

ALCAZAR LYRIQUE, 197—CALLE VICTORIA—197

DIRECTOR: MR. CHERI LABROCAIRE. Aujourd'hui LE RETOUR DULYSSE Opéra lyrique en un acte.

LA BONDEUSE Grand pas de danse. Par Mlle. Carlotta lara, danseuse et M. Oubert marire de ballet.

L'IMBRIEN 20 MOBS Sennette par M. et Mme Colombel. Grand intermède de chant.

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE STANDARD 630 PER MONTH.

ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding Five lines inserted six times for \$10.

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

The Standard. "Nil falsi audiam, nil veri non audiam dicere." THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1868.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM FOR "STANDARD."

Montevideo, December 16, 7 P.M. Nothing fresh. Business dull. Bank paper, 14 1/2 dis. 15,000 sold at this rate. Fine wools sold at 30 rls. Second class, 28 rls. Weather very hot.

THE WAR IN THE NORTH.

The letter from our special correspondent at the seat of war, which we only received yesterday, will be read with interest, and may be relied upon as coming from a very well informed quarter:

Porto Palmas, Dec. 12, 1868. Our communications with headquarters are interrupted, and all that we know here of the warlike operations comes to us by telegrams. By one of these we know that to-day the Pass Ivahí was attacked by the expeditionary force under Baron del Triunfo. This pass is of sufficient importance.

The enemy was there routed with a loss of from 2,000 to 3,000, between killed, wounded, and prisoners. Our men also suffered a great deal, and among the wounded is General Osorio, fortunately slightly. The communications with the main army are extremely difficult. Only jerked beef and fariná can be sent.

The wounded are at present sent to the ironclads, and to the Chaco side, where provisional canvas tents have been raised for them, because the roads in the Chaco are so bad that they cannot be sent to the hospital ships.

We have to lament the death of a distinguished officer, the Commander of the ironclad Mariz de Barros, Capt. Augusto Netto de Mendonca, brother of our Envoy-Extraordinary to Bolivia, who lately returned to Rio, and had written to his brother that he would pay him a visit very soon. Captain Netto received orders to advance with his ironclad in company with the monitor Sta. Catalina, in order to reconnoitre Angostura. These two ships on ascending the river and passing the batteries saw that position occupied before by the enemy had been abandoned. They fired some shots into the wood without receiving any reply and retraced their steps stating to Commodore Alviz that the place was abandoned and the guns removed.

Capt. Netto asked leave to be allowed to return and pass Angostura, which was granted, and followed again by the Sta. Catalina, he steamed up with his vessel to Angostura. He had reached half way up the pass, when suddenly two new batteries opened upon him which were so well hidden that he passed the first without seeing it. The Mariz de Barros found herself thus between two fires, and Captain Netto, who was on the casemate, was killed by a splinter from a shell hitting him on the head. Even after the fire from the batteries began, Captain Netto refused to listen to the prayer of his officers, that he should leave the casemate. The ironclad could not turn, and went on to Villeta, but the Santa Catalina was able to drop down the current to Palmas.

In these latter days we have lost many officers of high rank.

To-day was fixed for the great attack, but the copious rains have obliged it being postponed.

General Gelly as soon as he received to-day a telegram from the Marquis that the attack was to be made, in which he was requested to be ready to attack also on his side, lost not a moment and notwithstanding the bad weather left his breakfast untasted and mounted his horse, issuing at once orders to his division to be ready.

Up to this moment there is nothing further known.

The "Parana" which will be the bearer of these few lines is ready to weigh anchor, and I close this letter by saying that the enemy is strong very strong at this point, and that many lives will be sacrificed in taking Angostura, unless it is abandoned by the Paraguayans.

THE FALL OF VILLETA.

If fire-crackers and bell-ringing can lend importance to a victory, then we suppose the fall of Villeta is the most glorious military achievement since this memorable campaign begun—for, on Tuesday, the uproar in this city caused by fire-crackers and bell-ringing was positively more deafening than the roar of the Paraguayan cannon on the bridge of Ipané, or the booming of the ironclads' guns before Angostura. But crackers are ephemeral—we wish we could say the same of bell-ringing. And now, that the fuss and noise have passed, we may be permitted to analyse the news and discover the advantages gained.

