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# The Standard.

"Will hold steady, all vari non audeam dicere."  
Cicero.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1865.

## THE WAR IN THE NORTH.

### ARRIVAL OF THE RIO DE LA PLATA.

#### URUGUAYANA STILL HOLDS OUT.

The British steamer Rio de la Plata arrived early yesterday, bringing a number of passengers and a heavy mail. The mole, as a matter of course, was crowded, and the betting on the beach was fifty to one that Uruguayana had not yet fallen. Before the Falua pulled up at the mole stairs, people knew by the easy way the marines were rowing that Estigarribia was not on board.

The latest dates from Uruguayana are to the 17th inst., the attack on the town was to have commenced that day, but as there was an impression that terms of capitulation could be arrived at, the bombardment had not begun. On the 16th the allies were to have taken up their position around the town.

The vicinity of Uruguayana is now a complete desert and the allies have to bring their supplies from a great distance. The Emperor, the Princes, and a whole host of Counts and nobles, are busy all day with their glasses watching the movements of the besieged. The Baron de Porto Alegre refused to consent to an attack on the town owing to the paucity of the besieging force, but President Mitre gave the Baron to understand that the place must be taken by assault and without delay. The arrival of the Emperor, caused the Baron's views to triumph, greatly to the annoyance of the Argentine Chiefs. The Emperor after a conference with President Mitre agreed at last on the 17th to attack the place; the 17th arrived and no attack was made. The Emperor has named one of his Lieutenants Commander-in-Chief, we have not heard the name.

Things are getting very hot in Entre Rios. Owing to the new order to march, every man in the province has to go, as Urquiza means to make his army 15,000 men. The infantry regiments that it was said had been ordered to march from Concepcion to Concordia, are now we learn, to march to the Yuqueri, the new place of encampment for the Entre Riano army.

Great complaints are made about the robbery of cows and horses, and the Entre Riano Government has taken measures to put a stop to it. It seems that the army contractors are accused with buying stolen cows and then selling them to the army. Notes have been passed to the Generals in command, about the matter.

Gelly y Obes has issued an order prohibiting the soldiers to break the branches of the trees, which has caused great annoyance amongst the soldiers as fire-wood is scarce.

A new line of diligences had been started from Concepcion to Colon, but horses are so scarce it will soon be stopped.

General Urquiza had ordered that the amount realized by the sale of a piece of land fronting the Plaza Concepcion, should be applied towards building an hospital.

The "Uruguay" which is the official journal in Entre Rios, states that Estigarribia with all his notes and replies, has not yet proved himself the 'man for Galway.' Our colleague evidently thinks that Estigarribia is less powerful with the sword than the pen, and denies his right to be regarded a Leonidas.

The fall in the river Uruguay has been so great that now the rocks are plainly visible; no more vessels can pass up or down.

The Argentine war schooner Rio

Bamba is made a sort of pontoon or guard ship at Concordia.

It had rained a good deal in Entre Rios, the sheep on Urquiza's estancia are terribly scabby, and in poor condition; the 'rodeos' on the estancias are now only gathered twice a week owing to the scarcity of hands,—shearing will soon commence.

### MOVEMENTS OF THE ENEMY.

It is not unlikely that while the attention of the allies is fixed on the siege of Uruguayana the forces of Lopez intend a simultaneous movement by land and water from their headquarters at Cuevas. It is in fact predicted by our Goya correspondent (in yesterday's paper) that the Paraguayan fleet will immediately descend to 'Rincon de Soto' to attack the Brazilian vessels, and this is confirmed by the 'Tribuna' correspondent who says 'the Paraguayans seem to have 14 steamers at Cuevas, and are said to meditate an attack on us at any moment.' Although the allied fleet has been much damaged by the batteries of Cuevas, and since weakened in numbers by three vessels being sent down to Buenos Ayres, there is reason to hope that it would prove as before, more than a match for the enemy.

