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The Standard.

"Nil talis andem, nil veri non andem dicere."
Cicero.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1865.

THE PARAGUAYAN NOTES.

COMPLAINTS of LOPEZ, and Gen. MITRE'S REPLY
Head-quarters, Humayta,
Nov. 20th 1865.
To His Ex. the President of the Argentine Republic, Brig. Gen. Don Bartolomé Mitre, Generalissimo of the allied armies,

I have the honor to address Your Ex. the present note, as commander-in-chief of the allied armies at war with this Republic.

In the imperious necessity which at times forces nations and Governments to settle their difficulties by the sword, a war has broken out between this Republic and the States whose armies you command. In such cases it is customary for civilized nations to mitigate the evils of war, by stripping it of all acts of cruelty which disgrace humanity and cast an indelible stain upon the commanders ordering or tolerating same, and this I had expected from Your Excellency and your allies. Filled with this spirit, it was my first care to order the fullest respect for all prisoners, who have accordingly enjoyed every convenience and even liberty compatible with their position. My Government has given the fullest protection not only to Argentine, Brazilian and Montevidean citizens in our power, but even to the prisoners of war. The strict discipline of the Paraguayan armies in Argentine and Brazilian territories is proof of this, and even the families and properties of those in arms against us have been respected.

Your Ex. meantime, initiated the war with atrocities, such as the arrest of the Paraguayan agent in Buenos Ayres, D. Felix Egusquiza, the pursuit of our Consul-General, José Rufo Caminos, and his son Felix, who had to take refuge under the British flag, the confiscation of public and private Paraguayan properties in Bank and elsewhere, the arrest of Cipriano Ayala who was bearer of despatches, the tearing down the Paraguayan flag and dragging it through the streets, the shooting me in effigy at Rosario, the assassinations by Gen. Cáceres of Lieut. Ayala at Saladas and Ensign Ferreyra at Bella Vista (both wounded), the butchery of the wounded at Yatay, and the sending a Paraguayan deserter, named Juan Gonzales, to assassinate me. All these barbarous acts, however, have been unable to alter my resolution, or make me imitate Your Ex.; nor did I expect that such new atrocities would be added to the infamous catalogue of crimes with which the civil wars of the River Plate have presented a disgraceful picture to the universe.

I hoped that in this first international war Your Ex. would impress on your subordinates that a prisoner of war is a man and a Christian and when surrendered no longer an enemy; and that the prisoners at least would be respected in their misfortune and treated as generously as we treat those of the allies. But it is with profound regret that I have to abandon such hopes, in view of the atrocities committed with the unfortunate Paraguayans who have fallen into your power. Your Ex. has obliged the prisoners of Yatay and Uruguayana to take up arms against their country, to swell your ranks, putting aside all hope of an exchange of prisoners, and at once cruelly insulting those who dared to refuse. Such as escaped so sad a fate have been either sent as slaves into Brazil, or [some of whiter skin] sent as presents and rare curiosities to people in Montevideo and Buenos Aires.

This contempt not only for the usages of war but for common humanity, this barbarous alternative between death and slavery, stands without example in history, and it is to Your Ex., to the Emperor of Brazil, and to the ruler of Montevideo must be ascribed the infamy of perpetrating such enormity. The Paraguayan Government by no act, either before or since the war, has provoked such barbarity. The Argentine, Brazilian and M. Videan citizens have been permitted to retire with their effects from our territory, or remain, as they preferred.

My Government respected the usages of war, although our treaty had expired, considering them of benefit to humanity and national honor, and never so far forgetful as to allow the tearing down of your flag or shooting Your Ex. in effigy [even though at war], much less murdering any stray Argentinian or Brazilian in our encampment. Public opinion and history will severely judge such acts. The allied powers have not waged war according to civilized usages, but with atrocities that will for ever brand them with infamy.

Such being the case, my position as General of the armies of this Republic obliges me to check such acts as far as possible. I therefore invite Your Ex., in the name of humanity and decorum, to abandon this barbarous method of war, to treat your Paraguayan captives as prisoners of war, and to prevent further atrocities. And I notify Your Ex. that in case you do not reply, or that the Paraguayan prisoners be kept in arms against their country, or that you hoist a Paraguayan flag in your ranks, or commit any fresh enormity, shall feel myself excused from any further consideration, and [however unwillingly] make all Argentinians, Brazilians and M. Videans, that may now or hereafter be in my hands, answer with their lives and properties for a vigorous reprisal.

I will await your answer for 30 days: you can send it to Paso la Patria.

May God preserve Your Ex. many years.

FRANCISCO S. LOPEZ.

Head-quarters, Bella Vista, November 25th 1865.

The President of the Argentine Republic and General-in-Chief of the allied armies.

To His Ex. Marshal Francisco S. Lopez President of the Republic of Paraguay.