It is not to be supposed if the heroic Paraguayans fell victims to the dauntless onslaught of the Brazilian troops, that the public of Buenos Ayres is also to fall victim to the onslaught of fire-crackers and "volatins." True, we live in the very atmosphere of delusion; the unreal is even uppermost—and so palatable is everything nowadays made to the public taste, that oftentimes the most insidious poison passed to us in the silver goblet of public opinion is the true nectar of the hour.

Let it not be supposed that we wish in the least to take from the victory achieved by the Brazilians, or to insinuate that the news which has come to us by the "Parana," is destitute of foundation, on the contrary, great as is the sympathy which we all must entertain for the unfortunate Paraguayans, still greater is the respect which we have for the flag which fights for the free navigation of the rivers. The last barrier to commerce still stands, Angostura, holds the river in check, and if as we suppose the fall of Villeta, means the razing of Angostura, then indeed we have reason to rejoice at the victory.

But there is laze over the despatches and few, very few can form a correct idea of the exact position of the belligerents, some believe that Lopez, has fled to the interior with only two hundred followers, whilst others whose sympathies are clearly Paraguayan, represent the Brazilian army as completely cut off, and the victorious troops when last heard of break fasting at Villeta, on fried chairs and tables of Paraguayan manufacture.

The real position of affairs in Paraguay, as far as we can glean, is as follows:—

On the 6th of December, all being ready in the Chaco, the Brazilians threw a force of about 10,000 men into Paraguay Proper, and during the night finding that the Paraguayans were about in the woods, the next morning the troops were ordered to advance and dislodge them. Scarcely had the Brazilians deployed to the left, when they came upon a deep but narrow arroyo called by the guides "Ipané" spanned by an old Palm bridge which was left standing by Lopez, and in good condition.

The advancing columns passed in excellent order over the bridge, without even seeing an enemy, but this bridge seems to have been a trap laid by Lopez, for scarcely had the Brazilians crossed when they found their columns enfiladed by the enemy's fire. The first discharge produced a little disorder, for the Paraguayan battery was so concealed in the woods that the Brazilians felt the discharge before they could see the guns. The wood stretches down to the very edge of the stream, and a few yards from the road, is extremely dense; Argollo it appears, led the van, and notwithstanding the fire pushed on, whilst Brazilian reinforcements, under Gurrion, Colonels Machado, and Fonseca came up to the bridge, Marques Caxias himself joining in the train. Now the Paraguayans in strong force emerged from the wood on both sides, and the fight became general. The Paraguayans fought with their characteristic heroism, and under the eye of Lopez himself seemed to have acquired additional prowess; the Brazilian columns were thrown into confusion; the Paraguayans, availing themselves of this, charged sword in hand, and doubled up the column. But there is no better soldier in South America with the bayonet than the Brazilian; great as was the carnage, and difficult the position, the Brazilians held their ground until the reinforcements were able to cross the bridge. Caxias, perceiving the terrible effect of the Paraguayan fire from the battery in the wood, which fairly raked the bridge, ordered Colonel Machado to advance and take the battery at all hazards. The charge of the Brazilians up to the very cannon's mouth, under the most galling fire, was a feat worthy of the heroes of Marengo. On they pushed over their dead and dying comrades, hampered with stumps of trees and dense tropical brushwood. The battery mounted five iron guns, and when the gunners saw that the enemy was gaining upon them they spiked the guns and fled to the Ipané redoubt, on the opposite side of the road, where 18 pieces were mounted. The first battery being silenced, the bridge was safe for the Allies, but the remaining battery kept up a murderous fire on one wing of the Brazilians, still the fire of this battery was interrupted, owing to the general 'melée.'

As far as we can gather the Brazilians drew off from the bridge about noon, the loss in this sterile fight must have been severe on both sides, but Caxias felt his way, had time to cross over the rest of his men from the Chaco, and with fresh forces attack the battery which survived the first day's fight. Had Lopez cut down the Ipané bridge, in the right or mounted fresh redoubts to command the pass, Caxias would have found his position far more critical, but for what motive we know not, Lopez lost the precious moments, the Brazilians on the following day attacked the 18 gun redoubt and after a sharp fight carried the place by storm, Gonzalez defended the redoubt and died sword in hand, but Lopez it is said was in Angostura, during the engagement.

