

THE WEEKLY STANDARD

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EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS—M. G. & E. T. MULHALL.

NO. 346—SEVENTH YEAR.

BUENOS AYRES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1867.

CIRCULATION 2,500

CORDOVA'S MAILS.

The steamship Cordova, which left Liverpool on the 16th of November, arrived at Madeira on the 23rd, and left on the 24th November for Montevideo, arriving on 19th of December. She has a full general cargo and the undermentioned passengers, viz.:—Trail, Raitz, Armstrong, Newlands, Bennett, Thompson, Brookfield, Shaw, Steward, Esmonde, Purdio, and Yamski.

The officers of the French army of occupation in Rome, headed by general Fiala, were received by the severe and angry. After the French chapels are pressed the happiness the army has experienced in being called upon to defend the temporal dominions of the Pope, his Holiness declared the satisfaction with which he saw himself surrounded by the French army in view of the dangers which environ the chair of St. Peter. He had a word of reproof for the Italian Government, who, he said, in their turn should be grateful to the French army for having freed them from the incubus of revolution. The pope was ever noted for his sarcastic humour, of which this may be taken as a specimen. The Pontifical troops had, said his Holiness, valiantly defended his temporal authority, and the French soldiers had arrived in time to crown the splendid edifice of their valour. His blessing was, in conclusion, bestowed upon France, her army, her Government, and her Emperor. A meeting was convened for yesterday by Cardinal Cullen, having for its object to express sympathy with the pope, and to afford him material assistance in his present difficulties. The Papal police yesterday paid a visit to the houses of several of the Committee of Action in Rome, and discovered papers showing that in the event of the appearance of Garibaldi under the walls a revolt was to have taken place within the city.

We remarked yesterday upon the necessity of coming to some preliminary basis of negotiation on the Roman question before entering upon a Conference. It has now been officially announced that, in answer to the invitation addressed by the French to the British Cabinet, this difficulty will be stated. The answer of our Foreign Office will be that no good can come of a meeting without such a basis, although we should not withhold our good offices if there was a reasonable prospect of being able to mediate with effect between the parties to the Roman question. Prussia, as has already been noted in these columns, has already recognised the same difficulty, and her feelings are supposed to be shared by Austria. Russia, for views of her own, is said to be more pliable. We notice a statement that Chevalier di Nigra was expected in London to confer with the English Cabinet, and to notify the adherence of Italy to the principle of a Conference.

Mazzini has issued another proclamation to the Italians, the fiery language of which intimates that the former fell short of his expectations in arousing the people to a sense of their condition as "hereditary bondsmen." The monarch has dragged the nation through the mud, imprisoned its greatest citizen, cringed to the foreigners, and by its cowardly inaction snatched the prize of Rome from the people of Italy when it was within their grasp. Rome is Italy's if she likes to take it—if she prefers rising against instead of grovelling to the invaders. Italy has twenty-four millions of people only, but France had no more when in 1792 she threw down the gauntlet of defiance to the leagued monarchs and conquered. The French people are with the Italians, and they are only waiting an opportunity to deal the final blow to the despot who has humiliated them in Mexico and Germany. But those who know the fine Roman hand of Mazzini will require no further recapitulation of his proclamation.

Mr. McCullagh Torrens, M.P. for Finsbury, in addressing his constituents, adverted to the Reform Bill with satisfaction as a measure which had brought to light six hundred thousand individuals who had therefore been denied the chief privilege of the Constitution. The lodger franchise,

which has been to a great extent dropped by recent speakers, was eulogised by Mr. Torrens as necessary to make the Act work in large cities. He seemed staggered at the amount of the bill which was likely to be sent in for the Abyssinian expedition, but protested against a penny of the sum being applied to the permanent occupation of such a complete terra incognita.

A Conservative Association has been bearding Mr. Bright in his den, otherwise, in Rochdale. A banquet has taken place at which one thousand people were present, among them the Hon. A. F. Egerton, M. P., who, of course, commented upon the significance of the fact that so many "just" men should be founded in Rochdale. Mr. Charles Tunner, M.P., in replying for the House of Commons, considered that the 'prestige' of the country had not suffered in the hands of the present Government, and upon comparison thought it would be admitted that Lord Derby was as good as Lord Russell, and Mr. Disraeli as good as Mr. Gladstone. A Cabinet Council was held yesterday at Lord Derby's residence.

The appeal of the Contract Corporation against the decision of the Master of the Rolls establishing their liability as contributories for 360 shares in Barned's Banking Company was part heard by Lord Justice Cairns on Thursday. The appeal of a B shareholder also came before the court, but was not decided.

The Liverpool solicitor whose defalcations we referred to on Thursday is Mr. William Stockley, the senior partner of the firm of Stockley, Wrigley, and Stockley. In the course of Thursday, the defaulter, who has absconded, was adjudicated bankrupt.

Another extensive fraud in Liverpool was reported on Thursday. The offender, a cashier of a local firm, is a defaulter to the extent of about £20,000.

Allen, one of the condemned convicts at Manchester, had an interview with two of his relatives on Wednesday and assured them that he was innocent of all moral guilt with respect to the death of Brett, and that the actual murderer got away with Kelly and Deasey. Larkin, another of the condemned men, has sent to his wife a letter, in which he also protests his innocence of the murder. McGuire, the marine, who has liberated on Wednesday, is very thankful for his narrow escape from the scaffold, and hopes that he will be permitted to complete his term of military service. In the event of the capital penalty being exacted in the cases of Allen and the other three convicts, the execution will probably take place on Saturday, the 30th instant. Kelly, of whose whereabouts many silly stories are told, is now said to be in Belgium, and the Government has sent over a detective officer to ascertain whether there is any truth in the report. Stephens is still in Paris.

It is said that Chevalier Nigra is about to visit England to confer with the English Cabinet respecting the proposed conference on the Roman question. Italy, it is said, adheres in principle to the project.

The insurrectionary committee of action in Rome has been discovered through the treachery of three pretended friends, who gave information to the police for the sum of 45,000 Roman crowns.

It is reported that General Garibaldi will be tried for having provoked war with a foreign State, and that his escape from Caprera will be the subject of a special investigation by three Italian admirals. The *Standard* says that some friends of Garibaldi advise him to ask permission of the Italian Government to withdraw to the United States.

It is said that the Porte has prohibited the exportation of corn from Scutari, and of cattle from Epirus, Thessalia, and Macedon. These measures will render it more difficult to provision Crete, should that island continue in a state of insurrection.

Despatches from Belgrade state that the refusal of the Porte to take into consideration the note of the Serbian Government, demanding satisfaction for the murder committed on board the Germana, has caused a deep sensation. A large number of need-

guns of the Prussian pattern are arriving in Servia. It is expected that a collision with the Mussulman troops will break out as soon as the hostilities in Crete shall have been resumed.

The Genoa *Movimento* of the 11th of November affirms that the Minister of War has ordered the formation of three camps—at Naples, Poggio Mirto, and Florence. Each camp will contain 25,000 soldiers, who will be mobilised and placed under the command of General Cialdini. Each camp will have the necessary cavalry and artillery. These three camps will be formed to all appearances for the instruction of troops, but in reality, will be camps of observation with an effective of 75,000 men, who, in one week, could be amassed and concentrated on any point of the line between Florence, Poggio-Mirteto, and Naples.

The concentration has already commenced.

The *Gazzetta di Romagna* of Bologna, in its number of the 10th, says—"During the whole of yesterday there was a continual going and coming at the station here of the soldiers of the class of 1841, called under the flag. We believe that very few amongst them have failed to appear. Many of the Venetians wore the Austrian uniform."

CITY OF BUENOS AYRES MAILS.

The following telegram has been received at the Irish office:—"Sir Thomas Larco, Dublin to the Earl of Mayo, London. An explosion of gas has occurred in the Courthouse, Green-street. Some injury has been done to the building, but no person has been injured. You may hear this attributed to other causes, for which there is no foundation."

The *Times* believes that Government at the last Cabinet, held on the 12th instant, decided on entering into arrangements with the principal telegraphic companies of the United Kingdom with the view of placing the various lines under the management of the Post-office Department. The details of the plan will be under the superintendence of Mr. F. J. Scadamore, the assistant-secretary of the Post-office, with whom the notion originated.

The *Post* hears that Dr. Powys, Bishop of Sodor and Man, has been translated to the diocese of Lichfield.

A long letter in the *Times*, on English and American iron, states that both in England and America their iron trade is overborne by excess of production. With the labour question so unsettled capital is not likely to be attracted to it, and when confidence revives there may be a better chance for the large capital invested in it.

The *Times* remarks, in a leading article, that the practical settlement of the affairs of the Royal Bank of Liverpool is an instance of the disposition to make things comfortable which appears to be an especial temptation of the mercantile world.

The *Times* says the English funds were dull yesterday, at a reaction of 118 but in railway and other markets there was a better tendency. The *Daily News* says the demand for bullion abroad is not active, but the recent arrivals from Australia are expected to be sent away, as well as any further amounts that may shortly come to hand. There was some active buying of Peninsular and Oriental Company's shares yesterday, and they advanced £3 the closing price being £55 to £58. A week ago they were £50 to £52. This rise, in the face of an announcement that no dividend is forthcoming, is owing to the impression that the new mail contract are much more satisfactory than those of the old service.

The Paris correspondent of the *Globe* says—"One of the journals announces that the Minister of the United States at Paris has received instructions from his Government to make representations to the French Cabinet on the Roman question. Doubts are expressed that the French Emperor will tolerate the meddling of the United States in a matter which is European, and in which the States in their corporate capacity have no concern."

The *Spezial* correspondent of the *Riforma*, writing on the 8th November, says—"Yesterday morning

I went to Varignano with Doctor Prandini to see if he, as a physician, could gain admittance to Garibaldi. Lieutenant Camozzi, who is entrusted with the guard, was inexorable, and frequently replied *Non possumus*. We, however, had the pleasure several times of seeing and saluting the General, who was at the window with Canzio and Basso. Garibaldi is in perfect health, but annoyed that he is not allowed to walk about in the interior of Varignano."

An alarming explosion of gas took place at the Crown Solicitor's Office, at the Commission Court, Green-street.

The ceiling and walls of the rooms adjoining the office were stripped of the plaster, all the windows were broken, and considerable damage was wrought.

The chamber in which slept the jurors empanelled in the case of Augustine Costello is a perfect wreck. The jurors were having breakfast at the time, and no one was injured.

The gas escaped from the gaselier, and accumulated during the night. When the servants were about to light the fire the explosion occurred.

A very instructive paragraph is going the round of the newspapers. Some important livings in the Church of England and of Ireland are for sale. For instance, there is the rectory of Brompton Bulph, Somerset, which has an excellent modern house, and yields £550 a year; while the present incumbent is 67 years of age. Again, we have the rectory of Great Ashby, near Appleby, with an excellent house, £280 a year, and an incumbent who has reached the patriarchal age of three score years and ten. Next, we have a rectory in a good part of Ireland yielding £450 a year, burthened with a small population, and offered for the ridiculously small sum of £2,000. Here are admirable opportunities for the employment of the capital which is at present locked up. A vicarage, the privilege of dining with the squire, and the right of teaching ignorant peasantry from Sunday to Sunday the way to Heaven, are to be had for a sum which would not buy a good race-horse. While the souls of men are thus put up to the highest bidder, people wonder that the Church of England does not exercise her old power; that Dissent increases; and that the ecclesiastics of Rome point the finger of scorn to the ecclesiastics of England, as to men who buy and sell doves in the Temple, who make religion a trade, and who deserve to be driven with the whip of wrath from the sanctuary? One of the first acts of a reformed Parliament will be to take measures for stopping a practice which has ceased to wear even the garb of hypocrisy, and has come to vaunt its cynical impiety.

Some time ago a report was received here from Copenhagen to the effect that the Danish Government had concluded a treaty with the United States for the sale of the West Indian islands, St. Thomas and St. Croix. Considerable doubt attached to the rumour, as it was only one of a series which had been circulated, giving Mr. Seward credit for persistent efforts to obtain an American naval station among the minor dependencies of the European Powers in the Antilles. We are now in possession of advices from Copenhagen, however, which confirm the statement, with the addition that the price which Denmark asks for her two colonies is about £1,500,000, and that the treaty only awaits ratification by the Danish Parliament. The transaction is very natural on the part of both the contracting Powers, and calls for no particular animadversion from neutrals. Apart from its importance as a harbour of call, St. Thomas possessed little real value, while recent events show that even as a naval rendezvous it affords slender protection against the tornadoes which periodically ravage those seas. English interest are mainly concerned with the position held on the island by the Royal Mail Steam Company, but there is little reason to fear that a transfer to the United States would place in the slightest jeopardy an enterprise of such importance to the mercantile transactions of the world. The sale, if completed, will be unquestionably profitable to Denmark, which derived no strength from such remote

possessions, but has so many good reasons for concentrating her resources and fortifying her hold in Europe.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE MUNICIPALITY.

The life of a people, like that of an individual, is now and then subjected to modifications and events which shake to the very foundation former institutions, a meteor arising in the political horizon emitting a stream of light which illuminates many things, while others are wrapped in complete darkness. Without wishing to rank ourself among the last mentioned, we may be permitted to discuss a question possessing so many interesting features.

An event has just taken place which doubtless some will term seditious and unconstitutional, while others maintain its equity and justifiability, according to natural right. We refer to the collision, caused by the cholera, between the retrograde Municipality of this town and the Provincial Government. The people of Buenos Ayres have exercised an act of true sovereignty, though, no doubt, highly unconstitutional: the necessary consequence of municipal abuse was a corresponding abuse on the part of the people. In our humble opinion, the Corporation could only have been legally accused before the Provincial Chambers, by petition, as provided by law for such cases, misused authority to be subsequently brought before the Senate. We denounce the act as unconstitutional, for we do not believe it within the attributions of the people, to overturn with one blast of democratic indignation, the power which but a day previous they had delegated to the legally constituted magistrates.

The Provincial Constitution, in Art. 49, guarantees to citizens the right to meet quietly and petition the authorities, individually or collectively. The National Code, in Art. 22, says:—"The people can only deliberate or govern through their constituted representatives and magistrates. All armed force, or meeting of persons to assert the rights of the people, and petition in their name, are guilty of sedition." Clearly, then, according to the Constitution, the people have committed the crime of sedition. It seems that the legal way of abolishing the corporation would have been to draw up a petition, the round about presentation of which would cause a month's delay at least. The situation was grave, and demanded prompt and energetic measures; there was no alternative but to remain the passive sufferer of municipal inertness, or else, by one illegal blow, upset the whole board, together with the voluminous piles of stagnant prospects for water supply, killing grounds-scavenger carts, &c. We have, therefore, a happy instance of the sovereignty of the people, in strangling, without other means, a power of their own creation, an instance which should serve in future to teach the multitude how they are to overthrow any authority that does not fulfil its obligations.

A slight doubt occurs to us after all. In view of the articles we quoted from the National and Provincial Codes, could such a spontaneous effort be legally made? Could these passages be interpreted otherwise than as an attempt to restrict more or less the liberties of the people? It seems illogical that in such an emergency, with certain death awaiting us all, the power that created it should be unable to destroy, especially where the evil demanded the utmost despatch—each moment's delay costing so many more lives. The people, like a ball, only requires to be set going; centrifugal force will keep it going. The question, therefore, resolves itself to this—Since the law has delegated all authority in certain hands, may the people legally indulge in this spontaneous outburst of popular feeling?

