing at Liverpool tell us that the Royal Niger Company initiated a work the Government was neither adapted to nor prepared for. He rings the knell of Chartered Companies in assuring us that whites and blacks on the different rivers in the Niger district would welcome our Government and the absorption of the Company. "Stuff," say our friends, quoting an old, old article in the Times, "you want to make a Holland of England." Yes, but what does Sir William Harcourt say? "Mr. Rhodes is a modest gentleman." He asks only for protection and slavery.

The Armenian blue books have been carefully perused by the atrocity-mongers, including the Duke of Argyll, and as far as His Grace is concerned, with the following result: "The Duke of Argyll," says the Times, "whose zeal in the cause of the Armenians cannot be questioned, and who will hold strong views about national duty in the matter, is convinced that the action of the Government is not open to attack and that their defeat is due to insuperable conditions of geography and European politics."

Of course, anyone but downright fanatics must have seen this from the first. The real point is in the following remark of the Times: "It is a fantastically unjust judgment to hold Lord Salisbury responsible for the failure. He is, however, responsible for using language in public which seemed to hold out extravagant expectations of success, and he will probably suffer for the increased disappointment they occasioned."

The following is in all the evening papers. This edition is from the Westminster Gazette:—

Be it remembered that the following is taken from the Vienna correspondence of the Standard, a morning paper with which Mr. Alfred Austin, the Post Laureate, has not been altogether unconnected.—Here Max Nordau contributes to the Neue Freie Presse, in the form of a feuilleton running into eleven half-columns, an appreciation of the new Post Laureate. It is the most elaborate study of modern English literature which has appeared in any German paper, and does ample justice to Mr. Austin, though not, perhaps, an equal degree to his contemporaries. At the same time, Herr Nordau is highly laudatory of Englishmen in general, and it is interesting to note that his panegyric appears in the Neue Freie Presse, which not very long ago permitted another feuilletonist to call the English "the Chinese of Europe," and to enlarge upon that happy idea. Dr. Max Nordau considers Mr. Austin "the most perfect embodiment of Anglo-Saxonism in the literature of our time, such English in his likes and dislikes." He goes on to explain what the English are, and to ridicule the notion, so dear to Continental writers, that the British are a nation of shopkeepers. Indeed! he exclaims. "Those who fought at Hastings like giants and Titans, who subdued two continents, are ruling two hundred million Asiatics by the will and nerve of a couple of thousand of their race, who brought to their knees such men as Napoleon I. and Nicholas I., and who still have their Jamesons to demonstrate that their old strength of will and power of ruling over others have not yet died out! If these are the characteristics of shopkeepers, what is the essential difference between shopkeepers and the heroes of the Greek Myth?" The ruling classes of England! he proceeds, "are the most powerful race of masters the world has ever seen, since the Republic of Rome and the early Roman Empire, and Alfred Austin is of that stock. To please an Englishman one must be strong and daring. The English are a bluff race, incomparable friends and terrible enemies, rather proud of being more feared than loved."

"I never remember" adds the correspondent proudly "to have seen in the German language, and least of all in a Vienna paper, such an eulogy of England, and, at the same time, so thorough an understanding of the English character by an author of another nationality."

Departures.

Passengers leaving by the s.s. Mark.— Mr. and Mrs. Bunsow and two children, Messrs Antonio Castano, Ernesto Cramer, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Emmanuel and three children, Mr. C. Foster, Messrs U. Gleissner, J. W. Heinlein, Dr. Herold, E. Hollman, G. Lahusen, Mrs. G. Lahusen, Misses Violet Lahusen, Christine Lahusen, Mimi Lahusen, Lucio Lahusen, Fritz Lahusen, Diedrich Lahusen, Mr. M. Laubenheimer, Messrs Emilio Lopez, Dr. Enrique Martinez, Misses Rosa Martinez, Maria Luisa Martinez, Adela Martinez, Elogia Mendez, Dr. M. Garcia Meron, Argentine Minister Plenipotentiary at Washington, Mrs. Garcia Meron and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Pagenstecher, Messrs Carlos Perren, Riga, wife and three children, Mr. Preuss, Miss Olga Retienne, Messrs Rodriguez, S. Sanchez, Mrs. Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. E. Sommer, Miss Martha Striatz, Mr. and Mrs. Florio Vanhaale, Messrs Carlos Watkinson, José Ortiz de Zarate, José Zifpel.

March 19th

The following passengers will leave for Europe to-morrow by R.M.S. Danube:— Mr. Henry Bronnert, Emil Karika, Mr. Henry Reynolds, John Murphy and Misses Murphy, Mrs. Gahan and daughters, Mr. S. Pilcher, G. Warne, Mr. E. L. Tomlin, Mrs. F. H. Oylar and Miss Oylar, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Barnett and child, H. Boucous, Miss Simpson, Mrs. Shields, Miss Shields, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pinel, Dr. Norman Smith, Mr. F. Furber, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, Dr. Bruce, E. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, Mr. E. Buchhausen, R. McSmyth, H. W. Sloper, Mary Felmie, Norman Rowston, Mr. John Ross, N. de Giers, Russian Minister, Mr. Protopopoff and 40 third class.

We return our best thanks to our esteemed colleague the Production Argentina for its kind salute to our Director, Mr. William F. Mulhall who has gone for a brief rest at the seaside after a long and very hard pull at the editorial bar during our junior editor's absence in Europe.

News of the Week.

TUESDAY

St. Patrick's Day! The green flag of Erin waving in the breeze to-day all round the earth, and we cordially salute our Irish readers on the auspicious occasion. Not for many years have the statistics of the United Kingdom shown Ireland to be as prosperous as she is at present, as proved by the latest Railway and Banking returns. This will impart an additional element of rejoicing to the celebration of the Festival of their Patron Saint by Irishmen in all parts of the world. We remind the Irish community of the grand religious ceremonies in the church of the Passionist Fathers this morning, particulars of which we have already published. The banquet at George Mercer's to-night promises to be one of the most successful given here in honour of Ireland's National Day.

The week opened yesterday with a bang in the gold premium that shook the Temple of Mammon to its foundations, made the windows rattle, and terrified the Ursines, whose knees knocked under them as Bear's grease dropped from their agouized brows on the mosaic pavement of the Hall of Gammon. The cause of the flare-up came from Chile, where our republican cousins are waxing more angry daily with this country, and are trembling for their skins at the terrible earthquake catastrophe (in which half Chile will disappear) predicted by Professor Fall for the 20th inst. and are apparently disgusted all round with persons and things in general, including Kormer and his German officers. In reference to the earthquakes, we got a great fright about our Chilean friends yesterday, as at 11 a.m. our usually manly and only stoutly stomach and neither shakes, ticks, nor howls with a heavy hammer from our machine room could persuade it to give even one stroke more. We thought the fatal earthquake had already come on the West Coast, but the telegrams later in the day did not confirm our fears.

There was a tinge of peace in some of the cablegrams yesterday, except from Cuba, where the patriots are getting more guns and ammunition, and Gomez and Maceo appear to be making "a regular fool" of Weyler and his Generals, marching and countermarching, and burning sugar plantations and towns at their sweet will and pleasure. Emperor Manelik seems inclined for peace, and England is inclined to offer mediation, and the Negus wants the Czar to interfere.

We welcome back to his editorial chair our junior editor, who has just returned from Europe and escaped from the pleasures of a long Martin Garcia quarantine. In his travels he visited Paris, London, Dublin, Carlow and Balbriggan, and has brought back besides a stock of new views and experiences and the longest Ode about which we have all heard and read so much. Our famed London correspondent, who showed him all over the world's capital, was horrified to learn from him that he considered there were only two cities in the world to-day worth living in: Paris and Buenos Aires. We really feel for our friends in London, Dublin and New York; but there is no answering for haste. In a day or two we shall have the great pleasure of publishing the incomparable Ode discovered by him. To-day being St. Patrick's Day, we have no space for it.

