

The Standard

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Standard AND RIVER PLATE NEWS

BUENOS AIRES FRIDAY JANUARY 1, 1861

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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The Standard.

"All fuki anden ut ver non affert." —Ciceron.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1861.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

Whoever studies the history and present condition of this country cannot fail to discover the workings of the moral laws of nature.

We do not propose to preach a sermon, or treat our readers to an abstruse ethical disquisition, but standing on the grave of 1860, we look with unutterable grief at the difficulties which beset the nation at this eventful hour.

The last moments of the old year are ceasing fast, as we pen these lines. Would to God that with its dissolution were buried all its sorrows and troubles.

Who is there who can glance over the events of the last twelve months, who can pause to reflect on the state of the country on the 31st December 1860, and contrast it with the condition of the nation on the 31st December 1861, will not admit with us that we are indeed a year older and a year worse.

We bid farewell to 1860 bereft of every feeling of consolation, and with a gloom which darkens our present and obscures the future.

It requires neither the flight of imagination nor the wand of a wizard to point out the direct causes of all the misfortunes which we have experienced, or the dangers which this day beset us.

A more disastrous year than that of 1860 in the annals of a young nation can hardly be imagined.

True we have conquered Pará, and extinguished rebellion, but if we have, what has it cost us? Eighteen millions of paper dollars.

Congress has met and sat for months and months—few good measures no doubt have been sanctioned; but has it the new custom-house law done more injury to the country than all the imaginary good of its railway concessions, or immigration grants.

The same man who presided over the destinies of this country at the conclusion of 1860 is our ruler this day; the same sun which ushered in the first morning of the year 1861 shines on us still, but are we the same people?

In 1860 we were at peace with all the world, and in harmony amongst ourselves. In 1861 we are at war with the Provincianos, and worst of all are now at war amongst ourselves.

The Flores' revolution was the dawn of all our troubles. Readers, before that scandalous event took place, the country was in peace, and the nation unanimous, but since the 10th April, 1860, what has been our history? War, rebellion, and revolution, from one province to another, until at last, having fairly exhausted itself in the remote parts, we are now at war amongst ourselves. President Mitre, the moral laws of nature cannot be trifled with. Nations, like individuals, must pay the penalty of their transgressions. We sinned in permitting Flores to depart from our shores; and amply has the Oriental Republic been avenged. Had President Mitre, on his return from Rosario, when he discovered the invasion of Flores, acted as we pointed out, that revolution would have immediately expired.

Now, on this eventful moment, with the sands of the hour-glass of 1860 passing as it were into eternity, all the ruler of this nation, that he most deluded of mortals, if he maintain peace in this country the revolution rages on the other.

There are no rebels in the city, for peace is absolutely assured.

Over all the bloodshed in this unhappy past year, we despair of the

country to mend. The let us turn over

Parting is at present at an extraordinary height in this city; it is time that the law of the land interferes before matters grow worse. License is not liberty. The new year now break on the Argentine Republic. Grant Heaven that it may prove less disastrous than the last. Grant that by the experience of the past we may be better prepared for the future.

We breathe the kindest and best wishes for the nation's prosperity and happiness on this, her entrance on the new year. We pray that President Mitre may have the courage and the wisdom to rule the country with a firm hand, put down faction and preserve peace. May our prayers be heard and our wishes realised, and may 1861 prove to be, indeed, for the Argentine nation—

"A happy New Year."

THE "STANDARD" ABROAD.

CORRIENTES TO VILLA PIAZAS.
On board Rio Ayra,
Dec. 15th 1860.

Within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, the river Paraná and Paraguay have never been so low as at present; consequently most of the steam-boats have lately run aground, and with difficulty got off, after longer or shorter delays. I had taken my passage per Ypara which was due at Corrientes on the 7th inst., and remained for six days a close prisoner in my hotel, hourly expecting by day and night to hear the whistle, this being the only notice given to passengers. On Sunday evening, 13th inst., I ventured out to visit the Lubomile family, and suddenly, about 10 o'clock the shrill signal was heard. The night was very dark and with difficulty I made my way to the hotel and thence to the beach; the Ypara's lights shewed her to be some 400 yards from the shore. The agent's boat was already gone, and no other could be found at that hour. At length some obliging individuals of aquatic pursuits produced a canoe, in which, even in day-time, no sage man would trust himself unless prepared for a dive. A strong current was, moreover, running, and my friends Alvarez and García at once declined risking their lives to accompany me on board. My countryman, Mr. Penterton, was more heroic, and was pushed off from the shore with a certain unpleasant feeling, for each stroke of ours made the canoe tremble, and I dreadest lest some one should cough violently or make the least movement, which must have precipitated us into the current.