Supposing the Municipality had refused to resign, in compliance with the demand of the concourse, under the pretext of legality, and that the crowd was but a petty faction of the people, what would have resulted? Would the just indignation of the multitude, after being snubbed for civility, have found free vent in brutal force? Undoubtedly so, for no free people are easily deprived of their rights.—*Republ.*

REVIEW FOR EUROPE.

The melancholy annals of the past few weeks form a chapter possibly the darkest in the River Plate history; cholera has swept down the Parana from the pestiferous quarters of the allied army, and again settled in Buenos Ayres; for months past it was known that there were some cholera cases in this city, but since the sailing of the French packet the mortality increased with such rapidity that the people took fright, and half the population fled to the camp; not even during the terrible visitation last April when three thousand of our fellow citizens were carried off was the panic so great as it has been here for the last ten days. Business may be said to be at a complete standstill; half the population has fled, the streets are no longer crowded, and at night the lurid flames of ten thousand fires lighted for the purpose of fumigation, give a lugubrious appearance to this city, once the most famed for its salubrity. Nevertheless the town corporation or municipality, with their characteristic indolence, took no adequate steps, no measures, to clean the city or make the slightest headway against the epidemic; funerals in every street, sickness in every square, and coffins carried about even in furniture vans. At the public cemetery coffins piled high waiting for interment, not even hands sufficient to dig graves; the refuse from the houses lying in boxes before the doors until a late hour; depravity, neglect and crime, nothing short of wholesale murder, had reached its climax. The people of Buenos Ayres rose, held an indignation meeting in the Plaza, passed resolutions demanding the instant and absolute resignation of the whole Municipal Board; the Municipality refused, the people rushed up to the building, determined to enforce their resolutions, and the board finding they could no longer trifle with the public, resigned 'en masse.' Happily owing to the courageous interference of the Governor and his Ministers, no violence ensued, and the people retired to their homes; but never on any occasion was the voice of public opinion more sacredly employed than in hurling from office those men whose horrid negligence had reduced the city to such an appalling condition. Since the deposition of the board, we are happy to say, the Government has taken the most urgent steps, named a committee of safety, appointed Doctors and Apothecaries for each district, taken up two hundred carts to aid in carrying away the dirt and refuse from the houses, engaged gangs of men to sweep the streets, and introduced useful reforms at the public cemetery; but there is yet much to be done, the city requires a thorough sewerage, and a complete water supply. The weather has become slightly more favorable, the mortality has diminished, and we live in the hope, that the extinction of the Municipality will prove the resurrection of the city.

The war news of the fortnight amounts to nothing. We have had recent advices from headquarters; the cholera has declared itself with intense virulence in both camps, at Corrientes and the Gran Chaco. Lopez holds out at Humaita, and has made no offensive move, although one is hourly expected. Recruits arrive from Brazil by each transport, and supplies are constantly and regularly sent up from this city. What the allies are doing, intend to do, will do, or can do, none in Buenos Ayres know, or even care to know; affliction has been too general, sorrow too wholesale, to admit of even a thought being turned towards this most distasteful of all subjects. It appears as far as we can gather that the allies have no intention whatever to attack Lopez's positions; they are strengthening their lines around Humaita by ditches, &c., and when they have a disposable force at their command they intend to despatch a division to seize Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, and destroy its splendid Arsenal. As is usual however in the history of this war, sufficient time has been allowed the enemy to throw a few thousand men into the place; the troops from Matto Grosso and Cuyaba have been brought down, and thus a move which if adopted in time might have proved an easy and severe blow to the enemy, can now be only accomplished by nothing short of a decisive battle.

The state of the Interior calls for no particular remarks; things are without any material change. The special commissioner appointed by the Government to proceed to Rioja to settle the disturbances up there, has been obliged to return to this city owing to the desertion of the post-houses and the ravages of cholera in some of the country towns. Things are however much quieter than at the leaving of

the French packet, and if we except the inroad of the Indians at one or two exposed points, there has been nothing in the Interior to disturb the peace. Rosario has suffered seriously from the cholera, but now the health of that town is better; business is improving, a new saladero has commenced working, and things beginning to look somewhat brighter.

The sheepfarming industry in the River Plate is at present suffering the most extreme prostration; the wools, some of the finest and best lots in the country have been sold at a price 20 per cent under last year's dates, and the market still falling. Sheep, the very best class can be bought at from 3s. 6d. to 4s. per, but there are no buyers, and estancieros are compelled to hold their stock. Land has also depreciated in value, and in fact, for the last ten years prices have not been so low for both land and stock as at present.

The financial condition of our market has been much affected by the edict of the Montevideo Government legalizing the stoppage of specie payments. Exchange has again receded and is now at a rate which renders specie shipments the best remittance; the Humboldt which left on Friday took £50,000 in gold for England, and the Halley which leaves now will also take a large shipment. No hope for any amelioration in the Montevideo money market is entertained until one or two of the banks in that city liquidate. The paper emission has been excessive and beyond all the requirements of legitimate trade and commerce. The wildest speculation has been fostered and supported by banks whose only aim seems to have been to declare large dividends, whilst the wool market may be fairly said to cease to exist, all the estancieros being obliged to ship their own wool to Europe. Montevideo during the last few years has been progressing apace, the city is almost built anew, on every side are evidences of the most gigantic improvements, but the country interests are declining; the estancia business has fallen off; sheep, cattle and lands have depreciated, and the exchange market, which rules the country, has been so low as to cause large specie exports.

In the Provinces of Buenos Ayres and Santa Fé much more attention is now paid to grain crops, and large tracts have been ploughed up. The wheat crop is splendid this year, and more than sufficient. For the first time the River Plate becomes an exporter of wheat and flour to Europe; and from the prospects we are inclined to think that in a few years wheat and flour will be a staple export from the Plate.

Owing to the gloomy state of things in the River Plate, we repeat our warning to those of our countrymen disposed to come out to the Plate in quest of situations. There are none, save the most menial, offering, and the city is full of young men looking for situations, with but very remote chance of obtaining any. Labourers and mechanics are the only eligible classes of emigration for the Plate at present.

Exchange on England, 48 1/2, 48 3/4. Do. France, 5.12, 5.17. Do. Antwerp, 5.10, 5.15. Do. Rio, 38 1/2, 38 3/4.

DEPARTURE OF H.B.M.'S MINISTER.

Mr. Buckley Mathew, C.B., leaves in the packet for Rio; the British public have anticipated us in bidding this esteemed gentleman farewell. Few men, in so short a time, have made themselves so universally esteemed, so highly popular, as the gentleman in question. The address of the British residents hereunder embodies our sentiments; we have but to add, that so long as her Majesty's Government are so felicitous in their nominations to posts abroad, the dignity of the nation, and the interests of the British residents, will ever command respect:—

A deputation waited on Mr. Buckley Mathew on Thursday, the 19th inst., to place in his hands the address, signed by many of the influential British residents in Buenos Ayres. Before presenting the address, Mr. John Fair intimated to Mr. Mathew that, should the absence of any known and familiar names be discovered among those appended to it, the omission was attributable to some accidental cause rather than to any reluctance to be associated in the farewell words presented to him. Mr. Fair also alluded to the circumstance that it had been contemplated to give a more public character to the presentation of the address, but that the idea had been abandoned, in deference to Mr. Mathew's own wish, intimating that the British community appreciated the feeling which prompted this wish, a feeling, doubtless, of sympathy

with the present mournful state of the city, which made him decline anything in the shape of public visitation at a moment when, by the visitation of Divine Providence, so dark a cloud of suffering, sorrow, and anxiety is hanging over the inhabitants. Mr. Fair, having further intimated that it would be gratifying to the subscribers if the address were brought under the notice of Lord Stanley, proceeded to read it.

Buenos Ayres Decr. 19th 1867. To George Buckley Mathew Esq. C.B. H. B. Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Argentine Confederation.

Sir, We are unwilling that you should leave for the new sphere of your official duty without a brief word of respectful farewell from the British residents in Buenos Ayres.

We take the liberty of congratulating you on the distinction conferred by our Gracious Sovereign in your advancement to the Diplomatic mission near the Court of Brazil; and we think we are not wrong in regarding this as a recognition of public services which we have had the opportunity, during your short residence among us, of gratefully appreciating.

We have to thank you for your watchful solicitude, for the general interests of all British residents in these countries, as well as for unvaried affability in all your more direct official relations with us individually; while we are not unmindful of the pleasant social influence emitted from your hospitable mansion.

We would beg you to offer to Mrs. Buckley Mathew our warm acknowledgments of her graceful and cordial intercourse with us, and our heartfelt wish that she may long be spared, with renovated health, to spread around her the genial warmth of English society.

For yourself, Sir, we hope that your new mission may be so successful as to mark you out for further indications of Her Majesty's approval and favor, and that your residence in Brazil may be associated with none but very welcome memories.

- We are &c. Thomas Armstrong, T. Ducoud and Co., R & J Carlisle & Co., Edward Lumb, Ashworth and Co., Parlane, Graham, and Co., James Smith (Scotch Chaplain), Henry Tomkinson, Daniel Mackinlay, M. Forrester, Henry N Hart, Charles B Krabbé, J Chubb Ford (English Chaplain), Glover, Darbyshire, and Co., T Best and Co., Barbour, Barclay, and Co., Kerr and Grierson, W Gilmour and Co., Thomas B Hall, Woodgate, Brothers, Moore, Punch, and Tudor, J W Paul, Pott, & Co., T Mitchell and Co., T Drysdale and Co., Jorge Bell and Son, Constant Santa Maria, James Brown and Co., W Williamson, Charles Jackson, John Pringle B yd, Charles Darbyshire, Russell and Anderson, A J Rossi mol, Clark and Malm, A Auchtalonie, John Fair, E M Powell and Co., M G and E T Mulhall (Editors Standard), John Hannah, J B Waite, F Wanklyn, William Downes, William Leslie, William Matti, P Browne, L J Isaac and Co., E Medlicott and Co., Drabble, Brothers, J Mortimer, C.E., G H Tucker, Samuel Haycraft, Thomas B Joelng, Richard Gibbings, John Coghlan, William White, Carlos Saquiier, William Rose, Henry S Samuel, Daniel Gowland, Henry A Green, John Hughes, W W Welohman, Edward Musgrave, Charles Hunnah, George D Stewart, J T Fox, Frederick Ploves, A J Goulstono, A R P Smith, Frederick Fair, C T G Robertson, C E, A H Coppinger, Robert G Elgie, W Furness, C E, J W Brookes, George Fair, J Green, G. P. Craufurd, William Mackern.

The following is a copy of Mr. Mathew's reply:—

Reverend Sirs and Gentlemen, I have received, with the deepest sentiments of gratification the flattering and graceful address you have presented to me on the occasion of my departure from Buenos Ayres, and I beg leave to thank you most sincerely, in the name of Mrs. Buckley Mathew and in my own, for the welcome and kindly feeling you have expressed towards us.

It has been my earnest desire, during my residence among you, to protect and promote your interests in the Republic, and to cement union and social good will. I have considered this to be my duty to our gracious Sovereign, who honored me by selecting me as Her Majesty's representative, and I am fully rewarded by your assurances that my endeavours have not been unsuccessful.

I have seen with pride and satisfaction the high and independent position the British community here have acquired by their well-known integrity, by their enlightened energy, and by their perseverance, and I derive real pleasure from the conviction, that their residence in this land of their adoption will be as advantageous to themselves as it unquestionably has been, and will be, to the best interests of the Argentine Republic.

I am but too well aware that they have had to contend with many difficulties, but these are probably inseparable from the condition of what I may term a new country, when I consider its immense extent, its great natural resources, the development of which is yet in its infancy, and its comparatively small population; nor should I be doing justice to the Government of the Republic were I to abstain from avowing my assured belief that they desire to do their utmost to extend to them the full rights to which I hold them to be entitled.

Acquainted, as I believe myself to be, with their honorable sentiments, I cannot doubt that they will feel that it is no less their paramount duty than it is their interest, as lovers of their country, to afford to foreign settlers in the interior complete protection against the attacks of Indians and other marauders, and that they will not hesitate to take whatever steps they may find requisite to ensure to them by the certain, swift, and impartial administration of justice, the full security which marks a land of civilisation and good order.

During the period I have passed in Buenos Ayres, I have had the gratification of witnessing an act of the utmost commercial importance in the settlement of the paper currency question, and I am now enabled to entertain the hope that the sanitary condition of this great city will be speedily improved, by the introduction of pure water, and by a system of thorough drainage, and that the deplorable state of the anchorage will shortly cease to be a subject for animadversion and regret.

I thank you again, gentlemen, for your good wishes, and, in bidding you "Farewell!" I beg you to believe that I shall ever take a warm interest in your happiness, and in your prosperity, individually and collectively.

GEORGE BUCKLEY-MATHEW. Buenos Ayres, 19th December, 1867. The gentlemen signers of the address, &c.

SUSPENSION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS. (Communicated.)

Banking is still a subject of great interest to the public, for we are yet in an embryo state with regard to our paper money, and at this moment startling events occur which need to be engraven on the general mind in a bold and treachant manner.

We see in this city how an old institution, hampered by monopoly and capable of the widest reform, is by good management allaying and soothing an excited commerce by liberal facilities, while in Montevideo the supposed instigators of wealth and progress—free Banks—have become through reckless mismanagement "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare."

It is perhaps the most curious phase of the question that in Montevideo those who will suffer most from the arbitrary suspension of specie payments are precisely those who have been most cautious in restricting their business to its narrowest limits. Fearing the unsound state of trade, there remained but to deposit their capital in one or other of the Banks. The wild speculator and the man of straw has, on the other hand, everything to gain by the late Government decree, which enables them to cancel their obligations in an abundant and depreciated currency.

If ever there was an attempt to legalize fleeing, Montevideo may boast that she is not far behind, and this, we feel confident, arises, not from a vicious Government, but from a mistaken idea that the bolstering up a few rash speculators is protecting commerce.

It is said that the false position of one of the principal Banks is due to having facilitated the Montevideo Government with funds by discounting Treasury Bills with excessive dates to run. If so, we call upon Minister Flangini to stop the panic, and retrieve the wounded honor of his country by affiliating this Bank as a national institution, much in the same manner as our Provincial Bank is carried on here; oblige its present directors to continue in their post, and compel every shareholder to respond for the unpaid quota of his shares, for it is but just that those who have received the benefit of high dividends should now feel the evils of a too daring speculation.

The advantage of the transfer from a private company to a Government institution becomes more apparent by a glance at the critical position of the Buenos Ayres money market, but first we must remind our readers that all joint stock banks are greatly influenced by the yearly dividend declared, and if as may have happened the shares of an association formerly at a high premium, have gradually

fallen to par, it behoves the directors to make a strong effort to revive the favor of investors, thus all credits are suddenly annulled, bills peremptorily collected and every legal pressure availed of. No matter, if some score or two of traders are therefore obliged to suspend, no matter if honest industry is checked and thwarted, if the panic increases, so much the better; true the bank may have lowered its character, yet at an opportune moment long dated bills will be discounted at an exorbitant figure, and shareholders abroad be gratified with a large dividend.

To these manoeuvres have we here been subject for the last month; and had it not been for the bold and liberal conduct of the Provincial Bank, ruin would have been very quickly pronounced.

Few words can convey the indebtedness of our merchants to this institution in this our hour of trial; in what position, we ask, would our traders have found themselves if entirely subject to banks whose very existence is in squeezing a large dividend out of the public? We can point to many faults; but in this instance the Provincial Bank has behaved nobly. Monte Video will lose its go-aheadism by having a Government Bank, which fosters industry, and protects the unwary from rapacity.