One of the best and most satisfactory results of the last elections is the election of Dr. O'Farrell to Congress, who is a thoroughly sound, good man, and who will prove a very decided addition to the new Congress. We want men like Dr. O'Farrell in our Parliament, and it bodes well for the country's future to see men of his stamp entering the House. Much as we congratulate Dr. O'Farrell on this merited distinction, still more do we congratulate the country on his election.

The friends of the Hon. F. J. Pakenham, ex-British Minister to the Plata, will be glad to hear that letters have been received by the mail from him, and that he is now quite recovered from a severe attack of bronchitis. Both he and Mrs. Pakenham cherish the most pleasant memories of their stay in Buenos Aires, and we take the liberty of giving the following extract from his letter, which will be read with interest by their numerous friends out here. Mr. Pakenham says:—

"You will probably have already heard that I have been transferred elsewhere, and that my sojourn in the Plata has come to an end. Our stay there has been very pleasant to my wife and to myself, as we have made many friends, and we both leave Buenos Aires with regret. I believe you already know my successor, Mr. Barrington, who was there, I think, in 1864-5, and also visited Chile and Peru.

"I do not know if you have any friends residing in Scandinavia, or if you are likely to visit that country later on, but in either case, please remember that our fixed place of abode there is not the Maalstrom, the same having been ascertained to have its inconveniences, to say nothing of its contents, reported to be of a somewhat mixed character.

"I trust my old friends of the cricket club will continue to thrive, (of which there can be but little doubt, if they will only improve their bowling), as also of the Albion and Lawn Tennis Clubs, with all of whom I terminate my personal connection with great regret.

The Dublin Evening Herald of February 12th reproduces some complimentary remarks for which we return our colleague our best thanks, the article and portrait published by the Nation on the occasion of the brilliant examination passed in the Naval School by Cadet Jaime Mulhall.

We are indebted to the great attention of Dr. Zeballos for a copy of the last number of the North American Review, which contains an article from the pen of our brother Editor, M. G. Mulhall. Our colleague says:—"The well-known statistician, Michael G. Mulhall, F.S.S., asks, 'Is the Human Race Deteriorating?' and brings to bear upon this topic some important statistics, which will be certain to attract attention. Mr. Mulhall computes that in 1910 the United States will contain a population of ninety millions. In connection with this article our readers may recall a former one by Mr. Mulhall in the June, 1895, Review, entitled 'Races and Wealth of the United States,' which was commended on in every quarter of the world." At our leisure we shall publish some extracts from the article in question, which is too long for our columns.

WEDNESDAY

St. Patrick's Day passed off nicely at morning, noon and night. The ceremonies in the church of the Passionist Fathers were so largely attended that the sacred edifice was filled. "Drowning" of shamrocks was the order of the day, but the job was to get the shamrocks; there was no difficulty about the liquid to drown them in. It being Lent, our collar was hermetically closed, in spite of the remarks of some subscriber visitors about "undue sobriety" on such a jovial anniversary. We noticed a great number of green cravats or Irish masculine necks, whilst the ladies flew Erin's colour with profusion on their hats and dresses. The banquet at George Mercer's was a grand and successful affair, and the ball given at night in the hospitable mansion of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Murphy at Almagro was a most enjoyable wind-up to the great Irish Festival.

The Gold Eagle celebrated St. Patrick's day with a roar and a scream that made the welkin ring. The news from Chile made him frisky, as the cat is now out of the Moneda bag, and it appears that Mr. Morla Vicuña, about whose interviews with Dr. Alcazar so much fuss was made, had no definite instructions whatever, so all his talk amounted to nothing. The tone of the Chilean papers was again rather bellicose, and the "highest peaks" boundary line is declared out of the question. The voice of Italy is still for war, and we're sorry to hear it, as another defeat will mean blue ruin. The news of the day was from London. The portly British Premier has "hummed" the amateur postmaster in France. The Dongola expedition to help Italy is part of an agreement with Germany and Austria in return for their consent to England's remaining in Egypt for ever. To-day's Paris papers will be lively reading, to say nothing of our Gallic colleagues here.

It seems that Mr. Adolfo Eastman is the democratic candidate for the Presidency of Chile. The family of Eastman in Buenos Aires is so well known in this city, as connected by marriage with most of the leading Argentine families, that it is not surprising we should here take a deep interest in the election of Mr. Eastman, who, if not an Argentine, is certainly the next thing to it. Fifty years ago the largest druggists in this city were the Eastmans, whose well-known drug store in Calle Defensa was a sort of Club-house for English speaking foreigners, and of late years one of our most popular Bolsa brokers was the late Don Ricardo Eastman. We all hope, therefore, to see the democratic party in Chile with Mr. Eastman at its head win the day, as his election means peace with Chile; and it looks now, if some radical change does not take place in the public men of both countries, we shall have this Chilean War Question pending for the next ten years. The war scare has, however, done this country immense good, it has woken up the Government, the Army, the Navy and the people, and but for the alarm we should have all our warships rotting in the Tigra.

If any of our readers has had the misfortune to have suffered at the hands of the pseudo gas or telephone employee Edward Perez, an opportunity will be afforded him or her to examine a portion of his spoils in the court of Police Magistrate Dr. Navarro.

Mothers of growing girls, be warned, and do not subject your daughters to too much of that torture, practising the piano. Dr. For Wessell, of the Medical Academy of Paris, has just addressed a report that body in which he attributes the chlorosis and neurosis so prevalent now amongst young girls to excessive practice on the piano. The eminent physician says it is simply "odious" to put a girl at the piano until she is 15 or 16, and not even then unless she is strong and has a decided taste for it. Dr. Wessell says that of every 1000 girls put to the piano at 12 years of age, 600 get almost incurable nervous diseases before they are full grown. He says that the new fad of teaching girls the violin is even still more disastrous for their health.

Now, readers classical, constant and general, look for the long lost ode to Ireland in another column. This priceless treasure, hidden for so many centuries through the manipulation of a cowed copyist, was discovered by a member of our staff, in the belfry tower of Notre Dame in Paris, behind the very stone which suggested to Victor Hugo that wonderful romance "Notre Dame". The ode proves the antiquity of Hibernian grandeur, and explains the hitherto mysterious origin of the Round Towers. We should feel much obliged to any classical subscriber who would throw light on that jolly dog Mylatrus. We find nothing about him in Lempriere, but he was evidently a boon companion of the jovial Placens.

We return our best thanks to our jolly colleague the Diario for its very friendly salute to St. Patrick's Day, and to the Irish colony in the Plata. Lainez himself, who is the editor and proprietor of the Diario, is of Irish descent, his original name being Lyons. Corresponding with the kindly feelings of our colleague we sent him a shamrock which we got in Palermo Park, right in front of the Naval School, with instructions as to the established custom of drowning it before he went to bed last night. And it may interest Mr. Lainez and many other Hiberno-Argentines to know that the shamrock is spreading all over Palermo Park with a rapidity which has attracted the notice of Colonel Guerrero, the Chief of the Naval School, and also has astonished the head gardener of the Park, who wonders where on earth the little stranger which he calls "revolir laines" has come from. The extraordinary rapid growth of the shamrock in Palermo Park is a good sign for the country, as the shamrock has influences which even Mr. Balfour, in the House of Commons last year respects and considers desirable to cultivate. It may be a pleasant refresher for our friend Lainez to tell him that yesterday, 82 years ago, an Irishman took Martin Garcia against tremendous odds, gloriously defeated the enemies of this country, and handed over the Island to the Argentines, who have ever since held that Gibraltarian Island. Hats off to Lainez, to our valiant countryman Admiral Brown, who won for the Argentines one of the greatest victories on St. Patrick's Day, 1814. Every Argentine, big or small, may well afford to wear a shamrock in his hat on St. Patrick's Day, in memory in honour of the Saint at this time, if not in that glorious victory, and we call Mr. Lainez's attention to the remarkable fact, that since the shamrock has taken root in Palermo within the last two years, everything has begun to improve in this country. Thirty-three years have now

gone by since the editors of this paper organised a St. Patrick's banquet in the Hotel Provence, and on that memorable occasion there was not a shamrock to be found in the whole country. Our senior editor, with the late Mr. Manon of the Beach, spent a whole day looking for something like a shamrock, and they brought up these grassy mounds on the beach a lot of sprigs of trefoil which Mr. Santa Maria, the then British Consul, Mr. Rom, the then Manager of the Bolsa, and Dr. Sheridan pinned on to the coat of each guest entering the room. How things have changed since then in this country may be gathered from the marvellous spread of the shamrock in Palermo Park.

