

# The Standard

## Ficha Bibliográfica

Título:	The Standard
Variante del Título:	The Standard and the River Plate News
Número de Edición:	619
Fecha de Publicación:	1864-02-02
Lengua:	Ingl&ecute;s
Creador:	Edward Mulhall y Michael Muhall
Tipo de Recurso:	Peri&oacute;dico







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## **The Standard.**

"All talk and no deed"  
"Cicero."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1864.

## **INAUGURATION OF THE MERLO CHURCH.**

On Sunday last, the little village of Merlo was the scene of one of those festivities which sometimes mark an epoch in the history of a new locality. Although devoid of such grand display as is usual in city celebrations, the whole affair passed off with *calor*, to the great satisfaction of the villagers. By some oversight none of the B. Ayrean press were invited, the municipality possibly thinking the editors too much immersed in electioneering politics. We resolved, however, to attend, more especially as foreigners of every religious persuasion had contributed to this new monument of Christianity, at a time when the infidel Renan gained proselytes in B. Ayres.

The 8 o'clock train from the Western railway terminus conveyed Governor Saavedra, the ministers of the Provincial cabinet, Drs. Acosta and Dominguez, Sor Hado, V. Rev. A. D. Fahy, Rev. Drs. Romero and Garcia, and 160 other persons going to assist at the function. At half past nine we arrived at Merlo, where carriages were in waiting for the distinguished and reverend guests. At the same time the band of the 1st batt. played the National Hymn, rockets were let off, and three civilians occupied themselves in firing a salute from a small field piece. The worthy Justice of Peace, D. Juan Dillon, along with a wealthy resident named Rodriguez, received his Excellencies on the platform, and after some mutual compliments the company set off for Sor Rodriguez' house, where breakfast was laid out for the Governor and a select few.

The new church is a chaste Gothic structure with a graceful spire which rises about 60 feet. The site is well-chosen, being central and commanding a view of the country for leagues around. The building is brick-work plastered front, and contains simply a nave and gallery capable of holding 400 persons. There is a vestry attached, and two neat altars, with a pulpit, constitute the interior decorations. As Mass was to begin at 11 o'clock, we had time to partake of the hospitable board provided by the Municipality. Messrs. Allen, Kiernan, and 20 others, including some of the clergymen, were present, and our entertainers were very attentive. The village was in full gala, banners were hung from the church tower, school house, and principal buildings, numbers of well-dressed people formed in groups here and there, for Moran had sent half its population to assist, and the country people flocked in from all sides.

The ceremonial began with a procession around the church, two acolytes and a cross bearer leading, the clergy, Governor, Ministers and general faithful following. Here it is well to mention that, by the Bishop's leave, Dr. Romero (curate of Moran) officiated, His Ex. D. Mariano Saavedra acting as sponsor. When the Litany of the Saints concluded, the inner walls were sprinkled with holy water and High-mass commenced; the sacred edifice was crowded, almost to suffocation, and we noticed several English and Irish residents: Messrs. J. P. Boyd, Darbyshire, T. Gahan and family, E. Dillon, G. Dillon, T. Allen, J. Kiernan, J. Smith, F. W. Moore, &c. The choir, consisting mostly of school girls, sang, very well, a mass composed for the occasion. After the Gospel, we had a very suitable discourse from the Rev. Dr. Garcia, who pointed out the many benefits to result from the establishment of a church in the district, passing moreover, a grateful encomium on the Governor for his assistance to the building fund. The sacred rites terminated at 1 p.m.

Refreshments being disposed in the schoolroom, the Governor and other guests proceeded thither. The heat of the day was excessive and a blinding dust yet more intolerable: nevertheless it was easy to see a large concourse had been attracted to the scene of festival. Toasts and speeches were given, but our space is limited; suffice it to say, Gov. Saavedra drank "prosperity to Merlo," D. Juan Dillon (Justice of Peace) proposed the Governor's health, Dr. Acosta gave a toast "to the foreign residents" and Sor Cocha celebrated the Government of B. Ayres.

By way of parenthesis we may state that D. Juan Dillon is represented by the Irish farmers to be a model justice: we also understand that among the many liberal foreign donations towards the church, one or two figured as high as \$5,000 mps. The most active laborers have been Dr. Romero, Sor Gonsalo (schoolmaster), Sor Rodriguez, and Mr. Dillon, whose works have now been so happily crowned with success. We do not know who is the new curate, but have heard, on doubtful authority, that it is proposed to send an Irish priest to this parish.

The Governor and party returned to town by the 3.30 train, but several others remained, as it was announced that two halls would be given at night, in the school-room and at Sor Rodriguez'. These must have been brilliant, as we noticed an unusual array of female beauty; but we were obliged to return by the evening train.

