

ALCAZAR LYRIQUE, 137-CALLE VICTORIA-137

DIRECTOR: Mr. CHERRI LABROCAIRE. Aujourd'hui LE RETOUR D'ULYSSE. Opéra lyrique en un acte. ALCAZAR LYRIQUE REGLEMENTO INTERNO...

GIFTS AND PRESENTS FOR Christmas and the New Year, PER S.S. CITY OF BRUSSELS, &c.

We are in expectation of despatching from the Custom-house, in the course of the week, a variety of articles suitable for presentation and for personal use, say: GAMES—King's head game, Pope Joan Board, rival squabblers, agon games, croquet, dominoes, puzzle, zig-zag, hop scotch, dice-box, backgammon, draught, stanton chessmen and boards, draft men in carved ivory and boards, cribbage boards in tangle wood, B.C.D. rolls, alarm clock, portable B.C.D. rolls, a large supply of conversation and card games, including the 'happy families,' dominoes and toys, race games and playing cards of all prices...

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE STANDARD \$50 PER MONTH.

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.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1868.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM FOR "STANDARD."

Montevideo, December 22, 8 P.M. Bank paper improving, and business done at 14 dis. Very little business doing. Exchange on London, £70,000 passed to-day at 45 for paper. 1,300 faucegas Cadiz salt, delivered in Gualeguaychú, realised 10 rls. gold, 4 months. The export market continues very flat, and prices drooping. 1,300 ar. good mestiza wool sold at 29 1/2 rls. Hides: 4,000 American fetched 5 7/8 gold, despatched estillo antiguo. Weather very fine.

MONTEVIDEO.

Political, Commercial, and Social Position. "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." Our Montevidean friends are unprepared to learn, that in the "Glasgow Daily Herald" of October 18, 1868, there is published a paper purporting to be written in Montevideo on the 29th of August last, depicting its political, commercial, and social position in such a light, that we refuse to republish the paper in full.

As a rule, all communications touching on such general subjects, no matter how hostile to our own opinions, ever find a place in the columns of the "Standard." We believe it is the duty of the journalist to afford the fullest liberty of discussion on matters of general interest, nor should we now depart from this rule but that we decline to propagate such a wholesale slander on a land which, with all its faults, is the home of so many of our fellow-countrymen.

That there are many political, commercial and social grievances in the Plata which call for the severest censure and demand immediate reform, we all admit; but, as Napoleon has said, "dirty linen should be washed at home," and foreigners who have a sincere wish to effect reform should rather put their shoulder to the wheel here, than bell abroad the social defects which, we may be permitted to say, are inherent to the Spanish race. The author of this extraordinary communication begins as follows:— It is a very difficult thing to bring home to the British mind the condition of things here. The people try to imitate the Yankees in their political institutions, and they retain the external of Spanish grandiloquence and exaggerated politeness in their domestic arrangements. Then again, every nation is represented in the population which makes a mixture which is neither Yankee, Spanish, Italian, French, nor English, but the whole lot blended together, with the most of their vices and a few of their virtues. With such a combination of nationalities, all of which are more or less represented in the customs and habits of the country, you will admit the difficulty of giving anything like a tolerably fair idea of the state of society. My endeavour will be to state from well known facts [well known at least to everyone here] the unsuitability of the South American Republics for British emigration or it may be from any part of Europe, but more especially from Great Britain where respect for life and property is so great, and where the laws are religiously executed, and the faith in the stability of the constitution an immovable creed in the public mind. Here nobody has the slightest faith in the honour of the Government nor in the equitable fulfilment of the laws. Take one example, from which the country is suffering at the present moment, and suffering terribly, for the benefit of reckless speculators, and which will show how insecure commerce is as well as the hard won earnings of honest men. In the year 1865, the late Dictator Flores, of his own will, enacted a law whereby any individual could establish a bank and emit bank notes to three times the extent of his capital. The result was that bank after bank started into existence, and the country seemed advancing with more than giant strides. The city, a few months after the decree, was alive with workmen improving the streets, making roads, and fine houses were being built, and people who had formerly been poor rode in carriages imported from London and Paris. There were very few indeed who had any idea of the crisis which was approaching; and as banks of emission were something quite new to the country, they were viewed as something incomprehensible by which everybody was to be made rich. For deposits the lowest interest paid was 9 per cent. per annum, and the shareholders were receiving no less than 24 per cent. per annum. The Dictator appointed a Commission to examine the bank accounts, in order to ascertain that they were really in specie in their strong boxes a third of the value of the notes in circulation, but so corrupt were the Commissioners that they now they have their eyes opened, say the only things necessary to establish a flourishing bank were sufficient credit to hire a house, furnish a counting house, and get the bank notes printed. Under these circumstances, almost anybody could get money, or rather paper, from the banks with little or no guarantee. The result was that one day a certain bank being requested to convert notes into gold, and being unable to do so, a panic set in upon all the banks. They shut their doors, declared their inability to meet their engagements and petitioned the Dictator to declare their notes legal tender and to give them time to contract their operations. The Dictator, who had many friends involved in the banks, willingly gave them a few months. But the confidence of the people had been shaken, and paper money fell to 90 per cent. of its value. The period allowed for the forced circulation having expired, the banks commenced to convert their notes; but the demand being great they soon exhausted the little gold they had. Again they applied for forced circulation—again was it granted. For the third time this shameful ruse was resorted to, but during the term of the third decree the Dictator was assassinated, and under the constitutional (?) Government which succeeded him a happier era was predicted for the country, as, at least, the termination of a forced paper currency was confidently believed in by all who wished to see a healthy state of affairs. After a very lengthened version of the bank crisis, in which the writer attacks with unmeasured acerbity the Manú Bank, and offers opinions which the recent closing of the Italian Bank prove now to be most erroneous. The writer takes up a subject which we regret to say affords room for even severer comment than what he thinks proper to give it; we refer to the unprotected state of the country districts. Everything that the writer says respecting the miserable administration of justice, the impunity for murder, and the dangers to which the sheep farmers are exposed, is but too true, the fault lies not with the people, but with the criminal tribunals. Murderers of the blackest die lie in the prisons of Montevideo; until the public has totally forgotten the appalling circumstances attending the perpetration of the crime, this evil is the real cancer—it saps at the honor and reputation of a civilized people. Executions are now-a-days unknown in these countries, and hence the great insecurity for life. The case which the writer gives is but too true, and has on many occasions occurred in this Republic. Have we forgotten the unfortunate Mr. Flowers, who shot a man in self defence, and was nine months incarcerated in the public prison of Buenos Ayres, notwithstanding all the exertions of Mr. Thornton. We can have no radical reform in

