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The Standard.

"Nil in die autem, nil veri non autem dicitur."
CICERO.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1866.

OPENING OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS.

FULL PARTICULARS.

VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

On Sunday, at 2 o'clock, pursuant to an edict issued on Saturday evening, the Fifth National Congress was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Don Marcos Paz, Vice President of the Republic, in person. It was easy to be seen by the number of cocked hats going through the streets on Sunday morning that there was heavy business on hand. In the neighborhood of the Plaza Victoria numerous provincial gentlemen, dressed in body coats and white kids, were to be seen lounging about, waiting, as it were, until the proper hour had arrived for the performance to commence. General Nazar lined the front of the Congress building with soldiers of the line, who were busily occupied driving the small boys from the porticoes. A small military band was provided for the occasion, but it played no enlivening strains, and on the whole a rather dull air prevailed the building.

At 1 o'clock the Senators and Deputies began to arrive, and at 1:30 there being a sufficient number to constitute a quorum, Dr. Alsina, who was seated in one of the ante-salas, proceeded to business. Thanks to Sr. Nuñez and General Madariago we obtained admittance through the consular entrance, notwithstanding the sturdy resistance of a fashionably-dressed negro servant who positively refused to allow us in on the ground that we did not even resemble a consul. But the Fathers of the Argentine Nation, when arranging their Parliament House, seem to have had a grudge against the editors, for they omitted to set aside any place for the members of the press.

As we entered the Congress-hall we were surprised to find it so empty. The gallery for the public was only half full. The distinguished visitors' benches were only occupied by ourselves.

In the Consular department we noticed only Mr. Santa Maria, Sr. Casares, Mr. Halback, Mr. Helper, Mr. —.

The Foreign Ministers' box was full. We noticed the following Ministers:—Mr. Ford, Mr. Lefebre de Becour, Hon. Mr. Kirk, Sr. Laetaria, Sr. Leal, Sr. Sorrel, and Captain Watson, Secretary of British Legation. Sr. Octaviano arrived whilst the clerk was reading the message, but did not come in.

About 2 o'clock Dr. Dn. Valentin Alsina, President of the Senate, took his seat, and the Senators and Deputies then entered and took their places. The minutes of the last session having been read, a committee was named to wait on the Vice-President, and then the house adjourned for a few minutes, waiting the arrival of the National Executive. When the Vice-President was half across the Plaza Dr. Dn. Alsina again called the house to order, and the members all again took their seats. We noticed at this juncture Sr. Medina, the owner of the house adjoining the bank, about whose vote for the new Governor such a capital story is told, entered, accompanied by Sr. Castax, a well-known estanciero. The band now struck up the national air, and the whole house rose as his Excellency the Vice-President ascended the steps and took his seat alongside Dr. Alsina.

The Vice-President looked in good spirits, but somehow seemed to have a more careworn appearance than when we last saw him, he is decidedly greyer, and wore spectacles. Close on his heels followed all the National Ministers, with the exception of the Minister of War, who is down some place