Under the management of such able men as abound in Montevideo such an establishment would become a blessing and a guide.

AWFUL CALAMITY.

THE ISLAND OF TORTOLA SUBMERGED.

SIX THOUSAND LIVES LOST. Never since Franklin subjugated the electric fluid, and made it serviceable to man, did this dumb agent of thought transmit more appalling intelligence than that received yesterday from Montevideo. The magnitude of the disaster is so great that we forget our own sorrows in the contemplation of a whole people swept from the face of the globe, and hurried, instantaneously, into eternity. Save in the records of the Old Testament, can we find a parallel for such immense disaster. Humanity shudders at woes so awful, so intense, so wholesale. But a few weeks past it was our melancholy duty to chronicle one of the most terrific and disastrous storms ever known in the West Indies. To-day it is our mournful task to tell a tale at which indeed the world may grow pale.

The little island of Tortola, in the West Indies, has disappeared, and the ocean billows beat over the graves of six thousand human beings. No particulars are as yet at hand, in fact none survived "the wreck of matter, the crush of worlds." We must dive with the Peri, "where the gardens of coral lie darkling," to gather full details of one of the most awful visitations since the Christian era.

"Farewell! be it ours to embellish thy pillow, With ev'rything beautiful that grows in the deep— Each flower of the rock, and each gem of the billow, Shall sweeten thy bed and illumine thy sleep." Beneath are all the particulars we can lay our hand on, respecting the drowned island and its government and population. We take them from Thom's Directory for 1866. We have nothing fresher within our control.

VIRGIN ISLANDS. Population, 6,051, of which 476 are white.

These islands consist of a cluster of rocks; the largest is Tortola, which is situated in 18° 27' N. lat., and 64° 39' W. long. Area, 57 square miles. The Government is vested in a President (subordinate to the Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands resident at St. John, Antigua), and an Executive and Legislative Council, of which two-thirds are elected, and one third nominated by the Crown. Revenue, 1863, £1,856; Expenditure, £1,854; Public Debt, £4,129. Value of Imports, £8,875; of Exports, £11,676. Total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1863, 8,657 tons.

President administering the Government, His Excellency James Robert Longden, Tortola (1861), £800.

Executive Council.—The President, the Chief Justice, Hon. Isaac Farrington, Hon. J. Henry MacLean, Hon. G. H. A. Porter.

Legislative Council.—President Hon. A. R. Longden, Hon. Isaac Farrington, J. O. H. Smith, Esq., Augustus M'Clervy, Esq., H. S. Harrigan, Esq., W. Bagnell, Esq., A. J. Harrigan, Esq., H. O. Bunni, Esq., Robert Grimes Pedder, Esq.

Civil Establishment.—Colonial Secretary, G. H. A. Porter, Esq.; Colonial Treasurer, Sinclair Eryan, Esq.; Sub-Treasurer, Henry S. Evans, Esq.; Colonial Surgeon, W. W. King, M.D.,

Esq.; Colonial Chaplain, Rev. G. R. Chaplyn, M.A.; Colonial Postmaster, Charles Shirley.
 Judicial Establishment.—Chief Justice, Hon. Daniel H. O'Gordon (1846); Puisne Judge, Hon. Isaac Farrington; Crown Law Agent, A. C. H. Smith, Esq.; Coroner, James B. Martin, Esq.

THE 'STANDARD' ABROAD.

PUBLIC MONUMENTS OF LISBON.
The Cathedral and churches, promenades, Bolsa, English cemetery.

Lisbon Nov. 1st.
 The Cathedral is a fine old building with two massive turrets, situated on an eminence at the foot of Fort St. George: its antiquity is beyond all tradition in history; and it is only known that the first Bishop in modern times was an Englishman named Gibbert (A. D. 1150), who came with several of his countrymen to aid in expelling the Moors from Portugal. It was partly destroyed by earthquake in 1314, and again in 1755; its present architecture seems a mixture of Arabic and Gothic, the interior presenting a severe and antique aspect. In one of the chapels are preserved the bones of St. Vincent, martyr, patron of the city and in another those of King Alfonso. An arched cloister was behind the high altar, and here is seen a stone chain used by the olden kings when they administered justice in public. From one of the lofty towers was hurled Bishop Martin, a Spaniard, when the people rose to emancipate themselves from the Spanish yoke. On Thursday there was a grand Te Deum by the Cardinal Archbishop, for the birthday of King Louis, the court and ministers assisting.

The church of St. Domingo is the largest in the city, situated in the Plaza de Don Pedro, and possessing some fine pictures. San Vincente is on one of the hills of the old town: it was first built by King Alfonso, when he expelled the Moors, and rebuilt by Philip II: the adjacent convent is the residence of the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon. We now ascend a steep hill, to the church and convent of La Graça from which is obtained a fine view of the city: in the sacristy is the tomb of the famous warrior Albuquerque, viceroy of India. Returning to the new town we visit the Magdalen with its ancient portico, the San Julian with its rich profusion of marbles, and San Nicholas recently rebuilt in splendid style. San Roque is one of the finest of all, but not now visited as it is in course of repair. There are two English chapels, San Patricio and Ingezinbos, besides an English protestant church.

In the afternoon I went on the Bolsa, which is situated in Black-horse square, close to the Custom-house: here I had the pleasure to meet Mr. Modlicot, an old Irish gentleman who has been a wine merchant here for 54 years. I observed to him that the Bolsa was much inferior to those of Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, whereupon he told me that the trade of Lisbon has greatly fallen off and that in former years there was hardly standing room here for the merchants.

On Thursday night the city was brilliantly illuminated and we ascended to the Paseo of Alcantara: Fort St. George presented its battlements all hung with lamps, and the arms of Portugal tastefully designed. Bands of music played in the promenades. The royal family was advertised to assist at Donna Maria theatre, and we repaired thither: it is smaller but if possible more elegant than the Opera-house. The Ladies and gentlemen were fashionably dressed, but I hardly saw a pretty girl in the house. His Majesty accompanied by his father, the Queen, and Don Augustin, occupied the grand state-box. *En grande tenue* the king wore a sash and several stars, the Queen glittered in diamonds, Don Fernando had a brilliant uniform, and the Infante appeared as a Colonel of the Lancers of the guard. The actors played their parts well, the comedy being entitled *La Casa Nova* and I understood about three-fourths of it.

Friday was the festival of All Saints, and the citizens turned out in holiday costume. We saw a number of brilliant equipages, and many of them were officers in grand uniforms with a profusion of stars and crosses. We took a coach and drove about the city to visit some of the plazas. The statue of Camoens recently inaugurated stands in the square of the same name: it is in bronze, and a notable work of art, representing the author of the *Zusid* in a warrior's dress and holding the book of his great poem: on the marble pedestal are also relief, effigies of the other Portuguese writers. The Rua de Alefim is a handsome street and here are some noble palaces, including the American Legation: the Chiada and Paseo da Estrella;

this is a spacious promenade with winding alleys of thick plantations, an artificial lake and kiosk, and a pavilion where the band plays on Sundays. The adjacent church of the Estrella also well repays a visit.

Close by the Estrella, is the English cemetery (with chapel adjoining): the grounds are neatly kept; and cover about four acres: there is a number of stately monuments, some bearing the arms of noble families of Britain, but you pass them by heedlessly. There is however a moss grown mausoleum, with a medallion in bas-relief, and the name *Fielding*: here lies the prince of English novelists and on the opposite side you read the inscription.

"Luget Britannia non dari fovero natum."
 Leaving the cemetery we proceed through a series of narrow streets and soon reach the palace of Necesidades, the residence of the King's father and brother: the gardens are very fine, and open to visitors. In front of the palace is the church of the same name, and the plaza is adorned with a tasteful fountain and obelisk. Returning to the town we pass the Marine barracks, the Mint, the gas-house, sundry factories, and the Royal Arsenal.

Most of the public institutions are located in an old convent, all religious orders having been suppressed, and even the sisters of charity expelled the country. Nevertheless the people seem more attentive to religion than in some other countries, and their conduct in church is most becoming. On Friday evening I met a curious procession composed of about a hundred citizens, headed by two priests, the latter were reading prayers aloud, and every pair of citizens carried a basket, into which the neighbors and by standers threw bread, fruit, money &c.: the whole was terminated by two bullock-carts, carrying huge cauldrons of cooked meat and soup; the oxen were gaily dressed out with ribbands, and the carts festooned all over with green boughs. I learned from one of the natives that it was an annual procession, to provide a sumptuous repast for the inmates of the poor asylums and prisons of the city.

It would be tedious for me here to enter more minutely into details of all I have seen at Lisbon. Suffice it to say that I am much pleased with the city. The people seem contented and happy, under the blessing of a permanent and liberal government; and the utmost order, cleanliness and regularity are everywhere observable. The place is certainly dull, compared with other European capitals, but the climate is excellent, and there are many interesting places within reach to invite the traveller's curiosity. I forgot to say that one of the suburbs is called Buenos Ayres, and most of the English country houses are there. I may also add that it would be advisable to send our municipality hither to study the matter of markets, water-supply, drainage, pavement, and cleanliness. To-morrow to Santarem.

SANTAREM AND BADAJOZ.

Madrid, Nov. 5th.
 The quaint old city of Santarem, distant some 50 miles from Lisbon, is seldom visited by travellers, although on the line of railway to Madrid. It was a place of some importance in the time of Julius Cesar, and suffered many strange vicissitudes under the Goths and Saracens: we resolved therefore to visit its interesting relics of the olden time, making it the first stage on our journey into Spain.

The second-class carriages on the Portuguese railways are very comfortable, and preferable to the first-class if you value the advantage of having some of the natives to talk to. We started from Lisbon at 11.30 a.m., and had a fine view of the Tagus, passing through the suburbs of Pozo do Bispo and Oliveas. The country is dotted with houses and olive-groves till we reach Sacarem, a picturesque village with church and convent. Next we see a number of brick-fields, extending some miles, close to the river-side; and then the hamlet of Povoa, a poor place, with some fences of *tunz*. Olive-trees again succeed, covering the hill-sides as we approach Alverca, and now we begin to lose the Tagus and the mountains beyond grow dim. Alhandra is a pretty place, with 3 chapels, and surrounded by vineyards. Windmills and the Tagus again, and now we are at Villafranca, a town with some regular streets; the hills are covered with pines, and the lowlands with olives, as we reach Castaflera. The next place is Carregado, with its comfortable farm-houses and ploughed fields. And now the plain stretches away on our right to the Tagus; and we pass Azambuja and its pine thickets, and Ponte St. Anna with a fine strong bridge. Near this is Cartaxo, which produces annually 20,000 pipes of excellent wine. The

Marquis de Nisa's pretty quinta is seen before we cross the iron bridge of Ponte Asseca, and emerging from another olive-grove we reach Santarem.

The railway-station is on the bank of the Tagus; but the town is on the high ground, about a mile distant. Nothing can be more picturesque than the situation of Santarem and the view from the heights: the Tagus winds along a silver thread below you, and the sunset throws a glorious tinge over the venerable ruins of Roman, and Goth, and Saracen, that dispute the ground with convents now deserted, and with straggling vineyards. We enter the town by the steep causeway, and gate called *Atarmar* (Arabic for *bitter waters*): on the roadside is an inscription to the effect that Alfonso Henriques entered by this gate on May 8th 1147, when he drove out the Moors. Hard by is the Castle of the Sun, with gate of the same name: the solid masonry of the old Roman wall is really admirable, overbuilt in many places with Gothic and Moorish fortifications.

There is a good Hospedaria kept by one Donna Felicia, and here we found a good dinner and clean apartments. We sallied out by moonlight to view some of the antiquities, and nearly lost our way in the labyrinth of narrow streets. The Graça church has a facade and window in pure gothic style; but the old Jesuit college is still more remarkable and has a very fine church. Some of the old convents are now barracks, others converted into a bullring, a theatre, &c. or in ruins. Santarem is famous as the birth-place of St. Irene, virgin and martyr, to whom a monument has been raised, with the date A.D. 1295. The plaza has rather a Moorish look about it: the population of the place may be estimated at ten thousand.

Before sunrise we were again afoot rambling through the *Castello del Sol* and the ancient walls of the city. After breakfast we bade adieu to Santarem, and took the train to Badajoz.

The first place we meet is Villa de Figueyra, encircled with olive groves; next, Matto de Miranda, where a crowd of gypsy like peasants awaits the arrival of the trains; then Torres Novas and more olives, until we reach Entrobamiento, the point of junction with the Oporto line.

We again sight the Tagus at the village of Barquina and pass the ferial castle of Almoron in excellent preservation, which crowns a steep rock in the middle of the river. Presently we cross the Tagus by an iron bridge 500 yards long and supported by 45 cylinders. We now enter the province of Alentejo, which, as well, Beira, is much more fertile than anything I have yet seen in Spain: Olive-groves, pines, vineyards, and orange-groves, alternate as we approach the important town of Abrantes. We next traverse thick plantations of the cork tree: the stripping of the bark gives the tree the appearance of being painted; the trees are usually stripped once every five years—Bemposta and Porta da Sor are situated in an arid soil. Portalegre is seen in the hills, and next comes another cork-forest, then Azomar and St. Olalia, and lastly the strong frontier post of Elvas (with Fort Garga) which has a large Portuguese garrison. We now cross the Spanish frontier, and in half an hour reach Badajoz.

It was night when we arrived, but the moon shone brightly as we proceeded from the railway station to the town, and we could mark the outline of the position so gallantly stormed by the British troops in 1812, under the eye of the Duke of Wellington in person. When you see the strength of the place you do not marvel that the English loss amounted on that terrible day to 5,000 men, but rather that they took it at all. There is a *leto-depont*, and then a splendid bridge, over the Guadiana: after the usual police search at the city gates you enter Badajoz; the present population is put down at 12,000. The Fonda del Cysne is the best hotel, situate in the Plaza. After supper we went to the theatre: saw the Captain-General, some pretty girls, and a host of officers of all ranks. In fact it is quite a military town with little to interest the stranger except its historical recollections: it is however the best place to break the journey between Lisbon and Madrid.

THE WAR IN THE NORTH.

Itapiru, Dec. 20, 1867.
 Gentlemen,
 Since my last the enemy have made a display of a considerable show of activity. The hubbub and panic here on the 15th, was caused by a raid made by the Paraguayans in a place situated within the Allied lines be-

tween Tuyaty and Tuyu-Cue. In the foray they captured and drove away over a thousand head of working oxen, the property of private individuals engaged in the transport business. There was little or no fighting, as the peones who had the custody of the cattle fled upon the approach of the enemy. On the same evening orders were sent here from head-quarters to be on the alert, as from movements that day visible in the enemy's camp, there appeared to be probability, that on the rising of the moon a sally might be expected in the direction of Itapiru; however no hostile move was made, other than a dense mass of Paraguayans, who marched from their entrenchments a small distance towards Tuyaty, when they returned behind their works. During the night, at the encampment, all were under arms. Here also there was a general turn-out; all to a man were under arms the night throughout. Late in the evening of the following day another panic took place here. Groups of the enemy, well-mounted, had been discovered coasting the laguna Piris, quite near the port of Itapiru; if they were in force could not be ascertained; be it as it may, the steamers one and all got up steam with all possible haste; there was no indication seen at any point of making resistance, flight, speedy flight, alone was thought of. In fact, those located at the riverside were powerless to defend themselves in case of an attack. The only protection we have is a Brazilian gunboat placed in a position, where any effort to repel the raiders would be of no avail. We no longer hear it said as formerly, a day named for a general battle to take place; predictions now are made concerning raids only.