Merlo is decidedly progressing, and has now received fresh impetus, which will soon make it a favorite place for country houses. Mr. Boyd's "rus-in-urbe" is very pretty, and the splendid foreign establishments of Messrs. Gahan, Smyth, Pearson, &c. are so many attractions, and centres of vitality. In the present lamentable drought the camps are badly off, but when Providence removes this scourge, the department will be favorably known. The line of railway is a great advantage, and after yesterday's function we may confidently say: "success to Merlo."

## **TABACCO IN PARAGUAY.**

Asuncion, Jan. 6th, 1864.  
Hitherto this branch of agriculture was regarded as the great staple of the republic, and although it yields to cotton in the returns for 1863, a much larger plantation has been laid down this year than ever before. In fact, it amounts to 1,414,000 lines, which causes the anticipation of an enormous crop, and consequently a fall in price among the holders in B. Ayres. At the same time, tobacco is worth three reals more per arroba in Asuncion than the price quoted in the B. Ayrean market, as merchants prefer losing this much, in sending produce, rather than to pay the duty, ten per cent., on export of gold. At present it is almost impossible to get good tobacco or cigars, for, like oranges in Malta, or cheese at Siltton, it seems the inhabitants export all, leaving themselves without a supply, even for home use.

The tobacco most esteemed seems to be of the kinds known as Canela and Para. The former is so called from its resemblance to cinnamon (canela) in color, and does not come from any particular district, being picked out by the 'acopiador' from various lots. The Para, or speckled kind, is also met with here and there, the spots coming out while the plant is yet in flower; the word in 'guarani' signifies 'spotted', and cigars called 'Peti-para' are made from this class. Canela tobacco is in such request that it is difficult to procure it unless through the kindness of some Gefe or acopiador: it is often worth four to six silver dollars per arroba. The Peti-Hobi cigars are so famous that I need scarcely tell my readers they are the best smoking to be had in Paraguay, and sell usually at half a doubloon per thousand. There is an imitation of the same manufactured at Villa Rica, the outer leaf being Peti-Hobi, which sells at half the above price, but connoisseurs call these 'Villa Rica cigars.'

I have heard repeated complaints of the folly of Paraguayans in suffering this staple to fall into disfavor by neglect, in the process of curing, and frauds in baling. My ignorance of agriculture and short stay will not permit me to give full details of the method of cultivation.

During winter, the natives do no more than prepare the ground, putting down the young plants usually in September or October. They are planted like cabbage in England, and, after two months transplanted: if heavy rain falls in the interval it is rather injurious. A couple of months later (January or February) the gathering commences, and the leaves are hung out in the sun to dry, after which they are tied in bundles from the roof, waiting the visit of the 'acopiador'. Tobacco should be dried in the shade, by the wind's exposure to the sun is bad, and some ascribe to this the bitter taste of Paraguay tobacco: it is also badly made up for exportation. The common tobacco called 'commercial' is exceedingly strong, and even an accustomed smoker is liable to have his stomach or head disordered on trying one of these cigars for the first time. The women make a great quantity of ill-fashioned cigars which they take to market every morning, and if smoked the same day they are much milder. Merchants usually sell the better kinds in boxes of 500, and a duty of half a real (two pence) per mil is levied on exportation.

The tobacco plantations present a very pleasing appearance before fully ripe, the tall stalks and large green leaves alternating with the mandioc or bright yellow cotton-flowers. The natives, besides raising sufficient quantities for home consumption—for men and women all smoke—count upon a ready and profitable return in exporting to England. The Government has taken, I understand, decided measures to prevent the frauds committed in baling, and before long Paraguay tobacco will stand higher in the commercial world, while increasing the exports of this industrious republic.

There are no cigar-shops in Asuncion, but wholesale merchants have wide spread, connexion, with the 'acopiadores', and are usually polite enough to prepare for the visitor any quantity he may require.

## **EDITOR'S TABLE.**

The news from the camps is as bad as ever. Twenty thousand sheep from an American estancia near the Fortin were driven off towards Rojas last Thursday, thirty thousand from an Irish estancia in the same partido are also on the road, in fact every one is migrating.

Owing to the fact that the farmers have been obliged to move off with their sheep without almost time to do anything, several houses have been shut up, with wool in them. We regret to hear that a regular system of burglary and arson is being carried on. One house in the partido of the Fortin had eighty arrobes of fine mestiza wool in it; the owner, an Irishman, was obliged to depart with his flock. During his absence the wool was stolen, and the house burnt to the ground.

