

MAUVA BANK, 101-103 CALLE CANGALLO

The office of this Bank having been removed to the above spacious building, in order to suit the increasing flow of business, the following transactions are carried on in currency and specie in this Bank:—

First—Bills and obligations with good signatures are discounted on conventional terms. Second—Accounts current are opened with Merchants or other parties who may prefer depositing their money in the Bank, as also on all other conditions established for such class of operations.

Fourth—Money is received in account current, bearing interest from day of deposit, which is accumulated in favor of the parties every three months, by means of cheques, part or the full amount at their wish, save when the quantity exceeds three hundred dollars or one hundred thousand dollars currency, in which case forty-eight hours' previous notice is required to be given at the Treasury of the Bank.

Finally, the Bank undertakes and executes all legitimate transactions within the orbit of banking operations. The establishment is always open from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.

P. P. MAUVA & CO. MORIM. M. A. DE FREITAS MORIM. January 1st, 1868.

MAUVA BANK, 101-103 CALLE CANGALLO

INTEREST FOR CURRENT MONTH. IN ACCOUNT CURRENT, SPECIE, 12 per cent.

For balances in favor of Customers 6 per cent. For balances in favor of Customers 6 per cent. For balances in favor of Customers 6 per cent.

Fixed deposits from 100 to 1000 dollars, 5 per cent. For 30 days, 4 per cent. For 60 days, 3 per cent.

For discounts a minimum of 5 per cent. On discount account current 12 per cent. In both currencies, J. H. GREEN, MANAGER.

ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY

REDUCTION OF FARES. The Royal Mail Steamship "ARNO," J. BURCE, COMMANDER, will leave this Port for Montevideo and Rio de Janeiro, ON SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER, 1868.

At Rio de Janeiro, the "Auro" will meet with and will transfer to care of the Company's Transatlantic Packets Passengers and Freight for the following Ports, viz:—Bahia, Pernambuco, St. Vincent [Cape de Verde Islands], Lisbon, and Southampton.

Passengers by this Vessel are requested to embark before FOUR P.M. on the above-named Day, as the "Auro" will leave precisely at that hour.

CARGO will, in future, be received on Board the "Auro" for Rio, Bahia, and Pernambuco.

The Royal Mail Steamship Company have made the following REDUCTIONS in their Rates of Passage:—

First-class to Southampton, £35 and upwards. Ditto, "Lisbon," £35. Ditto, "Lisbon," £35. Specie: One-Half per Cent.

RETURN TICKETS granted at the above Rates available for TWELVE Months.

A Deduction of ONE-SIXTH made to Families Paying the Higher Rates, when such equal or exceed Four Adult Passages.

RETURN TICKETS are now Issued to RIO DE JANEIRO, available for THREE Months, with an Abatement of 25 per Cent.

For further particulars, apply to ABRAHAM ROBINSON, 104, SPANISH.

RIVER PLATE

TELEGRAPH COMPANY (LIMITED).

CHIEF OFFICES: CALLE LAS PIEDRAS, MONTEVIDEO. CENTRAL STATION: 87 CALLE CANGALLO, BUENOS AYRES.

MAIN LINE: Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, Rosario, B. O.

GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY BRANCH: South Barracas, South Barracas, Lomas de Zamora, San Vicente, Chascomus.

NORTHERN RAILWAY BRANCH: Retiro, Belgrano, Olivos.

MAIN LINE TARIFF: Ten Words, exclusive of Address, \$50/mc, or \$7.12. For every additional Ten Words, \$25/mc, or \$3.12.

GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY BRANCH: Ten Words, exclusive of Address, \$10/mc, or \$1.12. For every additional Ten Words, \$5/mc, or \$0.60.

Messages delivered Free within Three Squares from the Plaza Constitution, and Six Squares from South Barracas, and for every square beyond this distance One Station to be fixed upon at the Rates for other Stations on the Line.

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NO. 2064—EIGHTH YEAR.

LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).

80—CALLE DE LA PIEDAD—80. Authorized Capital £2,000,000 sterling. Subscribed Capital £1,500,000 do. Reserve Fund Jan. 1868 £210,000 do.

Current accounts opened with parties properly introduced and interest allowed on credit balances. Customers have the advantage of drawing cheques on London, Rio Janeiro, St. Fe, Salto Oriental, Paysandú, Rio Grande, and other places in the Brazil, England and France, as also on other places, of which notice will be given hereafter.

Finally, the Bank undertakes and executes all legitimate transactions within the orbit of banking operations. The establishment is always open from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.