I have received the note which Your Ex. addresses me as General-in-Chief of the allied armies, from your head-quarters at Humayta dated 20th inst., wherein after citing facts which you suppose inconsistent with the laws of war, committed by the allied armies with the prisoners of Yatay and Uruguayana, Your Ex. invites me to observe those laws, intimating your intention to use reprisals in a contrary event.

On duly considering said note, I must say in reply that the facts you allege, as grave charges of want of humanity and self-respect on the part of the allies towards the Paraguayan prisoners fallen into our hands, are in part wholly untrue, and the rest distorted, probably owing to prejudiced reports which have reached Your Ex., and I regret that a moment's reflection did not suffice to shew you the falsehood of such statements.

The Argentine, Brazilian, and Montevidean Governments being forced to stand forth in defence of their honor, dignity, and territory, which Your Ex. treacherously assailed in violation of all civilized usages, seizing our towns and vessels in time of peace, without previous declaration of war, and in a piratical manner, we had to hasten to rescue the lives and properties of our fellow-citizens in Matto-Grosso, Rio Grande, and Corrientes from barbarous death and spoliation, but always in conformity with the rules of international war. And this we have fulfilled, not only for honor and duty, but because the crimes and outrages perpetrated by Your Ex.'s troops in Brazilian and Argentine territory, during your brief occupation, had filled us with horror, and we could not fall into the same iniquity: neither could we show the civilized world any other conduct than becomes an army en-

gaged with the noble mission of vindicating national honor, instead of sacking defenceless towns and properties, as Your Ex.'s troops have done from first entering Argentine and Brazilian territory on either side of the Uruguay till reaching Uruguayana and Paso los Libres, completely destroying all the towns and farms, and carrying off a great portion of the booty for Your Ex. in Paraguay, and by your order, as appears from the note-book found in Col. Estigarribia's papers, which book is now in possession of the Brazilian Government.

At the same time the army which Your Ex. poured into Corrientes, as far as the Santa Lucia, committed still greater atrocities, plundering thousands of cattle-farms, burning the houses, leaving thousands of families without roof or shelter on the devastated plains, and even carrying its barbarity (or rather Your Ex.'s, for it was by your order) so far as to tear from their homes and convey prisoners to Paraguay the innocent wives and tender children of several of our valiant officers: these poor women and children had remained in the places occupied by Your Ex.'s troops, trusting you would observe with them the same usages as Your Ex. now invokes in favor of the Paraguayan prisoners, but which you flagrantly violated in their case.

All these acts are notorious, and will stamp with undying ignominy those who have authorized or tolerated same: Your Ex. will have to answer for them not only to the allies who make war against you, but to the whole world, which has uttered an unanimous cry of execration on your head.

At the conclusion of those combats resulting in the triumph of our arms the wounded and captured survivors were first looked after and cared for in our hospitals, on a par with our own wounded. Nay, they were often better treated, as objects of greater compassion owing to their nakedness and misery, and were regarded as the unhappy victims of an ill-advised ruler who hurled them to meet death, in a war both unjust and unprovoked, the effect of an arbitrary caprice. So far from being forced to enter our ranks, or treated with rigor, they have met with kindness and benevolence, some of them being set at liberty, others drafted off to various towns, and the rest kept for army-servants, hospital-work, &c. It is true many of them have entered the ranks of the allied army, but this was with their own free-will and request, a favor which could not be denied them, it having been already conceded to Paraguayan refugees in our territory who volunteered for the campaign.

I have answered the principal charges in Your Ex.'s note, and not only controverted them but shewn upon whom must fall the immense responsibility of whatever barbarities may unhappily have occurred in the present war. I might also descend to the isolated cases mentioned by your Ex., but some are so notoriously false, and others so exaggerated, that it is idle to refute them, especially as we are now at open war, when arms must decide the question. Your Ex. will understand that this is not a season for recrimination, and I should be led into such if I answered the other charges of Your Ex.

In conclusion, I must add that I cannot understand how Your Ex. came to believe the story of the Paraguayan deserter Juan Gonzalez, if there ever really was such a man, and I regret, for the dignity of the post you occupy, that you have seriously affixed your signature to a letter stating your fear of a dagger treacherously directed against you by an Argentine General. I declare to Your Ex. that I do not believe you capable of making such an attempt against my life or that of any of the allied Generals, since I am accustomed to do this justice to the chiefs against whom I have ever fought, and I must do the same with Your Ex.