The heat!—never before was there experienced such terrific heat in Buenos Ayres. Yesterday was a scorching day. Not a soul could attempt to walk the streets during the day. Towards evening the half-stiffed citizens strolled towards the mole, which was literally black with people.

To-day being the feast of the Purification, a number of people will avail themselves of the holiday, and San Fernando will probably be the favorite rendezvous. It is thought to-morrow will be declared a civic holiday, but we have not yet seen the decree of the National Government. The practice varies, for within the last five years, three anniversaries of Russia's fall have been kept, and twice the day passed unobserved.

The discussion on the discipline of the Scotch church continues. We cannot account for the zeal on both sides, since the matter at issue seems trifling. The Roman Catholic church prides herself on unity of rite and dogma, but there is no fixed rule about kneeling or standing. In Italy the congregation sing, in Ireland they do not, in England they have pews, in this country none. Yet it has never entered into the head of a scrupulous disciplinarian to insist on uniformity in these local arrangements.

In another column is the notice of a 3rd call (25 p. 5) of the San Juan Mining shares. This enterprise is viewed with favor, and we join in the general belief that it will prove the best speculation ever got up in this country. The new funds, we hear, are for the purchase of silver ore, and under Major Rickard's active hands we expect soon to report the arrival of several bars of the precious metal.

Carnival comes early this year, and as it is always reckoned the termination of the hot weather, we anxiously sigh for next Sunday. We read of no grand preparations, and the elections engrossing all attention, it is probably the insane custom of throwing water and egg-shells will almost die out this year. We advise our countrymen to be chary about attending masked balls if there be any: disorders may occur.

To-morrow we shall have the united attraction of Briol and Mollo in the *Ballo en maschera* at Colon theatre. Our countrymen ought to support the Italian opera, for if the lyric art be left to native protection it will be choked by the ropes of tumblers and acrobats. An English grocery has just been opened at Cinconson, a second, belonging to a Scotch firm, will soon be started there. Several Englishmen are looking for quints, and malitiate building country houses near the Lomas de Zamorra. This is a forecast of what we may expect from the G. Southern Railway.

Dr. Arzo, the Bolivian plenipotentiary to Paraguay and La Plata, arrived by last packet from Asuncion. We understand he has been very successful with Pres. Lopez, for the navigation of the Pilcomayo, and it is likely he will have the same good fortune with Gen. Mitre, touching the Rio Uruguay.

A friend of ours who went to Merlo on Sunday met with a strange coincidence. The straw roof of the house where he stopped, was ignited by a rocket and extinguished with difficulty. On his return to town he found all the furniture, besides 1000 books, in his room burnt to ashes. The neighbours after an hour's pumping had succeeded in preventing the flames extending to the rest of the house. Loss 15,000 dollars mps.

## **CHILE.**

By last accounts from Valparaiso, everything seems very quiet: even that generally exciting topic, politics, is as dull as ditch water. The Minister of the Interior had had a long interview with the Bolivian Plenipotentiary. It is hoped that the vexed question, of to whom the 'miserable huaneras' of Megillones belong, will be amicably settled.

The country is also, like ourselves, suffering from the long, severe drought. The harvest has commenced unusually early, but, from all appearances, although not so abundant as in former years, the quality of wheat will be much superior. In the southern provinces of Maule, Nuble, and Aranco, the harvests will be so so. From San Juan, we hear of the intended opening of the Camino de los Patos, which connects that province with the neighbouring republic.

We are glad to see the 'Nacion Argentina' again agitating the necessity of having the doors of churches and theatres secured in a proper manner, so that, in case of fire, a catastrophe like that of Santiago de Chile may not occur.

But one may as well whistle jigs to a milestone as point out to the authorities of this country the truth of the saying, of 'precaution being better than cure.'

## **JOE MILLER WASHED OUT.**

The most valuable print of the River Plate at present, is the 'Mosquito.' Its professed object is to provide the inhabitants with side-splitting jokes, but its gain is furnishing to its readers a set of pictorial riddles, such, as we suppose, may have been propounded by the Sphinx. In come of the Collegiate examinations in the *civilised* world, Euclid's fifth problem is the great stumbling block to young candidates. Instead of Euclid, we would humbly suggest to the University authorities, the pictorial parts of the 'Mosquito' as an examination-book; and should the students clearly explain the point of a 'Mosquito' criticism, then shall they be considered to have safely passed the Argentine 'pons asinorum,' be entitled to wear the gown of a Ph.D., and be on an equal footing with the editor of that print.

We also suggest the propriety of explaining these said jokes for the benefit of readers (if it have any), as the artist wrote under a sketch, to prevent misunderstanding, 'this is a horse!' so might the waspish 'Mosquito' write, 'this is a joke!' This is Mitre—laugh! and so on.