On the 9th, Marquis Caxias ordered a general advance on the heights of Villeta. The morning was unusually fine, but at 11 o'clock it became cloudy, followed by light showers. The road up the mountain and through the woods was so heavy that the Brazilians did not reach until late in the morning the place called Paso Toro, where the Paraguayans in strong force were posted, having six guns well mounted; here ensued another sanguinary fight; the Paraguayans fought under every advantage, but the Brazilians outnumbered and finally overpowered them. The loss on both sides was heavy. The Brazilians admit a loss of six hundred men, rank and file, and calculate the enemy's at one thousand—but the place was at last taken, and the troops pushed on to Potrero Baldoño, which almost overlooks the Paraguayan river; another and a very sharp engagement took place at the Boca del Potrero; for three hours a handful of brave Paraguayans held the Brazilian force in check; here it was that Caballero, one of the bravest of the Paraguayans, fell; the Brazilians carried the place by assault, and took, we understand, five hundred prisoners and some eighteen guns.

On the 12th Caxias again pushed on to Ivahí, another ugly pass, where the Paraguayans were posted. The Brazilian cavalry, flushed with victory, charged in splendid style, and took the pass with the guns mounted, and thus freed the road to Angostura. At this period the mail left, and we await the next steamer to learn the final assault on Angostura.

It is useless to attempt to conceal the fact that although the Brazilians carried the positions and fairly routed Lopez out of his stronghold, the victory has been dearly bought. Still, as impartial writers, we must observe that the plan of attack formed by Caxias has been carried out to the letter, and betrays military talent of the highest order; possibly, the victory would have been complete had Gelly y Obes, on his side, advanced on Villeta, and thus attracted the attention of Lopez to that quarter. Caxias is in such a position that one check may prove fatal to him and his army. He must follow up victory after victory until he razes Angostura, and rests in Asuncion. He may from some incur censure for risking so much, but the octogenarian General can reply, with Richard— "Slave, I have set my life upon a cast, and I will stand the hazard of a die."

MONTEVIDEO.

December, 14, 1868. The failure of the Italian Bank may have taken some of the outside public by surprise, but in mercantile circles, for some time past, its tottering position was more than suspected. The Directors have issued a short notice explaining how, from the position of the Bank, and in justice to its shareholders, depositors, and creditors, they came to the resolution of suspending payment. "They claim credit for having, since the meeting of the 6th August last, devoted all the energies to the task of resuscitating the Bank, but disunion amongst the shareholders, and the decidedly hostile attitude assumed towards the Bank, by a por of the Press, caused an amount of distrust on the part of the public, which would have destroyed the credit of the soundest institution, and has led unfortunately to the present disastrous result.

The Bank had, all through, hoped that the Government would sanction the resolutions come to at the meeting of the shareholders, on the 6th August, more so, as the opinions of the law officers of the Government were in every respect in conformity with the wishes of the shareholders. The hesitation manifested by the Government in coming to a decision, only increased public distrust. At last, on Saturday, the resolution of the Government was communicated to the Bank. Instead of following the advice of its law officers, the Government came to a resolution which, however legal it may be, once published, could only have the effect of causing a run on the Bank, and its consequent destruction. Under these circumstances the Directors resolved to suspend payment, satisfied that they had done everything in their power and consistent with their duty, to save the interests entrusted to their charge.

The failure of the Bank will fall heavily on many parties here, principally Italians; the dividend expected is

small, but it is impossible to judge, till some details are given.

The fall in Fomento shares has caused the failure of two, some say more brokers, and things look in general very shaly in the Montevideo 'Capel Court.' However, this is the city of sensations, last week we had a bull-fighting and opera-going panic, [if I may use the term] now we are threatened with a money panic, to-morrow it will be something else, 'quien sabe.' I had almost added, who cares? for here are many fishers whose nets are ever fullest when the waters are troubled.

How are we to understand the telegrams from Paraguay? they are so conflicting that people here are in doubt as to which side has won. There has certainly been a tremendous fight, and the butcher's bill is big enough. This useless sacrifice of human life is truly awful, for it is useless in every way, but necessary, perhaps, in the eyes of the Brazilians, for the furtherance of their ulterior designs.