In truth, the allies have enough to do to keep their extensive line of communication open, and to prevent the Paraguayans stealing their horses and horned cattle. It seems they have got more and better horses amongst the enemy than they formerly had, probably brought from the Chaco road, as well as a few of those from Buenos Ayres, which they have managed to pick up. *Apropos* of horses, the English steamer *Emily*, on the 16th, came in from Zarate with 420, having lost seventeen on the passage. The *Emily* brought up in tow the English barque *Sarnia* and a Dutch brigantine, both with horses; the barque had 170, the Dutchman 80. When the *Emily* left Zarate she had also in tow the English barque *Premier*, which then had on board 190 horses. At Rosario a brig-hay-laden was added to the other three tows, which vessel took the ground near La Paz and was left there. Near Goya the *Premier* grounded and soon fell over on her beam ends, losing at the time the deck-load of horses. It has been subsequently reported that the balance of the cargo and vessel are a total loss. On the 17th the steamer *Iron King* came in from San Nicolas with two Danish schooners in tow, one of which brought 172 horses, the other 77. Same date arrived the Oriental steamer *Salto*, from San Nicolas, with a brigantine and a schooner in tow. All were laden with horses. To-day also came in the Oriental steamer *Maria*, with two brigs in tow. Steamer and tows were hay-laden. The aggregate number of the animals thus brought were 317. Also arrived from the left bank two tugs, each with a chata in tow, one of which contained 64 horses, the other 56.

The statement of the arrivals of horses for two days will give you some idea of the extent of what is being done in horseflesh here. The noble brutes that have been introduced of late, were fat, sound, and well-trained. However, in three months hence not a tithe of the beasts will be alive. If the climate of Paraguay is hostile to men unacclimatised, it is still more so to cattle that are taken from their wonted pastures, where there are few or none of the tormenting myriads of insects (the bane of horses), or the semi-tropical sun, that shoots forth its broiling rays in all their fury.

The cholera is on the increase, although not taking any very great proportions. The scourge so fatal to the army last year was doubtless introduced by the non-observance of sanitary measures, when the laws of nature were tampered with, but could not be altered, as they passed the limits she has marked out, but they did not go far beyond them with impunity—when, within the precincts of a fortified encampment (it was where the ill-fated *Palleja* fell), many hundreds of human corpses were placed in piles, left uncovered to fester, and decompose in open air. This is not a hearsay assertion. Soon after the plague appeared, I need not recapitulate what followed. Masses of human beings still mark the spots where the unwise and unchristian-like deeds were done.

During the week many herds of worn-out horses have been driven in here from the encampments, in order to be hurried over to the left margin to recruit. The ground far and near the embarking place is strewn with their dead carcasses. Those that die near the water are thrown into the river, a still greater number at a little distance are left to decay in the atmosphere, tainting it so as to be unbearable for a long way off.

Promenading with a newly-arrived shipmaster at the village amongst the noisome unavoidable heaps of garbage and filth unutterable; he observed that it was nothing strange to have the cholera, and every other pest in such a place. It was a matter of "wonderment" to my companion that there were any people at all left alive in the locality.

On the 18th, four shanties, with their contents, in the Comercio, were destroyed by fire. They were occupied by *moros habilitados*, the patrons of whom aver the edifices were purposely fired to cancel compromises. If so, which is probable, it was a speedy and effective way to wind up the business.

Here we know but little of what is passing in the Paraguay river. The cannonade there never ceases. The church and village at Humaita are said to be destroyed—the fortress remains scatheless. The ironclads are still in the same place they brought to at after passing Curupaty.

The railway is nearly completed; additional battalions have been sent there to protect the road.

List of English Vessels in the Port of Itapiru on the 19th of December:—*Emily*, steamer; *Brother's Bride*, barque; *Volant*, do.; *Sarnia*, do.; *Jenny Moody*, brig; *Lady Douglass*, do.; *Ivanhoe*, brigantine; *Storm Bird*, do.

Yours, &c.,
 SINBAD.

ANGORA GOATS.

December 7, 1867.

Gentlemen,
 In your number of the 5th inst. you gave publication to a letter from Mr. Neill, stating what enterprising North Americans have been doing to introduce the valuable race of Angora goats into this country. Most decidedly the Americans give us examples of go-aheadism in many respects, but you will kindly allow me to observe, that in this instance the Banda Oriental farmers have beaten them.

Several years ago a German estanciero in this country, Mr. Roosen, had imported some flocks of Angoras into Montevideo, which are now perfectly at home in several sheepfarms on our frontier, and doing exceedingly well. The same gentleman has later on, and in association with Dn. Francisco Lecocq, of this city, founded a joint-stock company in Germany, with the object of establishing a model farm for the Angora race in the Argentine Province of Cordoba, which, as you will observe, thus derives the benefits of Montevideoan go-aheadism, backed by German capital.

Mous. Giro, in his well-known establishment, near Montevideo, keeps a very fine flock of Angora goats, on joint account, we understand, with Dn. Joaquin Belgrano, one of our leading merchants and estancieros. Those beautiful animals are selling well, and orders have even come from the west coast. The Peru steamer, bound for Valparaiso, took several to that destination.

And, finally, I beg to add, that a Banda Oriental sheepfarmer, of acknowledged intelligence, Dn. Domingo Ordoñona, happened to be on the road to Asia Minor, with the intention to purchase Angora goats there, when Mr. Neill, the Consul of this Republic, and interested in everything conducing to its material advancement, was addressing you his letter.

Thus, I may consider myself authorised to say, that we have nothing to envy the Americans in this respect, however much we may be behind Brother Jonathan in many others.

I remain, Gentlemen,
 Yours truly,
 SUUM CURQUE,
 THE ESTRELLA.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE!

On Tuesday evening, between 6 and 7 o'clock, one of the most destructive fires that ever occurred in this city took place at the brewery establishment of Carlos Sexauer, Calle Potosi, between Sarandi and Rincon. The origin of the fire is attributable to the bursting of the engine boiler. The Fire Brigade, under the charge of the City Police, were in attendance, and rendered every assistance in their power; but notwithstanding the most strenuous exertions, the buildings were entirely destroyed.

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THE WEEKLY STANDARD.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1867.

CHRISTMAS.

Consulting our library, we find, that, in the early history of the Church Christmas was the most moveable of feasts. It was originally instituted A.D. 138, but in the fourth century St. Cyril of Jerusalem obtained from Pope Julius I. an order for investigation to be made concerning the day of the Nativity.

The custom of singing canticles at Christmas, called carols, recalling the songs of the shepherds at the birth of Christ, dates from the time when the common people of Italy ceased to understand Latin. The carols were, in the medieval times, sung in the churches in the hours which intervened between the nocturnal masses, that took place at midnight, at early dawn, and in the morning of Christmas day.

"He has more business than an English oven at Christmas," is still an Italian proverb. When this saying was invented, the old abbots of England were lit up for Midnight Mass, and were yet the fountains of that influence which caused the power of the neighbouring baronial castle to crumble.

But old customs are long-lived. The mistletoe of the heathen will this day be represented in the decorations of the Church, and the infantile revels of our less civilised forefathers will have some faint reflection among the sober English community of Buenos Ayres; and, whatever may be the fate of festivals and celebrations the same, affections exist to render the domestic pleasures of family meetings independent of display, and of the almanac.

It is sad that in this Christmas of 1867 there should be so much cypress to be wreathed with the holly; but our religious emotions of the season may be deepened with thankfulness that on this Christmas morn the pestilent cloud is passing away from us, if indeed it has not already disappeared.

Truly, a blazing sun and a scorching wind from the now festering fields of Paraguay are dreary accompaniments to English ideas of this season. We feel as far removed bodily from the scenes of our youthful associations, the bare branches, the snow, the robin, the appetising look of Leadenhall Market, as intellectually, and perhaps spiritually, some of us are removed from the beautiful superstition of our English ancestors, that on Christmas eve the oxen in the meadows were found kneeling as if in devotion.

Many people besides Ritualists are indulging the idea that there is a conservative reaction at the present day, if not towards old superstitions, at least towards a respect for them. Creeds are a growth, like political constitutions. Too much pruning and grafting improves them off the face of the land, and it may be said of a religion as Mr. Disraeli said of the reform of the English Constitution, "You may change the institutions of Eng-

land, but she will be England no longer."

Those of us who understand and appreciate his meaning, and look on such a result as a calamity, will stick to plum-pudding and little domestic festivities on Christmas day wherever we are; and, above all, whilst in South America, let us cling to social English superstitions as a defence against the materialism of this Mahomet's paradise we dwell in, poised between the old restraints of British respectability and the influence of examples to which the best of us may succumb.

Such is the pious moral we venture to suggest to flavour the merriment of Christmas trees, the riddles, the forfeits, hot cockles and snap-dragon of Christmas time in Buenos Ayres.

If anyone of the guests affects advanced notions, or complains of the tropical heat, or looks as if he were above the proceedings, let his forfeit be to sing the following, with appropriate music:—

On Christmas eve the bells were rung;
On Christmas eve the mass was sung;
That only night, in all the year,
Saw the stoled priest the chalice rear.
Then opened wide the baron's hall,
To vassal, tenant, serf, and all;
Power laid his rod of rule aside;
And ceremony doffed his pride.
The heir, with roses in his shoes,
That night might village partner choose.
All hailed, with uncontrolled delight
And general voice, the happy night
That to the cottage, as the crown,
Brought tidings of salvation down.
England was merry England when
Old Christmas brought his sports again,
'Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale;
'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale;
A Christmas gambol oft would cheer
A poor man's heart through half the year.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year. What a crowd of sweet memories these well loved words recall! What glorious recollections of holly, joy, and mistletoe! What greetings of uncles, aunts, and cousins; how our young hearts bounded when the merry bells rang round, and the first words of the blythe, old song—

"Now, brave lads, Christmas is a-coming,
We'll have flowing, piping, dancing,
drumming."

announced the approach of the choristers, how we joined in heart and voice—

"Here's a health to all good lasses,"

Not forgetting the British soldier and sailor, and we still say, as we sing of them—

"May they live a life of pleasure,
Without mixture, without measure,
Let the bumper toast go round."

It is, indeed, sad to turn from the pleasures of an English Christmas to the realities of the present day: a north-wind blowing, all Christmas joyousness out of us, and the heat making any attempt at roast-beef and plum-pudding actually impracticable, there is, indeed, little prospect of a merry Christmas for many of us; but through the mercy of Providence, we look forward to what is better, a happy New Year, when it comes.

A LADY.

POISONOUS FISH.

Since the days when our versatile correspondent, "Erin," amused the public with his pranks, little attention has been paid to the fishery question. At that eventful period in River Plate history, the deluded enterprise of a Quixotic Irishman stretched lines from the mole-head, with thousands of hooks, to fish for the million. Well do we remember the day when the first trial took place, in the presence of thousands of boatmen, and others, who watched with intense curiosity the result; boats were hired, peons engaged, and such was the excitement that even the dull guards at the Port Captain's hurried down the mole, to learn the easy way to make a fortune in five minutes. The first essay proved a failure, because the lines, which stretched from the mole to the gas-house, wanted leads; the second attempt proved equally unfortunate, owing to too much of this murderous metal; and the third and last attempt, like many other things in this life, met with the most signal success at the outset—millions of fish having been caught—but was frustrated, owing to the absolute impossibility to get the fishes off the hooks in time. Thus it was that the scheme of our countryman proved but an illusive dream, after the outlay of considerable capital and unceasing efforts on his part.

The consumption of fish in this city is large, and sufficiently remunerative to bear large importations from Montevideo: a 'pegerrey' for breakfast is deemed a luxury, whilst a 'dorado' for dinner ranks with our salmon at home.

In times like the present, when there is so much sickness, it becomes the duty of us all to watch attentively

the food supplied the public. We have now, thanks to the Health Committee, inspectors placed at the markets, to watch the meat offered for sale, to scrutinise the vegetables sold to an unthinking public, and to seize upon all unripe fruit sent into the stalls; all this is well, and proper, and as it should be, but, may we ask, whose duty is it to look after the fish? Piety, or necessity, or perhaps both, make fish in this city an article of immense consumption. Not only at the market places is fish sold in large quantities, but the market cartmen retail it from door to door, and in many parts of the suburb situated Ligurians hawk about on long poles fish of varied name and price. When the consumption of an article is on such a large scale as we have shown regarding fish, we certainly think it the duty of the Board of Health to adopt the same preventive measures to exclude bad fish from the market as there are respecting tired beef and stale vegetables; but such, it appears, is not the case, and no man in Buenos Ayres looks after the fish, where it comes from, how retailed, or in what condition.

We owe it to an observant English gentleman for calling our attention to this scandalous fish question, and until proper measures are adopted we caution all our readers against eating any description of fish sold in the town.

The fish now selling in the market and through the town is unfit for use: the fishermen throw their nets from a point almost fronting the Yellow House, up to or about the Gas House; every haul gathers, not hundreds, but thousands, of fishes; it is then the task of the fisherman to select what he deems the good from the bad, that is to say the nets are frequently encumbered with dead and dying fish, poisoned by the putrid waters which wash the beach, and which flood the Riachuelo. In times of floods, or 'crescientes,' it requires neither net, nor line, nor rod, for the dead fish strew our shores, and, as in the case the other day, to such an extent is this poisonous nuisance that the Government is called to send gangs of men to bury the dead fish.

But this is not all the ills bring up from the bottom—every species of corruption, of filth, old poultice rags from the hospitals, horrid bedclothes flung into the river, boots, torn garments of every description; and, readers, in this awful sea of filth the fish which is sold at market is caught. Even still more repulsive and disgusting are the details which our friend, in the interest of public safety, has supplied us; but, enough, we have shown sufficient reason why the Committee of public safety should interfere in this matter. Thank God, we have got rid of the Municipality, and can address our grievances to a Board that has shown the spirit and the will to effect reform. No fisherman's nets should be tolerated nearer than San Isidro or San Fernando, the safety of our lives demands such precaution, and we call on the Board to at once pass a decree to this effect.

AN APPEAL.

The unhappy circumstances under which the country is at present laboring, has thrown additional expenses on our charitable institutions, so that it is impossible to meet so many calls without public assistance.

I have rented a house in the neighborhood of the Irish Convent to receive a poor widow and ten or eleven orphans, who have been deprived of their parents by the prevailing sickness.

The Irish Hospital continues to render important services to the poor, especially to the female portion, the number of which admitted this year has been considerable. At present there are upwards of forty patients, between men and women.

The Sisters of Mercy have had one hundred and three boarders during the past year. Sixty only paid for their boarding at \$250 per month, the remaining forty-three were the children of poor people, and several of them orphans, supported and educated gratuitously by the Sisters. In addition, they had a day school for the poor native children, which averaged from eighty to a hundred daily.

At the present moment the Sisters are visiting all the sick poor, taking them medicines and nourishment, and rendering them the most important services. Such institutions are well deserving of the public support, and I am sure, it is only necessary to make them known in order to excite the public sympathy.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 24, 1867.

A. D. FAHY.

Subscription List:
The "Standard" \$1000
D. Dillon, Guardia del Monte... 1000
J. Ronayne..... 1000

LAS FLORES.