THE DEAR LITTLE SHAMROCK  
There's a dear little plant that grows in my Isle,  
'Twas St. Patrick himself that set it, and  
And the sun on his labour with pleasure did smile,  
And with down from his eye often wet it,  
It shines thro' the bog, thro' the brake, and the  
mire land.  
And he called it the dear little shamrock of  
Ireland.  
That dear little plant still grows in our land,  
Fresh and fair as the daughters of Erin,  
Whose smiles can bewitch, and whose eyes can  
command.  
In each climate that ever appears in,  
That dear little plant that springs from our soil,  
When the three little leaves are extended,  
Denote that the man who has it, doth toil,  
And ourselves by ourselves be befuddled.

THURSDAY

Heavy weather. Hot news from Europe and pretty hot from Chile. Buoyant Gold Eagle. Argentine boom in Capel Court fizzling, Madame La France in a towering tantrum at being "sold" again by "la parole Albion." Germany and Austria grinning at her. The Russian Bear silent and with a queer leer in his eye, as if he had some private understanding with the British Lion behind his fair ally's pretty back. The Modern Gauls are in a towering rage, and there is really no knowing what "locura" they may be guilty of. They have done nothing silly yet, however, and there would have been a krach on the Paris Bourse yesterday. The upshot of the whole pow-wow is that John Bull has virtually joined the Triple Alliance.

Some uneasiness was felt yesterday at the coming of the illustrious General Mitre was seriously unwell, but it turned out to be exaggerated. The General is merely suffering from an old complaint contracted during the Paraguayan war, but he is otherwise all right and has not interrupted his usual literary labours.

We return our best thanks to Colonel Garcia, our active Chief of the "Estado Mayor de Marina," for his polite card yesterday announcing the safe arrival of the Argentine gunboat Parana in the Bay of San Blas. This is the first step the Argentine Government has taken in 15 years to do anything for the best bay in the whole Republic. Admiral Knolly, who has visited San Blas was astonished to find such a perfect natural harbour on the South East coast of South America, and sent a special report to the British Admiralty on the impregnability of San Blas as a naval port. The officers of the Parana are now engaged putting down the buoys in the channel. The Parana entered San Blas without buoys or pilot; and Colonel Garcia is just the man to know the value of such a splendid port for his war-vessels, many of which are too large to enter Buenos Aires or even Bahia Blanca, but they can all enter San Blas even should they draw 35 feet of water.

Letters from Canada de Gomez dated Monday say that they have had rain up there for eighteen hours at a stretch—Saturday and Sunday—and on Monday it was very hot.

We never in all our life saw the crops looking better than in our Pilgrimage to Lujan on Sunday, and our trip to Mar del Plata last month. The sugar farmers and estancieros must be rolling in lots of money. The next question is what they will do with all the money. Letters from Pringles on the Rio Negro say that it has not rained down there for several months, and the camps of the valley of the Rio Negro are getting all dried up. Mr. Buckland writes, however, from the estancia in front of Pringles, and says that he has a glorious crop of potatoes this year, and wants to know how to get here for a lot say of 100 tons. From what we saw of the potato fields in Mar del Plata we should say that potatoes this year will be cheaper in the Plata than in Old Ireland.

We understand that through the increasing number of pupils at the North American Normal School, 470 S. ipacha, an addition to the building may become necessary. The classes of the Normal and National College Department opened the 2nd of this month with a very good attendance of pupils. This school has a staff of 18 well-known and experienced professors and teachers.

Our Italian friends have almost quite recovered their usual buoyant spirits, owing to the inaction of the Dervishes at Kassala and old England sailing in to help them. No so Spanish "amigos," who don't relish the news from Cuba and now declares that Weyler is a greater duffer than Martinez Campos. It is beginning to look as if Home Rule for the Pearl of the Antilles is within measurable distance.

Immigration is beginning to boom again. Up to yesterday 8315 new souls and bodies have arrived this month, which beats the whole month of last year, in which the arrivals only reached 5305. In the first quarter of 1896 the total was 10,387, whereas this year up to date the arrivals have been 15,968 and it is hoped the figure will reach 18,500 by the end of the month.

Peru is preparing for war, another sign of the times. She has just ordered 10,000 Mausers, to replace the Manlichers now in use in her army; also the purchase of a number of Argentine and Chilean horses to augment her army. We suppose stern and old Bolivia will be the next in the armament field.

Our Sandy Point colleague Magallanes found a most tremendous mare's nest when it discovered that cave at Ultima Esperanza to which we referred the other day. A leading estanciero who knows the place well informs us that the cave in question has been used for years by the farmers of the district as a deposit for their wool, hides and skins! The Butler murder case is again coming to the front in Montevideo, and promises more sensation than ever, as the Criminal Fiscal, Dr. Martinez, has taken the case up vigorously, and the first witness he intends to summon is "a certain high political personage" whose name has been mentioned in connection with the crime ever since it was committed. This high personage is no other than the ex-President of the Republic, Dr. Herrera y Obes at least so the gossip say, and they often make a good guess.

FRIDAY

The top of the day in English circles yesterday was, of course, the expedition to the Argentine and the fare-up between Mr. Best Bull and Madame La France. The best fun in the world was to see resident Britishers discussing the Egyptian question with resident Gauls; the first as cool as a cucumber, the latter gradually fizzing up like their own "glorious vintage," till the conversation had to be changed, to avoid unpleasantness. The telegrams from Paris on the subject are hot; and those from London are not very cool. In the midst of all the to-do, row one broad fact stands out—the first corps of the Dongola expedition has started. Kassala, where the dancing and drunken Dervishes have collected, is now the point on which the eyes of the world are turned. One telegram says the Italians have evacuated the place; another denies this. France thinks that if it be evacuated, the "raison d'être" of the Dongola Expedition is at an end. "Chère Madame! Vous êtes si naïve!" As with all the recent rows about Venezuela, the Transvaal, Armenia etc, there is the old reiteration "It is thought that the question will be settled peacefully!" Bah! If Lord Salisbury draws back again this time, out he goes, as sure as a gun.

There were double-barrelled rumours from bumptious Chile yesterday. Sometimes that the B. M. was as good as settled, others that it was worse than ever. There must be some hitch, the "vox populi" says, when Minister Guerrero calls a conference to discuss the matter. Notables generally mess and muddle everything they touch. We had a sample of it here when President Pellegrini summoned them for a palaver. All he wanted them to find for him was a hare, yet they could not do it. Talking of hares, and hunting them in Santa Fé, there are hares by the billion at Tres Bonetes, on Isla Walker and at San Blas. When Admiral Knolly was out here he shot more hares on Walker Island than he has hairs on his head, although he is not a bit bald. This is a fact, and no Hookey Walker assertion. The hares on Walker Island and San Blas are the size of fat wethers fit for shipment to Europe.

We call the attention of our pious readers to the continuation of the Corrientes story about the Virgin of Itati. The most extraordinary part has still to come.

There is a tremendous hub-bub in Rio about a forgery of 6000 contos of bank notes in which "personages" are said to be implicated. What a scandal! We had yesterday the great pleasure of clasping to our editorial bosom our renowned Montevideo correspondent Stand-by O'Gorman, who has come up for a short "rato de solaz." He tells us that his principal object is a visit to Mar del Plata, to see if he cannot snatch the bank there as well as Dr. Syntax. His game, however, is not roulette, but "trout de guerre," a much more formidable business.