We are about to have that great agent of modern civilization, the Café Chantant, established in our midst, in the shape of an Alcazar, under the able direction of Mths. Tourneville. This news has greatly delighted all the fast young gentlemen who happen to have thrown off connection with maternal apron-strings. There are a good many strings too of a conjugal nature, which will probably chafe the miserable captives, when glowing accounts of the "Can Can," &c., are the order of the day in our local press. A morning contemporary says, that Monsieur Tourneville has resolved to stamp the coming Alcazar with a character for 'liberty.' [I can't find a better word] judiciously mixed with 'decency.' Bravo, Mons. Tourneville, you are a man who understands his epoch. This modern mixture is sure to be greedily swallowed by a, and your humble servant will be the first to try it.

On the river side, during the late storms, the lower rooms of all the houses were flooded, and a 'voyage auður de sa chambre' might easily have been undertaken by anyone in a small boat. The river has now subsided, having done a good deal of damage in a small way.

On the 18th of last month the American barque Perseid ran ashore on the rocks off Parahyba. She was bound from New York to Buenos Ayres, with a cargo of wood, general goods, and watches, the greater portion of which has been saved.

The British ship Anne Powell also went ashore on the same coast; she was bound for Liverpool with cotton. The Ganges, bound from Cardiff to Buenos Ayres with coal, was also wrecked on the morning of the 14th. Of Marañho. Captain and crew saved.

INTERIOR SKETCHES.

SKETCH THE FIRST. FROM BUENOS AYRES TO CORDOVA. Dec. 3, 1868.

My dear Standard, You must pardon my apparent neglect of you, in not reporting our progress up country. But, what with the heat, the rains, bad horses, late trains, filthy post houses, and a host of other evils (unmentionable in polite literature), I have been incapacitated from doing more than write up rough notes, and am only now recovering sufficient stamina to scribble you my first sketch of our long pilgrimage.

Well, here we are at Cordova; but, stay, I must first say how we got here, and our experiences en route, before describing this 'Lieutenant-Colonel' city of the Argentine Confederation.

We left the 25 de Mayo station on the 24th ult., in high spirits, although we parted from some good fellows, who came to shake our hands at starting and to wish us a pleasant trip and happy return. The figure was reached in the usual time (thanks to the absence of spike-nails on the rails), and we there found the little steamer Lujan awaiting her live cargo. At 12 we steamed up the picturesque stream—of late 'pic-nic-can' memory—and enjoyed the rapid change of scene and luxuriant vegetation at every turn.

We now begin to look about us on board, and observe our fellow-passengers. The male portion, insignificant and commonplace enough. But the fair sex—oh, ah, yes—well I am almost afraid to say much about them—but as a true chronicler of events, must, at least, describe them. There were two charming 'Santiagueñas'—very pretty, very affable, and—very sea-sick; so they went to their cabins and deprived us of their charming society. They appeared, however, at meal hours, and did justice to the viands, being doubtless well instructed in that important law of physics, which tells us that "Nature abhors a vacuum." The remaining two—for there were only four, in all—appeared, at first sight, of a nondescript character, but a closer examination brought to light their true calling and position in the social grade. On inquiry from the obliging purser we found they were 'artistes' late of the Alcazar Lyrique, en route to form part of a new company about to open a "café-chantant" at the "Jardin de Recreo" in Rosario.

We were well treated on board as to refreshments, and cannot complain of the ship or officers.

On the following morning, at 11 o'clock, we disembarked at Rosario, and sought and fought for our luggage with a will and vengeance. Safely on shore, we avoided the horrors of a Custom-house examination by the presence of a National Commissioner (of our party), whose gold lace was sufficient to secure us a free pass. After the usual struggle 'up the horrid 'ascent' by the Bajada street, we gained the "House of Peace," and secured our rooms—pleasant quarters, look on to the street—with our 'artistes' friends occupying rooms in front.