The camps about here are in very good condition, considering the season of the year; it has rained little or much, every three or four days during the month.

The storm of the 17th also visited the town and partido; it blew down 105 yards of the wall of the new cemetery, Mr. Paz's splendid timber shed, and blew off the roofs of some half dozen houses. It has caused no injury to any of our farmers unless filling the camps with water for a couple of hours may be termed an injury; trees in some places suffered but the damage is scarcely worth mentioning; it also rained on the 14th and again plentifully on the 17th.

The population of this town is increasing rapidly just now, every coach brings out families from your cholera city; if I can believe the awful accounts given by these frightened run-aways, I really think you will have to transfer the Standard office to Las Flores. If you should decide on it, don't forget that my house is spacious and always ready for the Editors of the Standard; if our mutual friend, the Governor, is in a cholera flurry bring him with you, we will give him a club-ball every night to dance the cholera out of his thoughts, but leave the Ministers and all the small fry behind; the Governor, assisted by the Standard, can very well govern the State.

The post-office of this town is so managed that it is next to useless; I sent three letters duly stamped a few days since, and they were returned with a message that I should send them to the coach-office; perhaps, the post-master pro tem. had a desire to add to the profits of the coach proprietors; on another occasion I sent a letter without a stamp, but with money to pay the postage, the postmaster in person sent my messenger to a pulperia across the street to weigh the letter; having no small weights at the pulperia, they weighed the letter with two real copper pieces: the postmaster was told the result of this novel method of letter-weighing, and being at time playing billiards, answered the messenger in a very ungentlemanly manner, and refused receiving the letter until he was told its weight in adames—I suppose meant adames—the result being that I was obliged to send the letter and five dollars, to the coach-office it being a double letter. Such things are of every-day occurrence at what is called a country town post-office.

The delivery department of the Standard Office is again playing its old pranks: the coach that left town on the 11th and 17th brought out no Standard!

A bootmaker of this town failed in business, was sent into Buenos Ayres a prisoner, in the coach with a policeman, and, strange to say, was made to pay his own fare and had his luggage embargoed for refusing to pay the policeman's fare; I suppose if our Justice of Peace thought proper to send ten men guarding him, he would be called on to pay the coach fare of all his guards. However, he met something more like justice in your city: Judge Islas, of the Tribunal of Commerce immediately ordered the man to be liberated, and the embargo to be taken off the luggage; Judge Islas orders our Justice of Peace to proceed against the man according to law (arreglado a derecho) which may be understood to mean that this poor man was imprisoned 'arreglado a capricho.' This same Justice of Peace embargoed two pagurés a few days since under the plea that the person in whose favour they were drawn had a lawsuit with the drawer and the person who became security—that is to say, the bills were embargoed at the request of the very parties who owed the money.

The lawsuit in question is carried on in Buenos Ayres, and yet the justice of peace of our town takes on himself what the courts of the city dare not do. The bills embargoed refer to money lent, and the lawsuit, which serves as a plea to stop payment, is about a division wall between the properties of the parties. What makes the affair yet stranger is the fact that the bills are the property of a third party who discounted them, received them duly endorsed, legally protested them, and is totally estranged to the parties litigating. If the justice of peace was entitled to embargo anything under such a plea, why not embargo the property that the wall divides, which is the subject litigated? I will not, however, admit that an inferior judge is entitled to embargo anything having reference to a suit under trial in a superior court—the order of embargo must emanate from the court wherein the case is tried, and, in cases such as the present the embargo is legal only in case of the holder's bankruptcy, or, the bill having been lost or stolen, Art. 868 Commercial Code. I am thus concise, as some of our countrymen

are concerned in his affair. Last year, a poor tailor of this town underwent heavy law expenses and lost his suit by following the advice of the then justice of peace, whose sole object was to put the tailor's opponent (a rival candidate for the office) under the expenses of a lawsuit in the city.

There was a man murdered lately at a gaucho race near a pulperia; the murderer, as usual, escaped—he and his victim were on intimate terms for some years, and were both natives. A second murder was committed at a sheep-race, while dagging the flock—it appeared to be more abundant than prudence; one of the parties in this case was a native; the other a Basque; the murderer is said to be in Entre Rios. Two squates from the plaza of this town a man was stabbed at 5 o'clock in the evening, and the delinquent—of course—escaped; both are natives: this was a pulperia quarrel. The policemen may be seen every day in front of the Court-house doors wrestling, playing the bone (a prohibited game), and, in fact, doing anything and everything but their duty.

The Indians are becoming troublesome on the Southern frontier. Some men have been again marched out from this partido; peons are becoming very scarce in consequence of these Indian raids; any number of shepherds can get employment here at monthly salaries, or on shares, if they prefer it; medianeros and parties in search of land or sheep cannot fail to suit themselves by applying to Mr. Kelly, whose books are filled with lots of land, sheep, &c., to be sold, rented, or given out in every imaginable form.

Shop goods of every kind are selling at very reduced prices here. Business is so very dull that shopkeepers are selling at a loss, so as to draw in money to meet their bills. Some of them must smash if things remain in their present state. There has been no sales of wool here lately. Holders are asking more than its Buenos Ayres value. Freight to town has fallen from 8 to 5 dollars Sheep are, in general, fat; some flocks very fat. Very few buyers come this way just now. Mr. Solanet's saladero is working and making its owner rich. The National school examinations and distribution of prizes ended on the 15th inst. Henry Kelly, Arthur Paz, and Edward Kelly bore away the leading prizes.

It would appear that a great number of the city-inhabitants are suffering from that disease commonly called handbill fever. Every coach brings out packages of handbills, addressed to almost every inhabitant, offering remedies that are guaranteed to prevent and cure cholera. I would humbly remind these attentive gentlemen that the best and only true remedy to avoid cholera is—to jump into a farm. A farmer who takes a gallop round his farm every morning, takes a daily bath, and is not overfond of luxurious dinners, may laugh at cholera and smile at Cranwell and his colleagues.

Shearing is not finished in this partido: the wet weather and scarcity of shearers make the work very dilatory; where there is no carretilla people seem to be in no hurry; wages at this work is daily reducing; day men get \$30, shearers \$40 per hundred.

Mr. Lozada is about starting a graseria outside the town.

DICK.

THE FIRE ON MONDAY.

POLICE TYRANNY.

I have little doubt your columns of to-day will contain a far better account of the large fire that unfortunately occurred last night than I could presume to give you, and it is not my intention in the present letter to attempt any description of the scene of last night but merely to send you a plain unvarnished narrative of what I am sure you will agree with me in calling a most tyrannical act on the part of the police authorities, an act that serves to show how truly Shakespeare knew mankind when he exclaimed "Man, vain, weak man dressed in a little brief authority plays such fantastic tricks before High Heaven &c. Four of us living not far from where the fire took place had our horses saddled at once and galloped to the spot, but being encouraged by the police to assist in extinguishing the fire we took our steeds back to the stable and returned to the scene of action and there worked hard for some time in pumping, passing buckets, throwing down walls &c., until wearied out, wet to the skin, and nearly choked with dust and smoke we turned our faces homewards and at the end of the square found the road guarded by policemen who in return for our exertions coolly informed us we were prisoners and could not depart without the express sanction of

chief of the Police, one of these... officers of justice wishing I... to put himself on an equality... an unarmed Englishman drew his sword and threatened to run one of the party through the body; such are the bare facts of the case and when eventually we got away, each while retreating blamed himself for having been so foolish as to have become.

AN EXTINGUISHER.

IMPORTANT FROM THE PROVINCES.

REAL STATE OF THINGS.

Mendoza, Dec. 6, 1867.

Since my last very little of interest has occurred in this out-of-the-way place. The Andes passes are now freely open to traffic and numerous strange faces about our quiet streets attest the fact that passengers en route to your city are continuously flowing in. By last mail I saw off a party of six countrymen for Villa Nueva recently arrived from Chili, and on being informed of the dangerous state of the Pampa from Gaucho-Indian visitors, they literally bristled with revolvers, rifles and bowie-knives—armed, to the teeth, and determined to defend their 'goods and chattels' to the death. They were principally tourists who had come from Europe via West Indies and Panama; and one middle-aged gentleman of the party asked if it were possible to convey to the Indians the fact that they were foreigners, and in no way wished to molest them, and that surely they would not be so unreasonable as to attack a party of pleasure-seekers! On being informed that such an announcement would more likely tend to disagreeable results than otherwise, he indignantly exclaimed that his convictions were verging strongly towards the sad conclusion that 'very little' guarantee existed here for either life or property—and indistinctly murmured something about "writing to The Times, and exposing this disgrace to civilisation in the nineteenth century!" I would like to hear his opinion on arriving at Rosario; perhaps "W. P." will enlighten us.

This morning the last remnant of troops of the Line stationed in San Juan during the past months, arrived here en route for Rosario, and I am informed they will continue their march within a day or two. The detachment consists of the 6th of the Line (Infantry), about 400 strong, and a part of the 5th (Cavalry) of the Line—all under the immediate orders of Lieut.-Colonel Campos (Luis Maria). The other Line and Buenos Ayres batallions stationed here will also leave Rosario within a few days, consisting of the 5th Infantry (Line) and 2nd regiment of the Buenos Ayres Brigade under Lieut.-Colonel Martinez de Hoz. General Paunero will also march with the troops, and, no doubt, meet his successor, General Martinez, en route. Thus, we are left without a single infantry soldier of the Line in Cuyo; the only force reliable being the 1st regiment of cavalry, 300 strong, under Col. Segovia, at present stationed on the frontier at San Rafael. The only garrison left in San Juan is the infantry battalion—National Guards—of that province, some 300 rank and file; and here in Mendoza, nil, or next thing to it—for the wretched battalion of National Guards are scarcely deserving of the name of soldiers; and, worse still, it is rumoured that a Captain of the Buenos Ayres Brigade has been named to command it, a man who is highly unpopular, and so disliked by the officers that open mutiny is threatened.

I must say that, under these circumstances, the prospects of enjoying peace and repose here are anything but re-assuring, and, should our migratory birds, with scarlet plumage and insatiable appetite for auriferous diet, determine on paying us a flying visit, I do not see how or with what weapons we shall be able to bag the game, and fear in such case that our excellent and venerable old sportsman, Paunero, will have to beat "over the stubble and up thro' the turnips" from Rio Cuarto or "Por Ahi," spending treasure, time, and blood in again drawing out those prison birds from Federal preserves. I have, however, been positively assured by the general that we have nothing to fear, that our transandine friends are on the watch; that no breach of international law will be permitted by the Chilian authorities, and that the whole Federal organization is broken up, and so divided against itself that the most abject impotency is the result.

I sincerely trust that this may prove true, and, indeed, I am half inclined to accept the facts and cease my oft-repeated cry of "wolf."

I have no fears from an invasion in the South, as my friend, Segovia, with his 300 men, is worth ten times the number of "red jackets." (Pray do

not suppose I allude to our red jackets.) At Uspallata there is a small detachment, sufficient, at least, to keep an invading force a little in check, and on the other roads further north the San Juan Government have a fair force of National Guards, so that, in any case, we shall have ample time to prepare, in case of any attempt at invasion.

Freight continues very high to, and from the Litoral to Mendoza, as much as ten reals Bolivian per arroba being paid to Villanueva, and from Chili here as much as 10/50 and 11 bol. per mule load of 350lbs. Meat is still exceedingly dear and scarce, and the cattle very thin. Flour is steady at 22 to 24 reals bol. per quintal, first-class; second do. at 14 to 16 reals, but, of course, the exorbitant freights to Rosario preclude the possibility of export at current prices there. Vast improvements have taken place in the manufacture of wines here of late, and I have found some of this years vintage quite equal to the best Bordeaux wines imported to Buenos Ayres.

I perceive by the San Juan papers that the supreme court of that province has declared null and illegal in every sense the arbitrary proceedings of the judges in Major Rickard's case, revoking the sentence, and declaring him entitled to all the privileges of a miner, prohibiting his arrest for debt, or the works being molested or stopped from any cause.

I presume he will now be entitled to damages for false imprisonment, and the ruin which occurred through his illegal arrest.

It is to be hoped the British Minister will push the matter forward with energy, and insist on the laws of the country being respected by the legal authorities, whose illegal acts demand the severest censure and chastisement.

I am told the very judge, Dr. Quiroga, who acted thus is now Federal judge in Catamarca, being thus apparently rewarded by the National Government for pandering to the vindictive desires of personal friends of his and enemies of Major Rickard.

The mines are yielding fair results, and every hope is entertained of a prompt re-establishment of operations on a profitable and large scale.

I have read in the London Morning Journal an interesting letter dated 5th Oct., addressed by Civis, to the Editor of that paper, in which the La Plata provinces are ably held up and brought before the public as a field for mining enterprise. But the writer in the first place, very wisely puts a veto on all investment of capital here until the present Paraguayan war shall have been fully, ended, and seems to be, if not a partizan of Lopez's at least no supporter of the allies in their view of the Paraguayan question—he says:—"By a series of antecedent intrigues, &c." (here follows the end of the penultimo paragraph ending with "practical purposes.")

A chasque has just arrive from San Rafael fort (in the South) with intelligence that Perez at the head of some 80 Gauchos and Indians, were surprised by Col. Irrazabal and a small force, some short distance from San Rafael where this redoubtable Montonero chief had agreed to rendezvous and await the incorporation of a large Indian force, to attempt an invasion northwards. Fortunately he has been foiled and 30 of his men killed, himself badly wounded, and all dispersed, unfortunately he has escaped (as usual) and it seems as if these scoundrels have a charmed existence, and are destined to continue disturbing the peace and commit atrocities for an indefinite term of years.

Of course the popular candidate for the future Presidency of the Republic, in the province of Cuyo is our friend ex-Governor Sarmiento, and I have little fear from what I have heard from the north, but that he will be warmly supported by a majority of the Interior provinces. The proposed coalition of Sarmiento as President and Governor Alsina as Vice-President, meets with warm approval and support; and I understand that the Clubs Libertad of this province have united in addressing a circular to all the other provincial clubs of same party, urging the expediency of adopting their views, and working in strict union to achieve so desirable a victory. Thus uniting 'Porteños' with 'Provincianos' and pulling together in harmony.

Great and lasting benefits must accrue to the entire Republic, and Dr. Alsina, after six years of apprenticeship, will be thoroughly competent and able to rule with success, as next President, the turbulent spirits which never seem to rest or be satisfied in this magnificent but unfortunate country.

TUPUNGATO.

THE ANNIHILATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

"Yes, there is a God!" Memorable exclamation of an aged French citizen who stood over the corpse of Robespierre. The municipal scourge of Buenos Ayres is dead, the corporation of the city is defunct; and with the French citizen we exclaim—Yes, Peña; yes, Ascuena, there is a God; yes, there is a people; yes, there is a public opinion, and a towering public opinion, in Buenos Ayres, and the shout, "Down with the Municipality," which we raised in this city, and which found echo in the vaults where six thousand corpses rest in the Recoleta, has been caught up by the surviving citizens, and rung like a death-knell in the municipal chambers on Tuesday.

The public meeting in the Plaza on Tuesday was the greatest triumph ever achieved by the people in this city. There was nothing of the knife or revolver about the matter. The public met in a strictly legitimate manner, made out their programme, and carried that programme out to the letter.

The people of Buenos Ayres had resolved that the Municipality must resign en masse. The committee of public safety named in the plaza acquainted the board of that resolution. Peña, Ascuena, & Co. refused, and distinctly stated that they would not resign. Before an hour elapsed they bowed to the verdict of public opinion, and signed their own death-warrant.

