

The Standard

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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The Standard.

"All this" doesn't tell you. And you don't know it."—*Cicero*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1861.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

The afflicted, disconsolate mother of poor Connel, who was butchered by the police in the Villa Mercedes the other day, was in our office yesterday. Would to God that President Mitre was present to hear that poor woman's tale—to watch the tears trickling down her cheeks as she spoke of her murdered boy.

What though he be an alcalde or a policeman who is charged with the crime of butchering poor Connel—what though he be a Cacicismo politician, and one of the greatest supporters of the National Government—on behalf of this poor bereaved Irishwoman, in vindication of the outraged laws of society and of the Republic, we demand his punishment.

The particulars which we have received respecting this outrage are of such a character as to demand the interference of the British Minister. We hope a public example will be made of the culprit and the fellow who cut down the woman on the Boca road.

The news from Montevideo is of the most startling character. President Berro has arrested the rebellious senators, that is to say, the out-and-out 'blancos,' and sent them to the Pontoon. This caused a great sensation in the Mount, and showed that President Berro was determined to hold his own.

We regret sincerely to be obliged to make room for the complaint, which will be found in another column, against Captain Curlew, whom we believed to be one of the most obliging commanders in the Plate. We nevertheless feel bound, as Captain Curlew is, in every sense of the word, a public man to publish the complaint, which comes to us guaranteed by the most respectable parties. We think there must be some mistake, that very probably Captain Curlew never saw the boat in question. The public, however, ought to suspend its judgment, until we hear what the gallant captain has to say about the matter.

The reduction in the army, by order of the President, is regarded by many as a rather extraordinary measure; many consider that the President might have selected a better time than the present to adopt this economical plan. We however believe it to be a most necessary step, as the state of the treasury at present is not such as to justify the maintenance of a large standing army. The navy we understand will not be muddled with that, is to say, the old man-of-war tubs lying in front of Martin Garcia will not be sold by auction. This is decidedly a judicious step on the part of Minister Gelly Obes, as, since the boats left us, there are very few who would be inclined to make a bid for such unwieldy steamers.

It is currently reported that after a careful inspection of the books, Don J. B. Peña has declined the post of Finance Minister of the nation. This rumour is generally believed to be true, but we think it right to add that Mr. Peña's objection does not proceed from political motives, as he states that he dislikes the 'crudos,' and has given no authority whatever for putting his name on the list of congressional candidates.

Our readers will be glad to hear that in many parts of the camp it has rained most copiously. South-west of the Salado, in Lujan, Mercedes, Fortin, and all about in that direction it has rained in torrents, and the grass is coming up well. In the town of Lujan the streets were impassable, from the rivers which flowed through them. Many of the farmers who migrated during the last month to expensive lands are now returning. But the most amusing

part of the country news is that Sr. Piran, who has been renting his land at the most unheard-of monthly rents, is now looking for land for himself. He rented a little too fast, and now we are told his sheep are dying from starvation. This estancia is near the Fortin de Areco, and up to the present had his camps in very superior condition.

Our talented friend, Mr. Murray, who published a chapter in the last number of the 'River Plate Magazine,' entitled 'How Old are We?' gets a frightful cutting up in to-day's paper, from the pen of an able correspondent. We doubt if Mr. Murray ever expected that in the River Plate he would receive such a severe yet powerful answer.

ANOTHER BUTCHERY AT V. MERCEDES.

We have just learned the particulars of a shocking outrage committed on the persons of two industrious, inoffensive sheep farmers in the district of Villa Mercedes: the occurrence took place last month, but is now made public for the first time.

John and Patrick S.—were parting two flocks of sheep which had become mixed, at one of their pastures. They had advised the neighbours, who accordingly came to claim any stray sheep that might belong to them. Things went on quietly for some time, till about ten o'clock a.m. when a native man insisted on taking all the unmarked animals as his. John S.—offered to leave it to be decided by two neighbours and the shepherds who well knew the unmarked sheep of his flock, and those of the native man.

The native's only reply was to draw his knife, and with a foul epithet of imprecation attacked S.—. The latter defended himself with his hands, but got fearfully cut in both arms. At this juncture the brother Patrick came running out of the house with an 'asadador,' to attack the native, but the gaucho succeeded in parrying the thrust, and stabbed the second brother in the chest. Then mounting his horse, he went home. The neighbors immediately went to the Justice, demanding the arrest of the ruffian, who was seized same day and conveyed to Villa Mercedes, but the Juez de Paz at once liberated him. The doctors pronounced the cases of the two brothers very dangerous, and for a time their lives were almost despaired of. John S.—is still in a bad way, after 4½ days confinement, his arms being bound up.