P. P. MAUVA & CO. MORIM. M. A. DE FREITAS MORIM. January 1st, 1868.

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For discounts a minimum of 5 per cent. On discount account current 12 per cent. In both currencies, J. H. GREEN, MANAGER.

ARGENTINE MARINE INSURANCE CO.

Established in this City. Insure at Moderate Premiums all R. ks by Sea or on the River.

OFFICE—118 CALLE PIEDAD. DIRECTORS: Thomas Armstrong, President. Jacobo F. Moreno, Vice-President. Ambrosio P. Lopez, Secretary. Enrique Tomkinson, Mariano Casares, Hernando Yturra, Antonio Denarri.

TORRES Y SCHICKELDANTZ—Comisionarios de las Seguros de Mar y Fuego para el Establecimiento de esta Ciudad, Calle de Estados Unidos 211, w/m Defensa 179. 25 xp 45

FAMILY WINE MERCHANTS. Port, Very Old, something quite superior. Sherries, Do. and the finest flavor. Claret, the best imported: in Quarts and Pints.

A Trial is requested. HENDERSON AND MURDOCK, 108, CALLE VENEZUELA.

MARTELL'S BRANDY, Eight Years in Wood, considered the finest in town. Bottled by and only to be had from HENDERSON AND MURDOCK, 108, Calle Venezuela. 66, xp, 413

NOVELTY IN BOTTLES, at No. 108, CALLE VENEZUELA. Claret, in Pint Bottles, at No. 108, CALLE VENEZUELA.

MILES and PORTERS—Ind., Coopers, and Co.'s Pale Ale, in Quarts and Pints; Bass and Co.'s Extra Stout, in Quarts and Pints; Barclay and Perkins' and Co.'s Imperial Stout, in Quarts and Pints; London Stout, in Quarts and Pints.

HENDERSON AND MURDOCK, 108, CALLE VENEZUELA. 67, xp, 413

SAIIMAKER—CALLE CANGALLO, 36. In the above Establishment a first-class selection of tobacco, snuff, yalve sin fondo, covers for carts, water buckets, &c. Carried on all ways by made to order at the shortest notice, and at a moderate price. FRANCIS QUINTIN, Proprietor. 326, xp, 27

RIVER PLATE HANDBOOK, FOR 1869. ADVERTISEMENTS Received at this Office.

GUINNESS'S Celebrated Extra Stout in quarts and pints at BARRY & WALKER'S, Sole Agents, 97—Calle Defensa—97. 155—xp, m26

CARLOS E. CAK E R L E Y, Consignatario de Frutos del Pais, Wool and Produce Broker. Cusa Amarrilla, Camino de la Boca, Buenos Ayres. 312, lm, 027

TEA! TEA! TEA! Notwithstanding the recent Advance in the Price of Tea, I continue to supply my CONGOU (Souchong) Family at \$16 PER POUND, \$1.60 per Chest.

A Quarter-Pound sample may be had for Four Dollars. Those who study economy should give it a Trial. CASH ONLY.

GOVERNMENT DELIGATE: Sr. Don Jose Maria Cantillo. HUGO BRUNO, Director. Sr. Don Victor Martinez. Sr. Don Eduardo T. Muilhal. Sr. Don Francisco Alcobendas. Sr. Don Estanislao Frias. Director-GENERAL: Sr. Don Francisco F. Moreno. 114, CALLE PIEDAD (Upstairs).

POSITION OF THE COMPANY, MARCH 1st, 1868. SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL: Hard Dollars, \$730,865-50. No. of Policies, 4,616. It being a fact that "Money makes money," the object of LA BIENHECHORA DEL PLATA—An Argentine Company, whose only investments are in the country—hold out to subscribers greater advantages than any other Institution, by reason of all its dealings being in the River Plate, where are current all large interests in any part of the world.

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ALAZAR LYRIQUE, 147-CALLE VICTORIA-147

DIRECTOR: MR. CHERI LABROCAIRE.

LE RETOUR DULYSSE Opéra mytologique en un acte.

GIFTS AND PRESENTS FOR Christmas and the New Year,

PER S.S. CITY OF BRUSSELS, &c.

We are in expectation of despatching from the Custom-house, in the course of the week, a variety of articles suitable for presentation and for personal use.