Whether we regard the demise of the Municipality, or the victorious sovereignty of public opinion, we feel satisfied with the result.

The Municipality is dead, and none weep for its fate.

But as is often the case in such matters, the victory of public opinion in the trifling matter of the Municipality has led to a new era in public affairs in Buenos Ayres. For the first time the vox populi has asserted its supremacy. Public men will learn that there is a power in this city against which none can resist. The corrupt, negligent, and rascally Municipality of Buenos Ayres has gone to its grave, but from its ashes has risen the phoenix of safety, in the shape of public opinion. Peña resisted to the last. The Governor, the Ministers, the Chief of Police, all interposed to quiet the public; but all these were impotent until the Governor insisted on the resignation, and pledged his word of honor that the Board should never again assemble in this city.

Yet let us not deceive ourselves. We have stamped out this horrid Municipality, but we have to create a Board of Works; we have to resort to measures of public safety, which the awful exigence of the moment require. A Committee of Public Safety should be named to hold permanent sittings during the present afflicting state of affairs. That body should name committees for every parish, who in their turn should have their inspectors for every block in Buenos Ayres. Whitewash and street-sweeping should be the order of the day. Every house, building, and wall in the city should be white-washed, and every street in the city SWEEP CLEAN TWICE A DAY. The mock burials in the Recoleta should be put a stop to. Every grave should be two yards deep, and if 40 people are insufficient, then let 100 be at once employed.

We can afford, and we must afford, all this, or if not let us fall back on the old state of things, and bow to our wretched fate.

A far greater responsibility rests with the Government now than heretofore. People with much justice say—Yes, thank God, the Municipality is done for; but shall we get any better?

Confidence is not established, and it rests with the Provincial Executive to show the people of Buenos Ayres that they have the will and the capacity and the resources to carry out a sweeping sanitary reform, so urgently needed.

We call upon the Governor to publish a decree, ordering every building in the city to be whitewashed.

We demand that a charter be at once given to the Water Supply Company formed last March. What if the company does make a handsome dividend? what if the shares run up in value? So much the better; but let us, in God's name, have water; let us have hose pipes at every street corner, and our streets washed clean every morning.

Let us have tramways to carry people to the suburbs.

Let us have sewers in every street, and connected with every house, and once and for ever let us get the city well cleansed.

That it will take time and money to accomplish all this, we admit, but

Rome was not built in a day, and if the right men are but found for the right place, the citizens will bless the day that the old rotten Corporation of Buenos Ayres was exterminated.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The steamer City of Buenos Ayres arrived yesterday morning, and at 10 o'clock the commander came ashore. We have to thank him for full files of London papers, but as the news has been already brought up by the Brazilian transport Wassimon, we hold over the papers until after Christmas.

Yesterday was an intensely hot day. The health of the city shows a marked improvement, and already many parties are returning from the camp. Dr. Scrivener who has gone out to Las Conchas promised to advise us of any new cases, as we have heard nothing from him, we strongly suspect that there is no cholera whatever there. As regards the report of cholera being on board the Brazilian steamer Amazonas, we believe there must be some mistake, as the Amazonas is at present down in Montevideo.

Belgrano which may be justly called the Richmond of Buenos Ayres, was as usual on Sunday last the resort of the elite of our 'haut ton' society. Towards the latter part of the day when the rays of the sun had lost much of their fiery strength, might be seen beneath those shady and frondiferous ombus, that grace the top of the barrancas, groups of lovely daughters of Eve, and elegant dressed dandies merrily sporting themselves and enjoying the cool breeze wafted across the boundless pampas. Gaily attired amazons with a bevy of admirers at their heels galloping on horseback through the smiling lanes and making the air ring again with their silvery laughter, and all eventually obliged to seek shelter in Watson's cool saloons or in the perfumed bowers of his gardens there to solace the inner man. From about four o'clock until the time of starting of the last train, our worthy friend Watson's was a pandemonium, the calls and the answers of the waiters, their incessant rushing about made one wonder how they could stand such maddening work, and we can only say that nothing could surpass the urbanity and attention of mine host Watson under such trying circumstances.

One of our subscribers come from the camp, after enjoying the hospitality of a native family in the West, tells us that near Chivilcoy, the 'bicho moro' has done incalculable damage to the quintas and to the camp. And at the Rodriguez station on this side of Lujan, the locusts have completely destroyed the very fine quinta in the neighbourhood, and almost the whole of the camp.

The Montevideoan government, we believe might now reconsider its blockading decree, and open its ports. Things are now going on famously the old hum-drum nonsense of former years done away with, the white washers hold the town; something good must come of the measures adopted. All along the Calles Defensa and Bolivar, we notice at half past six that the horse carts of the town are busily employed removing all the dirt not only from the houses, but also from the streets. The parish inspectors named by the committee have a salary of \$2,000 m.c. allowed them, this is perfectly right, officers should be paid for their services, and punished severely if they fail in their duty. We back up the committee in everything they have done and cry out—Go ahead.

The fire on Monday was one of the largest in this city for some time; it began at six p.m., and lasted until eleven o'clock. The fire, it seems, was caused by an accident in the engine room. The fireman was blown up, but not killed. An immense crowd gathered around the burning pile. The place was a brewery, where native Ind Coope Ale was brewed: the street soon got filled with this Argentine ale, and the crowd drank liberally. At eight o'clock the fire engines arrived; no water until a quarter after eight; several Englishmen worked at the pumps, and got badly treated for their pains. The flames at one period lighted up the city. A party of English gentlemen, from the azotea, gazed at the ruin. We have not heard if the place was insured.

We publish to-day an appeal on behalf of the poor sisters of mercy, who during the prevalence of the cholera have been so unceasing in their attendance on the sick, they shrunk from no fatigue, and visited all the sick within a circuit of miles of their convent, supplying the poor people with medicines &c. Aside from the increas-

ed expenses caused by an overflowing hospital, the visitations and out-door relief have caused the convent heavy disbursements. We feel quite certain that in this hour of gloom and sorrow, such true Christian charity will be appreciated, and that the appeal we make on behalf of the poor sisters will be responded to by all, irrespective of persuasion.

It is with pleasure we hear of the exertions of the Justice of the Peace of Las Conchas, Sr. D. J. M. Pavia, who has proved himself a worthy officer and an excellent judge during the cholera last April. Sr. Pavia not only went round to every house, but in order to keep the people employed and busy, hired gangs of men to repair the roads: men like Sr. Pavia are a credit to their country. We hear that at San Isidro on last Sunday there were six cases of cholera, only two of which proved fatal: since then nothing.

Yesterday we saw letters from some Englishmen in Humaita; they speak nothing of the war, only their desire to revisit their native hills. The war looks however about to last another year: Lopez has sent men and artillery out of Humaita, and there can be no doubt that on the hill tops of Paraguay the fate of the campaign has yet to be decided.

We understand that a very handsome testimonial has been presented to Mr. Ryan, the well known master of the English school (by one of our rising merchants) in appreciation of his distinguished talents and personal worth.

From 'Toulouroun's' correspondence in yesterday's Tribuna we glean the following interesting war items:—The long talked of filibustering raid has at last started for Tebicuari under the command of General Menna Barreto and Colonel Correa: a battalion of mounted riflemen and two pieces of flying artillery accompany the expedition. Nothing has been heard of it since its departure, but a terrific noise coming from that direction on the evening of the 17th induces the belief that it met the enemy. At first it was supposed to be an attack on Tayi, and General Osorio prepared to support the garrison with all his might. Generals and their staffs rode up and down the line, while aide-de-camps and couriers flew here and there with despatches; every man in the Brazilian camp from San Solano to Tuyu-Cu6 was under arms and ready to move on to the threatened point—when it was found to be a false alarm—no assault was attempted at Tayi, and the whole row was caused by the raiders attempting to force the passage of the river, where it was well known the enemy were strongly posted: the result of the fight is not yet known. Deserters continue to pour in from all quarters, Tuyu-Cu6, Chaco and Misiones; from what we can make out of their conflicting stories, the war is about to assume a new phase. The latter warn Colonel Portinho of an ambushade at Itapua—four hundred men well mounted, with a large park of light artillery, awaiting his advance to cut him off. To us they state that Lopez has introduced within his quadrilateral twelve thousand head of cattle from a reserve of double that number, on the north of the Tebicuari. The worst intelligence of all has been given by the Chaco runaways—four of these ruffians taken by the fleet report Lopez concentrating there fifty heavy guns which formerly graced the lines at Yatayti-Corá, have been withdrawn and ferried across to the new camp in front of Humaita. Here already six battalions and three regiments of heavy cavalry are encamped under the eye of Lopez' favorite General, Braques. Large bodies of men, followed by guns, cattle, horses, &c. are daily, or rather nightly, sent across, and soon the whole army will have been transported thither. What all this means no one can for a moment doubt. The Paraguayan tyrant has given up the idea of cutting his way through our lines, and finding himself hotly pressed in front without a hope that his outposts could long dispute the passage of the Tebicuari, he has resolved to meet the expedition on his own ground, and save his capital by annihilating them before we can cross the reinforcements. Of course he leaves a strong garrison in Humaita, and that fort being impregnable by land, unless destroyed by the fleet, it must ever remain a menace on our flank, while with but a small force Lopez could hold out for an indefinite time. We understand that at the country residences of Mr. Harat, Mr. Hannab, Mr. Welchman, and some others, Christmas festivities will be kept up in fine old English style. The Southern Railway train go laden with mislétœ and good cheer.

On the evening of the day when the people of the city of Buenos Ayres fairly kicked the Municipality out of office, Sr. Peña started in a coach for his quinta. He was accompanied by a friend who carried a shillelah. Sr. Peña's absence will not be much felt.

We cannot omit to praise the unceasing attention of Mr. Cooper, Manager of the Southern Railway, during the present hapless crisis. He is at his post morning, noon, and night. The trains run with the greatest regularity, notwithstanding that the business of the road at present is unprecedented.

The signal triumph of the Plaza meeting has dumfounded some of our politicians, but the indignation of the people was such that it sought vent. Other meetings, it appears, are spoken of, but of a very different character. We, of course, take no part in such affairs. Our business was to dethrone Peña, and in this we were successful.

The splendid new steamer, Silver River, which arrived here the other day, consigned to Messrs. Russell & Anderson, is a very superior vessel. The following particulars may interest our readers, as we understand she is on sale. The Silver River is Clyde built, new, and of the best construction; engines, 75 horse-power; brigs, length over all, 165 feet; breadth amidships, 22½ feet; depth of hold, 12 feet; height of spar deck, 6½; register, 411 94/100 tons; speed, 11 miles an hour; consumption of coal, 8-9 tons; bunkers for 50 tons coal. This fine vessel is divided into five water-tight compartments, is splendidly fitted up with first-class accommodation for thirty-four passengers. Both the deck and spar-deck are flush the entire length of the ship.

Quarantine regulations are rigorously applied in Montevideo. The passengers by the Everett and the Rio Parana, were subjected to twelve days of "sanitary observation." The Edward Everett's passengers disembarked at the Punta de Yeguas and the Saladero Fernandez. But it is confidently expected that, at the solicitation of several ladies who were passengers in those steamers, the number of quarantine days will be reduced to six.

The general state of the health of Montevideo is good, but it will not be surprising to hear of a few sporadic cases of the prevailing sickness. The meeting which took place on Monday, at the house of an English mercantile firm in Montevideo, has been of some benefit as a demonstration against the arbitrary act of the Government in regard to specie payments. The late decree, prohibiting further bank projects, is looked upon only as a sop to quiet the public. There is, however, no panic, and the price of gold is declining. An English house has sold \$30,000 in gold in exchange for paper at 4 per cent. discount. It is yet too early to venture on repeating Montevideo gossip in regard to the future position of some of the banks, but some one or more examples will at least be found to prove that the commercial community in the River Plate is not yet so unscrupulous as to render private banks of issue an impossibility.

As a sign of the times, we have to record the circumstance of a carpenter in this city making, or ordering to be made, seven hundred coffins on speculation. We are glad to say that there is every reason to hope that the speculation will prove a failure, as the health of the city is improving, thanks to the weather, and no thanks at all to the public authorities. We are receiving complaints from all sides of the vasa nuisance, and of the deposits allowed to accumulate in different places. Under the bridge in Calle Defensa there is a nest of rags and filth; in Calle Paraguay there are similar nuisances, which, it seems, it is no one's business to remove; and lastly, in the Jueco de los Saucedos there is one of those vasa deposits which disgrace our civilisation, and where, we have been told on the best authority, there is cholera poison enough to last for a twelvemonth. Have the police no power, will nobody give them the power of prohibiting the gallegos and people who carry and sell river water, from taking it from within five squares north of the Gas Works, or worse, between that place and the Mole, where all the beastliness of the city leaks into. What are we to do in such cases, we would ask? A parcel of puritans and shams affect to be shocked at the illegality of the proceedings of the late meeting in the Plaza. If they like to be poisoned, according to the forms of law, we don't like it, in any form, and, we believe, the majority will be of our way of thinking.

The passengers lately arrived by the Arca have signed a written testimonial

to Captain Bruce, in token of his politeness and attention during the voyage. We give the document and signatures in another column.

Mr. Thomas Armstrong has written to the Administrator of the Customs, enclosing the amount of \$572f.68, duties on shipments per Spanish brig Manuel, \$622f.50 per English ship Boomerang. These duties Mr. Armstrong informs the authorities were already paid by him, as he can prove, but to avoid questions at law he sends the amount and asks for a receipt, the want of which document being the origin of the misunderstanding.

Mr. Armstrong's letter is published with the note of the Customs Administrator dated Dec. 7th, 1867, passing to the credit of the treasury the sum offered without prejudice to the legal proceedings already established.

The new company of Bouffes Parisiens, under the direction of M. D'Hote, open on Saturday next at the Argentine Theatre.

A telegram from Montevideo announces the melancholy fact that six persons have become lunatics there within two days.

The Nacion publishes an interesting letter from General Mitre to Dr. Gutierrez, giving his opinions as to the coming Presidential elections, with remarks in regard to certain candidates. What is most clear in the President's letter is his determined antagonism to the Federal or Gaucho party.

We understand that, owing to various circumstances, the contract between Signor Perrone and the owner of the Colon Theatre is at an end.

A telegram from Montevideo, dated yesterday 3 p.m., announces that great excitement was caused by the news that cholera had appeared in Mercedes (B. Oriental), brought by passengers from B. Ayres.

The farewell address of British residents in the River Plate to George Buckley Matthews, Esq., C.B., H.B.M. Minister, on the occasion of his departure for Rio, will lie at Messrs. Mackern's, on Saturday, for signature. The regret of the British public at Mr. Buckley Matthews' departure is so spontaneous and sincere that the matter requires, on our part, no further mention. We understand that, at Mr. Buckley Mathews' own request, the proposed public dinner at the Coliseum has been abandoned.