Rosario is too well known at Buenos Ayres to need description here. We lounged about for five days awaiting the departure of the diligence for Cordova, were kindly received and well entertained by Messrs. Weldon, Bol-lert, &c., visited the railway works, and were not well received by the manager; perhaps his duties were too numerous to allow him to dispense the ordinary civilities generally secured by a note of introduction. However, his brusqueness was well atoned for by the civilities and kind attention of Mr. Wood the Chief Engineer, who took us over all the works, and pointed out the immense amount of material existing there for the construction of the new terminus. The basement work is nearly all completed, which is perhaps the most tedious and difficult, and as soon as the superstructures shall have been commenced, a rapid show of progress will be visible. Thus the howling grumblers in the newspapers about the slowness of the work are quite at fault as to the real state of affairs. The brickmaking machinery and establishment are well worthy of a visit, and demonstrate the superiority of steam over blood. The 'iron horse' can turn out 16,000 bricks a day—the Italians' hand-making machine only 3,500 to 4,000, the latter much inferior. The clay found on the spot is not of itself good for bricks, but by a mixture of sand, brought from Villa Nueva, suits well enough. The terminus ground is 1,000 metres long, and about 80 wide, facing the Parana.

On the 28th we visited the Jardin de Recreo, to witness the 'debut' of Mlle. Talleyrand. The scene was most ludicrous, and exceeded by far the Alcazar. Miss Talleyrand showed her ankles to advantage, and was loudly cheered, but some unfortunate youth who believed himself possessed of histrionic talent soon set the house in an uproar. He was an Italian, who ignored the Spanish language, and attempted to perform a farce in his native tongue, which, not being universally understood, made his efforts highly interesting. A jovial 'son of Britain' politely requested him to 'shut up,' which, being backed by a host of others, eventually obliged him to beat a hasty retreat, and, despite the repeated entreaties of his supporters, he could not be induced to reappear. The whole performance was a farce, or to use a vulgarism a complete 'sell,' so we retired to a shady bowler in the garden, and amused ourselves observing the fair promenade of Rosario, whilst we sucked our sherry-cobblers before retiring for the night.

The next day (Sunday) we were sufficiently good christians to attend a High Mass at the Cathedral, I am afraid not so much for devotion's sake as 'to see and be seen.' The pretty Rosarinas looked charming in their light summer ecclesiastical costume, and fans being indispensable, from the heat, served as coquetting masks and working boards for certain fortunate or unfortunate possessors of bright eyes, who would keep squinting most tantalizingly at one of our party, and although well enough disposed to be pious, I fear it quite turned his mind from holy things for the day.

After church Rosario is dull, the heat intolerable, and all the world asleep, we followed suit in the latter sense, and woke up refreshed enough to enjoy a good dinner at Mr. Weldon's after which we went to see the beasts. Now in Rosario there are many kinds of beasts, humane, divine, lovely, and lay, native and foreign, especially in the neighbourhood of the railway—but it was none of these we made up our mind to honor with our presence. We strolled down the Calle de Cordova, (or Puerto, it does not matter which) and there suspended across the street was an immense placard, an oil painting on canvass, displaying to the multitude the wonders and prodigies of the coming show. Almost all the animals of the universe were gorgeously depicted in mortal combat with the 'genus homo.' Oh! how it brought back our long forgotten and only once enjoyed days of childhood, when Wombwell's menagerie or its kindred class of itinerant spectacles use to fascinate and make us break through all bounds, defying all authority and braving all punishments to see and enjoy, and oh! so thoroughly.

The beasts in question were of the so called Pyrenees Company, and the program announced exciting scenes of bull baiting and Donkey baiting, and a host of other diversions too numerous to repeat here.

We took our seats in a large tent, and anon, a brown bear with a director of the arena—the audience, almost exclusively masculine, was not numerous. The entrance high, \$1 and the

profits apparently small. Mr. Ursa was most amiable, and amused us with a short time with his accomplishments after which a pony mounted by a non-jerk became the object of a most ferocious attack from a number of bulldogs. A bull was next paraded and baited in good style, but it became so slow that we retired.

The next morning, at 8 we started for Frayle Muerto, where we agreed to spend a day on our way to Villa Nueva. Mr. Woods accompanied us, and showed us every attention, leaving us comfortably installed with Mr. Taylor the Station Master, whilst he proceeded to the earthworks beyond Villa Maria.