The news from Chile last night was unlucky, as it announced the placing of thirteen new "hitos" on the boundary line, and some of them will certainly give rise to another row like that about the "hito de San Francisco." In Santiago it was said yesterday, that a final decision as to the boundary muddle on the part of Chile is at hand.

The kissing at the Central station to-day on the occasion of the departure of the Danube will present a new feature of interest. For the River Plate Polo Team starts for England, home and beauty to contest the International Cup. History records the names of the Argus expedition, and as Olio's representative we append the patronymics of this equally important body of River Plate athletes—we had almost said heroes—but we reserve that term for their return. Messrs. J. Scott, F. Furber, M. Ross, Neuman Smith, S. Curber and R. M. Smith—and 60 ponies. Bon voyage, good luck, and bring back the cup.

We were really under the idea that superstition had long since fled from sensible England. A charming young lady, however, recently arrived from home has quite upset our belief. As a cure for warts she seriously recommends us to rub them with a raw beefsteak; but—that's where the rub comes in—the steak must be 'stolen'! Our fair physician insisted on the efficacy of the cure with the gullest mission that she had carried the instructions to the letter. Hully butcher!

Dear old Calle 25 de Mayo, once the most English street in Buenos Aires, seems to be rapidly declining. Many years ago property in that street was considered cheap at 50 dollars good per square vara, now it only fetches 36 dollars good per square metre, which shows what a great fall there is in property in that street. That our readers may see how much more important Calle 25 de Mayo was 30 years ago, we give the following list of English residents there in the year 1863: Mrs. Knox, Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Heath, Mrs. Flynn, Mrs. Whitaker, and Mrs. Kelly, all of whom kept furnished lodgings. Then there was Maxwell's reading rooms, Geoghegan's Hotel, and H. J. Baynes, Mrs. Admiral Brown, J. Carmichael, blacksmith, John Coglian, Government engineer; Neville Mortimer, do.; Robert Duncan, broker; Eckell's Hotel, C. Grubbein, ship chandler; John Hardy, blacksmith; Albert Herring, Dan Moody, grocer; T. Nuttall and Co., do.; J. G. Stoddart, book keeper; C. W. Benn and Co., A. H. Minturn, ship broker; H. J. Powell, do.; George Willis, insurance agent; J. Unsworth, blacksmith, and some few others whose names we forget. The Stegmann house was considered one of the best properties in town. To-day people think Calle 25 de Mayo improved, but they know little of the glorious antecedents of this old street, and Bullrich's auction on Wednesday proves that the street is not what it seems.

We have received from London a most interesting pamphlet on that most disputed of all topics, "Bimetallism," from which the moment we have space, we shall extract, as the author offers some very new views which will interest many of our readers, and we see now by the telegrams that the English Parliament has again taken up the subject.

We welcome with much pleasure, after an absence of ten years, Mrs. W. C. Thompson, widow of our lamented friend Mr. W. C. Thompson, who years ago was known as "el chico de los Portenios." Mrs. Thompson has come on a visit of a couple of months to her native country

to see her children. She will stop with her son, Mr. H. C. Thompson (the Lord Chancellor) at Belgrano. Her numerous friends will be delighted to see her. We are happy to say she is in the best of health. She arrived out in the Danube, and finds the place so much changed and improved that when she arrived by special train from La Plata her first question was—Is this really Buenos Ayres?

Our eminent medical friend Dr. J. O'Connor is about to take a short but well earned vacation and will leave town to-morrow evening for a fortnight, returning on April 5th. We wish him a very pleasant holiday.

The following paragraph will interest not only our young National Guard friends but all their relatives, as, from present appearances, there is a strong probability that bullets will be flying about in the vicinity of the Andes before very long.—Dr. Delorme, Sargeon-in-Chief of the French Army, has been lecturing before the Paris school of Medicine on the new steel-coated rifle bullets and their effects as projected from the modern magazine rifle. The most remarkable fact in connection with them appears to be this, that they cause very little pain to those who are struck by them. At Fourmies, during the riots there, one man was wounded so badly that he afterwards suffered from paralysis; yet he did not even suspect he was shot until he saw the blood stains upon his clothes. Another man who was shot through the leg described his sensations thus:—"I felt a slight shiver come over me." Another, who was shot through the arm, could only remember that his elbow twitched, and that involuntarily he closed his fist. Dr. Delorme finds that when the bullets meet with an obstacle at a short distance, say from 100 to 150 yards, they are very apt to explode, and the pieces of metal are capable of doing serious mischief."

SATURDAY

The rain and the cold snap in the weather (another score for the Pergamino Wigginses) put everybody in good spirits "ayer." After the heat of summer (Autumn begins to-day) the citizens were glad to have mud under their shoe-leather again, and feel cool enough to don their Prud'homme clothes of last year, pretending they were brand new from MacMillan, Smart, Brown, Strong, etc, etc. New or old, however, the topic of the day in British and French circles was still the Dongola expedition. Madame La France has "climbed down" (without showing too much of her pretty ankles) considerably in 24 hours. She now confines her objection to allowing any French cash being spent in paying for the expedition of "Ce cher Jean Bonie." Her friend the Bear does not seem much inclined to join her in crossing the Lion's path, so the whole hub-bub will probably fizzle as quickly as it rose.

The passengers by the Danube and Equator had not a very agreeable day for their start for old Europe, and there was n't much go or gush in the farewell kissing. Even in the excitement of the parting moment, the two nationalities were discussing the Dongola question and one of our most esteemed and constant French readers, who speaks broken English with a Gallic accent, raised a farewell laugh by a really splendid pun. Shaking hands with an English friend the latter was stepping into the express after a hot discussion with him on the Egyptian question he said, with a clever mixture of the two tongues: "Mon ami, Don't 'go la." This parting shot raised a tremendous laugh, both in the train and on the platform.

In answer to "A National Guard," we beg to say that the usual Sunday drill of the citizen soldiers will commence this year on the first Sunday of next month, April. As to how long the drill may last, we are unable to say exactly, as it depends on the Government to some extent. In this exceptional country no man knows when he may have to order his coffin, or have at least to call in a doctor. Yesterday morning the gallant Lt. Colonel Pereyra was breakfasting in a restaurant in Calle Santa Fé, when suddenly a row was got up and a fellow drew a revolver. He went off and the bullet struck the distinguished officer in the right hand. We are glad to hear that the wound is in no way serious.

The rain yesterday morning and during the preceding night has proved a very great blessing for the quinteros around the town, who for the last month have been praying for rain. The gardens and quintas now look most beautiful, and the maize crop this year promises to be quadruple that of last year.

It was very generally said in town yesterday that General Roca is coming down from Cordoba in very poor health, and will at once leave for Europe with his family. The General will find a warm welcome in Europe from all his old friends, who will be delighted to see him. We hope he will go to Ireland, and attend the Dublin Horse-Show.

Yesterday we had a visit from an old friend who called our attention to the fact that if central city property, like that sold by Bullrich in Calle Mayo yesterday, shows decline, so also does camp property in some of the best and most valuable partidos, and he intimated the sale of the Archib Craig property in the partido Carmen de Areco the other day at \$77% per hectare, equal to 1800% per square.

He says that 2 years ago that land was worth at the very lowest calculation \$180% per square.

Last night another batch of friends left for Mar del Plata, where, according to last advices there are at present 600 visitors in the various hotels. Very many friends are thinking of going down for Holy Week, and as the Hotel charges are reduced, we strongly recommend the trip. People ask what in the world has become of our renowned Mar del Plata secretary, and why does he not at least send us news of the English families down there? The news from Chile yesterday was not particularly peaceable. Our Transandine neighbours are getting their National Guards into trim just as we are doing here, and they have ordered another powerful ironclad from Armstrong and Co. They have just welcomed the arrival from England of 21 engineers for their navy and half a dozen gunners from the same country. All this does not look very peaceful, taken with the tone of the Chilean press, and it evidently frightened the Aguila de Oro yesterday.