At the same time the Paraguayan land-forces seem constantly moving backwards and forwards; the bulk of their army being between Bella Vista and the river Santa Lucia. We read that their steamers landed 8,000 men at Cuevas, that one corps d'armee crossed the Batel on the 15th, and another the Santa Lucia some days before, as if marching towards Entre Rios to engage the grand army under Gen. Gelly-Obes: then again we hear of their turning aside to sack San Roque, and counter-marching in all directions. This may be a part of their peculiar tactics, with the view of throwing the allies off their guard and making a rapid descent over the 40 leagues of country intervening between Santa Lucia and Mandisobi. Under these circumstances the immediate capture of Uruguayana is the more desirable, as it would leave President Mitre and the other allied commanders at liberty to turn their arms against the main forces of the enemy.

There is little other news of importance from Parana. General Caceres writes a letter to Sor. Mendez, dated Calfarreño, near the Sta. Lucia, 14th inst. states that he is much in want of 1,000 uniforms and 400 carbines and sabres: he received a letter from Gen. Flores dated 4th inst. complaining that Baron Port Alegre would not allow him to fire on the town of Uruguayana. The officers of the Guardia Nacional express much satisfaction at the court-martial ordered, as they feel assured their vessel, not their commander, will be condemned as unserviceable.

### NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES.

Gen. Taboada, with the Santiago and Tucuman contingents, (300 men), arrived at the Swiss colony near Santa Fé. The Indians are giving much trouble on the frontiers, about Milcú, Rio Cuarto, Concepcion, etc., and it is said have announced their intention to invade the province of Buenos Ayres. Gen. Emilio Mitre left Santa Fé for Rosario on the 13th, and despatched some forces to check the Indians: he writes (18th) to the National Government contradicting the pretended success of the rebels in Rioja, and announces order completely restored. The locomotives on the Argentine Central Railway now make three trips daily from Rosario to Caracana, 30 miles: the bridge over this river will be finished next week, and the line opened to traffic on Oct. 1st.

### THE BRITISH LIBRARY.

This evening, according to notice published by the Committee, a general meeting of subscribers will be held in the rooms of the Library, to hear the report for the past year and elect a new Committee. It is gratifying to know that the condition and prospects of the institution, which so closely connects us with the mother-country, are flourishing, and that the Library is now on a sounder basis than it has been for many years back. Some hundreds of new volumes have been added to the shelves, and the reading-

room has recently been enriched with the lending Irish, Scotch and American journals. Old debts have been paid off, and the liberal subsidy of the British merchants left almost intact as a reserve-fund for the institution. We understand the Evening Lectures and Readings will be resumed this season; and there is every reason to hope the Library will gain in popularity by thus increasing its useful attractions. Many of our camp friends, also, will now be able to avail themselves of the institution, owing to the facilities offered by the new lines of railway opened. The liberal regulation, passed last year, admitting newly-arrived countrymen for a certain number of months gratis, was a good innovation; and it ought to be a subject of pride for the British community that this is the only public institution of a purely literary character in the River Plate.

The 'Circulo Literario' initiated by our Argentine friends had a brilliant, but brief, existence: the British Library on the other hand is unpretending [and is even considered, not fashionable], being content to pursue a career of usefulness which shall promise to be lasting; and the best proof of its unsectarian spirit is, that all English and foreign clergymen [without distinction] are honorary members. We invite the subscribers to attend the meeting, as a proof of their interest in the Library, and feel confident the report of the Committee will be very satisfactory.

### EDITOR'S TABLE.

People are beginning to doubt now if there is any such place at all as Uruguayana; steamers come down three times a week from Concordia and always the same story. Owing to the Montevidean letter received on Tuesday, written by an English gentleman, most of our English merchants believed that the Rio de la Plata [arrived yesterday] would certainly bring full details of the surrender of the town: nothing of the kind. The Emperor is there, President Mitre is there, Provisional President Flores is there, and shortly our good friend Mr. Thornton will be there, and yet this Estigarribia will not give in. Yesterday it was current that even Foster was going up to see what is the cause of the delay. We hear that a large stage has been erected in front of the besieged town for the convenience of His Majesty's and all their Excellencies, so that the telescope may command every street in the town.