GAMES—King's-head game, Pope Joan Boards, riddle, zig-zag, snap game, card and bone alphabets, mousetrap, dominoes, and boards, draft men in carved ivory and boards, cribbage boards in saddle wood, dice-box, cribbage-boards, portable B.C.D. rolls, a large supply of conversation and card games, including the "happy families," stereoscopes and views, race games and playing cards of all prices.

CHILDREN'S TOY AND STORY BOOKS.—Several cases of the last publications of Ward, Ward, and Lock, Routledge, and other houses in London.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Fifty different articles in the much admired Scotch, tartan, fancy patterns, inkstands of all kinds, gold pencil cases and gold penholders, from the well-known Mordan, Dutton, and Crumley, and aluminium pencil cases, microscopes, polished side ivory tables, shell card cases, a new supply of oval and round work-boxes with various fittings, work-boxes, ballpoint pens, and other, scalping hand-boxes, a variety of purses for ladies and gentlemen, card cases, ladies' portfolios, writing cases, besides an infinity of articles already in stock.

MAKERS' BROTHERS, 44-Calle San Martin-44, 6248, 1m.

NOTICE.

THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE DAILY & WEEKLY STANDARD in and about Chetoomus, will please take notice that on and after the 1st of January, the Agents of the STANDARD in that city, Messrs. Auld and Pettigrew, take the exclusive charge of the subscription and delivery of the STANDARD, they taking for their own account all papers hitherto sent to subscribers in that district. Papers owing back subscriptions will not be sent to Messrs. Auld and Pettigrew, at their former convenience. "Standard" Office, Dec. 1, 1868.

THE EDITORS.

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE STANDARD \$30 PER MONTH.

ADVERTISEMENTS NOT EXCEEDING FIVE LINES INSERTED SIX TIMES FOR \$10.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Standard.

"Nil falsi audiam, nisi certi non audiam dicere."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1868.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM FOR "STANDARD."

LATEST FROM MONTEVIDEO.

Montevideo, December 28, Six, P.M.

The funeral of Gen. Joaquin Suarez took place this morning.

All the National Guards and troops of the Line turned out in the Plaza Constitucion, and a crowd of people present.

When firing a salute, a soldier's gun burst and carried off his hand.

The remains of General Suarez were buried in the Cathedral.

All rumours of a revolution at an end, and perfect tranquillity reigns.

Should the Paraguayan war be brought to a conclusion, it is expected the Blancos may rise.

No bull fight yesterday.

Norma was given at the Solis, and Madame Carrozzi was nothing short of sublime.

Madame Zaccani was also admirable.

The new Zarzuela Company made its debut at San Felipe before a house crammed to excess.

No success, and pronounced to be far inferior to the other Zarzuela Company.

The steamers from B. Ayres continue to be crowded with visitors.

At the Oriental no room to be had without previous notice.

The steamers America and Rio Uruguay leave to-night for Buenos Ayres, the former with a long list of passengers.

Weather very hot.

THE AUNT'S MAILS.

Yesterday the French Mail steamer Anis, arrived with dates from Europe to 28th Nov. Telegrams from Lisbon, state that her Majesty Queen Victoria, has intimated her intention to abdicate; it is supposed in consequence of the Irish Church question. Telegraphic despatches have been received in France from New York, announcing a great fight in the island of Cuba, the defeat of the Government troops, and the surrender of Porto Rico.

ENGLAND.

A despatch from London says: that already the formation of a liberal Ministry is talked of with Lord Clarendon as Foreign Minister. Lord Clarendon is well known to be in favour of the French Alliance.

From Dublin, we learn that the Fenians were organising a demonstration in honour of those of their body who perished in 1867; the religious service to take place at the cemetery.

At a meeting of the Reform League, on the 21st Nov. the following resolution was passed:—That the gratitude and thanks of the members of the Reform League are due, and hereby given to the 7,160 electors of the Tower Hamlets, who voted for Mr. Beales at the late election, and the committee of the League are of opinion, that had the

electors belonging to the working classes had free access to the polling booths Mr. Beales would have been elected.

The result of the elections up to the 23rd November, gives 330 Liberals against 191 Conservatives.

At the elections in Ireland several riots took place, particularly in Sligo and Cork, where the sheriff's house was broken into and arms carried off, at Drogheda, fifty conservative electors were prevented from voting by the mob, the military were called out and one man was killed.

There is a project on foot for suppressing all the diplomatic representatives of England in Southern Germany, replacing them by one Minister resident in Munich, and duly accredited to all the Southern States.

FRANCE.