\* Do not let intended credit go for scholastic title bestowed by these letters. Ph.D. does not stand for the German title of Doctor of Philosophy, but for the rank of High-headed Donkey.

## **THE POLICE.**

It is the duty of all citizens to expose the abuses and negligences of the police, as much to clear the character and sustain the proper dignity of the nation before foreigners, as to prevent greater evils from accruing to the people. If it be necessary in disturbed times to wink at faults, in time of peace it is a crying-sin to allow of these scandalous proceedings on the part of the guardians of the peace. What plea of justification can the authorities bring forward for the shameful behaviour of their subordinates?

That liberty which places us in the power of evil-doers, or leaves us exposed to brutal treatment at the hands of officials, is criminal.

What kind of a life must a citizen lead who is in momentary danger of attack upon his person or house?

In one of the late instances of abuse on the part of the police authorities, a child, a woman, and two men, have been wounded by the myrmidons of the law. In what civilized country would, for one moment, be tolerated such excesses of brutality and cowardice? A woman and a child cut down by fiends. One of the police is now a prisoner. The head of this gang of legalised ruffians must surely be an admirer and disciple of the Czar of all the Russias. It is scarcely a fortnight ago since we read of an attack upon a poor man, and now we hear that such acts are of daily occurrence, but as the victims are generally of the so-called "lower classes," native and foreign, the crime goes unpunished. Such a state of things cannot last much longer, his these very "lower classes," from out of their hard-earned gains, pay to have their person and healths protected.

Let Señor Cazon ho more savoro and particular in seeing that his servants do their duty in a proper manner. Officials should perform their tasks preserving their own dignity, and also that of the citizens.

In England, Ireland, and the United States, one single policeman can hold

in check the ringleader of a mob, but he has no power to hurt a hair of his head, unless the culprit make resistance. The police should instil more respect than fear into the populace. We may mention a noteworthy action, illustrative of this.

During the discussion in the National Congress of the Budget, Don Adolfo Alsion, in addressing the Government on this branch of the administration, said, "it is a disgrace to the country, the class of men who constitute the body of 'vigilantes,' and men who cannot be respected. It is necessary to reform that body, and look out, in their stead, for men of respectability and judgment, even although it cost hundreds of thousands of dollars for the state of our society, and the exigencies of the service, demand a proper police." If Sr. Cazon hopes to counteract the evil occasioned by his having bad subordinates, by authorising such conduct as we denounce, he will find himself mistaken, and lay himself open to the demand of the people to have him removed.

The police requires that its superiors should be men of talent and long experience in this branch of the service, and that its management be not placed in inexperienced or feeble hands, but that confidence be reposed in people who would sacrifice their personal affairs and character to the public good.

PULGAR.

## **HOW OLD ARE WE?**

Messrs. Editors,  
Having seen a note from your pen in last Friday's paper, in which you state that our paper had received a frightful cutting up, we naturally read and reread the article signed by N. E. We only find it a corroboration instead of a refutation of our views, and we really cannot see why N. E. occupied so much of your journal in so doing.

We would like the anonymous correspondent to be a little more exact in his quotations, as he takes care to cite a part to suit his purpose leaving another portion, which fully explains the subject, out of sight. At the same time we would request him not to be a blind believer in all that he sees written. As for sceptics and scepticism, these are words that have a certain significance according to the year we live in. Fifty years ago, a man who would have published the very same ideas that N. E. writes about to (refute) my paper, would have been considered an Atheist, a man not fit to associate with, for fear of contamination. At the present day these ideas are gaining ground, and before long will become general. So will it be about the length of time that man has existed on the earth. To proceed, we find ourselves obliged to cite the first part of our article, so that it may be better understood. "The greater portion of mankind 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 and odd hundred years ago."

The part he has left out is this: "If we read attentively the biblical history of the six day's work we find that they coincide with the geological formation of the earth, if we accept the days as periods of more or less duration. Taken in this sense we find the Bible and science corresponding, but if we take the narration literally they are completely at variance."

N. E. proceeds to what he considers a refutation of this part, but he fails, as instead of refuting he exactly corroborates what we said. He talks a good deal about sceptics, but then that is usually the case with persons who cannot sustain an argument, so we let that pass.

He insinuates that we said the Bible did not tell the truth; any person who reads the above paragraph will find that such is not the case, but that we try to make the Bible and Science correspond. We find in this article something we think that is not generally known; that is, that *Science* was a geologist. This is certainly a great discovery.