Lopez meanwhile is busy ditching in half the province; the ditchers work ten yards a day, are supposed to number thirty thousand spades, which makes 300,000 yards daily, this has been going on for a month. The Potrero which these fellows are making will be shortly as large as the whole of Paraguay proper. Mr. Vandevelde's patent ditching machine is nothing to the new Lopez invention. An estancia on the banks of the Batel writes that the ditchers are now coming this way, possibly Lopez thinks of changing the current of the Parana.

The office of the British Legation has been moved from Calle Cochabamba to Calle Mayo (see advertisement): this is a more convenient locality.

We learn that in a few days another little steamer is expected from Montevideo. She came in pieces from England and was put together in that port; she will be immediately bought up by the Brazilians we suppose, as she draws so little water that she can run up and down all the small arroyos in the Gran Chaco.

None of our colleagues, we remark, say much about the Montevidean Chief of Police who got his head all but broken by the fall of the chandelier in the theatre, nor even about the Buenos Ayres Chief of Police in whose establishment a fearful murder was committed. Our colleagues seem to regard all Chiefs of Police as unworthy of notice. Why have we not Coroners in Buenos Ayres? had we a coroner in this city then the public would know more about such dark deeds, as that perpetrated last week in the Policia of Buenos Ayres. If a fire occurs Mr. Cazon must give the public full particulars, but if a murder is committed not a word is published. This is most improper, and the Government should at once order the Chief of Po-

lice to give us a full report as the ends of Justice require, concerning all those shocking crimes. We hope our colleagues will aid us in demanding full particulars respecting the murder in the Policia.

The Custom-House law for the new fiscal year has been at last passed by Congress—it is the same as last year: books and printing-paper still enter free.

The Government of Santa Fé has officially announced that the Paraguayan-invasion of the Gran Chaco was 'all bosh.' The Indian who gave the news has returned to his Chacoan wigwam, but the horses and Bolivianos taken up in the hurry of the moment in Rosario have not as yet been returned. Governor Oroño deserves the fullest and severest censure for needlessly alarming the Province which he rules, and we may add, the whole Argentine Republic. A Governor who allows himself to be so easily deceived by an Indian savage shows neither judgment nor prudence.

The silence of the Minister of the Interior, respecting Cordova, in his report to Congress on the state of the country, is variously commented on. We, for our part, think the Minister showed great discretion, and approval of avoiding all unnecessary subjects of discord in the present state of the country. Cordova, if left alone, will, we doubt not, afford no further room for complaint, whereas, if continually the subject of attack and insult, may give more trouble than is desirable at the present moment.

General Taboada, at the head of 1,400 men, when last heard from, was at the Swiss colony near Santa Fé; he will shortly arrive at Rosario.

The Paraguayans at Santa Lucia have been for the last week ditching-in several leagues of camp, and driving all the cows, horses, mares, and sheep for leagues around inside this ditch. The army under Robles has not advanced, but it is supposed when Lopez arrives from Paraguay it will march at once.

According to the advices we received, per Espigador, there seems to be no doubt about the imminence of another naval engagement. The Paraguayans were all anchored under the Cuevas batteries. We hardly think it possible the Paraguayans will be so daring as to come down so far, yet from the general tenor of letters received from Goya the fight seems certain.

A Brazilian gunboat, with several sick marines and officers on board, arrived in port on Tuesday. The landing of the sick caused great excitement down about the beach, as the rumor soon spread that a vessel with wounded had arrived, and there had been another fight. The gunboat in question came from the squadron.

Early next month the Argentine Central Railway will be inaugurated and opened as far as Caracana. All the Provincial Congress Deputies and Senators will be taken as far as this river, which is the most difficult part of their journey, free gratis. At the Caracana station we expect to see a town sprung up, and, in fact, at all the stations on the Central Railway we believe towns will be built.