the Plata, until we elevate the bench and punish the assassin. The wild ignorant nomadic gaucho, who gallops over the country, knife in hand, is not to blame; he neither fears nor respects the law. Full well he knows that, at worst, he can be only sent to Montevideo to prison, where he gets free board and lodging; which, after all, is the sole aim, hope and ambition of four-fifths of the unfortunate country people. The writer says:— Within the last seven months there have been two revolutions, in which the leaders of the two principal political factions were assassinated, viz., Flores, Dictator, and Berro, Blanco Chief. Besides these, there have been three revolts in the provinces, two of the leaders of which were left unpunished, and the third had a reputation sent him by the Government, who persuaded him to lay down his arms, and, in place of punishing him, presented him with a sword, as a mark of their gratitude for his compliance. In their gratitude for his compliance. In the same way murders and robberies are left unpunished, and no one goes any distance in the interior without a revolver or dagger for self-defence. Assassination being left unchecked, murders for purposes of private revenge are almost of daily occurrence. It is a fact, that sheepfarmers in the interior require to exercise the greatest patience and tact in order to induce the shepherds to do their work. Failing their doing so, the farmer is afraid to discharge them lest he should be assassinated. An instance of this occurred some time ago with a sheep-farmer, a Scotchman, a friend of my own—a man of resolution and firmness. One of his shepherds had repeatedly neglected his work—refused to do what was told. My friend discharged him. He then swore to seize the first opportunity of taking his life. My friend held himself in preparation, for he well knew the man would be as good as his word; and one day, being alone with his family, he saw the fellow coming towards the house. He divined his intent, and snatching up his revolver, went to meet him; told his wife to lock the door in case of the worst. He had just got outside when the man was within a few paces of the house. The fellow snatched the usual dagger they carry from his pocket, and prepared to make a rush at him. My friend told him [the fellow being within a couple of yards]—"If you dare advance a step farther I will fire." He, nevertheless, was rushing upon him when my friend fired. The second fell, surviving only a few hours. Before his death he either signed or put his mark, for few of them can even read, to a declaration, avowing his purpose of murdering my friend, his wife, and family, and this declaration was testified by three witnesses. In spite, however, my friend, and notwithstanding the efforts of the British Consul, was seized, and lay in prison three months. Murders may be committed, in many instances, without tracing the malefactors, since there are miles and miles where one may not see a house or a human being; but even when the murderer is discovered, few of them get as long a term of imprisonment as my friend who acted only in self-defence. The rest of this terrible letter we strike out. Vice is at all times an unpleasant theme; that the social evil is greatly on the increase may unfortunately be too true. But we scorn the task of publishing a sweeping slander against Montevidean wives, mothers, and daughters. Juvenile corruption may exist to a wide extent—but is Montevideo in this respect one whit worse than London, Paris, Dublin, New York, or even Glasgow? How often do we see "the mote in our neighbour's eye whilst we cannot see the beam in our own!" We repeal the charge against the daughters of the Banda Oriental, and deny that the sentiments contained in the paper referred to are shared by the English, or in fact by any of the educated portion of the community in the B. Oriental.