near the Tres Arroyos, looking for Machado & Co. Dr. Rawson took his seat at the head of the benches; we never saw him looking better, and during the reading of the message, every sentence of which bore the stamp of his great talents, all eyes were centred on him: his complexion, his features, his very name, all conspire to persuade the stranger that the Prime Minister of the Argentine Republic is an Englishman. During the whole time occupied in the reading of the message he kept his eyes fixed on the desk before him, until, when the comparative tables of the wool exports were mentioned, when, as it were involuntarily, looked towards us and smiled. Dr. Elizalde, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, sat beside him, he was dressed in the very pink of fashion, and a striking contrast to the Finance Minister, who was beside him, and wore black gloves, probably in mourning for the demise of the loan. Sr. Costa, the Minister of Education, was the last on the Ministerial benches; his fine intellectual forehead seems as it were to have expanded since the last session, owing, probably, to H.E. being slightly more bald. Facing the Ministers, and in the place for distinguished visitors, sat five old generals who accompanied the Vice-President to the house, they were literally covered with gold lace, and all seemed to be octogenarians: we only knew Generals Nazar and Guido. At the foot of the steps leading to the Presidential chair stood the aide-de-camp officers of the President; we noticed our corpulent friend Colonel Peña, who seems to have escaped the hardships of the campaign, and we think ought to study Banton. Immediately on the National Executive, &c., being seated, the clerk, without rising from his seat, read the message, which occupied a little over half an hour, and at the conclusion of which there was not the slightest cheer or hurrah, although a document very ably drawn up and showing a very gratifying condition of the country. When the message was concluded the Vice-President, who seemed in no speaking humor whatever, sat upright in his chair and briefly told the members that they had just heard the true state of things, that the reports from the different ministers were in preparation, would soon be ready, and from them they could learn still further details, and then declared "The Fifth Congress of the Argentine Republic opened." The Vice-President then descended from the chair, took his hat and walked out, followed by all the ministers, generals, aid-de-camps, senators, and deputies; the band played, the soldiers presented arms, and the august body adjourned to the Government House, where, we understand, a "conversazione" ensued. Thus terminated this imposing ceremony: owing to the very short notice given the crowd was less than is usual on such occasions, but all the usual formalities were gone through. We missed the President and his soul-stirring address, but it was impossible for him to attend. The Senators and Deputies looked as if they had heavy matters before them. We pray that God may guide their counsels, and that the Fifth National Congress will be productive of more material good to the Argentine nation than the previous sessions.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

The gig race on Sunday was probably the most exciting race ever witnessed in Buenos Ayres. At half-past 9 a.m. there were five gigs on the ground at the turn of the road just under the Recoleta. The road was good, the weather fine, and the morning glorious. Mr. Burmeister was the starter, and scarcely were the wheels in motion when Mr. Dessein took the lead, Mendez, with the agility of his partner who is now in Europe, kept close up; Rohl, at a bend in the road, made a momentary dash ahead; Ocampo stepped out for a few minutes and for a while many thought he would be a winner, but Patiño, from the moment he took the reins in his hand was booked for the breakfast. Dessein's horse seemed to know that beefsteaks and mutton-chops were waiting his master in Belgrano; he dashed ahead of all the other gigs when nearing Belgrano and came in winner. Mr. Burmeister took the whole party to Watsons—14

persons sat down to the best breakfast to be had in South America—the bill was a mere trifle, \$1,700 mjc, which the last gig had to pay.

The "Waap" has at last arrived from the Uruguay with Admiral Godon on board. We hear that the Brooklyn will shortly leave for Montevideo.

A most shocking sight was witnessed on Sunday at the corner of calles Perú and Victoria two troperos who had been fighting, one frightfully wounded and bleeding, were being walked off to prison; the wounded man fell at the corner from sheer exhaustion and we believe, expired in the streets. So inhuman an act on the part of the police merits, language which we decline using. A German gentleman who witnessed the affair request us to call attention to the matter.

Medlicott's wine store in Calle Reconquista is now the rendezvous of fashion. Yesterday we inspected his Dry Lisbon, Bucellas, superior Port, Pale delicate Sherry; also some beautiful Peaches, Figs and Plums done up in boxes by the nuns in Portugal, and some splendid Orange Scotch Marmalade. In fact, the marmalades and preserved fruits are not to be had at any other place in town. We advise English ladies to pay Mr. Medlicott's depot a visit.

The opening of Congress was the event of the day on Sunday. On Monday there was a political calm, and people having nothing else to occupy their minds, began to think it strange there was no news from the war. The Iron King has been expected since last Thursday, and Dn. Avacharsis Lanuz is due to-day in the Espigador. It is not probable that there has been any fighting, as 'Sinbad' in his last letter distinctly stated that ten or twelve days must elapse before the allies will be ready to resume the offensive.