The general elections are still occupying the attention of the Government. The enquiry ordered by the Government to be made as to the state of the constituencies throughout France has now been almost concluded, and Mous Rouher has decided to allow the people free choice of their candidates, when these latter do not hold anti-dynastic opinions, or are not too much opposed to the existing order of things.

The Emperor notwithstanding his numerous cares, continues to occupy himself with the improvements of Paris, and had lately many interviews with Messrs. Haussman Prefet de la Seine and Frémy Governor of the Credit Foncier, on this subject.

"L'Indépendent du Centre," has been prosecuted by the Government for endeavouring to disturb the public peace, and has been acquitted.

Mazzini is reported to have died on Saturday the 21st November.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left Copenhagen on Saturday, they were accompanied to the Railway station by the Emperor, Empress and Prince Imperial.

Monsieur Monny de Mornay, Director of Agriculture died on the 13th November. He was a Commander of the Legion of Honor.

The weather has been frightfully bad in the Mediterranean, despatches and letters taking 9 days to reach Algiers from Paris.

The rumour of the death of Monsieur Beryer is false.

Monsieur Joubert was elected yesterday 22nd for Angoulême in opposition. To Monsieur Bodet the Governem candidate, by a majority of 4000 votes.

SPAIN.

General Prim held a review on the 22nd of troops of all arms. An immense number of people were present. Marshal Serrano is better.

Great changes have been made in the taxes.

The Portuguese Minister of State has arrived at Madrid and will soon leave for Paris.

The news from Cuba is very contradictory, the Royal troops are said to have been defeated. The Captain General asks for reinforcements, as there are scarcely any regular troops in Havana.

A panic prevails and business is completely suspended.

Foreign Consuls have sent for war vessels of their respective nations.

An attempt was made to liberate the prisoners in the city jails, but it was frustrated through the vigilance of the authorities.

GERMANY.

A postal treaty is spoken of between France and Prussia.

The committee of the Chamber of Deputies at Berlin named for the purpose, decided that the North Schleswig deputies Messrs. Aklmann and Kruger should be asked to take the usual parliamentary oath. These gentlemen have however again refused to take the oath required by the Prussian Constitution.

The Bill brought in by Messrs. Guernard in the Chamber of Deputies, proposing that unlimited liberty of speech should be allowed to the Deputies has been carried by a large majority.

NEW YORK.

20th November. (Per Atlantic Cable.)

The Government have ordered their Minister in Paraguay to go up to Asuncion with Admiral Davis at the head of a sufficient force, to obtain satisfaction for the wrongs inflicted on American citizens.

20th Nov. (Per Atlantic Cable.)

The Spanish Government troops have been beaten by the insurgents, who have captured Porto Rico.

GENERAL NEWS.

A new paper is about to be started in Paris, with the object of advocating the restoration of Isabella to the Spanish throne. A letter is said to have been sent by Her Majesty, to Gen. Prim the conclusion of which is conched in the following terms: "You will be forgiven on condition that you use your influence for the restoration of Isabella to the throne of Spain."

In consequence of this letter, a new solution of the difficulty is now found in the candidature of the Prince of the Asturias, with Prim as Regent and Prime Minister.

The following Diplomatic appointments have been made by the Provisional Government of Spain:—

M. J. Espana, Minister to Florence, M. Posada, to Rome, M. de Martemar, to Berlin, Rañones, to Vienna, Asque, rinó, to Brussels, Alarcon, to Copenhagen.

The Emperor of Austria, the King of the Belgians, and President Johnson have sent messages of condolence to the Rothschild family, these messages reached Paris, the day of the funeral.

The funeral service for the late maestro Rossini, will take place in the church of the Holy Trinity. The tickets for admittance to the service are eagerly sought for, even the editors of papers find a difficulty in getting them.

MOUNT VESUVIUS.

The eruption of Mount Vesuvius commenced when two new mouths appeared in the cone, near the month the eruption of 1855. Copious streams of lava were ejected and flowed over at Rio Del Cavallo, towards Fossa Yetrano, above the lava beds of 1855 and 1858. Professor Palmieri considers the eruption to be the usual precursor of a termination to a long series of central eruptions of Mount Vesuvius.

Streams of lava from Mount Vesuvius have filled up and overflowed Fosse Petroni, still following the course of the eruption of 1865. During the first two hours the lava flowed at a distance of two kilometres, but now it flows more slowly. Last night the upper cone discharged columns of ashes in the form of gigantic pine trees, illuminated by occasional flashes of flame. The eruption presents a solemn and magnificent spectacle, and many persons are proceeding to the vicinity of the mount.