The author of this shocking outrage is at liberty and walks about, as unconcerned as if he had only killed two sheep, and as if President Mitre or Governor Saavedra were a Daimio of Japan.

HOW OLD ARE WE?

We quote the following from the January number of the 'River Plate Magazine':—

"The greater portion of men believe that the world was created some six thousand years ago, and give as their basis of opinion the first chapter of Genesis, which says that it was formed in six days, and their chronology makes out that this happened just six thousand years ago."

"In the years 1851-54 perforations were made in the alluvial formation of Egypt to find out the age of a certain depth of the sediment of the Nile. Seventy borings were made, at a distance from towns, and there were found burnt bricks at a depth of seventy feet. If the Nile deposited in ancient times at the same rate as at present, that is five inches every hundred years, the man who made those bricks lived twelve thousand years ago."

"The fossil jaw found at Abbeville, in company with flint implements, differs in its anatomical conformation from that of the existing races of Western Europe, at a considerable depth, and in sedimentary deposits which demonstrate that man existed when that part of the country was covered with water a hundred feet deep."

All these facts evidently corroborate what we have said, that the earth is very ancient, and that man existed long before the ordinary biblical chronology, or rather as it is interpreted."

As sentiments of this kind are likely to lead to scepticism, or rather to a belief that the Bible is not quite as careful about truth as it might be, leads us to the defence of an old friend, for the good old book is a dear friend to us, for from it we received lessons of instruction in early childhood.

We ask our readers to turn to the first chapter of Genesis, and read the first five verses, and see whether they compare with geology or not. The first verse tells us that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, but does not tell us when that beginning was. The second verse describes the condition of the earth before the six days work. How many ages may have intervened between the 'beginning' and the time 'darkness covered the deep, and the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters?' How many geological revolutions may have transformed the earth into a paradise, teeming with animal and vegetable life, and

then again into a shapeless chaos covered with sulphurous vapors, and the blackness of darkness."

The leading event of the first day's work was not the creation of light but the calling of light from the outside creation into, and dispelling the darkness which surrounded the globe; for eminent astronomers have calculated that the light which is now falling upon us from the more remote fixed stars, travelling at the rate of 20,000 miles a minute, has been more than 30,000 years in passing from those distant worlds to our own; and Sir William Herschel tells us that the light of the Nebulae in the constellation Orion, seen through his forty foot telescope, has been 2,000,000 years on its passage through space.

"God said let there be light, and there was light."

Please notice that in the first verse the word 'created' is used. In Exodus 1:11, as well as in several places in the first chapter of Gen. you will find the word 'made,' which is altogether different from the word 'create.' The Hebrew word which is translated 'made' is used in some portions of the Old Testament with the meaning of re-creates.

During the various periods of the world's existence prior to the creation of man, gigantic animals of a strange and indescribable appearance roamed its forests and swam its rivers. Bones and remains of which have been found in all countries, and may be seen in any museum of the present day. We can scarcely peruse a journal but we find descriptions of these, as they are brought to the surface. As a specimen we quote from papers now lying before us. 'Petitified remains of shell-fish very close by, resembling lobsters, have been found in the rocks, some of them six feet in length. A tooth of some extinct monster was found near Lafayette. Said it weighed over two pounds. A portion of a jaw-bone of a mastodon was found in Fountain country, which measured three feet long and one foot wide. There have been found in England in rocks, long before the creation of man, a frog's bones, of such size, as to indicate clearly that the animal when alive must have weighed from 800 to 1500 lbs. Remains of this kind, found during the dark ages, were supposed to be the bones of fallen angels."

Geology proves the world to be very old, but coincides with the Mosaic account of the creation. Vegetables and bones of animals have been found in the various strata, but not so with the bones of man. The latter have been found very deep below the surface, but depth is not always a proof of age. The skeletons of whales, and other sea monsters, have been found in high land, and even in mountains far from the sea. Near Lake McPherson, in a mass of gravel, overlying fossiliferous rock, and injecting dikes downward into the limestone. Hugh Miller says, 'the convulsions and revolutions of the geological world, like those of the political, are sad confounders of place and station, and bring into close fellowship the high and the low; nor is it safe in either world—such have been the effects of disturbing agencies—to judge of ancient relations by existing neighbourhoods; or of original situations, by present places of occupancy.'