In consequence of the above, and in order to prevent any excesses on the part of Your Ex. as foreshadowed in your note, I beg formally to notify Your Ex., for the protection of the lives and properties of the Argentinians, Brazilians, and M. Videans in your hands

[taken by chance or treachery, for in a single prisoner], that any act on the part of Your Ex. or subordinates in violation of civilized usages, will be visited personally on Your Ex., besides the other satisfaction that may be deemed requisite. If, in spite of this, Your Ex. take any measures unusual in war, you will have deliberately placed yourself outside the bound of international law, and justify the allies acting towards you as Your Ex. insinuates, it being plainly your intent to aggravate the horrors of war, which the allies are doing their best to lessen; and in this resolution we intend to continue, not laying down our arms till obtaining the fullest reparation for our injuries, which we confide for vindication to the will of the Most High and the strength of our right arms, not to the cowardly and ignoble vengeance wreaked on unarmed men, defenceless women, and innocent children.

Such is the only reply I have to offer Your Ex., without prejudice to whatever resolution may be adopted by the Governments of the Triple Alliance, to whom I will to-day forward a copy of Your Ex.'s note and of this my reply

God preserve Your Excellency—
BARTOLOME MITRE.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

The great walking match between the light-heeled British clerks came off on Monday evening at Belgrano—twice round the race-course. We have been requested not to mention names. At 6 o'clock precisely the pedestrians stepped forward, and the match commenced in the presence of a few sporting friends. The taller gentleman was the favorite at the outset, but the little man won the day by about five yards. The tall gentleman being the loser, then invited his adversary and those present to a sumptuous dinner at the hotel, where all parties passed the evening in the usual jovial manner.

A meeting of citizens is talked of to call upon the Government to water the streets. We hope it will take place, for really the state of the city is becoming perfectly intolerable. On a day there is not a breath of air, there is no walking in the streets on account of the heat, and on a day there is a breeze the dust is even more dangerous. On Tuesday half the people who were compelled to go out of doors had handkerchiefs over their mouths to keep out the choking dust. Gentlemen recently arrived from Europe ask naturally, 'is there positively no city Government?' The nuisance and abuse is now at its height. A 'coup de dust' is ten times more dangerous than a 'coup de soleil.' We are told that Mr. Cazon is the man responsible for all this; if so, why is he not put on his trial for the grossest neglect of duty? This lazy Chief of Police seems to be above all law—he fines every one, but no man can fine him,—why does he not make the prisoners who pass days, weeks, and months, in idleness, water the streets. The lungs of the unfortunate citizens are suffering from the scandalously neglected state of the streets. We call upon Dr. Rawson to do something in the matter.

Two runaway Paraguayan soldiers had arrived at Corrientes from Humayta. They give a most lamentable description of the state of affairs in Paraguay, and state that the troops in Humayta are dying from disease and starvation. Lopez has been to Itapua, where a strong fortification is being raised. Lopez's note to President Mitre, and the President's answer thereto, we publish to-day.

There has been another row in Cordova, caused by the reprehensible conduct of the Government in sending several barrels of ale to the barracks. The soldiers at first refused to drink the beer, alleging that money was what they wanted; money was sent them; they then took to drinking the ale, and the result, of course, was a regular mutiny and disbanding of the troops; a fight ensued, several were killed and wounded, and half the regiment escaped to the camps. We cannot too strongly condemn the conduct of the Government in this affair; it was really a scandalous matter.

In Rosario everything is quiet again. The Benevolent Society has petitioned

the Government to spare the lives of the soldiers who mutined, and we believe only the ringleaders will be shot, but the affair has caused the greatest alarm in Rosario. Governor Orofino was absent when the row occurred, but returned immediately. We hear that some further purchases of land near Carcarana have been made by Englishmen, but we have no details. The engineers of the Central Railway are now sounding the River Segundo preparatory to erecting a bridge; the railway is doing a fair business, and the wool carts keep steadily arriving in Rosario. The house of Guizetti, we are informed, is now buying wool largely.

We regret to announce another invasion of Indians in the South, the news was brought by the last diligence that arrived from Tandil. The savages have swept off some 40,000 head of cattle, all belonging to native estancieros, one a neighbour of ours in Barracas. The last invasion cost Mr. Elizalde, the brother of the Minister, some 8000 cows, but this present one will beggar several Estancieros in the South. It is melancholy to think that with all their talent and ability our public men cannot devise some practical means of defending the frontier. General Paunero's scheme was an excellent one and had it been carried out the Indians would not be at our door now, nor the ruined Estancieros in the South coming into town looking for situations. It does seem to us that as the Government of the Nation is at present engaged in war with Paraguay the Provincial Government of Buenos Ayres should defend its own frontier. Something must be done at once about this very important matter, as the moment the Indians discover that they can enter with impunity we may expect to hear of them at Dolores.

The new Governor of Corrientes will, it is thought, be Cáceres. General Mitre has sent him a note stating that on the day of the elections he shall allow the Correntino soldiers a short furlough, so as to vote according to the Constitution. If the soldiers vote there can be no doubt as to Cáceres' election.

To-morrow will be a grand day in the Villa Lujan; special trains will leave the Parque Station, the new schools are to be inaugurated. Our brother-editor goes to report proceedings.