The 'Tribuna' projects for redeeming the paper money astonished all the brokers on Sunday morning. Measures of such vital importance, apparently so hastily drawn up and pushed forward on the public without even a preamble, leads to the belief that there must be too much steam on, somewhere. Our colleague very properly however invites discussion, and we suppose therefore the readers of the morning papers must prepare themselves for five or six columns every day for the next month on the paper dollar question. We have no intention whatever to fill the 'Standard' with such an insipid used-up topic. The brokers, if they think fit, can send us their views on the subject, but they must be laconic.

Respecting the bank swindle nothing more has transpired. It is rumored that the clerk Diaz is connected with the forged specie certificates, but how true this is we cannot say. The only paper in town that published this gigantic swindle was the 'Standard.'

We have received a new paper from Catamarca, called the 'Libertad,' well printed and edited; for a wonder, it gives some information respecting the province of which it is the organ. We are pleased to see Catamarca has an industry of her own, and have no doubt, when the railway is finished, the wines and other products, of Catamarca will find a market in Buenos Ayres. We notice that vicuña gloves are manufactured in Catamarca: if some were sent to Buenos Ayres they would probably sell well as a curiosity.

To-morrow we will publish the Vice President's Message, which is very long and takes time to translate. It is very ably drawn up and gives a very gratifying picture of the Republic.

The Galileo arrived on Sunday morning, being somewhat earlier than what we expected, as she brought a large cargo for Montevideo, but the expedition with which the steamers on this line load and discharge is really surprising. We salute Captain Russell and thank him much for the late Rio papers which he kindly brought us. The Galileo will leave on Monday the 14th inst. We understand nearly all the first-class passages are already taken: the Hon. Mr. Kirk, U. S. Minister, will leave in her for Rio, whence he takes the American steamer for New York.

Capt. Russell, of the Galileo, informs us that the Peruvian ironclads were in

Rio when he left, but making immediate preparations to depart. They had taken in coal, and will be shortly off the Plate.

The Spanish ironclad Tetuan, one of the finest vessels afloat, will arrive off Montevideo about the 1st June.

We regret to learn that Vice Admiral Denman is so seriously indisposed that the doctors have given him over and he was not expected to live another day. It appears that the last English mail that arrived in Valparaiso brought orders from the Home Government to the Admiral and Minister to oppose by force the bombardment of Valparaiso, should the Spaniards attempt it. The orders came too late to save Valparaiso, but it may possibly save Callao.

The special 'chasque' which arrived in town on Friday night, and it was thought had brought private despatches to the Government from the seat of war, was a messenger sent by the Chilean Government to Sr. Lastarria.

By the last English mail we received a Parliamentary 'blue book' containing all the official correspondence respecting the Paraguayan war. The whole text of the triple alliance treaty is in this book, but we refrained from publishing it, thinking that at the present moment it would be *mal apropos*; as some of our colleagues, however, have got hold of this document, and printed it, we therefore shall publish it. The only really important item in this much suspected document is the levelling of Humaitá and the removal of all arms of every name and nature from Paraguay, to be divided amongst the allies, share and share alike. As Paraguay has to pay the cost of the war to the allies, it is only right that the new Government of that unfortunate country should be credited to the full value of all these arms, which we are given to understand represent millions. The arsenal of Asuncion alone, is extremely valuable, and one of the finest and best supplied in South America.

Dr. Rawson, the national minister, has replied to Governor Alsina's note in very gracious terms, thanking the Governor for his very kind expressions. By some unfortunate mistake the 'Nacion,' when publishing the note, entitled it from "The Sovereign Alsina," when it was intended to have been the Governor Alsina; but mistakes will occur in the very best regulated families.

The new post of inspector of railways, we are happy to hear, will be entrusted to our talented friend, Lacroze, who is an Argentine of great European and American experience; he was for some time engaged on the Orleans Railway. He has been through the great workshops in Europe and, in fact, we doubt if a more competent young man for such a post could be found in Buenos Ayres.