Bones of man may be found at great depths, but the old book says something about a flood. Now, do not be too hasty in your conclusion, dear reader. We are not going to quote extracts from Herodotus, the Chaldean; Nicodemus, of Damascus; Manetto, the Egyptian, or others, as to what they may have said of the ruins of an ark in their days, remaining in the mountains of Armenia; to prove that it is easier for the waves of a sinking ocean to carry bone into deep caverns of the earth, than for different strata of rocks to grow above them. It is well known that in the early history of Europe, there was a race of people somewhat different from the 'existing race,' and that they used 'flint implements.' Notice, too, that where the bones of men have been found at great depths, have usually been in countries more or less subject to earthquakes. Now, we have only to remember the opening and closing of chasms in the earth at Mendoza, to understand how men and flint implements may have been swallowed deep down into the bowels of the earth. If that is not sufficient, visit any mountainous region, where the elements have not been able to fill up the chasms, and you may look down upon black night, and throw down stones, and hear them rattle, till the sound is lost in the distance. We do not pretend to say that borings brought up from a depth of seventy feet may not be proved, by chemical analysis, to be the dust of burnt bricks; but we do say that the Nile would be the last place we would look for proof of the world's age. Egypt, three thousand years ago, was the garden of the world: it is now a desert. The winds have carried the sand around the famous 'Sphinx,' until not only the elevation on which it stands, but the image itself, has been covered, with the exception of the head and shoulders, making a depth of more than twice seventy feet, on the very banks of the Nile, in about two thousand years. And that wind is increasing in power, so

that if the world stands a couple of thousand years longer, that wonderful prophecy in Isaiah 11, 13, will be literally fulfilled."

But we leave the unknown skeptic to pore in the mud of the Nile for Ptolemy's bricks, while we listen to men whose fame is world-wide, such as Hitchcock, Chalmers, Comstock, Cardinal Wiseman, and a score of others, whose names we might mention, who all bear testimony to the fact, that 'at the present day no practical geologist maintains that any human remains have been found below diluvium,' or, in other words, not more than four thousand years old.

Some time ago, by a misunderstanding of passages of the Bible, such as I Cor., 15, 21, and Rom. 8, 12, Christians supposed that Adam's sin 'brought death into the world and all its woes.' Geology said no. Myriads of animals have lived and died before the creation of man. The Christian shrugged his shoulders—the skeptic and the infidel laughed—but the good old book was very cunning, showing that its author knew something of geology. Long before Adam stole apples. Hear it, it is of age; it can speak for itself—For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. Nothing about the inferior animals here. Man, created in the image of his God, was immortal, but by sinning, he degraded himself to a level with the beasts that perish.

We would say to the student of physical science, that we desire to see him compare what God has revealed in His words, with what He has revealed in His world. If he thinks proper, let him go down to the foundations of the earth, and read the story of the giant ages, or let him climb the azure heights of Heaven, and with La Verrier, pursue his distant journey to the discovery of new worlds. Let him use every energy and faculty given him by his Maker, but let him do all this as one on whose affections He who created all things has found a throne.

MONTVIDEO.

The excursion of Colonel Olid attracts general notice. Some pretend that he has passed over to Flores, but it is well understood that he is about to open a campaign on his own account, to put down the rebels. Meantime, Government had written to the camp authorities, ordering his arrest. Colonel Moyano of Minas replies, under date January 21th, that Olid arrived in San Carlos the previous day with a force of 30 men: he promises to seize and conduct him to the capital, if possible.

There are great complaints of the outrages committed both by the filibusters and Government troops, killing cattle wantonly for the sake of the tongues. Sr. Urtubey has received 100 hides from his estancia, the animals having been left slaughtered on his land by Flores' men. Groups of deserters have been in various parts of the camp, causing great alarm and injury to the peaceful inhabitants: a body of 15 men crossed the Soldado ford, with two or three wounded; Capt. Diana, on his return from Maldonado, states having seen eight filibusters in the neighbourhood.

Despatches have been received at Montevideo from General Servando Gomez, who was encamped on the 22nd at Queguay: his horses were in bad condition, like those of the Floristas, although he had recently received a fresh supply, with a reinforcement of 200 men from 'Solo in Accounts from San Carlos represent a general drought to prevail thereabouts for the last three months, and cattle are so thin that saladero business has been checked.