Let none of our readers deride or laugh at the wondrous story of Corrientes, now appearing daily in our columns, as we know the writer and can vouch for the truth of it. We shall publish it entire in our next Packet Edition.

Accidentally, or on purpose, one of our Montevideo colleagues had a printer's error slip at John Bull's weakness for liquid refreshment the other day. In a telegram from London it says: "It is the general impression here that the expedition is not going to Dougola but to 'Beber' (Borber). We feel certain that the men of the expedition are not going to drink anything stronger than tea, as when Lord Wolseley, the present Commander-in-Chief, commanded in Egypt he allowed the troops to drink nothing except tea, not even cold water, which induces dysentery in that burning climate, so the present expedition is to 'Beber té, y nada mas."

Just after the death of Andrew Jackson, a friend of his met an old family servant and began asking him a few questions about his late master. "Do you think," he said, "that the General has gone to Heaven?" "Deed, I dunno, sah; dat jis' depehns." "Depends on what?" "Jis' depehns, sah, on de deign' wanted to go, sah, or not," said the old darkey, with supreme confidence in the General: "Ef he wanted to go, sah, he am dah, sho'; an' ef he didn't, he am't, sah."

We have over and over again, since the late war, the great pleasure of rocking the cradle of our youthful contemporary the Montevideo Times, tried to encourage it in the joking, punning and printer's mistakes line, advising it also to start a cellar and museum, or anything and everything to dispel the solemnity that generally pervades its columns. Now and then it flashes forth in a very promising way, and the following is by no means the worst of its efforts.—The B. A. STANDARD has returned from Europe with a long Ode. This is not O. D. V., because we know the STANDARD always prefers whisky, especially when the name of Buchanan is on the label.

On Thursday afternoon there was an interesting scene in the barracks of the crack 6th Regiment of Infantry of the Line at Palermo, when Commander Lezica formally introduced to the gallant and distinguished Colonel Ruiz, who commands the Regiment all the National Guard officers of the third Battalion affiliated to it. The gallant Colonel Ruiz, who is the youngest Colonel in the army, yet one of its most brilliant officers, addressed a short but thoroughly military speech to the young officers, holding up to them patriotic "duty" as the first and foremost ideal of every man in the Argentine army, from the private to the General. The young officers showed visibly that they felt the gallant Colonel's stirring words.

SUNDAY

The Argentine Gold Eagle is fast recovering all his "antiguos brios." He cut such an upward caper yesterday that he was cock of the walk in the news of the day, and knocked John No. "Place aux dames!" Madame La France, John Bull, the Cubans, Dons, Liguarians and Abyssinians completely out of the public nod—no orodee, Madame La France has suddenly stopped screaming across the Channel at John Bull, and her suspicious silence after her recent fit of passion, makes silly people think that she is going to try her nails on the old man's rubicund face. Our Spanish friends were in joyous spirits owing to Weyler's telegram that he had assumed the rebels and they are skedaddling all over the island! This is certainly stunning news if true; but that's the rub. If it's a crammer, Weyler and Baron Munchausen will go down to posterity arm in arm.

The news from Chile yesterday evening was of the bombshell order and was solely responsible for the rocket-like roar of the Gold Eagle. A thrill ran like wildfire through the whole city at cocktail hour when it became known that Chile had finally repelled with an emphatic No! to the last Argentine proposals, and there was a rush for the fourth edition of the Tiempo, which contained the stunning news. Chile now says "Divortia aquarum" or Arbitration, just as Ex-President Pellegrini, said months ago in the Senate "The Andes or War." Dr. Quiro Costa, the Argentine Minister in Chile, has asked the Government to recall him, so our colleague states; but we hear on excellent authority that the Government here has struck no such request. On making enquiries late last night we became almost convinced that our colleagues on both sides of the Andes—especially on this—are responsible for the sensational parts of the news received.

We had yesterday the pleasure of a letter from our absent Director, Mr. William F. Mulhall, who is enjoying his well-earned vacation at Quaqueen. The moment he arrived he jumped almost from the railway carriage into the sea, and enjoyed his swim prodigiously. He likes Quaqueen greatly and says the days are Neptunean, and the nights Wagnerian. There are two lovely and talented ladies at the hotel whose splendid singing is the greatest charm of the place. The weather is very cold and bracing now at the Kilkee of the River Plata.

The Tiro Federal pow-wow at Palermo is the great local event to-day. There will be an enormous crowd of fashionables and military officers. The programme is immense, and some splendid rifle shooting is anticipated. We hope the storm predicted by the Pergamino Twins will not come along to spoil sport.

Calle Stoney Batter, alias San Martin, was worse than ever yesterday, and it was as much as a man's life was worth to cross the street yesterday after the late rains. Two of our Bolsa friends in crossing over to Funes and Lagos's left their boots behind in the middle of the street and walked in their stockings feet down Grafton street, looking for the first boot and shoe shop, to get shed.

Another Royal goose anxious to brave "Africa's burning climate," Count Gleichen. Her Majesty's consort, wants her to allow him to join the Dongola expedition, but she is hardly likely to do so with her recent loss of Prince Henry of Battemberg before her eyes.

Yesterday, according to letters received, the first troop of carts for the Strawberry Railway started with materials for General Acha. The whole country about there is turned inside out with the stir which the laying of the first sod has caused.

Everyone wants to know who the new B. Aires Provincial Minister of Hacienda will be. Strange fact, we have not seen the name of a single candidate as yet. Nevertheless, on Tuesday the time is out, according to the constitution, for naming the Minister.

We have to thank an old friend from Dublin for a beautiful St. Patrick's day addition to our STANDARD Library—"Graves

Commercial News.

Monday, March 18th 1896.

of Irishmen in England"—"Old Dublin"—"Excursions around Dublin." Our friends in Ireland seem determined to stand by us, as it was only the other day we received a most beautiful handbook of Belfast, from which we will publish a few extracts at the first spare moment. Meanwhile, mark it down readers, that the largest ship-yard in the world is in Belfast.

We are authorized to state that there is not a word of truth in the "Social Life" paragraph of our breezy evening colleague *El Diario*, as to the popular manager of the Co-operative Telephone Company, Mr. Penrose, having come in for a peck and a fortune of £60,000. The news is not true as yet, but we live in the hope of saluting Mr. Penrose on its truth some day.

The young girl Henriette Vargas, who was brought out on board the *Bresil* by poor Mme. Saisons, died at sun-rise yesterday morning on board the floating hospital, 9 hours after her arrival. It certainly seems little short of down-right well—cruelty, to have moved her when so dangerously ill and especially at night. It was 9 o'clock on Friday evening when the unfortunate girl arrived on board the *Rodolfo del Vico*, and certainly it was not the sort of night for moving a patient in high fever as it was bitterly cold and windy.

The medal struck for the inauguration of the Tiro Federal at Palermo to-day by Messrs. Gottuzzo and Costa of 860 Calle Piedra, is a fine work of art that does them high honour.

We warmly thank our esteemed contemporary *El Tiempo* for its very kind and breezy salute to our junior editor on his return from Europe with Hrae's Ole to Erin in his pocket and a white beard led by a chain attached to his wrist. We invite our colleague to come and see the white beard, which has trotted as far as he could on land from the North Pole, to see if he could make a little money on the Buenos Aires Bazaar.

The manager of the Engine-house at the Port reported yesterday a most dastardly attempt, happily frustrated, to injure the machinery under his charge. A piece of wood was found to have been inserted in one of the valves, and had it not been discovered in time the hydraulic gear moving the draw-bridges and winches on the port would all have been thrown out of order, necessitating a total stoppage of work and immense loss of time and money. Several men have been arrested, but it is feared that a plot may be involved to injure the machinery, as in order to insert the piece of wood it must have been necessary to unscREW and remove several pieces of the mechanism.