Our colleague the 'Nacion' states that the Montoneros in Rioja are all put down and peace restored. We congratulate the country on this happy news, although from the tenor of the Cordova papers we have strong reason to fear our colleague is mistaken.

It was currently rumored through the city last night that the Uruguayana affair had been arranged. The terms are not yet generally known, but we believe very little different from those offered.

The new steamer Lincoln kept dashing about the Boca and the inner roads yesterday; greatly to the admiration of all our marine friends on the beach. She seems a nice little steamer, and we hear will be put on the Uruguay.

On the arrival of the steamer Rio de la Plata it was rumored that Mr. Thornton, our esteemed British Minister, had met with an accident crossing some arroyo above Concordia. We tried to discover the source of the report, but failed. Those who ought to know something about the matter deny the story, so it is to be hoped it is incorrect.

Major Rickard leaves to-day in the Equipador for Rosario, en route for the mines. He has kindly promised to send us every month a statement of how things are going on.

### DIARY OF MR. C. VERNET.

On his Journey from Santa Fé to San Xavier and the Wilkum—Vernet Grant.

I started from Santa Fé on the 10th of August, at 10 a.m., accompanied by my 'peon' and a merchant of the village of Las Calchinas, Don Francisco Cardona.

At noon we arrived at the little village of San José del Rincon, situated about 3 leagues east-north-east from Santa Fé. This village has about 1,000 inhabitants, a fine little church, and 10 or 12 stores, or 'casas de negocio.' The inhabitants occupy themselves with growing wheat, Indian corn, maize, water melons, and pumpkins (these latter are of colossal dimensions; I was told they harvested last year some weighing about 100 lbs. each), oranges and peaches for home consumption: all the other produce is exported to Buenos Ayres. San José has a fine port on the river Colastiné, and I saw two large schooners loading wheat and Indian corn.

The road from Santa Fé to San José is rather bad and heavy on account of the 'bañados' which must be passed, and is also intercepted by the mouth of the Laguna Grande, which must be crossed in a canoe and the horses swimming.

From San José leads a road to the village Santa Rosa, or Las Calchinas, situated on the banks of the river Cayesta, which is a prolongation of the Colastiné; this road is also very tiresome for horses, passing through long tracts of 'bañados,' and through heavy sands, and is likewise intercepted by a branch of the Paraná, which must be crossed in a canoe. This branch or channel leads a huge quantity of Parana water into the Laguna Grande, on its north-eastern boundaries; the distance from one village to the other is 7 leagues.

The productions of Calchinas, are wheat, Indian corn, and maize, which are exported to Buenos Ayres. The port is very good, and I saw two vessels and various 'chalanes' loading. There are about 600 inhabitants in this village, a fine two-steeped church, of good materials, recently constructed by order of the National Government: there are three or four merchants, the principal one my fellow traveller, Don Francisco Cardona, in whose house I found a hospitable reception. Las Calchinas has originally been a settlement of Indians, but their number is to-day very limited.

Soon after my arrival I went to pay my respects to the 'Juez de Paz,' Don Manuel del Castillo, to whom I had to deliver a letter from his Excellency the Governor of the province, Sor. Oroño, who ordered him to give me two soldiers as an escort. His Excellency had also kindly furnished me with a letter to the Chief of the Indians, el Corregidor don José Rojas, ordering him to accompany me with two Indian Lancers; but having already received the spontaneous offer of two 'vecinos' to accompany me, and that being sufficient, according to their judgment, I declined the two soldiers and the two Indians, accepting only the service of the chief, Don José Rojas, who did the service of an experienced guide or 'vaqueano.'

On the 11th, at 1 p.m., I left the Calchinas in company with my 'peon,' the 'corregidor,' José Rojas, and the 'vecinos,' Francisco Cardona, Serapio Espinosa and Vicente Machado, all well mounted and leading a reserve horse (caballo de tiro).