The eruption of Mount Vesuvius continues with undiminished intensity. The lava is invading cultivated land, doing considerable damage, and threatening villages beneath. The maximum velocity of the lava is 140 metres per minute. It has not encountered any obstacle it will now have reached the sea. New cones in active eruption have opened at the foot of the great cone, and from them issue two streams of fire flowing into fosse Detrana. The great cone emits unfrequent but formidable explosions, violently ejecting scoriae and fire amid a dense overhanging cloud of smoke. The sisinograph is still greatly agitated.

ILLNESS OF THE POPE.

The Roman correspondent of a contemporary writes that the Pope is very unwell, though his condition is concealed at the Vatican. The journey to Civitta Vecchia gave him a cold, which he increased on All Saints' Day by descending to the Sistine Chapel, and he has since been tormented by a cough, attended with fever at night. In spite of these bad symptoms he insisted on going to the Church of San Carlo, at the Corso, on the 4th, the festival of St. Charles Borromeo, and, with difficulty, was persuaded to give up his state coach and go in a carriage carefully closed. The exposure and excitement have had a bad effect on the Pope, and his cough becomes more distressing.

The Pope is very ill. He was some days in bed, and during this time received a visit from Dr. Conneau, physician to the Emperor Napoleon, who happened to be in Rome. The Holy Father is now convalescent.—Correspondent of Pall Mall Gazette.

Professor Palmieri announces that a new cone on Mount Vesuvius has opened and is in active operation ejecting lava.

BUCHAREST.

A violent shock of earthquake was felt here at nine o'clock this morning.

COLOGNE.

Shocks of earthquake were felt at different quarters of the town this afternoon at a quarter to four o'clock.

CROONSTADT.

Communication by sea was closed to-day by large blocks of ice firmly massed together. Many steamers and sailing vessels in the port are frozen in.

WAR IN THE NORTH.

TERRIBLE FIGHTING.

It was about two o'clock in the morning when the Brazilian squadron began to bombard Angostura.

At dawn the land forces opened fire, and the Argentines fled off through the marshes encircling the Lomas de Cumburita.

Here the foremost, the Paraguayan legion and Correntino battalion, came in contact with the enemy. The broken nature of the ground prevented anything like charging, and the fight was maintained in true guerrilla style from 6 p.m. to 1 p.m., resulting in 10 men wounded and four killed.

Colonel Iurburo, who led the Paraguayan legion, anxious to get at the enemy who so sadly harassed his manoeuvres, called on General Gelly Obes to join him in dislodging them. The Argentine commander responded with a goodwill that would have convinced the most incredulous he had been only waiting during the last three years of sleepless inactivity for an opportunity to prove his prowess.

All the past had been the mere talk of army correspondents. Now was the time for the deeds of a hero.

With such noble sentiments this courageous officer led on his men.— They advanced boldly until coming within fire, when two of the foremost falling, their comrades performed the coward's manoeuvre—wheel about—march—double quick pace—before the poor wounded could pick themselves up and follow.

Thus General Rivas and the colonel, who held their ground like men, were left in the vocative case, and "quien sabe" what other objectionable Latin parts of speech the Roman darning of the enemy might have taught them but for the timely appearance of the bravo Correntinos.

Meanwhile the Brazilians gained some advantageous points, opening a heavy fire about 2 p.m. They surrounded the enemy's forces, which they knew Lopez commanded in person.

Several attempts were made to break through the besieging lines, which proving abortive, they retired into Angostura, where it is hoped, they must soon surrender for want of provisions.

The fortress seems very strong, and well supplied with artillery, which kept up a murderous fire on the attacking columns until dusk that evening.

Our loss may be set down at three thousand, that of the enemy not known for certain, but estimated at about the same.

At half-past nine that night the firing recommenced, lasting until two o'clock next morning without a moment's intermission.

The Brazilians advanced on Cumburita, where the enemy were posted on the heights awaiting them.

At eight o'clock, on the night of the 21st, General Gelly received a despatch from the Allied Commander-in-Chief ordering him to unite with the Brazilians. The Argentines at once prepared to march, and it was thought that next morning the junction would be effected.

The attack was resumed early next day [22nd], the fleet shelling the fortress in front, whilst the Imperial artillery played on it from behind. This was meant only to pave the way for the grand assault, which came off just as the Argentines emerging from the bogs, arrived at the bank of a little stream called Picusuru, which runs at the foot of the Cumburita heights, and now the fight grew fiercer, as though fresh troops were being engaged. This is all we can judge from the heavy firing.