There have been great dust storms in the camps, North, South, and West; it has also rained copiously in Montevideo, but this city and suburbs are in a terrible state owing to the drought. The quintas are all burnt up.

Messrs. Gatliffe and Beil have started an Agency and Commission office; as these gentlemen are well connected we think they will do a good business.

Mr. Matti gives a sort of pic-nic excursion to Eusemunda on the 8th inst., the proceeds to be given to the soldiers' families. So spirited and patriotic an offer deserves especial praise.

The merchants of Rosario have commenced a suit against the Post-master: it is thought the defendant will be severely fined.

A very splendid Estancia belonging to R. Suarez will be sold by auction on the 14th inst.; the land is in the Loberia.

The concert by Messrs. Werner, Nessler, and 8 amateur performers, at Chilivilcoy, on last Sunday evening, was a great success. It rained something last week, but the crops thereabout are still much in want of rain. We regret to learn that Messrs. Werner and Schramm are soon going to leave us, for M. Video and R. Janeiro. They have changed their mind about going to Chile.

On Tuesday, through the negligence of some cartmen, two bales of wool were left on the Boca line, and nearly caused a most fatal accident. The steps leading to the carriages were smashed, but luckily no other injury. It occurred in front of Sr. Balcarce's 'barraca,' but that gentleman had no blame in the matter. We call attention to the subject, as the owners of 'barracas' down along the line of railway should be most careful lest some hides or bales, through the negligence of the 'peones' be left on the line and cause a smash up. The company should put a policeman on guard for greater security.

The little steamer Pollux, which arrived out here the other day, will proceed at once up the Uruguay. We have not heard on what route she will be put.

An English gold seeking company is being started at Fray Bentos. We hope it will succeed. We have received a letter on the subject from an Englishman up there, who has a bottle full of gold dust on exhibition.

Dr. Barton, who has been many years in Paraguay, arrived with his family in the Esmeralda. We welcome him to Buenos Ayres.

Messrs. Werner and Schramm's concert will come off on Saturday evening, 9th inst.: Mrs. Krutisch will sing the Soprano solo. Carriages to be ordered for half past ten. We advise the foreign public not to lose this rare treat: tickets [\$50] may be had at the Coliseum on entrance

NEWS FROM THE FLEET.

To the Editors of the 'Standard,'
Corrientes, December 1st.

Gentlemen,
I have received the many 'Standards' you kindly sent me per this steamer, please accept my thanks.

Since my last, the only thing of consequence that has transpired around here has been the President's answer to Lopez's despatch of propositions for peace. The important document was 'unsealed,' and consequently I have been able to gather the following information.

It seems that Lopez's letter contained propositions of peace, besides complaints charging Mitre with having sent a man who tried to murder him some nights ago. He also complained of the brutality of our troops in battle, that they did not respect prisoners. He said that the battle of Yatay was a regular butchery.

Fancy Lopez complaining of the brutality of our troops. How stupid.

He got a very sharp answer. Gen. Mitre very coolly informed Lopez that it was no time to talk now, that he made Lopez responsible with his life for all that had taken place. General Mitre also informed Lopez that the war was not against the Paraguayan nation, but solely against his government.

We all expect to see Lopez 'hook it' in the French gunboat Decidéé, as soon as our army steps into the Paraguayan territory. Our army is from 15 to 20 leagues distant; in four or five days it will be here. I have heard that the 'Cuartel General' will be up on the banks of the Paraná, in front of the enemy's batteries, in the Paso de la Patria. In such a case, why our artillery can have a little practice every day with the enemy.

There is a great deal of sickness in the army, principally amongst the Paraguayan soldiers, who actually drop dead on the march. We have had several days' rain, which has done a great deal of good.

It was one of our midshipmen, Juan J. Cauco, who went up in a boat with four men to take Gen. Mitre's answer. He has told me that the officer in command of the place where he went [Guardia del Cora] treated him very well. The Paraguayan soldiers begged biscuit from him; he gave them some, which they began to devour right before their officers. They also told this young midshipman that they only received one small biscuit with meat, per meal. Fancy how those poor devils must suffer. Nothing to eat, and entirely naked!

General Cáceres and staff came on board on the morning of the 27th to pay our 'old man' and slip a visit. General Cáceres is a short, stumpy man. He does not appear more than 40, but he is 56 years old. He is a regular 'gaucho' in appearance.

His staff is different, for it is composed of the finest set of young men I ever saw. All of the best families in the province, and fine-looking and strongly-built young fellows. After having been with us about an hour, the General went in our 'gigs' to pay the captain of the Italian gunboat Veloce a visit.

It is getting warmer and warmer every day here, and sometimes the heat is awful.

We are expecting the iron-clad

Brazil and transports every moment