At the Tortugas station we came upon a scene rarely witnessed in South America and one that certainly did not shed much lustre over British manners and customs of the 19th century. The day previous had been the race day at Frayle Muerto, for a match between an English mare and a native horse. The Britishers laid on all the money they had and backed the mare, and some \$15,000 changed hands on the occasion. Of course the mare lost, and so did the Englishmen, dupes to native acuteness and native jockeying. The result was a grand state of excitement and a general drunk.

On the arrival of the train at Tortugas the disconsolate Britishers patronised the refreshment shanty, and as one exclaimed, 'spent the last dollar he had in buying two bottles of beer,' he planted the bottles in the bosom of his shirt, one on each side, and several others followed suit, some with glasses, others with corkscrews, and so marched arm-in-arm in procession, to the train, singing most boisterously, and swearing like troopers. Their costume was more convenient or picturesque than elegant, and reminded one of the 'diggins' in the far West: flannel shirts, tight breeches, and top-boots; and yet all these were more or less of gentle blood, but races and cocktails are decidedly democratic reformers, and would, doubtless, be more effective in establishing a Republic in Spain, than the bayonets of a Prim or the eloquent effusions of a Castelar.

At Frayle Muerto there is little to be seen, save the new wrought-iron bridge across the Tercero, a splendid specimen of its kind, and an example to the Government to 'go and do likewise all over the Republic.' The 'town' is a poor hamlet, apparently going fast to ruin, yet how lately have we read in your columns of its rapid progress from a few miserable hovels to a thriving village! And what is the cause of this decline, as rapid as its rise? Is it because the English colonists have retired from its neighborhood, and abandoned their once prosperous estates to the savage of the Pampa? Is it that Anglo-Saxon energy has succumbed to the retrograde influences of civil war and fratricidal strife, generated and fostered by party spirit, amongst the very men who a year ago were loudest in their 'vivas' for foreign immigration, advancement, and peace? Or is it that the speculation, as a whole, is a failure, and results only in loss to the adventurers? I have asked myself these questions whilst standing in the deserted plaza, and pondering over what it might have been, and what still it may be, if a proper course be adopted by the railway pioneers.

It is not for me to answer these questions, for I am only a bird of passage, but, I would strongly urge upon those whose business it is, to study the questions and solve the problems ere it be too late. Let the frontier be properly guarded against the incursions of the savages, and let the laboring peons be allowed to serve their masters in peace, and not be dragged away to make food for powder. Otherwise, I fear some future passer-by, like myself, must recount to the readers of the Standard, the tale of "The Dead Friar" and the extinction of the English Colony.

Having stayed a night at the station, and witnessed the working of the new telegraph from Rosario, we prepared to start for Villa Maria, the new name given to the embryo town around the Villa Nueva Station. The train to take us there ought to have been up at 3.30 p.m., but four o'clock came and no train in sight! half-past four, tampoco! Surely something must have happened five o'clock! At last we see the black monster—a mere speck on the horizon, for there is here a straight line of eighty miles, over a sea of pampa. Just fancy; what a country—an unparalleled country for railways—max. immum gradient, one in one hundred and thirty-two, and the average of the line to Cordova, only six feet in a mile! 'Al fin, llega el tren—now, I can't see anything preposterous in the word 'tren,' as somebody said there was, the other day, in the Standard—simply because the 'way' was added, and because the word is English. Well if he objects to this, let him have it 'Trenvia'; it's just as short and comfortable as the other—and where there is a will, there is a way,' you know, but just let him try the 'tren' without the way, and see how he'd feel after an hour's jolting over the never-to-be-forgotten pavement of Buenos Ayres. Get aboard gentlemen, get aboard! why, it's the voice of our condescend-

ing and attentive guard, Mr. Perkins Get aboard, if you please, guess time's up and must stop. So in we tumble, scrambling over seats, carpet-bags, gun-cases, ponchos, barometers, and Tag! tag! and off we go full tilt to Villa Maria, where I hope to arrive in my next.

Yours truly, QUIXOTE DE LA MANCHA.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

The Antwerp Mail Steamer City of Brussels leaves to-day with mails and passengers for Brazil, Great Britain and the European Continent. The mail bag closes at 2 p.m., at the Central Post Office, and at half-past two at the Maritime Branch Office in Calle 25 de Mayo.