WAR IN THE NORTH.

TERRIBLE RAINSTORM.

Yesterday, the steamer Provador and Onyx came in from Palmas, bringing the rather important news that it had rained very heavily at head-quarters. Marshal Caxias had fixed the 19th as the day for the grand attack, but before sunrise it began to rain, and before breakfast it came down in torrents. Of course to attack under such circumstances was utterly out of the question. One party has received a letter dated Palmas 19th inst., in which he states that at Angostura things are the same way. The American gunboat was at anchor there, and taking on board large cases, supposed to contain gold, one box fell from the canoe into the river, and yet notwithstanding all the exertions, the box could not be fished up. The ironclads keep a heavy fire up at the bend in the river, and are shipping, by the little stream in the Chaco, medicines and every description of supply. When they are landed in the Chaco, they are forwarded through the forest path and finally brought to the banks of the Paraguay, here they are trans-

ported and sent across to be forwarded to Villeta. The last part of the road is the most dangerous, being beset by the enemy. It was rumoured yesterday that the Brazilians had taken half a regiment of Paraguayans prisoners. There were other rumours current of a less favorable nature, but they require to be authenticated. Poor General Osorio suffers much, his jaw-bone and two of his teeth having been carried away by a slug. Caxias is at Villeta, and using the most superhuman exertions for the wounded. All the dead after the last battles have been buried. The heat is something truly awful, and the rains most incessant. Hay, there is a good supply now, but horses are much wanted. The steamers which ply between Palmas and Corrientes are ever crowded, and are doing a very excellent trade. The Brazilians have had more troops sent across the Chaco to Villeta. Gelly is still at Palmas. The esteros in front are all now greatly swollen. Minister Varela, it is said, will have a private interview, first with Gelly, then with Caxias, and finally perhaps with Lopez. The river is filled with sailing craft of every description, steamers at every point. All these vessels wait for Angostura to fall to enter Asuncion. NO LATER NEWS. FURTHER DETAILS. In the absence of any later news from the seat of war, we give the 'Boletín del Bjerito,' which will be found in a great measure to corroborate what we have already published regarding the engagements at the bridge and before Villeta. Encampment at Villeta. Dec. 13, 1868. One combat and one pitched battle—or two splendid victories in five days! On the 26th of last month Marques Caxias embarked with his staff for the Chaco, following the road just made by Argollo, and then rendered all but impassable by the floods. At the Paso de Canoas he again took to the water and visited the fleet, at anchor in mid-stream, abreast of the bivouac of the expeditionary forces. From this he could distinctly descry a trench the Paraguayans were rising on the opposite shore. Returning in haste to the Chaco he speedily completed the preparations for crossing the river before the hostile works were finished. At dawn of the 5th a column of 3600 men of all arms, under the command of Argollo landed at San Antonio two leagues above the point, where the enemy had expected them. At 2 p.m. same day the General-in-Chief, accompanied by Baron de Iervall with the remainder of the troops, disembarked at the same spot. A reserve force of three battalions infantry and a division of cavalry under the Baron de Triunfo and Bader garrisoned Juan Meina Barreto, remaining behind in the Chaco. Caxias marshalled his forces and advanced on the little wooded bridge, by which the Arroyo Terroro was spanned. Here the enemy were strongly posted and on their approach within range, gave the invaders the most unmistakable signs of their determination to dispute the pass. Next day (6th) Gen. Argollo was ordered to carry the pass with his brigade, while Osorio led the 3rd corps de armé by a circuitous path through the woods, on the left flank, for the purpose of gaining the enemy's rear and cutting off their retreat. The enemy occupied a most advantageous position, on the brow of a hill, covered on all sides with a thick, low brushwood, which enabled them to shell the assaulting columns from whom they were concealed. The road to the bridge was very narrow, and, as the troops advanced to the attack, they were decimated by small fire arms from the woods and the guns from the heights. Here it was that the intrepid Colonel Machado and several of his brave comrades-in-arms found a glorious grave. The fighting was most stubborn, and heavy was the loss on both sides. Three times the bridge was lost and won alternately. The fusillade was incessant. The enemy succeeded in outflanking us, and General Argollo was wounded in the back. On learning this the Marques drew his sword, and ordering the cavalry to charge, led up himself the reserve. Wherever danger threatened there was he urging by words and example the weak or cowardly to deeds of valor. Such enthusiasm was irresistible, and even the Paraguayans gave way. Had the 3rd corps come up now not a single man of them would have escaped, but the roads were long and heavy. Six pieces of artillery, arms and ammunition of every kind, with several prisoners were the trophies of the first day. The scene of strife was marked by five hundred bodies of the slain.