The American barque Young Mechanic, took fire on the 10th March in Lat. 11.5 S., Long. 33 W. The crew and passengers escaped in small boats and landed at Recife.

The story about the English vessel aground outside of the Buco, turns out to be a fisherman's 'canard.'

The new American steamer Morning Star was expected to arrive in Rio, from New York, on or about the 30th ultimo.

Two more iron-clads have left Rio for the River Plate; these will make six iron-clads in these waters. We understand the full quota for the River Plate is ten.

It is remarked that at the opening of Congress none of the Provincial Government attended. We don't believe however that it is usual for any of the Provincial Government people to attend; the muster of Consuls was very poor.

The Espigador is due to-day with one week's later advices from the seat of war. We expect some more relics with a long letter from 'Sinbad.'

LATEST FROM BRAZIL.

ARRIVAL OF THE GALILEO.

An Italian named Carlos Alfonso was sent to prison on the 21st ult., charged with trying to pass, and having in his possession, a quantity of counterfeit Bank of Brazil notes. Going in the packet for Sta. Catharina he presented a 5000 note in payment of his passage, which was immediately recognized by

the commander as a counterfeit, who had him landed at the bar and given in charge to the commandant there. On searching his baggage 10,000 in Bank of Brazil notes were found; and they and he were transmitted to the police at Rio Grande. Those found were coarsely photographed; and consisted of 500 2d Series; 2000 1st Series; 5000 1st Series.

An Oriental, named Agustin Salandrez, but calling himself Indalecio Gouzales, was arrested on suspicion of having stolen 6,000 dollars in Montevideo from Dr. Bernabé Saravia.

A S. Paulo fazendeiro asserts that a wild root, growing in the pastures, which is known as the batatinha, is efficacious against the bite of the snakes. The mode of using is this: a root of ordinary size is well crushed, and is put in a tea-cup nearly full of rum, which is given to the sick person to drink; the improvement is soon evident, but if not, repeat in about 24 hours. For animals two or three of the potatoes and a bottle of rum are necessary. Among the habits of fish observed during Professor Agassiz's late tour on the Amazon, were noticed the following:—The Acarys form holes in the clay banks of the river and lakes. In these they shelter themselves and lay their eggs in little heaps on which they rest their mouth to hatch the eggs.

The Cachimbo after laying its eggs secures them in the folds of its long lips and keeps them there until the young issue from the eggs. The Tamnata and others of its species are remarkable for the power they possess of travelling for long distances overland.

The 'Celopside,' 'Trichmictride,' and 'Vandellids' have all a propensity to introduce themselves into the urinary canals of warm blooded animals and even of human beings. The Candirú in particular is frequently found in the urinary canals of horses and cows, causing a malady known along the Amazon as Candirú do cavallo.

On account of this propensity in these fishes no one enters the water of the Amazon without observing if they frequent the spot, and taking precautions against them.

The Statutes of the banco commercial do Rio de Janeiro, were authorized with some alterations, one of which eliminates the 'Suspended Profits' reserve fund clause, another the power to discount at greater time than 4 months, that permitting the appointment of a manager instead of a committee of directors; and changes art. 28 so as to extend the deposit of shares by a director, without power to remove them until the accounts of the last half year in which he acts, are approved.

Dr. Francisco de Assis Vioira Bueno, President of the Bank, gave in his resignation of this post, owing, it is current, to the measures in regard to that establishment, put forward by the Government on the 9th of April.

On the 13th of this month at Mar de Hespanha, a slave murdered Antonio Emilio da Silva, overseer of the fazenda of Santa Fé, belonging to Major Joao Antonio Capote, owing, it is said, to a private quarrel between the two.

The body of a white man, supposed to be an Englishman, was thrown up by the sea on the 11th, at the Praca da Harmonia.

The English schooner Titbit arrived on the 14th ult. at Pará, after a trip of over 70 days, two weeks of which the crew were on half rations of water. The Titbit brought out the small steamer Pará, built for the essay of steam navigation up the rapids of the Tocantins.