The National Government, by a decree dated 11th inst., has appointed Mr. William R. Gilmore as its agent, for the purpose of representing it at the general meetings held in London by the Argentine Central Railway shareholders, for the seventeen thousand shares subscribed by the Government.

Our colleague the Nación gives the following curious details relative to the fire that occurred a few days ago at Dr. Lorenzo Torres' quinta. Mrs. Mereyles, the daughter of Dr. Torres, occupied a room by herself, with her baby, who lay in a heavy cradle by her side. On retiring to rest, she put out the candle and gave it to the nurse, who occupied an adjoining room, in order that if called, the latter might light it again, and obey the summons. Whilst in a state of sleepy wakefulness, Mrs. Mereyles thought she dreamt that a hand was throwing something into a glass of water with sugar, she kept by her bedside. A little while afterwards, she thought she saw the same hand setting fire to her bed curtains. She then woke and actually found that the hangings of the bed were in flames. On jumping out of bed she was alarmed at neither finding the child or nurse, nor even the cradle which was too heavy for a person to have lifted; she rushed to the gallery and there found the nurse squatting in a corner, with the child in her arms. Mr. Mereyles was then called up, but in the meantime the fire had so increased as to destroy one whole wing of the building. It is stated that whilst the fire lasted, a good deal of jewelry and several valuable articles were abstracted. We hope that the strictest inquiry will be set on foot, and the mystery that hangs over the occurrence be cleared up. The nurse must surely be able to throw some light on the matter.

The news that an act had been passed in both Chambers of our Congress, granting to Messrs. Baillie and Barry a seven year's privilege for the exportation of live cattle, is noticed with great satisfaction by the principal London papers. The Times, giving the news, says:—

"Under the act seven steamers are required to be built in England, each capable of carrying 1,200 head of cattle, of distilling 8,000 gallons of water daily, and of making the voyage from the River Plate to London in 25 days. Sarmiento, the new President of the Argentine Republic, had declared it to be his wish to attempt the assimilation of the land laws to those of the United States, giving free grants of land to foreigners who will declare their intention to become citizens of the Republic, and requiring prospective holders of land to give military service."

We have seen a letter from Mr. Barry, by which we are glad to learn that since his arrival in England he has been indefatigable in securing the means of at once realizing this important undertaking. A steamer, destined to make the first experimental voyage had been chartered, and was to have sailed in the early part of this month for Buenos Ayres, and she will in all probability leave the River Plate with her live freight at the beginning of February next. The important results likely to accrue from this speculation can scarcely be exaggerated, and we hope that Messrs. Baillie & Barry will soon reap some of the benefits of their enterprising efforts.

One of our contemporaries gives the following list of casualties at sea:—The American barque Peñesic, G. A. Bigelow, master, from New York to Buenos Aires, with a cargo of timber, furniture and clocks, was wrecked on the 18th ult. off Cabedello, province of Parahyba. The greater part of her cargo was saved and deposited in the Customhouse. The American Consul at Pernambuco started for Parahyba as soon as the news reached him, and sent a steamer to lend assistance to save the ship, of which strong hopes are entertained. On the same coast the Anne Powell, bound for Liverpool, with cotton, was also wrecked. On the 14th ult. the English barque Ganges, from Cardiff, with coal, was wrecked near the bar of Tutoia, Maranhao. The captain and crew were saved by the English brig Isabella, which entered Maranhao on the 15th. Through the kindness of a British merchant, whose hospitable residence may be termed the "Old Curiosity Shop," we have received a valuable acquisition to our Museum in the shape of a sheepskin book, containing the rules and regulations of the Paraguayan army written in Spanish, but so illegible that it would require a microscope to decipher.

NEW GAS COMPANY PROSPECTUS.

CAPITAL 500,000 hard dollars, in 5,000 Shares of 100 hard dollars each. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: PRESIDENT: SR. DN. FEDERICO TERRERO.

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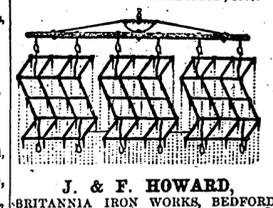
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