PRISONERS DECLARE THAT THEIR LOSSES WERE OVER TWELVE HUNDRED 'HORS DE COMBAT.'

EDITOR'S TABLE.

The Provador came in yesterday morning from the north, but brought no news of moment. Things remained in statu quo. Preparations were actively pushed on by the Allies for a grand combined attack on the Angostura batteries, and the next steamer may be the bearer of some important intelligence. The National Government has issued a further decree in connection with the one appointing Mr. Hout Lindmark, C. E., to proceed to make the survey of the branch railway between Villa Nueva and Rio Cuarto. By the new decree a sum of 2,000 pesos is placed at the disposal of the Engineer above named, for the purpose of purchasing horses, paying peones, and other necessary expenses, and two assistant engineers are attached to Mr. Lindmark, namely Charles Malmgren and Emilio Oresti, with a monthly salary of \$8.150 each, and 50 cents per league for once between Buenos Ayres and Villa Nueva, and vice versa. An escort of 50 cavalry men of the regular army are likewise ordered to accompany the expedition from Villa Nueva to Rio Cuarto. We publish in another column the list of the new Jueces de Paz both in town and in the country. We have the pleasure of knowing personally some of the newly appointed Jueces de Paz; in general will be benefited, and we may hope to see some of the many abuses complained of put a stop to. We particularly congratulate Mr. George Gowland on his appointment as Juez de Paz of Belgrano, and hope he will inaugurate his taking office by remedying the atrocious jobbery about the cart road from town to Belgrano. A toll of \$5 for each loaded cart is charged, and if the cartman only puts a small basket with provisions on his return trip the cart is considered as loaded, and obliged to pay toll again; and yet nothing is ever done to repair the road, which is in a discreditable state, and almost unserviceable, although besides this vexatious toll the contractor gets \$3,000 a month from Government for keeping it in repair. It is a rather melancholy fact, that in a measure, the great delay which the Captain of the 'Hesperus,' met with in clearing his vessel, was a remote cause of the sad accident which consigned him to a watery grave. He had been so long detained at the Custom House, and then when despatched there, some shippers of produce had not paid the export duties, and the ship was again delayed, so that the poor Captain became bewildered, and the very instant all was ready he pushed off, although it was blowing a very stiff gale at the time. It is really much to be regretted that sailing vessels encounter so many and such continuous delays at the Custom House, we see no reason why sailing vessels, should not be cleared with the same despatch as steamers. Some sailing ships, with the delay of the lighters in discharging, then the hitch about loading soldiers and 500 more in our hospitals. Five stand of colors, a quantity of munition, and two hundred head of cattle are the trophies of the day's work. Our loss may be set down at 2,000 men killed and wounded, including many officers; nevertheless, on neither days did we suffer anything approaching that of the enemy. The Marques wants to reorganize the army before attacking Angostura, after which he will march straight on to Asuncion.

Department of the Interior, Buenos Ayres, Dec. 14, 1868. To William Wheelwright, Esq. The National Government, anxious that the Electric Telegraph, about to be concluded between this and Rosario, should be open to the public, with the least possible delay, has thought that in the same office used for the despatch of telegrams from your city to Cordova, might be received and despatched those between Buenos Ayres and Rosario, and vice versa. The President, therefore, charges me to ask you whether the Telegraph Office of the Central Argentine Railway may not be used for the Buenos Ayres and Rosario Telegraph and under what conditions. The President wishes to have your reply as soon as possible, because he is anxious that, as soon as the wires are laid to Rosario, the telegraph should at once be opened to the public. As you will readily understand, the Government has a direct interest that as soon as telegraphic communication is established between Buenos Ayres and Rosario, despatches should be transmittable to Cordova by the telegraph of the Company under your management, and I am charged by the President, therefore, to ask you whether the telegraph line cannot be at once concluded as far as Cordova, independently of the termination of the railway. Should you think this impossible, the President wishes to know the motives that oppose themselves, in order, if possible, to make them disappear. Hoping to receive your reply soon, I am happy to renew to you the assurances of my regard. D. VELAZ SARRFIELD.