After corroborating, in every respect, our article, he proceeds to fulminate against the greater age of *Man* than what is generally allowed. He says "bones of man may be found at great depths, but the old book says something about a flood. Notice too that where the bones of man have been found at great depths, have usually been in countries more or less subject to earthquakes and we only have to remember the opening and closing of chasms in the earth in Mendoza, to understand how men and flint implements may have been swallowed deep into the bowels of the earth."

The writer probably has forgotten, or perhaps may not know that earthquakes generally take place in rocky and not in level countries, and that the Abbeville fossil was found in sedimentary deposits evidently undisturbed for ages. We also think that the idea of an universal flood is exploded; that divines and geologists such as Pye Smith, Hitchcock, Lyell, Darwin, and others believe it was only partial, and it evidently was only partial.

As N. E. cites the Bible very often, we will take the same liberty to prove our ideas. We will analyse part of the fourth chapter of Genesis. It says that

five bore unto Adam two sons, Cain and Abel, and that Cain killed Abel, and when the Lord cursed Cain for his sin, Cain said, "Behold thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth, and from thy face shall I be hid, and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth, and it shall come to pass that every one that findeth me shall slay me." And the Lord said unto him, Therefore whoever slayeth Cain vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him. All this happened before Eve bore any more children.

What does this indicate? The verses are very clear, and it is very evident that Cain knew of the existence of other men besides Adam and himself, otherwise he would not have been afraid of being killed. Therefore, the Bible indicates the pre-existence of man before Adam.

As for Egypt being the last place to look for proofs of the world's age, we are not quite so sceptical as N. E.; to us it is the same whether scientific truths come from Egypt or from the land of the Hotentots. (By the way, does N. E. believe a Hotentot to be of the same race as he is, and of a common father Noah?)

As for his quotation of Isaiah xi. 15, of the tongue of the Egyptian sea being destroyed, &c., we do not require prophecies for that. Natural causes are sufficient, and are doing their work, as we see by deltas of the Mississippi, Rio de la Plata, Nile, and other great rivers. Possibly in some future age it may be dry land where now there are deep rivers. Almost everything is possible.

N. E. says that men whose fame is world-wide, such as Hitchcock, Chamers, Comstock, and others, 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.

It is very evident that N. E. knows very little about geology, or he would not make such a great mistake as he does in this last paragraph. Diluvium, at the present day, means appertaining to the 'drift' period. Hitchcock, one of the authors he quotes, says that the word 'drift' is preferable, and is therefore used. As for any geologist trying to make out that the drift period only commenced since the flood, or 4,000 years ago, none have done so yet—neither Hitchcock, Miller, Lyell, Murchison, De la Beche, or any other of note.

It is very true that no human remains have been found below the diluvium, or drift deposit, but this does not necessarily make out that this formation is only four thousand years old. It may be twenty thousand or more for what we know.

If my memory fails not, Agassiz, who is no mean authority, found in the peninsula of Florida, which has been principally formed by the coral insect several human bones so imbedded in the coral, that if the insect has always worked at the same rate, it would have taken 35,000 years to cover them. Other human bones have been found in caverns with the bones of extinct animals, such as cave bear, &c., not at the same time with flint implements. The last discovery has been that of Abbeville; others will undoubtedly follow. Let geologists examine Asia, &c., and probably much will yet be discovered.

To conclude, I think N. E. had better make use of his knowledge of the Bible than make use of such irrelevant quotations as that of Adam stealing apples. The Bible I have read says, that Eve was tempted by the serpent to take of the forbidden fruit, and that she afterwards gave a piece of it to Adam. Perhaps N. E.'s version of the Pentateuch renders it as he says. If so, he had better leave off quoting. Excuse the length.

I remain yours,

CH. MURRAY.

Jan. 30, 1864.

## **Forms of the Scotch Church.**

To the Editors of the 'Standard.'

Gentlemen,  
In a Scotch newspaper received by last mail, I observe an account of a lecture given by the Rev. James Cochran, first minister of Ochap Fife (Established Church), descriptive of his experiences during a recent tour in England, in which is the following passage:—"In one of the Dissenting Churches of Derby he officiated himself. The service was much the same as in Scotland, with this difference only, that they stood while singing, and knelt at prayer, which he thought was a decided improvement (cheers). Then are we to put the organ introduced? That was almost the only innovation he would like to have."

It will be observed from the above that on Mr. Cochran saying that "standing while singing and kneeling at prayer, he thought a decided improvement," his hearers received the announcement with applause. In many of the Scotch congregations at home there now appears to be a strong feeling in favour of an alteration in the forms of public worship.

Your insertion of these few lines in the 'Standard' will oblige,  
Gentlemen, your obt. servant,  
S. P.