Captain Leopold Casavega gives a story brief what occurred on board the Chacabuco in her last trip to Paraguay. On arriving in Rosario from Buenos Ayres with a company of eighty soldiers, baggage, &c., besides a large quantity of powder and military stores in the hold and little room on deck, the captain of the port insisted on the embarkation of 160 men more for the army in Paraguay. Captain Casavega, finding remonstrance useless, had to comply, although he foresaw a long and painful voyage, having only one pilot aboard, who was sick and could not keep watch for twenty-four hours; they were constantly obliged to cast anchor. At La Paz the captain made a short stay to procure fresh provisions and look out for another pilot; as they lay here the cholera broke out carrying off several victims during the night. At 2 a.m. that morning the steamers anxious at any cost to reach Itapiru and get rid of the unwelcome passengers as soon as possible. The epidemic increased in virulence, carrying off the unfortunate sufferers hourly. The mortality was awful. To crown the misfortunes the engineer declared that the boat was in danger of blowing up, sand and mud having got into some of the pipes and disarranged the machinery. We were unable to continue our course, it requiring three days to make the necessary repairs. Meantime the disease raged with unabated fury: twenty-six men had already died; twelve others were attacked, prostrated by the most excruciating pains. A panic seized the troops, who loudly demanded to be put ashore. It was only then that Captain Casavega, yielding to the dictates of humanity, vividly aroused at sight of so much misery, held council with the officers, and at their unanimous request consented to the landing of the men. "In conclusion," he adds, "I feel convinced that said course has saved the lives of several men who may yet be of use to their country."

The three days' festivity in Lujan passed off with great éclat. Several of the principal families in town had availed themselves of the fine weather and cheap excursions kindly provided by the Western Railway, to take part in the charitable gaffies. During the day a grand bazaar was given by the Philanthropic Society, and the irresistible charms of the ladies who presided at numerous stalls had the happy effect of securing a large amount of money for the society. In the evening

several balls and parties were given, where dancing and mirth was kept up until morning to be again resumed on the following night.

Sr. Lafuente is still amongst us, not having yet left for Rioja, whether he has been hastily ordered by Government. The mission is by no means a pleasant one, but the affairs in the provinces demand immediate attention. It is said Mr. Lafuente is only wishing the return of the Estrella to take him to Rosario.

To judge from the numerous robberies that have taken place these days, no improvement has been made by the late changes in the police department. Yesterday, at two o'clock in the afternoon, Dr. Quintana's office was broken into, and though the damage is not yet known, as the Dr. is from home, still it is supposed that many important documents have been abstracted. No effort should be spared to discover the perpetrators, as they are supposed to belong to an organised gang of robbers.

We are sorry to record the death of an old and highly respectable citizen: Dr. Mariano Moreno, Professor of Mathematics in the University, and Chief of the Artillery Parque, has been just called away, after a short illness. The deceased was deservedly popular, and is regretted by a large circle of friends. He was uncle of the Minister of War.

During the summer heat there is no better drink than soda water—no imitation, but the real genuine article—it refreshes the system, cleanses the vessels of bile, and maintains the body generally in an equal and even temperature. This excellent beverage may be had in all its purity, at our friend Cranwell's Apothecary Hall, 30 Calle Rivadavia.

The rush out of town continues. Yesterday, by the first trains, long extra coaches were filled, not filled in the usual way, but filled with passengers standing up, and packed so closely that the doors of the carriages could hardly be shut. Half the carts of the city are employed removing furniture, &c., outside. It is calculated that since Saturday morning over 25,000 people have left the city, and at the rate things are going on, soon 100,000 citizens will have fled the town. The Edward Everett, on Saturday night, took down 200 passengers to Montevideo.

The case of the Estrella, Captain Davis, which has caused so much notice, is, we are happy to say, susceptible of much explanation. The barbarous charge against Captain Davis, so lightly made, is without any foundation. It seems that on Wednesday the steamer left Rosario, and anchored for about an hour at San Pedro, where some of the passengers felt rather seasick, owing to the rolling of the ship, it being a little rough. At five o'clock all the passengers dined; none were sick or complaining. During the night one of the passengers was taken ill, but the steward gave him some hot tea and brandy, and in the morning the young man was on deck. At nine o'clock the steamer arrived, the doctor came on board, and inquired if there was any cholera. The 'Comisario' replied in the negative, and stated all was well, with the exception of one who had been slightly sick, but was now all right. The passengers came ashore, and the captain heard nothing more of the matter until the afternoon. The doctor was sent for, all that could be done for the poor fellow was done, the steward and commissary made him hot poultices, &c.: he died that night. This is on the authority of one of the passengers, who has come down in the steamer, and is a 'bona fide' version of the case.

We hear that Don Mariano Cabal, who has come down here on business of importance for a few days, has taken a house in Belgrano at the enormously high price of fourteen thousand dollars a week. Such a rent as this could only be paid by an army contractor.

The authorities in Rosario have imposed quarantine on vessels coming from Parana and Saute Fé, but we believe vessels from Buenos Ayres are free. Some few cases of cholera have taken place in the outskirts of Rosario.

Political quidnuncs are on the alert to discover the real news from headquarters. A private telegram was received on Sunday stating that the import of the despatches received by General Flores was that Lopez at last offers peace on admissible terms. The despatches have been sent on to Rio for the Emperor's approbation, and there is a very general conviction that peace is at last honestly sought for. Cholera, it seems, has appeared with increased virulence in both camps, and the Paragayans are out of medicines. Several Brazilian officers from the first families in Rio have died of cholera, and, owing to the great rains

and intense heat, it is feared that the epidemic is on the increase. The expedition to Humaita is now ready, but will probably not start before January.

The second steamer on the new London line, the City of Buenos Ayres, is now over-due. She will probably arrive in Montevideo this day. She brings dates to 17th November, London, and 18th November, Falmouth.

On Saturday night, late, we received two rather extraordinary telegrams from Montevideo, respecting the non-payment of one of the banks there of its own notes to its customers. We, of course, can not enter into such matters, and therefore declined publishing same.

Last week, the gloom which has hung over this city for the last week was partially dispelled. The abolition of the Municipality and the rain tended to brighten affairs somewhat. There was a diminution of sickness, less funerals, and at the Cholera Hospital in Calle Bolívar only one case taken in up to midday. The people in town seemed to breathe freer, and although there was much anxiety to know what steps the Government intended to adopt, there was at least room to hope for some amelioration. Mr. O'Gorman, the chief of police, is requested to at once attend to the coach nuisance. Yesterday the day passed and nothing done. We give him to-day to stir himself in the matter. His conduct during the indignation meeting merits our highest praise: a harsh word, a coarse threat, and the excited multitude would have burst in the door of his building. But O'Gorman proved himself the right man in the right place. As we claim him for a countryman, we shall be the more exigent in making him do his duty. The coachmen have their heel on the citizens' necks; their swindling despotism is not to be suffered another hour—call a coach, \$25 is the charge established by law, and yet these fellows refuse to stir unless paid \$100. Why has not every coach its number? Why is not that number painted in white figures on a conspicuous place? and why is the coachman who dares to ride roughshod over our pockets and our laws not at once fined \$1,000 with a week's sweeping the streets. Mr. O'Gorman, as chief of police, is bound to attend to this: and we look to-day to see him at once adopt measures of relief.

At the Southern Railway there is still a rush to get to the camp, every train extra coaches, baggage of every description, and some parties even go so far as to take their horses with them. Parties having what Caesar termed impediments, should be at the station at least half an hour before the train starts.

We are happy to say that since the last row we made about the dead fish the Government has carried out its promise. At the recent 'creciento' the shore was again covered with dead fish, but at once gangs of men were set to work to bury them. This shows that Governor Alsina is in earnest.

The British flag-ship Narcissus leaves Montevideo at once for the Falkland Islands. She will take a mail.

Captain Manton has arrived in Montevideo from Rio. We understand that soon the Colonia dry docks will be pushed ahead with redoubled vigor, and made ready to commence working.

The news from Tuyu-Cué to 14th inst is utterly devoid of interest. The expedition to the Tebicuari had not yet started. The correspondent of the Tribuna speaks in high terms of the commanders of the expeditionary force: General Menna Barretto and Colonel Correa, and he is of opinion they will meet with no resistance unless they attempt to pass the Tebicuari.

By a return published in the *Voz de Oyo* of San Juan, we observe a remarkable increase in mining productions. From one establishment, the Argentine Mine, 423.59 marcos of silver have been received. In January, 1867, monthly return was 29.45 marcos. The production gradually increased until in September of same year it reached 1444.97 marks, making a total in the nine months as above.

We congratulate our new colleague, the *Portenir Argentino*, on its able article, published in Monday evening's edition, respecting the Municipality. This paper seems to be edited with decided talent and ability. The article in question is well worthy of a translation, but, owing to press of matter and the sudden demise of the Municipal Board, we pass it over. We understand that our talented friend, Sr. del Campo, is the editor of the journal in question.

We hear that Mr. John M'Lean has been named to the management of the splendid estate of the Baron Maua, at Mercedes, in the Banda Oriental. Mr. M'Lean has, during his management

of the Baron's estancia in Entre Rios, given the best proof of his high qualifications for the post in question. So much now depends as to the success of a large estancia by an economical management that we congratulate the Baron on his nominating Mr. M'Lean.

Notwithstanding all we have said and written about the dangerous and shocking state of the mole, we perceive nothing whatever has been done towards repairing it. There is a large chasm in one place which requires a beam to cover it, and if not attended to at once some accident may occur.

We have been informed that the greater part of the cholera patients in the parish of Pilar, are peones engaged in the corrales, which is a fact of importance.

At three, a.m., on Monday morning, the serenos observed the flames issuing from the interior of the Monserrat Church, and, on bursting open the door, it was found the grand altar had taken fire. No time was lost in sounding the alarm, but owing to the advanced hour but few were found to give assistance. In this way the flames gained head, and soon the whole interior was enveloped in the flames, which acquired fresh vigour from the current of air through the doorway. The church was fitted up for a funeral, and the fire is supposed to have originated by the upsetting of a lamp. Luckily there were few benches or combustible matter at hand, and having devoured all the drapery the flames soon spent themselves on the bare brick walls. As the morning wore on, a crowd gathered round, and by the aid of buckets replenished from the neighbouring aljibes, succeeded in quenching the fire. The grand altar, &c., was consumed.

The state of the city at last shows a satisfactory improvement, the deaths since the 19th have declined to the regular average. The white-wash brush rules supreme in town, lime and nothing but lime on all sides; at first there was some difficulty as to peones, but as all the buildings in town have for the last week been brought to a stand still, the supply of whitewashers and at moderate prices was soon found good. The Public health committee merit our highest praise for their activity, they have set to work in real earnest, and we back them up in everything they have done. No man should be too wealthy or too influential to be above the law, and Mr. Anchorena must be fined; if he neglects to white-wash the Recoba, in fact the whole side of the Recoba which divides the Plaza should be knocked down and the Plaza Victoria, and the Plaza 25 de Mayo amalgamated. Now that the sickness and mortality have decreased, it is greatly feared that the vigilance of the committee will wax dull; but let us not deceive ourselves, we have from now until autumn to set our houses in order. In April, most assuredly the cholera will return if the army remains where it is, let us therefore employ the intervening months well, and never flinch until the city is thoroughly cleansed; charters should also be given for sewerage and water supply.

An Englishman sojourning in this city has favored us with the following:—If there are to be any new taxes to meet the present necessary expenditure, by all means let the first be a dog-tax, it will answer a two-fold good purpose, raise a large amount of money and rid the city of half the nuisance. Anyone who keeps a dog really for protection of property can afford to pay a hundred dollars a year, and surely those who keep them for fancy can. A poor woman was very much hurt on Sunday, by being thrown down by two dogs racing each other in the Plaza Libertad. Our informant says there were not less than twenty dogs running about there at that time. If there be one thing more than another which requires taxing, it is this dog nuisance.

Has the law become obsolete which fined everyone galloping in the streets, or even on the roads out of town? If not, were are the police, as the dangerous practice is on the increase.

We notice the officials carefully measuring the water-cart buckets the other day; seeing they retail such poisonous liquid, we could not help remarking the less they gave of it the better. What a glorious day that will be when those tinkling bells are cleared away from the streets, and good wholesome pure water flows into every house. We can almost stretch our imagination now the old municipality is gone, to seeing the limpid streams springing from the foot of the column of Liberty, where every thirsty soul may drink without fear of a premature end; nay we can even imagine the Standard fountain, where every jaded postman will stop to quaff to our success.

of the filthy constitution. The wealthy wool-brokers who pass so much of their time there can aid the Health Committee in taking measures to clear the place of dead dogs and offal of all kinds; and see that the hundreds of carts which come in from the country are not converted into conveniences or shelter for the lowest necessities of mankind.

The Saladero of General Urquiza near Rosario, lately sold to Sr. Cabal has now commenced working. We believe under the charge of Mr. Davidson, this fine establishment replete with every accommodation, it is thought, will do a very large business. The state of the wool markets at present are without precedent. Generally speaking, this is the very busiest month of the year, it being the very height of the wool season, but this year it is precisely the reverse, and this month is the dullest of the whole year—no wool sales, very little wool coping in, still less expected, half the barbaqueros gone out of town, and the price of wool down below all limits.

It is not probable that we shall have any supplementary mail, and the English clerks are all in high glee that the steamer leaves so early that the festivities of Christmas may be enjoyed undisturbed.

Telegrams from Montevideo give us two days later news from Europe, brought by the Newton to Rio, and thence to Montevideo by the Wassimon. The news of the wool market in Europe was at first a little exaggerated. The fall seems to be from 4d. to 1d. per lb., equal to 7 to 15 per cent., in lieu of 15 to 25 per cent. as originally reported.

The only general news of interest from England is the panic in the Railway Share Market. What with cholera morbus, and cholera legislation, business in Buenos Ayres is at a complete standstill. There is absolutely nothing to chronicle but matters relating to the one absorbing topic.

In a list published of the subjects of different nations who have become naturalised citizens of the Argentine Republic, we find Spaniards, 21; Montevideans, 12; Italians, 9; Frenchmen, 3; Bolivians, 2; Germans, 2; Portuguese, 2; Austrians, 2. There are no English names in the list.

The steamer Rio de la Plata has been fined \$8,800 for carrying passengers from Buenos Ayres to the ports of the Uruguay. Her passengers are in the lazaret at Paysandú. Dn. José Mündell has been named Gefé Politico at Paysandú.

On Friday last, the train coming towards the station in Calle Parque ran into a water cart. Fortunately, beyond the smashing of the cart, there was no harm done.

The Government Municipal Council have approved the plans for the new cemetery, in the south part of the city. It has also increased the number and the wages of the peons engaged in public improvements.

We regret to hear of the loss of a small steamer, the Isabella, Captain Evers, on her way to this river from Liverpool. She was totally lost off Pembroke.

The following names have been added to the Health Committee: Don S. M. Estrada, jun., Dr. D. Julian Martinez, Dn. Eduardo Hopkins. Dn. Carlos Casares has been appointed member of the Government Municipal Council, in lieu of D. Pastor Obligado, resigned. We believe that Mr. Santa Maria, and Mr. Charles Jackson will also receive appointments.

who have been tied down to their oar for the last six days sigh for fresh air. Belgrano is the most attainable. Our friend, Mr. McGovern, who has been 22 years engaged in public works, has desired us to offer his services to contractors and others engaged in public undertakings. He claims the honor of originating the idea of constructing a reservoir on the Recoleta-hill, and pumping water therein from the river. The same principle is employed in the Philadelphia Waterworks, with which he is thoroughly familiar.

The official returns of deaths from cholera and other causes since the beginning of the month are as follows:—

Days.	Cholera.	Various.
1.....	3.....	21
2.....	6.....	21
3.....	6.....	15
4.....	5.....	19
5.....	10.....	25
6.....	19.....	20
7.....	21.....	10
8.....	19.....	16
9.....	24.....	25
10.....	38.....	24
11.....	88.....	40
12.....	72.....	37
13.....	67.....	22
14.....	98.....	34
15.....	93.....	34
16.....	96.....	25
17.....	97.....	33
18.....	90.....	23
19.....	65.....	30
20.....	46.....	28

It will be observed that the pestilence has sensibly declined since the 17th, due, possibly, to the change in the weather and to the immense exodus of the population.

