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The Standard.

"Nil in die audiam, nil veri non audiam dicere."  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1866.

CROSSING THE RUBICON.

We are led to believe from the tenor of the letters received from Corrientes that, all preparations being now complete, the arrival of Tamandaré will be the signal for a general move along the allied lines, to put in execution the long-talked-of invasion of Paraguay. A question therefore very naturally suggests itself, *Who crosses first?*

From the lie of the allied camp and position of the forces, it would seem that the Argentines are to shew the Brazilians the way across the river, yet it is difficult to suppose that the latter with almost double the numbers would yield to the military emulation of their allies, and permit the Argentines the honor of first setting foot in the enemy's country.

Casual observers might anticipate in this matter the elements of a very serious question, and one which would require all the prudence and sagacity of the Commander-in-chief to overcome. The battle of the 31st, which was at most but a mere skirmish, drew down upon Pres. Mitre the most acrimonious attacks, because the brunt of the fight fell to the Buenos Ayreans; the newspapers and the public asked where were the Brazilians? as if these much abused warriors could possibly, like Sir Boyle Roche's bird, be in two places at the same time. But the crossing of a wide, deep and rapid river in the teeth of the enemy is a very different matter; the enterprise is even attended with more danger than glory; and it is very likely when all circumstances are taken in consideration that our allies would be no ways unwilling to allow the Argentines all the honor and glory of first landing in Paraguay provided they managed to clear the banks of the enemy.

The programme as we understand it, is, that the Baron de Port Alegre with his wing of the Brazilian army is to cross at Candelaria and march down the right banks of the Paraná, in the direction of the Paso de la Patria, so as to take the Paraguayans on the flank, whilst the Squadron ascends the river and shells the enemy at the Pass—then the Argentines, under cover of the guns of the fleet, are to cross at the Paso de la Patria and storm the enemy in the trenches. Thus it will be seen that the Brazilians not only cross the river first but also by the effective aid of the fleet render the passage for the Argentines less perilous. But all these manoeuvres and tactics do not diminish in one iota the real difficulties in the way. The aid the Squadron can afford the Argentines, we apprehend, could as well be given to General Osorio and his thirty thousand men; and as for the flank movement of the Baron Port Alegre we repose but little trust in it as the Baron and his men are all under medical treatment at San Borja, and months must elapse ere they could reach Candelaria even when convalescent.

As far as we can judge from what we hear respecting the defences of the Paraguayans at the Paso de la Patria, we are slow to believe that a hide-and-seek fight between gunboats and earthworks can result in anything. Charleston withstood all the combined attacks of the U. S. fleet for a period which baffled all the calculations of every navy man in Europe, and at last succumbed to Sherman by land,—and Baron Tamandaré will yet learn the impotence of gunboats and even iron-clads against sand-banks and well constructed earth-works.

The bayonet and not the gunboats must dislodge the enemy at the Paso de la Patria, and the sooner the Baron

Tamandaré and General Osorio open their eyes to this fact the better.

We cannot take on us to condemn the crossing of the Paraná at a spot where the enemy is so well prepared, as owing to the natural aspect of the country, the absence of roads, and the almost impenetrable jungles along the river, it is next to impossible to pass at any other spot, but if the river is to be crossed at the Paso de la Patria, the Argentine and Brazilian regiments should cross together so that the responsibility of the fight be divided as much as possible. The presence of the fleet and the unobstructed march of the Baron Port Alegre are all very good in their way, but far better and more effective would be ten thousand Brazilian bayonets landed on the far side of the Pass. If the Paraguayans hold out, the fight has to be fought; it will cost torrents of blood, but there is no alternative: a pitched battle sooner or later must come off, and although at the Paso de la Patria the Paraguayans have certainly the advantage, we doubt if the allies could select a better spot in Paraguay to decide the fate of the campaign.