An American steamer named the Margarita was expected early in April from Mobile by emigrants.

Donna Caetana Maria da Encarnacao died on the 17th of March at the age of 130! She had been the first settler on the Itapicuru.

The Austrian brig Kastiza on her voyage from Montevideo to Liverpool, laden with bones and tallow, was lost on the 20th of March at Aracaty, at a place called Mutumba. It was hoped to save the cargo.

The great and repeated freshets of the Parahyba had almost destroyed the lately completed road from Yara-douro to Sanhava.

The seasons have been favorable, and the export of produce promises to

be above the average. During March 3,000 sacks of cotton had reached the port.

While examining the telegraph line Sr. Coimbra discovered on the beam near the mouth of the Una [S. Paulo] some of the bones of a gigantic marine monster. On inquiry the settlers there related that about three years ago it was thrown upon the beach, by the sea, and remained alive for three days. It had no scales; nor were they able to extract oil from it. They gave it the name of the fish snake, its length being 216 feet. Sr. Coimbra could obtain no further information regarding it. Two ribs, still remaining on the beach in an almost perfect state, are almost 24 feet long, 3 feet wide, and about 14 inches thick. A little away from these are various parts of the animal, one of which is a large bone shaped like a sword, and triangular in section, which is 15 feet long. Another large bone lying buried in the sand near the ribs and appearing to belong to the head, is 9½ feet long. The vertebra, which should exist of the monster, could not be seen, but without doubt are covered in the sand. It is believed Dr. Capanema will examine them on his return to Rio, and will bring them with him for the Museum.

The British Ship 'Alfred,' which was anchored near Villegaignon, was somewhat damaged on the 13th inst. by the Brazilian Bark 'Rio de Janeiro,' entering the harbor from Bahia, which drifted against the Alfred. The Bark, likewise, received some injury in the bulwarks.

On the 17th an unfortunate occurrence happened on the Tijuca Railway. While the half past five o'clock evening train was landing passengers at Figueiredo, the engine driver opened the furnace doors to temper the fires, as customary at the stopping places. At this moment a tube gave way, throwing, boiling water and steam on two slave girls belonging to Sr. Gamboa, who were seated in the cargo car next the furnaces, scalding them in a frightful manner and imperiling their lives. If the explosion had occurred but a minute later they would have escaped injury as the doors would have been closed. Plates of iron have since been placed on the side next the furnaces, to prevent a like disaster.

In Minas Geraes, lately, two partners in some mercantile concern disagreed, and one of them wished to withdraw and have a settlement of accounts. The other showed some unwillingness, but the first showed generalship equal to the occasion, and assembling 65 of that loafing population commonly termed 'cupangas' suddenly entered the town, took possession of the place of business in the face of the police authorities, and in the course of a day effected a division of the stock, &c., besides ransacking the house from top to bottom in quest of a sum of money which he believed his partner had been quietly sequestering during their term of business; in this, however, his search was unsuccessful. It is said that this course was adopted by advice of his lawyer, who told him that at the cost of a fine of 2,000 he might find 12,000 secreted, and therefore would make a good profit in the adventure!

DISBURSANCES OF THE MONARCH.

This British Ship, Capt. O. J. Macey which, arrived in the harbor of Rio de Janeiro on the 11th April, on her voyage from London to New Zealand with a large number of passengers, has been the theatre of continual troubles almost since her departure from England. Having commenced to leak a little freely during her voyage the crew, incited, it is said, by the second officer of the vessel, showed a mutinous disposition and demanded to be brought back to England which the captain declined, thinking the quantity of water made too small to warrant the abandonment of the voyage. After proceeding for several days the 'Stromboli' was met and on appealing to the commander he concurred in the opinion that there was no sufficient reason for giving up the voyage but recommended their putting into Rio to obtain a second pump. The vessel was accordingly directed to Rio but when approaching it, contrary winds prevailed so steadily that after beating up for