We gave the young National Guards who are going to Curumalan a hint the other day as to how French soldiers manage to keep their tents warm with heated stones during the coldest winter nights. Now we have another hint for them from a veteran Argentine officer who has seen much of hard service. It is this: Young soldiers in the field for the first time are peculiarly liable to catch rheumatism in the knees and thighs, and as a preventive our veteran friend recommends the young Guards to wear thick, long woolen stockings reaching well above the knees, and a thick flannel "faja" next the skin over their hips. This tip is well worth bearing in mind by our young citizen warriors.

THE COMING PERFORMANCE OF "THE MIKADO."

OPERA HOUSE OR PRINCE GEORGE'S HALL.

To the Editor of the STANDARD,

Dear Sir, In the "Editor's Table" of your issue of the 15th inst. you took notice of a suggestion which had been made that the Choral Union should give the re-production of "The Mikado" in the Prince George's Hall instead of in one of the theatres.

I am instructed by the Committee of the Choral Union to inform you that they would gladly have complied with this suggestion had it been possible to do so. Before the matter was mentioned by others they had already, in the sincere desire to benefit the Hall, made every effort to compress the performance to the limited capacity of the Hall stage, but entirely without success. On last Monday night, in deference to the "motion" referred to and emphasized by you, another endeavour was made to place the troupe on the stage, but it was found absolutely impossible to do so, even without the principals.

The Committee desire that I should remind you, that having given the opera successfully last year, it would not be fair to the performers nor in any way politic, to cut the caste down to suit the smaller stage, a course which would inevitably cause a deterioration in the presentation of the opera, and might seriously imperil the success of the coming performance, in which some new and attractive features will be introduced which will considerably enhance the effect, and make it even more necessary that there should be ample stage room.

It is for these reasons that the Committee of The Choral Union have been compelled, after the fullest consideration, to secure the Opera House for the 9th April, when they hope to receive equal support to that which the English-speaking community afforded them last year, and to repay that support with a rendering of the opera which shall be worthy of it.

That the Committee are in entire sympathy with the spirit of your suggestion, and hold it to be their undoubted duty, as it is also their pleasure, to support the Prince George's Hall, is, I believe, sufficiently demonstrated by the fact of the large proportion of their available capital which they have invested in shares of the Hall Company, and by their having immediately that it was possible arranged for the use of the Hall for their rehearsals and concerts for the season, i.e. for every requirement of this Society which could be adequately accommodated there.

Trusting that the foregoing explanation will be found satisfactory to you and to the generous supporters of our amateur performances to whom the suggestion for the use of the Hall was addressed.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully, E. Stanley Ewell, Hon. Sec.

We read in the London papers—"Mr. Justice North, on February 15th, made an order sanctioning the resolutions which have been passed for the reduction of the capital of the Argentine Land and Investment Company. The nominal capital consisted of 130,000 preference £4 shares and 130,000 ordinary £4 shares, of which 108,960 preference shares had been issued and fully paid up, and 104,460 ordinary shares had been issued and 10s. paid up. The company was prosperous, and the reduction consisted in reducing the nominal amount of ordinary shares from £4 to £1 a share, leaving 10s. a share uncalled on the ordinary shares issued. There were debentures to the amount of over £24,000, the holders of which had all given their consent. Mr. Swinton Eady, Q.C. and Mr. Ezeray Wheeler appeared in the matter."

Mr. Patrick Noonan of Venado Taerto was welcomed to-day. He reports everything doing splendidly out there and all the estancieros making money. The Venado Taerto is going in tremendously for alfalfa. On Mr. Nocetti's estancia of seven leagues there are no less than 1,800 squares now under cultivation, and on the other estancias they are following suit. All that district will soon be a vast alfalfa field.

The Italian Packet *Sirio* cleared yesterday a full ship with 46 cabin, 533 steerage and 57 second class passengers. Amongst them we notice Mr. Jose Ceppi of *La Nacion*, Mr. Wm. Sanchez who goes to Europe to study the live-stock and cereal markets, Mr. Manuel Duran, the Tobacco King, Messrs. Cabon, Wolf, J. Saint Germain, Cosmo Olaso, and an Italian lawyer Mr. Merati, Messrs. Luis Garrido & Narciso and Carlos Ocampo go on a pleasure trip.

Parties interested in Edificadora shares will be pleased, in one respect, to learn, that at the call for shares 814 were offered as follows:— 250 at 75 163 " 77.90 210 " 79.90 191 " 81 to 90.

The price of \$75 is inexplicable, as on the 13th, 200 shares were sold on the Bolsa at \$78 and inquiry for more, none being, however, forthcoming under \$80 at which 150 were offered. We presume that the bid was from some one who does not follow the market. On the 25th inst 250 more will be called for, thus making 2050 withdrawn by the Company during past six months and leaving 22,500 shares out. A dividend of \$4 per share will be paid up to March 9th and a sum of \$30,000 written off values of Company's properties. This amount would in natural order go to make a 5% dividend, but the Board for greater security has always preferred to retain a certain amount of the profits in shares bought in.

Thursday, March 20th 1896. With regard to the Central Produce Market shares we hear they are now quoted nominally at 2 1/2 gold but very few offering. The Pobladores Railway shares are also spoken of, but as no operations have been effected of late they are also at a nominal quotation, say 18. We hear holders of the latter are doing a very good business, and the fact that the Company takes the shares in perpetuity for sites at La Florida station, fixing the value at 60 cents the vara and taking the shares at 20%, so that the land works out at 12 cents the vara. There is a good deal doing in this line and the shares are not much offered on Change.

The sight of skins hanging out to dry on estancias is so objectionable that a new system tried successfully at Roseworthy Agricultural College, South Australia, might be taken to advantage. Anyone can make the trial by making a light but strong frame of wood, and laying along and across it at intervals of about three inches, light strips of wood, then binding the ends and crossing places of the strips with fencing wire, and turning the ends of the wire into hooks from which to hang the skins. When the frame is made it is attached to the joints or rafters of any empty-out-house or shed available about the place, and the skins hooked on to it as they come to hand. The frame can be made of any size required, and as the hooks are only about three inches apart, very little space is required to hang up a large number of skins. This plan is so cheap and convenient that every estanciero will wonder that a thing so simple and useful was not thought of long ago. A little care in hanging the frame from the rafters will be a good preservative from having the skins gnawed by rats and other vermin.

They are paying the most tremendous prices at Punes and Lagos for English Lincoln lambs. We saw one sold to-day with only two teeth for over one thousand guineas. Could our old friend Mr. Peter Healy, father of the Bolsa King, rise from his grave, he would be astonished at such prices, although he was the first man in the country who paid twenty-five thousand paper dollars for the old currency to Mr. Lezama for a ram.

Back in the seventies, and indeed in the eighties as well, butter was an accident here. Basques jogging in from San Martin and Floresta and Moron might happen to have the article or might not, which led to the popular belief that the butter was made on the road by the continuous jolting. There is for system there was none. Neither in estancias nor town residences had it taken its stand on the table and churros, to say nothing of Laval Machinery, were almost unknown. But we have changed all that. Butter is no longer a happy accident. Fabrics have superseded the "lechero" to a great extent, and instead of having to be content with "best Canadian" or "Warranted Swedish" as a pencil, the market is not alone well stocked with native Argentine, but we keep Brazil going as well and one looking to a fair extent for the English market, where our brands have met with such favorable reception that they are pronounced quite on a par with the Australian article, as well they might with such material to work off and the best "plant" known to the trade to work with. There are three manufacturers now here that could hold their own anywhere in the world in Canada, the Scandinavia, in Brandzen and the third, which has up to the present not been so well known, not through any deficiency or fault, but through having devoted itself mainly to export viz. the Argentina, also in Brandzen. The latter, which dates from year 1838, belongs to Mr. Thomas Mahon and is situated on his fine estancia of three leagues at Altamirano. It is supplied with all the best machinery, water separators, steam pumps for the water, frigorific machinery for deposits, in fact everything necessary in this line, oil worked from a 12 horse-power motor. The whole process of manufacture is absolutely mechanical and the butter milk is utilized for fattening pigs, a business that gives excellent results. Apart from the milk separators and the "lecheros" of the vicinity, 300 cows are milked daily on the estancia. Every year, we might say every day, the business develops and grows, prospering in the ratio that its product finds outlet abroad, and though so unpretentious that the country at large was almost innocent of its existence, the excellence of the product itself has been

mingo Garbino, an excellent man who figured very prominently in Entre Rios for a long term of years as banker and salarista. He was a very old resident and much esteemed not only in Gualeguaychu, where his business interests were centred, but in the province, and indeed the market at large, where he was very highly thought of.