Matto Grosso has to be retaken, its imprisoned President to be liberated, and the wrongs of Brazil to be avenged,—none fitter therefore to first cross the Rubicon than the Brazilians themselves. Gen. Mitre ought to move aside, let the Brazilian army come up to the river bank, and when the question is put,—*Who crosses first?* Gen. Osorio should jump into the boat, and answer 'the Brazilians.'

ANOTHER LETTER FROM SINBAD.

HOSPITALITY OF THE ARGENTINE COMMANDERS.  
On board the Espigador,  
near Goya, Feb. 10th.

Gentlemen,—  
Yesterday I mailed in Corrientes a letter to you. To-day is Saturday: I mean, if Providence does not otherwise determine, to be back to that city early on the ensuing Wednesday, in time to give you something by the mail steamer.

Words cannot give you an idea of Corrientes at the present moment—every house or room that is inhabitable is filled with Brazilian officers. Two-and-a-half ounces are paid for the rental of a place hardly large enough to contain a bed and two chairs. Goods cost more to land them from a vessel moored under the bank and carry the same 500 yards, than they do to cart them in your city from the merchant's store to the Boca and the freight up to Corrientes. There are no such persons as cooks or washerwomen to be had; poor women and girls who never possessed an ounce, have now bags of gold; the least work done by a changador, if it is only a five minutes' job, the charge is a Bolivian dollar. Mr. Washburne paid for the portorage (a distance of two cuadras) of two trunks, a carpet-bag and a portable desk, six Bolivian dollars. The charge for a dinner at any common restaurant is a dollar and a half, at the hotels, two dollars. Sharpers who are conversant with the localities of Baden-Baden, Germany, or Poles who have held rank in the rebel States of the North, congregate at hotels, where they live in great style—where they come from, or how they get money to pay their way, no one can tell.

In the disjointed paper of yesterday I did not tell you one half of the adventures that befel me at headquarters; in fact, I had no chance to do so, the suffocating heat, the swarms of flies, some of which bite in a most savage manner in the daytime, while the mosquitoes, as soon as it is dark, torment one to frenzy.

Touching my errand, President Mitre offered me every facility, as did Gens. Gelly, and Emilio Mitre: Colonel Nelson offered to share his tent with me for a week or a month, or for the whole campaign; Rivas also offered his services unsolicited. It is indispensably necessary to be on the spot to know what passes there. The day we left the camp we had not gone a mile on our journey when we heard cannon in the direction of the Paso de la Patria; the firing continued until noon. It was evidently target-firing on the Paraguayan side of the Paraná. As we came in sight of the Brazilian camp,

Osorio came with an escort to our carriage, enquiring if any battle was going on at the Paso—we knew no more of matters than he did—he pronounced it to be target-shooting, and galloped back, it was some 2 o'clock p.m. At dark, a dashing Brazilian officer was recounting the exploits of the day—how Osorio had, at the head of his light troops, put to the sword an unknown number of the enemy. I asked but one question, and that was enough, at what hour did the fight begin? At sunrise, was the reply. In the afternoon of yesterday a Brazilian steam-transport, with troops and two vessels in tow, reached Corrientes. Two leagues below the city we passed a very large steamer, with troops, towing a floating battery and schooner-brig.

The Criminal Judge, Pastor I. Obligado, has left his post abruptly and gone to your city in disgust.

There is no word of Tamandaré; he was to have been here a month ago, and no signs of him yet.

SINBAD.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

Dr. Rawson, the National Prime Minister, left yesterday in Provedor for Corrientes, to consult with the President on ministerial matters of importance.

Admiral Tamandaré, previous to leaving for Humaitá, made it will: this we have on the very best authority.

The American Minister, Mr. Washburne, will leave next week for Paraguay. We hear that he will probably go up in the Shawmut.

The U. S. flagship Susquehanna will leave for the States as soon as the Brooklyn arrives.