No despatches have been received here; consequently, the result is not known positively, but it is confidently asserted that the Brazilians have taken Angostura, Lopez having succeeded during the night in cutting his way, with 500 men, through the hostile lines, and gaining the centre of the Lomas, another strong position, defended by three redoubts, crowned with heavy field guns.

The Argentines are reported to have crossed the river safely, and are united with the main army.

Lopez is safely ensconced in his last stronghold, around which the victorious Allies are fast concentrating, being masters of every other point.

To-morrow will probably decide the fate of the Dictator.

With his fall may tyranny for ever perish in this free land of South America, and may that blessed liberty for which we have so long fought and suffered, purchasing same with our life's blood, bring lasting peace and prosperity on these favoured regions.

TELEGRAM.

December 21st, 1868, Five, P.M. To Admiral Alvin.

The fighting continues. This is all that is known as yet.

We have taken three thousand head of cattle.

Lomas is surrounded, with Lopez inside.

He has a great park of artillery.

The Baroa de Triunfo asked for more infantry.

The Marquez at the head of this body was only a league off.

The bombardment continues.

Marquez Caxias' Proclamation to the Army.

Comrades! The enemy conquered by us at the Puente Honorio, and again at the Arroyo Ibañy, awaits us at the Loma Valentina, with the remnant of his army.

Let us march on them, and by giving them battle, put an end to a mistaken cause and our fatigues.

The God of Battles is with us!

Let us embrace the victory which awaits us.

I say so with confidence, for the General who has until today led you was never conquered.

MARQUEZ DE CAXIAS.

An Argentine writing to a friend in this city, complains of the secondary part his countrymen have taken in the recent glorious engagements. He attributes not to want of bravery, but the defensive position assigned them by the General in Chief. When ordered by they lost no time in effecting a junction with the Allies, although harassed by the enemy, many of whose gunners they picked down, after losing themselves 2 officers and 18 men.

Soon we shall be in front of Angostura, when the attack on the tyrant's last stronghold will be begun in earnest. This will be the grandest event in the whole war, as Lopez and Caxias will for the first time meet on the battle field. We do not fear the result, strong in the justice of our cause and the valour of our troops.

INTERIOR SKETCHES.

SKETCH THE FIRST. (Continued.)

FROM BUENOS AYRES TO CORDOVA.

My dear Standard, I was obliged to close my last rather abruptly, my Cordovese valet having abruptly tumbled into my room, and knocking over my boots and barometer, announced the departure of the mails for your city. Well, to resume my sketch—we please accept the plural for companions and self turned up—or rather were turned out of the train—at Villa Maria—mind, this is not to be confounded with Villa Nueva—the latter is the town on the south bank of the Tercero, whilst the former is the site of the new railway station. The night was as dark as a nigger at the sources of the Nile, and what with the confusion of luggage and Babel of tongues, one might suppose himself, without much stretch of the imagination, amongst the sabel denizens of those regions, or, worse, disembarking amidst the Italian boatmen at Buenos Ayres. Fortunately, we were received, and delivered by our kind and attentive friend Mr. Woods, who, with a phalanx of peons charged bravely down upon the besieging multitude, and rescued our already-captured traps from the hands of the Philistines. Then, each firmly grasping his weapon, consisting of an alpen-stock, a white umbrella, and an Albini rifle, we marched boldly after our host, stumbling over rails, bruising over brakes, and scrambling up impossible ladders—until eventually, we reached Mr. Lloyd's comfortable quarters near the station. Here we left our luggage, and proceeded to the Oriental Hotel, where an excellent dinner awaited us, thanks to the forethought of Mr. Woods. On entering we were charmed to find Sir Roger Tichborne already there, on his return from Cordova, where his patience had been worn out awaiting us, and who informed us of his altered intentions as to crossing the Pampas, preferring, like a sensible man, to return to B. Ayres, and embark for England. After dinner, two of our party accepted Mr. Wood's offer to visit the earthworks on the line to Cordova, about 19 miles off, and there take the diligence en passant the following day. A light American trap conveyed us, and packed like sardines, we rolled along splendidly, enjoying the cool night breezes. About twelve o'clock, we arrived, and stretched ourselves in tents amongst a moving village of navvies. At daybreak, we were afoot and viewing the works. About two p.m. the diligence came up and took us aboard—a most extraordinary concern, drawn by eight horses, pulling from the girth, each mounted by a postillion. The coach was full inside—so we secured the box, or 'pesante,' and thus had an opportunity of seeing more of the country along the route.