The great topic of Change this morning was the telegram to the *Genio* from London announcing that Minister Domínguez had received a message from the Government advising him of £270,000 in exchange having been remitted by the Minister, Dr. Romero, and also ordering Dr. Domínguez to remit from the Argentine funds existing in London a further sum of £280,000 to Captain Rivadavia in Genoa to pay for the new ironclad *Varese*, which two amounts cover the cost of that vessel, less about £10,000 stg. small balance still due. This news corresponds with our remarks a few days ago on the sudden drop in our exchange market, caused by the large amount of exchange taken by the Government. The Argentine Government now possesses two of the largest ironclads in this Hemisphere, and these two majestic war vessels are, perhaps, the very best guaranteed vessels with Chile. No other South American nation possesses such powerful war ships, and with good officers and crews Argentina may laugh at all the naval powers South of the Equator. The Argentine Navy, under the very able direction of Colonel Garcia, has come very fast to the front, and the whole South-east Argentine coast, which has been so long neglected, will henceforward be well looked after and protected.

Advices from San Juan report business in wine very brisk. Don Juan Ceresola has succeeded in placing 10,000 bordelais in this market, which is a big order, and Messrs. Coppello and Co. have bought up the whole crop of Messrs. Gil and Sanchez's vineyard, French grape, at \$3 to \$10 the quintal. Messrs. Uribeu and Medio calculate a yield of 5,000 quintals from their vineyard this year, in Mendoza the vineyards have given an equally favorable result, so that there will be more Argentine wine this year on the table than ever known before.

Thursday, March 20th 1896. With regard to the Central Produce Market shares we hear they are now quoted nominally at 2 1/2 gold but very few offering. The Pobladores Railway shares are also spoken of, but as no operations have been effected of late they are also at a nominal quotation, say 18. We hear holders of the latter are doing a very good business, and the fact that the Company takes the shares in perpetuity for sites at La Florida station, fixing the value at 60 cents the vara and taking the shares at 20%, so that the land works out at 12 cents the vara. There is a good deal doing in this line and the shares are not much offered on Change.

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Wednesday, March 19th 1896. If the bears expected any relief to-day, they were most woefully disappointed. The bulls were in possession and they kept there. The gold quotations ran riot. Taking full advantage of the flowing tide everything was snapped up at the ring as fast as the sellers turned up and the prices shot to 319 for cash and 320.60 for end of month almost before business was fairly in swing. There was in fact no disposition to sell on time except in certain quarters where it was shrewdly supposed that the contagio was the object, whilst the bears wagged their heads, more in sorrow than anger, as they traced the hand of the Government still at work in the heavy demands. The revolution as regards opinion may now be considered complete. The chant of gold being dear has become a dirge, and everybody now asks at what price will it be worth selling again. Of course the stiff spurt must soon relax; the strain will bring the inevitable reaction in train, but even those who are awaiting this are the firmest believers in what they style the fallacy of cheap gold. Paper continues as tight as ever, looked for all over the market and thrown on to the pyre that keeps blazing. With the "pase" keeping as stiff as a rock and exchange dropping, the prospects are not very rosy—at least a bearish stand point.

The whole market has received with regret the news of the death of Don Domingo Garbino, an excellent man who figured very prominently in Entre Rios for a long term of years as banker and salarista. He was a very old resident and much esteemed not only in Gualeguaychu, where his business interests were centred, but in the province, and indeed the market at large, where he was very highly thought of.

sufficient to establish the business on a sound solid footing. We congratulate our countryman on his enterprise, which will do more to spread Argentina's possibilities and consolidate her credit abroad than the purchase of millions of arms and a fleet of ironclads.

The London papers received by the mail publish the following advices from Messrs Power and Duggan, which advices have caused much attention in the English wheat markets; Buenos Ayres, Jan. 23rd.

Wheat—The continuation of broken weather has interfered very much with threshing and shippers are much inconvenienced by the delay in delivery of contracts for shipment this month. A larger quantity of sprouted wheat has now to be reckoned upon, especially in Santa Fé and Corrientes, and we now estimate the exportable surplus from these provinces will be 30 per cent less than last year, but Buenos Aires province will make up in part for this shortage, the crop being much better in quality. Entre Rios crop has also suffered from rain and storms, but will be about equal to last year.

Licensed, as mentioned in our last, is a miserable crop, not worth cutting in most parts of Santa Fé, and all the lots coming as yet are very inferior, frosted and country damaged. Quantity for export, such as it will be about half last year's total. Maize promises to be a very good crop, wet being most beneficial. Weather is now fine, with a good drying wind.

Friday, March 20th 1896.

The reaction was a deception—a fraud. It never had any solid being; with the slightest drop in rates the glutted bears set to cover, and of course prices immediately stiffened, with the result that the rate after the first hour to-day was held at \$18.50 and this without rumours, complications or untoward circumstances of any kind. The fact is there is little gold offering with the market in this state, though paper is not over plentiful either, but the prospects do not hold out the slightest gleam of promise for a bearish move, and the bears, bilious with the gorgeful gold, are getting out as fast as they can. Exchange is dropping, the contagio keeps hard—half to full point for end of month and 4 1/4 to 5 points for end of April, and gold always in demand. Then the produce is moving off very slowly, and take the situation as you will, there is scarcely a relieving feature about it from a bearish stand-point. Anything likely to turn up would, furthermore, rather tend to accumulate, the market in the groove which it moves in at present, than otherwise.

Shipping brokers think there are fair prospects of a better outlook for freights, as there is a reviving demand for prompt tonnage for parcels. Several charters are reported effected recently, but business is still very slow, and but for the old maize still to go forward and a splendid new crop coming on, the prospects would be the reverse of rose-hued. The merchants expect to see freights lower still, but brokers report bottom touched.

Splendid news for sheep-farmers. Reference to our advertising columns will show them that they can get the "lombri" cured radically and in less than no time by a practical man. It is a problem solved. Applications can be made at 1640 Cayo and business is straight enough, as no charge is made until the cure has been effected.

The importance of the business in live stock can be gauged by the fact that in spite of the low prices ruling in the English market, the exports from La Plata port alone for the first-half of this month embraced 8,126 head cattle and 18,438 sheep, the weight ranging from 565 to 702 kilos and 59 to 62 kilos respectively. Messrs Kingsland and Brougham were far the heaviest shippers with 1242 cattle and 4492 sheep. The folder shipped embraced 2,000 tons hay, 191 1/2 tons maize, 128 1/2 tons bran, 80 1/2 tons oats and 103 sundries.

Our German correspondent, who has left on a trip over the Pacific Railway, sent us the following wire to-day:— Splendid trip. Raining all along the line. Camps and animals in good condition. Train service perfect. "Corion" is a good dinner as the Cafe Paris.

The principal exports from port of Rosario during month of February, according to Mr. Gmo. Pritzanski's circular were:— Dry hides..... 21,388 Salted hides..... 9,695 Wool..... 1,608 bales Hay..... 52,850 " Wheat..... 82,108 tons Bran..... 1,732 " Linseed..... 1,182 " Copper bars..... 276 " Bones..... 1,059 " Quebracho..... 26,741 " Mour..... 2,658 "

Saturday March 21st 1896.