The meeting at the Club on Thursday night was rather well attended, and some splendid oratorical demonstration on the part of a popular English merchant and a fashionable broker, on the subject of a quorum, much talked of—the motion that any number present after three times advertising the meeting in the 'Standard' was put and carried unanimously.

Yesterday morning we received the following telegram from our active agent on the beach:—

George Kean's Whale boat Office,  
Paseo de Julio, No. 39.

In sight steamer Provedor, with General Flores on board, 6 1/2 a.m.

The long-looked for steamer Halley has at last arrived at Montevideo, as also the Leda, Commodore Brownrigg, bringing one day's later news than the packet. We hope Captain, B. has brought us the 'Times' of the 10th, as it will have positive news about the Argentine loan. As yet we have not received it. The list of passengers, per Leda, we publish in another column.

The Brazilian packet Brazil, has also arrived from Rio, bringing a number of passengers, and, we understand, some gold for the army. Another English steamer, the Susan Beirne, chartered by the Brazilian Government, has arrived at Montevideo with gunpowder and rockets, balls, &c. She will proceed to Corrientes in company with a fourth Brazilian iron-clad, the Bahia, which arrived from Rio on the 15th. The Brazilians have now four iron-clads or monitors in these waters; and the Minerva, the best and most powerful of all, now Bahia, is at Montevideo. We suppose these iron-clads will be turned to some account; for, after all, of what use are they if Humaitá cannot be taken?

We notice that Sr. Octaviano, the Special Brazilian Minister in Buenos Ayres, published a letter in the 'Nacion,' denying that he is the author of the articles defending Tamandaré, which have been published in the papers, signed 'O.' It seems to have been a sort of practical joke on the Minister.

The mistakes of our colleagues in Paraguayan matters are really most amusing. We notice in Thursday night's 'Nacion' a correspondent, who states that the day after the battle of the 31st, there was a continued firing heard all day long on the Paraguayan side, stretching from Humaitá away up the banks of the Paraná, and that it was supposed there was a mutiny in the Paraguayan camp, or something of the kind. By a passenger

lately arrived from Corrientes, we learn that so far from this being a mutiny, it was well known in that city that the Paraguayans were celebrating the great victory which they alleged they won on the 31st. Lopez, we learn, has published a proclamation, stating that the Paraguayans won a great victory, killing over 4000 Argentines, and wounding as many more. These outrageous exaggerations are too common in South American warfare.

An English gentleman requests us to call the attention of the manager of the Great Southern Railway to the necessity of putting lights in the carriages in the last train.

'Sinbad's' letter in yesterday's 'Standard' has caused great attention, and was the general topic in every English circle yesterday. It seems that the Paraguayans are actually forced in the woods on the Argentine side of the river. This is a new feature in the campaign of which few were aware. It would seem, therefore, that before the allies attempt to cross the river they must eject the enemy from the woods.

The concert at the Coliseum on Tuesday next promises to be the great event of the season. We publish the programme to-day: the tickets are in great demand.

We hear from a passenger in the Paysandú that a small steamer has gone down in front of Goya; her name is unknown, but it is said she loaded at the Boca, and was bound for Corrientes.

The masque ball at the Coliseum, advertised for to-night, has been suspended, in consequence of the numerous masque balls coming off elsewhere. It will however take place some day next week. We understand that there will be a ball at the Progreso to-night or to-morrow night.

In the province of Rioja there has been a great 'ereciete.' An immense body of water rushed down on the town sweeping away everything; and the principal street, Calle Matriz, was converted into a river. Never before was there such an inundation known in Rioja: as yet we have not heard the amount of damage. It seems to have rained terribly up in the provinces, as from all quarters we hear of rivers overflowing their banks, and covering the surrounding country with water.

There seems to be some small revolution going on in Catamarca. Adolfo Carranza and Pedro Azote are the leaders, and pretend to have the countenance of one of the Ministers of the National Government.