At dusk we arrived at the new colony, Helvetia, whose promoter is Dr. Romang [formerly medical assistant in the colony Esperanza.] This colony is situated north-north-east from the Calchinas, on the river Cayesta; and about one league before arriving in the colony are the 'tolderias' of the Indians of Cayesta, scattered in groups on the banks of said river.

The colony of Helvetia was founded 10 months ago, and counts already 40 families, 24 of whom came over from Esperanza, and others from the colony of Villa Urquiza, in Entre Rios. These colonists have preferred to settle in Helvetia on account of the superior soil, good situation, and of their

being able to obtain farm lots of twenty squares, at a comparatively cheap price.

In Esperanza all the 'concesiones' are occupied, and high prices are asked for them; and in the Villa Urquiza colonists can get only farm lots of 4 squares, (600 yards). There are also some families recently arrived in the river Plate, and sent up by Dr. Romang's agents at Buenos Ayres. As already stated, farm lots are only sold, not given away, and the average price of a lot of 20 squares is \$100 Bolivianos. Dr. Romang obtained, in the month of October, 1864, a grant of four square leagues, with the condition to establish a colony of 125 families. In a short time he expects to have this number completed, as he is awaiting the arrival of some Swiss families.

The habitation of the doctor is in the centre of the point which is destined for the future village and port of the colony. This port is very good, and protected by a picturesque island covered with trees, against the southern wind.

The river here is about 300 yards in breadth, and when I returned from San Xavier, I saw there a schooner which had brought, besides cargo, 6 Swiss families recently arrived at B. Ayres, and another vessel loading wood cut in the neighboring forest.

The road from the Calchinas to the colony leads for the greater part through swamps, in other spots are groups of trees (isletas de monte), and the rest is open camp.

The pasture between the two points is very poor, but is already improving in the colony, on account of a beautiful black vegetable earth, which advancing further to the north becomes gradually more magnificent.

As this colony counts only a few months of existence, few families have their houses ready, but notwithstanding every one lives already on his own 'concession,' sleeping under straw bundles put against the unfurnished walls of their unfinished 'ranchos,' devoting at present their principal attention to ploughing and sowing corn in order to have a first and good crop.

What an agreeable contrast this colony forms to the surrounding camp—here in the camp all is activity; men working to make the ground productive, being sure of having abundant crops with one-half the tillage required in Europe—whilst on the camp the eye meets only the majestic monotony of the Pampa.

The Provincial Government has so solicited of the National authorities that all subsidized steamers shall be ordered to stop opposite the colony in the Boca del Riacho Hermandaria. Thus the colony will come in direct communication with Rosario and Buenos Ayres. I spent the night at the house of Dr. Romang, whom I have to thank for a cordial and kind reception. My companions slept near the bank of the river, in order to mind the horses while grazing during the night.

On the 12th of August at 7 a.m. we started for San Xavier, after having taken the indispensable maté and purchased some provisions for the journey. After a leisure gallop we entered a forest which has two or three leagues' depth on the River Cayesta, and extends landwards for several leagues. The rest of the road is open camp scattered with groups of trees (isletas de monte). In some parts the ground is low and swampy, in others a little higher and dry, but, as a general feature the undulations are hardly perceptible.

In some parts the river San Xavier touches the 'tierra firma,' in others it retires, thus forming small islands and 'bañados.'

The distance from the Colony Helvetia to San Xavier is computed by some at fifteen, and by others eighteen leagues, but I believe that fifteen is the real distance.

Half-way there is a beautiful spot on the banks of the river, and in the shade of a magnificent algarroba: here we un saddled our horses, and whilst they were enjoying the rich pasture we partook of our 'flambres' brought from the colony. This spot is called El Paso del Aguara, and belongs to Mr. Genaro Elias, as also another spot a little further to the north, called, La Estancia Grande. A little to the south, on a spot called Las Algarrobas, is the