We made a post-house called "La Desgraciada" about sun-down, and put up amidst the myriads of bugs and fleas, inseparable from such places. A storm was threatening, and the barometer indicated this fact in a most marked degree. At daylight it began to rain slightly, and so continued more or less violently until noon, when a clear, bright sky and the smiling fresh waters of the Rio Segundo made us as cheerful as crickets by an English fireside.

The camps along the road from Villa Nueva to the Second River are not so good, apparently, as those farther south, and we were told, had very little water. There, however, artificial irrigation has been essayed, and about 500 squares, or 2,000 acres, of alfalfa in good condition testify to its success. It belongs to the Cabrera family.

A short distance from the post house may be seen the new iron bridge for the railway, having a total length of 510 feet, set upon cast iron columns, forming a most substantial work. It is not quite finished yet, but we were informed that all the material exists in the country for its completion. The river bed is heavy, sandy, and movable; hence we were towed across by three yokes of oxen, and with difficulty accomplished the passage. Once on the other side, we rolled along at a rattling speed, and reached the very disagreeable incline cut in the bank of the river Primero, close to the town of Cordova, about 3 p.m. Here we alighted and proceeded down on foot. About half way we got a fine view of the 'city of churches,' situated in the picturesque valley of the Primero, with its background of high rugged hills, forming the Sierra de Cordoba. Being our first visit it struck us as being a very pretty city at a distance for the abundant confusion of church steeples and domes, interspersed with a luxuriant vegetation, gave it all the appearance of a charming and interesting spot.

From the foot of the descent we dashed along, full speed, into the

town, and were regaled in the outskirts by sundry disagreeable odours, emanating, doubtless, from the corrales and barracas adjoining. The first inhabitants we met on entering were a number of friars in various costumes, fat, full, and hearty, certainly a good sample of the pious Cordoveses.

As we drove along into the Plaza we noticed many very old private buildings, with dates from the 17th to the 18th century, in the quaint old Spanish style. The whole city is essentially and unmistakably Spanish, and many of the ecclesiastical and other edifices do credit to the original settlers.

Arrived at the stage office, another scramble ensued for our luggage, and after a half hour's tiresome struggle, we managed to get it stowed safely in a cart, and marched off to the Hotel de La Paz. This country seems literally invaded with hotels bearing this title.—Buenos Ayres,—Rosario,—Cordova, &c., all have their 'houses of peace,' but from our short experience of them, they certainly very much belie their calling. Here, for example, we had magnificent airy rooms, fine balcony facing the front street, spacious dining and billiard rooms, a tolerable cook, fair wines, pretty barmaids, an agreeable host; but as to leading a peaceable life there, it was out of the question. In the first place, in order to get your boots cleaned, or water brought, you must exert your lungs for half an hour on the average, and when the lazy 'garçon' does make his appearance, you are obliged not only to use strong language, but apply a gentle leverage with the right foot, before the beast will deign to understand what you want.

As I have already said, the hotel is very fair, barring the service,—but please bear in mind that in this fine old ecclesiastical city of Cordova, boasting of university colleges without number, a cathedral, nine magnificent churches, three convents and monasteries, beautiful women, and learned, intelligent men; in all over 30,000 souls. Yet will you believe it?—there was not a single bath, nor a tub as a substitute, at its principal hotel! Can it have been from here that the race of the 'great unwashed' had its origin, and imposed on succeeding generations the disgusting obligation of performing their ablutions in a tea-cup?

Cordova has doubtless been well described by previous visitors, and must be therefore well known to your readers. It is a charming place to spend a few days in, but not as a residence during summer. The position of the city is so low, in a basin, surrounded by hills that no free ventilation of pure air is possible during the close sultry days of summer, hence the heat is intolerable; then the absence of good baths, although this is purely owing to the inhabitants, as the means exist, abundantly supplied by nature. The 'Paseo publico' is a charming spot and might by a little taste and outlay be made into a delightful promenade. It consists of a large artificial deposit of water, clear and crystalline, about 40,000 square yards in extent, surrounded by tall poplar and willow trees, beneath which there is a nice wide promenade with seats made by masonry, at intervals around; in the centre of the lake is a small elevated platform, and on this is erected a sort of pavilion constructed of wood with a balcony around, here the band of music used to play in the evenings, whilst the fair Cordoveses with their gallant chevaliers promenaded beneath the willows whispering soft nothings to each other. This lasted as long as the boat which conveyed the musicians to and fro, held together, but the falling to pieces and the Cordoveses not being a nautical race [although they are very naughty sometimes] could never manage to replace it, hence the music is now performed on the side walk on Sundays and Thursdays, and the 'elite' of society assemble to see and be seen, to hear and be heard, this is very charming indeed, as it affords visitors an opportunity of seeing the otherwise almost invisible fair sex of Cordova.