A youth named Correa, who had deserted from Flores after the battle of Las Piedras, and recently married, chanced to meet a neighbour named Quintana at the estancia Nieto, who had just deserted from the Government army. Correa ordered the latter to follow him, but Quintana replied that he wished to keep clear of both parties, whereupon a row ensued, and the aggressor was shot.

ENERGETIC MEASURES.

Montevideo, Jan. 27, 1861.

President Berro's term of office concluding on the 28th prox., he does not deem it expedient to give up power, under the present disastrous circumstances of the country. Hence a few days ago he closed the Chambers in the midst of a discussion, which step caused some agitation in the city. The senators were greatly enraged at what they considered an outrage on the popular trust confided to them.

The arrest of the Vice-President of the Republic, and other distinguished members of the 'blanco' party, in opposition to President Berro, took the city by surprise to-day; among the senators seized are D. Juan Caravia, Drs. Estrazulas and Basendes, D. Narciso Castillo, Dr. Velasco, D. Eduardo Carreras, D. Pedro Diaz, who have all been sent on board the 'Pontoon,' to suffer solitary confinement. This coup

d'etat has very much vexed even the President's best friends, and caused universal consternation. It is said orders have been given to put the prisoners out to sea, beyond Cape St. Mary.

Business is at a stand-still. There is every sign of a Dictatorship.

DROUGHT TRAGEDIES.

A native farmer who only two short months since considered himself worth over two hundred thousand dollars, saw his hard earnings disappear with incredible rapidity, and found himself at the expiration of that short time almost penniless: his sheep did not within fifty or thereabouts, and these he slaughtered, telling his wife, as an excuse for so doing, it was better kill the few remaining alive than lose time watching them when there was no probability of their living more than a few days. During all this time, it is said, this unhappy man appeared quite collected and sensible, deplored his loss with resignation, was assiduously attentive and affectionate to his family, was often observed muttering prayers, and calling on God to protect his helpless children; yes, they required the protection of the Almighty, for this unhappy father was determined to be no longer their guide..... the sequel is soon told: he committed suicide.

I cannot satisfy the reader's curiosity by giving the name of this unfortunate man, I give the statement as I heard it from a near, a very near, relation of his, who from motives which I have no right to question would wish the affair buried in oblivion.

Rumour speaks of a second and similar case, but, as I cannot vouch for the truth of this I leave the details to some one better informed or less scrupulous.

THE RIVAL CANDIDATES.

The following gentlemen are those who have been placed in the lists of the two clubs:—

PUEBLO.
Don Manuel Ocampo.
Col. Emilio Conea.
Doctor José M. Gutierrez.
" Francisco de Elizalde.
" Juan Chassang.
" Marcelino Ugarte.
LIBERTAD.
Don Juan B. Peña.
" Norberto de la Riestra.
" Emilio Castro.
Doctor Manuel Quintana.
" M. A. Montedecora.
" Carlos Tejedor.

After comparing impartially the lists, we really cannot say which is the better of the two, and sincerely think that for the very small difference that may exist, it is not worth all the noise and ill-will that has been stirred up in the city and province. We, therefore, are still inclined to think that President Mitre and Governor Saavedra will make up a 'fusion' list, and thus avoid a row upon the election day.

THE MAIL-PACKET MERSEY.

To the Editors of the 'Standard.'

Gentlemen,
I regret to have to call attention to the most unpardonable incivility on the part of Captain Curlew of the mail steamer Mersey, in leaving behind a boatful of passengers in the outer roads, although at but a short distance from the steamer. It happened that a party left the mole-head at the same time as the mail boat, and were not only seen by the pursuer, but that officer was told by 'Mr. Maclean, the boatman, and another gentleman, that the boat had started, in order that if by chance she should be a little behind the mails (the mail boat being a much quicker sailer) the Mersey might be detained a few minutes, and I understand the pursuer promised to see to it. The boat in question, as was anticipated, could not keep up with the mail boat, but got within about a couple of squares of the steamer just as the latter was leaving, and must have been distinctly seen—in fact it has since been ascertained that her progress was being watched from on board; but notwithstanding Captain Curlew chose to show his authority, and steam away, though the short space of five minutes would have put the boat alongside. It is true that passengers were requested to be on board by six o'clock, but there was great uncertainty as to the time she should sail, as by the new regulations of the company her time of sailing is fixed for twelve o'clock, which Captain Curlew himself has been heard to state. Again, it seems to me that Captain Curlew ought to remember that it is a very different thing fixing an hour of embarkation in Montevideo, or even the inner roads here, compared with the outer roads, a distance of six or seven miles, and subject to calms or sudden change of winds; and it is surely not too much to expect that some allowance should be made for casualties. In the present instance there was certainly no such hurry as to prevent a few minutes' delay in order to oblige passengers, and save them the disappointment and anxiety which follows in such cases.