Latest advices from Corrientes state that the river Parana has commenced to fall rapidly, and in another week it is thought there will not be water enough for the squadron to go up to the Paso de la Patria.

The Globe Hotel has not been burnt down as was rumored. The fire took place in another house, about three squares off from the hotel in question.

The steamer Iron King has at last left the Tigre. She has been painted, repaired, &c., and will start for Rosario on Wednesday next.

Dr. Terry, a well-known native doctor, who practised in San Antonio de Areco, the Fortin, and other country towns is dead.

On the 4th of February the whole Brazilian army, 30,000 men, stood at arms ready to advance, in consequence of a signal having been given by the Commander-in-Chief.

Parties having lillas, bandages, &c., to send to the wounded soldiers, can send same to our office, from whence they will be duly forwarded.

Mines are the true source of wealth in every country, gold mines are the best, but kerosene are not to be despised. Unfortunately, however, mines in the Upper Provinces are a constant subject of litigation, and when lawsuits are wanting, the gaming-table takes their place, as in Copiapo, and kerosene is now producing little results in Jujuy. Formerly this Province was the quietest, now it is the noisiest. The discoverers of kerosene demanded a monopoly, and to obtain this have turned the Province upside down. The first kerosene man came to Buenos Ayres to petition Congress—he missed his aim and his reason—he is now locked up in the Convalescencia. His friends subsequently obtained a privilege from the legislature of Jujuy,

but now they have got into a lawsuit with all the neighbors, who are the right owners of the land where the kerosene exists. Mr. Miguel J. Arnoz is the principal landowner where the kerosene exists, and he refuses to allow any kerosene men on his land. The kerosene people insist on their right to dig up wherever a spring exists, and the owners of the land deny this, alleging that the Legislature can not give away their private property.

We decide the matter in favor of the owners of the land, at least until there is an express law on the subject. This unfortunate dispute has plunged Jujuy into darkness—there are no candles in the Province—the people believing the Province would be lit up with kerosene, which they now find out to their cost to be a very great mistake. The roads in Jujuy nevertheless are filled with people going and coming from Bolivia, but the great obscurity in Jujuy interferes with the traffic, for this reason we have not a word from Bolivia although 6 revolutions were going on there last month. It is rumoured however that a great battle was imminent at La Paz which would settle every thing, as it was known that Melgarejo had left Potosi for that town.

LIEUTENANT LOWRY.

It is with the most sincere regret that we learn the Argentine naval service is about to lose this young and gallant officer who gave such promise of a brilliant career in the profession rendered illustrious by the name of Brown. Before the present war we were unacquainted with Mr. Lowry, and the admiration for his conduct so freely expressed in our columns was provoked by his valor at the pass of Cuevas. We confess that we entertain, since then, a strong prejudice in his favor, and view with indignation the miserable jealousy and rivalries in the service which have led him to hand in his resignation. Lieut. Lowry is a very young man and son of a respected American resident: carried away by a generous enthusiasm to do battle for the country of his nativity, he joined the service, without any sordid motive, and soon won the esteem of Admiral Mitratore. During eight months service with the fleet he suffered much hardship, and while maintaining strict discipline among the men under his charge, was highly esteemed by them for his attention to their wants. Hence arose the immediate cause of his disgust, for he spoke out boldly against the back-sliding officials enclashed with victualling the vessels, and raised a storm against himself which gained strength by the jealousy of many who pretended to be his friends. We have received from Lieut. Lowry the following letter on the subject:

B. Ayres, Feb 15th 1866.  
To the Editors of the 'Standard.'  
Gentlemen,

It is with a heavy heart that I have to inform you of my intention to forward by this steamer my resignation to Admiral Muratori. I do so with regret as far as concerns the flag and the good cause, but totally disgusted with the system of our naval service. I, all along, endeavored to do my duty, but got little thanks, and quite shut the door on my own promotion by denouncing the rascally conduct of certain officers who deprived our men of many of the few necessities of life allowed them by the Government. I was often warned by my brother-officers of the consequences of my speaking so boldly, and false reports concerning me were returned to Admiral Muratori who at first refused to believe them but was afterwards prejudiced by my superior officers.