Amusements in Cordova are rare, although a small theatre exists, which however was closed during our visit; foreign society there, is none, and the few Englishmen there are only remarkable for their unsocial and 'touch me not' policy; we noticed this in a marked degree at the hotel where during dinner natives and foreigners mingle indiscriminately and notwithstanding a previous introduction we were scarcely spoken to by our compatriots whilst the native were most courteous, communicative and obliging. A solitary exception in this case I must allude to, pointedly, and express the extreme satisfaction both my companions and self felt at the warm reception given us by H. M. Vice Consul Dr. Gordon, a fine specimen of the good old Scottish gentleman.

During our stay [five days] we visited all the churches, the University, National Colegio, &c., these latter institutions now occupy the fine old building of the Jesuit Fathers founded by Fray Fernando Frejo de Zandaval, in the year 1613 and opened by him in 1622, he gave all his fortune consisting of \$40,000 towards the building which

was finished, including the church, in the year 1673, it is a solid fine mass of masonry with immensely thick walls and double cloisters, cool and agreeable promenades during the hot weather and most suitable places for the young students to study. We were shown a curious contrivance of the old Jesuits, quite a triumph in acoustics, and the discovery of which explains in some degree how it was that these so-called wise men knew even our most secret conferences. We find along the walls both interior and exterior of the buildings a series of small holes, irregularly pierced so as not to attract attention and partially covered with cobwebs.

These holes communicated with copper tubes running parallel to the direction of the walls, and all terminating in the Prefect's room. Hence, any conversation carried on by the people in the street or in the cloisters, whilst passing close to those holes, was sure to be heard by the Prefect or other person placed in his room; and thus it is, that the cunning holy fathers penetrated our secrets and became aware of plots and conspiracies, or, at least, sufficient of their purport, to have a clue for further examination and extortion in the halls of the dreaded Inquisition. We visited a ruined place, about five hundred yards from the Jesuit's Church, called the 'Noviciado,' where young novices were initiated, before entering the community. From this place to the church there is a subterranean passage of strong brick work, arched over, as also various branches leading off at different angles, but whose destination or objects are unknown, as they have never been explored.

Some of the churches have most gorgeous altars of massive silver, with their corresponding ornaments—many of gold—rather tempting prizes for some enterprising burglar, desirous of making a fortune in a night.

During our stay, Dr. Lucas Gonzales arrived, charged by Mr. Wheelwright [as we were told] to carry out final arrangements for commencing the railway works on the Cordova side. We visited the intended site for the terminus, to the south of the town, where a deep cutting must be made through the high banks of the River Primero. The gradient will be, I believe, one in one hundred, and the length of the cutting about four kilometres, requiring some 300,000 cubic yards of earth to be removed. Everybody in Cordova seems to look forward to the completion of the railway, as the Jews do to the coming of the Messiah—their only salvation—for the state of trade and business, they say, could not be possibly more dull and profitless. I earnestly hope that the first train to the city of churches will bring a bath and a consignment of French servants for distribution amongst the hotels, and shall I express a further wish, that intercourse with civilization and their countrymen, will induce a warmer, more social, and civil spirit to penetrate the present nondescript circle of British juveniles in Cordova.

I hear that admirable bungle of the diligence man snorting down the street, and I have not yet packed up my writing case, so, dear Mr. Standard, I must finish up and say, au revoir. We start for Rio Cuatro, within half an hour, and my next must be from the Cuyo Provinces—cuyo tenor ignoro.

Till then, yours en route.

QUIXOTE DE LA MANCHA.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

On Sunday the steamer from Paraguay arrived with the most astounding intelligence. The fighting in Paraguay baffles all description; it lasted all night on the 21st, and the awful character of the struggle proves too clearly that both armies fight the last fight. The carnage is represented as appalling. We reproduce the 'boletins' of our contemporaries, being the only news as yet received in town. At the moment, it is impossible to offer an opinion on the matter; but the result of the engagement certainly should have been known ere this, as had the fighting lasted even until the 25th, sufficient time has elapsed for the steamer to come down. The language of the despatch of the Admiral;

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