The bears got an awful dressing to-day. The bulls put on the screw most numerically, seeing by the faint efforts of the bears to cover that there was a big shortage, and the squeeze was tremendous. Every operation seemed to wring a groan out of exhausted Bruin; every sale market of an advance; and though the market was prepared for a "compro" and a certain buoyancy or elasticity in prices, as the pressure increased or relaxed, it was completely floored when the quotation shot up almost in a bound to 322 and threatened to stay there, such was the heavy demand for cash gold. The bears were flanked, surrounded, harassed and squeezed. The rates bounded; "compro" was the cry all round, and such was the influence of the scene on the outside market straining in the wake of the speculation, that rumours began to get rife of fresh complications in Chile, Quirno Costa resigning his franking, and all the unpromising consequences that a diplomatic rupture would entail. The purchase of the new ironclad by our transandine neighbours was also much discussed; but though the Chilean question's new development, and the possibility of war always exert a certain pressure, it must not be forgotten that the actual state of the market was working the lever. Rumors were rife all day and it was known that there was an unusual stir in the Government House. The report spread at one moment that news had been received to the effect that the Chileans were massing troops on the frontier. Exchange continues weak. The advices from abroad about stocks and produce are most reassuring, but they scarcely seem to influence gold in the slightest, and this strengthens the conviction that gold is still cheap, with a very desolate end of month outlook for the bears.

Discounts were quoted at 8 1/4 to 9%.

Now that the South seems waking up the Government should take time by the forelock and see about carrying off two important and much needed works, that is bridges over the Rio Colorado and Rio Negro. Both are very badly wanted and would contribute powerfully to the development of the whole region, especially if the colonization of the Colorado is carried out. Congress actually voted some time back the funds for the Rio Negro bridge, but nothing was ever done, the matter being probably quite forgotten in the military movement going on, purchase of ironclads and armament, settlement of limits question, yellow fever scare and so on. But the bridges have to come, and the business might as well be tackled now as later on.

With reference to a query in our last issue about paper tarpaulins, the manager of the Gonzalez Repaywork here, Mr. George H. Clark, called on us to-day, and very pertinently asked us why his paper when a better article is to be had. His company, which is the biggest concern in this line in the world, having started 160 years ago, has a fine deposit at 243 Mejico, and has filled orders from all the leading railway companies here, having some important orders still on hand. It has warehouses all over the world, in frigid Christiana and torrid Bombay, its system being to eliminate "drummers" and start agencies and deposits wherever there is a promise of business. Their Birkinyro tarpaulins are a special feature of the trade.

Poor Santa Fé! It is in a melancholy state of disorder and dilapidation: the colonies broken up by bad harvests and harassed by the tax gatherer, lands falling out to cover, and of course prices immediately stiffened, with the result that the rate after the first hour to-day was held at \$18.50 and this without rumours, complications or untoward circumstances of any kind. The fact is there is little gold offering with the market in this state, though paper is not over plentiful either, but the prospects do not hold out the slightest gleam of promise for a bearish move, and the bears, bilious with the gorgeful gold, are getting out as fast as they can. Exchange is dropping, the contagio keeps hard—half to full point for end of month and 4 1/4 to 5 points for end of April, and gold always in demand. Then the produce is moving off very slowly, and take the situation as you will, there is scarcely a relieving feature about it from a bearish stand-point. Anything likely to turn up would, furthermore, rather tend to accumulate, the market in the groove which it moves in at present, than otherwise.

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lets of South America. Exchange is down in Chile, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

The winding up of the week's business withdrew the daily concourse in our markets. What with accounts and the intermediate flashes of the sun, consignatarios considered it better to hold out till Monday for operations. It is a peculiar feature in produce circles, that with a rising gold premium, the sales all round seem to fall off, as long as gold was down large transactions were daily reported in maize, wheat and wool, and now that everything favours these articles on notices that instead of progressing there is a sharp fall in both demand and competition. Where it is most noticed is in Rosario—the centre of cereals, the drowsiness that has come on that market is put down to the inconsistent movements of the Buenos Aires Bolsa. Every excuse is to a point plausible, but one who has the run of affairs in the said Bolsa finds the pretence very poor.

One can well understand that our markets here suffer on a Saturday, as everybody is aware that the business transactions do not fit into a hat, but why other small markets should be affected with the current spleen is beyond the grasp of many.

The past rains have done some damage, but the youngsters—maize—is thriving and promises to throw all other grains out of the market.

The London colonial wool auctions ended up in a brilliant style; at the wind up prices jumped, competition increased, running off with 73,000 bales and only leaving 3,000 bales on the auctioneers' hands. A slight damp in the news from Antwerp, but the difference of a few centimes tells very little on our markets. Our stock is still over 10,000,000 ks, and from what we have heard there are several large orders on hand. From certain authorities we hear that 700,000 kilos of wool were sold this morning, but taking circumstances into consideration we doubt if the sales arrived at these figures. The prices do not seem to have moved, but we depend on Messrs. Devoto, Balbiani and Co.'s review to give an exact idea of the current rates.

Our foreign textile markets appear to have sufficient on hand for working purposes; the point is whether they will have enough for the season, or rather say the year, as it often noticed here that towards the end of the season several "artistas" are hard pushed and are obliged to pay prices that do not tend towards filling their pockets.

The following was sold in the Central Produce Market:— Cross-Lincoln wool—25,000 kilos at 10.50 20,000 do do 10.00 17,000 do do 9.90 20,000 do do 9.50 20,000 do do 9.60.

Do mixed—20,000 kilos at 8. 8.60 and 8.50 8,000 do do 8.50 5,000 do do 7.50.

Do fine—15,000 kilos at 9.30 18,000 do do 9.20 18,000 do do 9. 8,000 do do 8.50 10,000 do do 8.70 5,000 do do 8.20 4,500 do do 8.

Do cross—2,000 kilos at 9.50 10,000 do do 8. 5,000 do do 8. 2,000 do do 7.50 7,000 do do 7.50.

Do fine—700 kilos at 8.00 2,000 do do 4. 1,000 do do 3.60.

Do mixed—200 kilos at 6.00. Sheepskins "consumo"—10 dozen at 0.67 20 do do 0.65.

Do Desechos—100 dozen at 0.49 50 do do 0.45.

Cow hides "consumo"—50 hides at 9.40 50 do do 9.20 100 do do 9.00 80 do do 8.60 250 do Estancieros 2.70 gold, 30 do weight 10. 30 do 9.50.

Nonato—20 hides at 10.00 50 do do 9.30.

Horse-hides—10 hides at 6.30 20 do do 6.20.

Horse hair—100 kilos at 15. 200 do do 14.50 150 do do 13.

Wheat is now quoted at 24s. 9d. in London, lined at 30s. 6d. and maize at 13s. The telegrams from Antwerp report lined at 19 1/2 francs, maize at 8 and wheat at 14 francs.

The wheat markets have closed firm, a couple of thousand bags were sold in the Once, the consumo paying for superior barilleta 8.20.

A few transactions were also done in maize, 2,000 bags were sold in the Darsona at 3.05 and 3.20, in the Riachuelo 800 were sold at 3.10, and 653 bags in the Boca at 3.10. Superior morocho was quoted at 2.70. Nothing was spoken of in linseed.

The following is the stock on hand in the Central:— Bags Kilos Wool..... 10,945,192 Wheat..... 6,285 Maize..... 21,047 Other cereals..... 7,158 Flour..... 4,919

Total..... 39,400 10,945,192

The Review of the River Plate gives the following table, which compares the arrivals of cereals this year with those of last at same period:—

Table with 3 columns: Year, Tons, and another column. Rows include Wheat arrivals, shipments, Maize arrivals, shipments, Linseed arrivals, shipments for 1896 and 1895.

LITTLE'S SHEEP DIPS FLUID and POWDER CHEAP, SURE AND RELIABLE Cures for Scab. Sole Importers RUNCIMAN & Co. 158 Chacabuco, Buenos Aires