Since the 20th inst. the cases have declined considerably and, no doubt, in a day or two it will gradually disappear.

One of the late victims to the cholera was Benita Domison, a Sister of Charity in the men's hospital, who seems to be much regretted. She was aged 37, and had been fifteen years engaged in her noble work.

The faculty strongly reprobate the custom of burning tar-barrels and making bonfires in the streets. It is said to be pernicious as a hygienic measure, inasmuch as it consumes the oxygen, a useful ingredient in the atmosphere; and, in any case, it frightens the horses, interrupts the traffic, and causes needless alarm. The faculty, of course, are right, but some people think the tar-barrels have a pleasant anti-choleric odour, and cheer rather than alarm the nervous.

The newly-appointed Committee of Health is very active. The latest measures are the following: (1). Recommending ambulances for each separate police section. (2). Seconding the request of prisoners in the penitentiary that, on condition of being afterwards set at liberty, they may be allowed to assist at the hospitals and lazarets. (3). Appointing inspectors of meat in the markets. (4). Inspectors of fruit and vegetables. (5). Advising Dña. Lusía de Hernandez that a fine of \$5000 will be imposed for her infringement of the rules regulating the cleansing and disinfecting of houses. (6). Recommending to the cemetery authorities that burials should be at proper depths, and that lime be placed between the coffins. (7). That all hotel-keepers during the epidemic see personally to the clearing of the refuse from their houses. (8). Advising Dn. Nicolas Anchorena, that as the proprietor of the buildings in the public square (Recoba, &c.), he must at once proceed to whitewash the buildings, according to regulations issued, within 15 days. (9). Accepting the co-operation of a committee of Freemasons. (10). Advising that the Committee of Health are ready to receive proposals from contractors for the sweeping of the streets. (11). Seeing that furnaces for the burning of refuse cannot be promptly constructed, that the railways should carry the refusal of the city to some convenient spot where it can be buried. (12). The Committee of Health advise the Government to stop the working of the saladeros. In accordance with the above recommendations the Government has prohibited the saladeros from ejecting refuse into the river, from and after 1st January, 1868. (13). Recommending quarantine of vessels arriving from the coast occupied by the allied forces. (14). Recommending that the fares on the railways be lowered during the epidemic. In accordance, the Government has decreed the lowering of the fares on the Western Railway 25 per cent.

With respect to the whitewashing regulations, there are some difficulties in the way of their being properly put in force, owing to the too peremptory and hastily-devised wording of the decree. House proprietors have al-

ready made representations on the subject to the Health Committee, and no doubt the regulation will soon appear in a different form. To whitewash the whole city of Buenos Ayres in 15 days is impossible; it could not be done in six months. There are now no peons to be had, nor is there enough lime in the city to accomplish the work. Besides, it is not all houses require the process; many houses are whitewashed regularly once a year. What must be done is to appoint inspectors with full powers in each manzana, who will decide upon the tenements that require it.

We are glad to say that the exodus from the city is decreasing. The railway traffic is returning to its nominal figure.

ROSARIO.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
December 13, 1867.

As the elections for the ensuing Governorship of this province are near to hand, and, next to Buenos Ayres, they are the most important in the Republic, I deem it proper that the readers of the Standard should be informed on the subject.

Buenos Ayres and Santa Fé are undoubtedly the keystone of the Republic. They form the strength and security, as they represent the civilisation and liberties of the nation. So long as these two provinces are united by identical interests, good administrations, and cordiality of feeling, moutoneras, revolutions, and revolts in the rest of the confederacy will be innocuous to the onward progress and prosperity of the country.

During the last three years Santa Fé has had an Administration that has called forth the admiration of the whole Republic. In three short years Mr. Oroño has not only caused to disappear all the old leaven of anarchy, tyranny, party hatreds, and malversation in official quarters, but he has actually regenerated the people, augmented the income of the province four-fold without imposing new taxes, established schools in every district, and will leave several solid monuments of his administration in the shape of public buildings.

It is during this period that immigration has poured into the province—that the Chaco has been explored—that the coast has been surveyed up to the Rey—that Santa Fé has become as well known in Europe as Buenos Ayres—that four Banks have been established in Rosario and two in the capital—that a company of insurance has been organised by means of local subscription—that gas works are in progress—that the streets are being paved, and that a railroad is contracted for to unite the capital with its principal colonies, and eventually with Santiago del Estero.

Santa Fé, that three years ago was hated and oppressed by Buenos Ayres, is now looked upon as her staunchest friend. Rosario, that was three years ago on the brink of ruin and becoming depopulated by the people leaving it for Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, now collects upwards of three millions of dollars in her Custom-house, and, notwithstanding that upwards of two hundred houses have been built within a year, it is almost impossible to find one to rent.

And let me add to all this the reflection that Oroño got into power with great difficulty, in face of a most powerful opposition, an opposition that his excellent and honest administration has caused to melt away like snow before the sun.

Now, under these circumstances, it is of the utmost importance, not only to this province, but to the whole Republic, that Santa Fé shall continue being well governed, and the great reforms already initiated be carried out by an administration equally liberal and enlightened as the one we have enjoyed during three years, and that has placed the province at the head of all the others, with the sole exception of Buenos Ayres.

Now, the case stands thus:—Two candidates step forward to claim the civic crown, which is so often a crown of thorns, as our friends, Messrs. Luque and Davila, can bear witness to. Mr. Cabal and Mr. or Dr. Freyre. Both are friends of the present administration; both are liberal-minded men; both are honest, upright, and honourable as far as reputation goes.

Of course, under these circumstances both parties are bidding for the influence of Mr. Oroño, and both pretend to have obtained it. Now the fact is that Mr. Oroño has for some time looked on Dr. Freyre as his successor, and has deserved it, because he has confidence in Freyre following out his programme; and this is always satisfactory to a retiring functionary. Mr. Cabal, on the con-

trary, has very independent views, and certainly would not bind himself to be governed by the policy of his predecessor. Still, Mr. Oroño has not cared to oppose the candidature of Cabal, and has ever essayed to bring about a compromise by which the parties should bind themselves to abide by the decision of committees named in both of the principal cities of the province. The plan fell through as Freyre's party refused to be bound by the vote of the Santa Fé Committee. This proves one fact, that the latter is in majority in the Department of the capital, and the former is in majority in Rosario. And this we will find to be true.

The Freyre party object to Cabal for the following reasons:—

That he is almost unknown in the province—that he has heavy compromises with the Government of Santa Fé for lands and railroads—that he has no administrative capacity—that he is not educated, and that he is supported by Urquiza, whose candidature for the Presidency he will, in his turn, support.

The Cabal party object to Freyre for the following reasons:—

That, as an unsuccessful professional and mercantile man, he has proved himself inferior to his opponent in administrative matters—that he has not shown any political capacity—that he is arbitrary, and that he supports the candidature of Alsina for President.

You see that on either side the charges are not of a very grave nature, and being made by opponents have no great weight. In fact, there is little to be said against either candidate.

A circumstance, however, has occurred lately that has weakened Mr. Cabal; or, more properly speaking, has strengthened Dr. Freyre. This is the adhesion to the former of the opposition fragment that I have already mentioned. How it is that these people have adopted the Cabal colors is a mystery; for the successful merchant and banker has about as much sympathy for the opposition as I have for the Chaco Indians.

So it came to pass that at a meeting held in Santa Fé by the supporters of Cabal, and where he was present, there were shouts of "Long live Urquiza!" "Death to Oroño!" &c. This, of course, has alarmed a number of the friends of Cabal, and who are also friends of Oroño; and they fear that the election of Mr. Cabal is a step towards a reaction in favor of the good old times of General Lopez and Mr. Fraga.

I do not fear this, for Mr. Cabal is a commercial man to the back bone, and between such a character and retrograde elements there can never be any sympathy. But, as I said, the untoward event has strengthened Dr. Freyre and his party, and has caused me a considerable change of opinion as to the result of the elections. In fact, I should not like to bet either way.

Freyre is undoubtedly very strong in this Department and in San Gerónimo, and Cabal is strong in the Department of the capital. The vote of Rosario will be pretty equal, but will probably go for Freyre with a small majority. But the majority for Cabal in the capital will be much larger than Freyre's majority will be in Rosario.

The character of the two candidates is very opposite, considering that both are liberal men. Freyre is energetic, active, somewhat arbitrary, but at the same time rather timid in large enterprises. He would never run the country into debt, either for rail roads or immigration, unless he can see his way clearly. He has no administrative dash about him.

Cabal is indolent by nature and active by impulse—a man with a large mercantile head, impulsive and generous, but too open and obstinate. Like most successful men he has unlimited faith in his own ideas and his own powers, and cannot bear contradiction. If he thinks that by spending a million of dollars the province would reap an advantage he would run her into debt to that amount without hesitation. Credit to him is the same as money; and it cannot be denied that men of this stamp are those who give the impulse to all the progress of the world. They sometimes fail, and then comes a crash; but even in that event the many are benefited; it is the few that suffer. I hope I have succeeded in giving your readers a moderately clear idea of the character of the coming struggle, its tendencies, and its prominent personages. Although I have followed your advice in reference to Barnard's Carbonised Pens (by the by, they are admirable); I am afraid that the 'attie salt' has not flown with the ink. Probably on account of the heat. W. P.

ready made representations on the subject to the Health Committee, and no doubt the regulation will soon appear in a different form. To whitewash the whole city of Buenos Ayres in 15 days is impossible; it could not be done in six months. There are now no peons to be had, nor is there enough lime in the city to accomplish the work. Besides, it is not all houses require the process; many houses are whitewashed regularly once a year. What must be done is to appoint inspectors with full powers in each manzana, who will decide upon the tenements that require it.

We are glad to say that the exodus from the city is decreasing. The railway traffic is returning to its nominal figure.

ROSARIO.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
December 13, 1867.

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THE ITALIAN BANK. 101-103 CALLE OANGALLO. Further notice the rate of interest will be...

THE WEEKLY STANDARD.

BUENOS AYRES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1887.

THE LONDON AND LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. CAPITAL, \$1,000,000. INCOME, \$110,000.

LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED). 80-CALLE DE LA PIEDAD-80. Authorized Capital \$2,000,000 sterling.

PROVINCIAL BANK OF BUENOS AYRES. BUSINESS HOURS FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M. Deposits of not less than \$100 m/c and \$10 received.

CAJA DE CREDITO. 21 CALLE PIEDRAS. Allowed on Deposits in Account Current—Gold or Paper, 6 per cent. per annum.

Table with exchange rates for various locations: Buenos Ayres, Rosario, Montevideo, Valparaiso, etc.

The Central Argentine Railway. On and after the 27th September, 1887, the Trains will run as follows:—

STEAMBOAT AGENCY OF A. MATTI & PIERA. 361 CALLE CUYO. The steamer Rio Uruguay will leave on Mondays, at 6 p.m.

London and River Plate Bank (LIMITED). 80-CALLE DE LA PIEDAD-80. The rates of interest allowed and charged by the Bank will be as follows, till further notice:

FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY. CAPITAL, \$2,000,000. INCOME, \$100,000. LIVES ONLY AND LONDON. Insurances against loss or damage by fire may be effected with this Company on Dwelling Houses.

THE QUEEN FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY. CAPITAL, \$2,000,000. INCOME, \$100,000. LIVES ONLY AND LONDON. Insurances against loss or damage by fire may be effected with this Company on Dwelling Houses.

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Ferro-Carril del Oeste. Desde el 8 de Noviembre de 1887, hasta nueva disposicion, el Servicio de los Traves sera como sigue:—

STEAMBOAT AGENCY OF ALVAREZ & RISSO. 99 CALLE RECONQUISTA. FOR BAHIA BLANCA AND PATAGONIA. The National steamer Patagonia will leave on Monday, at 12 o'clock noon.

LA ESTRELLA ARGENTINE FIRE INSURANCE CO. AT FIXED PREMIUM. AUTHORIZED BY DECREE OF THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

RATES OF INTEREST. ALLOWS—To private depositors, 4 per cent. per annum m/c. Do, do, 4 do, do, specie.

THE NORTHERN RAILWAY. On and after 16th of October, 1887, and until further notice, the Trains will run as follows:—

Table with exchange rates for various locations: Buenos Ayres, Rosario, Montevideo, Valparaiso, etc.

ROSBARIO AND INTERMEDIATE PORTS. The steamer Rio Uruguay will leave on Mondays, at 6 p.m.

STEAMBOAT AGENCY OF G. T. PAEZ. 41 CALLE RIVADAVIA. FOR CORRIENTES, ITAPIRU, AND PORTS. Italian steamer Venezia. This steamer will leave on Monday, at 10 a.m.

ENGLISH TAILOR. 39-CALLE DEFENSA-39. JUST RECEIVED. A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF Spring and Summer Goods.

ALLIANCE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ASSURANCE CO. BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON. CAPITAL FIVE MILLIONS STERLING. ESTABLISHED 1824.

LA ADMINISTRACION. From 15th October, 1887, until further notice. (1 Cls. 2 Cls. 1 Cls. 2 Cls.)

Table with exchange rates for various locations: Buenos Ayres, Rosario, Montevideo, Valparaiso, etc.

ROSBARIO AND INTERMEDIATE PORTS. The steamer Rio Uruguay will leave on Mondays, at 6 p.m.

STEAMBOAT AGENCY OF RUBIO & FOLLEY. 12 CALLE 25 DE MAYO. Between Buenos Ayres and Ispiru, the steamer...

ENRIQUE BENTHAM & CO. COMMISSION AGENTS. WOOL & GENERAL PRODUCE BROKERS. 117-CALLE BOLIVAR-117.

GUINNESS'S Celebrated Extra Stout. In quarts and pints at BARRY & WALKER'S, Sole Agents, 97-Calle Defensa-97.

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MAUVA BANK, 101-103 CALLE OANGALLO. The offices of this Bank have been removed to the above spacious building...

MAUVA BANK, 101-103 CALLE OANGALLO. INTEREST FOR CURRENT MONTH. IN ACCOUNT CURRENT, 10 per cent.

THE ARGENTINE MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY. Established in this City, insure at moderate premiums all risks by sea or on the river.

BARTHOLOMEW PARODY, MERCHANT TAILOR. Has always on hand a large stock of READY-MADE CLOTHING.

ROSBARIO FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP. CALLE ADUANA, ROSARIO. Iron and Brass Castings.

ENGLISH LIBRARY, MONTEVIDEO. MESSRS. SPRUNCK & CO. respectfully advise the Foreign Residents in the River Plate...

COMMERCIAL NOTICE. The undersigned, successor of Mr. R. B. Sprunck, respectfully advise the Public that they have formed a company to continue the business...

REAL HOLLANDS. Solo Exporter Herman Van Houten, ROTTERDAM. The undersigned beg to advise the Customers of this Old and well-known Mark...

BAUDEINE. The most efficient Medicine for Also Distilled in Holland, for Purifying the Blood.

Bordeaux Wines. Of the finest description, from Lestapi & Co. on Sale by MOORE, PUNCH, & TUDOR.

MISS HOGG has leisure to instruct Pupils in Music, Singing, and Drawing. Also in the French Language.

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