THE TELEGRAPH TO ROSARIO AND CORDOVA.

THE PACIFIC MAILS.

We have received the 'Valparaiso and West Coast Mail' the 27th ult. from which we make the following extract:— CHILE. The advantage that would accrue to the agriculturists of this country by improving their flocks, has just been demonstrated in the most conclusive manner in Santiago. Some time ago the 'Government imported for the 'Quinta Normal' a flock of twenty sheep of the famous Negretti, Rambouillet and Lincoln breeds, and the first shearing, which has just taken place, has resulted in a yield of eighty kilogrammes of washed wool, which will be immediately remitted to Europe, and sold, so as to afford a basis for calculations as to the relative advantages to be derived from the rearing of such animals as these, and the wretched specimens common to the country. The washing of the wool is another innovation on the general practice, which is not only to shear 'in the grease,' but also to dirty the wool as much as possible, in order to make it weigh less—a most absurd custom, as freight, &c., has to be paid on the dirt, for which besides the purchaser exacts a ruinous discount. As a magnificent flock of the above named animals is daily expected to arrive from Buenos Ayres under the charge of Mr. Coppington, perhaps the farmers may avail themselves of

ing informed the Government that the difficulties that obstructed the march of the Bank had been completely removed, and it was in a condition to resume its operations and fulfil all its engagements. The doors of the bank will in consequence soon be opened again, which cannot but be a matter of congratulation to the commercial world of Rosario. In the 'Eco de Cordova' of the 18th we find a long article recommending that as soon as the Argentine Railway is open as far as Cordova a Custom House depot should be established in the latter town, for the benefit of the commerce of the interior. The article, which is very sensible and well written, is, we believe, from the talented pen of our ex Minister of Finance, Sr. Don Lucas Gonzalez. We have been favoured with a letter from Mr. Salas, dated Cordova, 10th inst., with reference to the prospects of the company he is exerting himself to form for establishing a regular traffic by mule carts over the new road in course of construction between Cordova and San Juan. He reports that the idea is very warmly supported by the Governor and some local capitalists, among others, Don Belindo Soaje, and he hopes to be able in a short time to realise it. He was just about to start for San Juan, along the track of the new road to fix the points at which post houses are to be made, and for which the National Government has promised to give the land if the company is formed. We read in the 'Telegrafo Maritimo' that the America in her last trip to Montevideo on Saturday, run down in the night about 1 a.m., an Oriental schooner, the Comercio del Salto, bound from Montevideo to Mercedes, and the latter sunk almost immediately. Her master and one sailor were drowned. The rest of the crew, four in number, were able to save themselves on board the America, one of them we understand, with a broken leg. General Conesa left town yesterday for Azul on a mission of the Government in connection with the frontier service. Colonel Victoria will perform his duties during his absence. On Sunday, about 10 o'clock at night, a fire broke out in the house of Mr. Santa Maria in Calle Suipacha, near the Socorro Church. Thanks to the exertions of the neighbours, who promptly came to the assistance, the flames were soon got under and the fire put out before any very great damage had been done. As Mr. Bernál Osborne would eloquently say, it is all U. P. with Belgrano this year. The owners of fineas would at the beginning of the season hear of nothing else save selling, and now they have changed, and ask such exorbitant rents, that most of the houses and quintas are empty, and likely to remain so for the season. The great fire at Corti and Riva was caused, as it turns out, by the spontaneous combustion of oakum. A clerk saw a barrel of this stuff suddenly blaze forth without any one having gone near. The stock was fully insured, and Messrs Corti and Riva had only the day before paid £50 for insurance premium. The general rehearsal of the Philharmonic Society takes place on Monday next, not to night as stated in our yesterdays issue. Members are earnestly requested to be punctual in their attendance at the Coliseum, at eight o'clock, on Monday evening. We are informed that some native gentlemen have applied to several respectable foreign and native houses, to subscribe for a banquet to be given to General Mitre. They have not met, however, with a very promising reception.

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