The Government is little aware of the way in which things go on in our navy-service. I have seen men promoted for screening the peccadilloes of their superiors. I have seen two officers of rank go out and fight a bloody duel, and get promotion instead of a court-martial. I have seen officers who served in the first navy of the world denied the posts which were given to men of no merit whatever. I have seen the rules and regulations of the service set at naught. I have seen an officer beat his men with his sword for complaining of ill-treatment. In a word I have seen such abuses as must bring the profession into discredit, instead of encouraging young

men to join who would devote all their means and energies in the service.

In returning you my best thanks for your frequent flattering allusions to my services, I may be permitted to mention a case which will shew you what room we had to distinguish ourselves in the service, and how much jealousy a little pluck may bring on the possessor.

When lying at anchor, last July, in the Orzada del Chimbolá, we were informed by persons coming from the enemy's lines that the Paraguayans at the Riachuelo had taken out the guns from the wreck of the Jequitinhonha, which greatly enraged the Brazilian admiral, and I believe he went so far as to ask for volunteers among his vessels to go and burn her. After some time he got 4 correntinos (vaqueanos) who went and soon returned without having done any thing. Before they started I resolved to jump at this chance of distinguishing myself, and accordingly sent in a proposal to Admiral Muratore that if he would furnish me with the 'launch', a small 4-pounder gun, and 15 picked men, I would go up to Corrientes, find out the strength and condition of the enemy, then come down past the wreck without touching her, reconnoitre the batteries of Mercedes, and then go up again, burn the wreck, and on my way down bring away one of the launches sent by the enemy every night to keep a look-out. It was of course a risky business, the whole river from Chimbolá to Corrientes (45 miles) being in the hands of the enemy with their batteries, steamers and canoes. The old Admiral was much pleased with my offer, manned his gig, and went to lay it before the Brazilian commander, Barroso: after much conversation, the latter refused to permit it, as being too perilous, and Muratori came back in disgust saying to me "Never mind, there may be a chance yet and I will certainly give it to you."

You have now my reasons for abandoning the service which I entered with such high hopes and ardent wishes, and I have to beg of you to lay them before the public in my own justification.

Yours very truly,

J. LOWRY.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

Montevideo Stock makes its appearance at a quotation of 62 1/2; 'bulls' say it is for the balance of 1866; 'bears' say it is meant to be put in the balance. I leave this nut for you to crack. A matter which even here has caused a good deal of talk, is that the new Finance Minister of Austria, Count Larisch-Moenich, has prohibited the 'Credit Anstalt' at Vienna [Credit Mobilier of Austria], from declaring a dividend, until they prove that the quotation of stock which appears in their balance is real and has a worth, and not merely a figure taken to show a gain where none really exists, as it would be impossible to realize at the quotations taken, and the Board of Directors resigned, finding the Minister too smart for them. City men think such a proceeding might be very good here, though it would throw some of our Joint Stock Companies into a terrible mess, who are now doing brilliant affairs on the supposed worth of stock which has none or does not exist.

There has been a large fire in the St. Catherine's Docks, which commenced New Year's Day.

The usual amount of pantomime, harlequin, and columbine, inherent on Christmas, and ten thousand arbores of plum-pudding, distributed amongst the poor of the metropolis, who show an increase of some 1400, there being a decrease in only six parishes.

Continental news is little, remarkably little: Spain suffering from fits and convulsions. In Paris they have been at the Orsini game again: one bomb was exploded near the Madeleine, and another near the Louvre, but as it is a free press only under 'avertissement,' the order has been 'mum,' and not a word has been said in any paper on the subject.

"All that glitters," &c. You know the English and French Ambassadors did not attend the banquet given on the marriage of the Princess Alex-