It will be in the remembrance of most of the English residents that when there was some expectation of Captain

Curlew being removed from the station, some of his friends interested themselves in getting up a petition to the company to continue him here, and considering the hearty manner in which all entered into the matter, I consider Captain Curlew might show a more obliging disposition. I should not have taken notice of this circumstance had it been an isolated case, but parallel cases have occurred so often now that it is full time attention were drawn to it.
X. Y. Z.

BRITISH HOSPITAL.

To the Editors of the 'Standard.'

Gentlemen,
My attention has been called to the following extract from the Report of the British Hospital, which appeared in your impression of the 10th:—
"In consequence of the contractors of the Northern Railway having repudiated the account of expenses incurred in the hospital, by a number of their workmen, your committee felt bound to receive such patients, without a sufficient guarantee for payment of their accounts, as they did not feel justified in burdening the subscribers with the maintenance of men brought from England by the contractors, for a special object, and who, therefore, could not be considered permanent residents in the country."

Without pausing to inquire into the exact meaning of this somewhat confused statement, I beg to reply, that of 'men brought from England by the contractors,' but one has availed himself of the benefit of the British Hospital, for a period of three days. Neither is the charity likely to become burdened by such men, the contractors, by special agreement, being bound to find medical aid for all such men, to pay half rate of wages during the period of sickness, and, finally, in case of protracted illness, to pay the passage home of such invalids.

The contractors having with pleasure subscribed to this charity, have not deemed themselves indebted to the charity, but if any claim can be made for the three days' maintenance of the before-mentioned case of Henry Garner, the contractors will be happy in discharging the same; at the same time, they cannot undertake to burden themselves with the maintenance of any and every casual labourer whom they may employ on their works. Requesting your insertion of the foregoing statement.

I am, your obedient servant,
ROBERT MILLS,
Agent for the Contractors.

AN UNEXPECTED MARRIAGE.—Old Governor Saltonstall, of Connecticut, who flourished about half a century ago, was a man of some humour as well as of perseverance in effecting the end desired. Among other anecdotes told of him by the New London people, the place where he resided, is the following:—"Of the various sects that have flourished for a day and then ceased to exist, was one known as the Rogersites, so called from their founder, a Tom or John or some other Rogers. The distinguishing tenet of the sect was the denial of the propriety of the marriage tie. They believed that it was not good for a man to be alone; and also that one wife only should cleave to her husband, but then this should be a matter of agreement merely, and couples should come together, and live as man and wife dispensing with all forms of marriage covenant. The Old Governor used often to visit Rogers, and talk the subject over with him, and seek to convince him of the impropriety of living with Sarah as he did. But neither John nor Sarah would give up the 'union.' It was no matter of conscience with them: they were very happy as they were—of what use could a mere form be—suppose they did thereby invite scandal: were they not bound to take up the cross and live according to the rules they professed? The Governor's logic was powerless to convince them. 'Now John,' said the Governor, after a debate on the point, 'why will you not marry Sarah? have you not taken her to be your lawful wife?' 'Yes, certainly,' replied John; 'but my conscience will not permit me to marry her in the form of the world's people.' 'Very well. But you love her?' 'Yes.' And respect her?' 'Yes.' And cherish her as the bone of your bone, and the flesh of your flesh?' 'Yes, certainly I do.' And will?' 'Yes.' Then turning to Sarah, the Governor said: 'And you love and obey him?' 'Yes.' And respect and cherish him?' 'Certainly I do.' And will?' 'Yes.' 'Then,' said the Governor, rising 'in the name of the laws of God and the Commonwealth of Connecticut, I pronounce you man and wife.' The rage of John and Sarah was of no avail. The knot was tied by the highest authority of the State."
—*American paper.*

According to the meteorological register kept at the office of the Ordnance Survey, Phoenix Park, the rainfall during the month of October last was 5.744 inches, which was much greater than in the corresponding month of any year since 1837, when the register was commenced. Last year the rainfall in October was only 2.860 inches, and the average since 1837 was 2.907. The number of days on which rain or snow fell last month was 20.