At midnight we got under weigh and I began to reconnoitre the accommodations and passengers. The cabin was so confined that all hands adjourned to the quarter deck: we were nine in number. D. Cândido Barreiro, a young man who had just finished a course of legal studies in London, returning to his native country. Sr. Esquer, a Spanish merchant resident at Asuncion. Mr. Atherton from Buenos Ayres about to establish a house of business in Paraguay. Dr. Arze, Bolivian minister, with two attachés. A Brazilian horse-dealer from São Paulo en route for Guyana, and a Prussian jeweller.

We passed the Tres Bocas, or confluence of the Paraná and Paraguay, before dawn, and were unable to appreciate the famed beauty of this locality; but, sunrise revealed to us a lovely picture of river scenery far superior to anything yet seen, and every bend of the stream added a fresh charm to the perspective. At 6 o'clock we passed a military picket on the right bank: these ranchos garrisoned by a dozen soldiers are found at regular distances, generally surrounded by maize plantations and furnished with a canon, keeping a strict look-out against the Chaco Indians, and communicating daily one with another.

About 8 o'clock we sighted the church-towers of Humaitá, and a succession of formidable batteries frowned on us, as we passed under their range: they are placed on a slight eminence, and seem guns of large calibre. First, four batteries at la barbeta, covered with straw sheds which can be removed at a moment's notice: then, a long casemate mounting 16 guns, with bomb-proof roof, and finally two more batteries, making up a total of 78 guns. As the canal runs close to the bank, any vessel, unless iron-plated, attempting to force a passage must be sunk by the raking and concentrated fire of this fortification, which is the key to Paraguay and the upper rivers.

The captain of the port conveyed us ashore, and shewed us three enormous tigers belonging to the President, each of which ate a calf for its breakfast.

After a short repast, we proceeded to view the encampment; a scene, rather more roomy than Alzey or the Curragh than

anything South American. Here are quarters for 12,000 troops, through the usual garrison does not exceed half that number. The neatness, order, and industry here observable make a happy impression on the visitor. The long lines of cavalry, infantry, and artilleries barracks, the officers' quarters, curates' houses, and President head quarters are solid brick edifices, which cover an immense extent of ground, with the church in the centre, and the women's encampment on the rear. Sentinels are met at every corner and the troops relieve each other at work, building sheds, fetching wood &c. The soldiers are fine-looking men, tall, athletic, and well disciplined, wearing red coats and cloth caps, but mostly bare feet. The church is a splendid edifice with three towers the middle one being 120 or 150 feet high; the interior is neat, and a colonnade runs around the exterior; there are four large bells, hung from a wooden scaffolding, one bearing the inscription "Sancto Carolo ora pro nobis". The church is dedicated to St. Charles; the late President's name was Carlo Antonio. In 1851 this site was a thick jungle infested with tigers and the late ruler set about converting it into its present important condition.

Our breakfast on board the Ypara was miserable: beans, oysters, sausages &c; there was no fresh meat for us although the President's tigers did not come short of their allowance. We were transhipped to the Rio Apa, a small steamer, not much bigger than a whale boat, which drew only 10 inches of water. Having an accession of three passengers, two ladies and an officer, we were closely packed, the cabin having seven berths, and one of the fair passengers appropriating mine. An awning was put up on deck, but the spar-knots subsisted (for we burned wood) and made a complete sieve, and three men with wet clothes were employed in extinguishing them. The heat was intolerable, and the prospect of two days' navigation in this manner, little less than a positive torture.

In the afternoon we passed the mouth of Rio Vermejo, which is about 100 yards wide, and bordered by a dense foliage; we saw two Indians fishing with nets, the first indigenous population of the Gran Chaco yet met with. After passing a number of picquets we arrived, 3 p.m. at Villa Pilar, where our fair friends left us. The town stands a mile inland, presenting a good appearance, but the great heat deterred me from landing. It is the chief town of a district comprising 160,000 inhabitants, and was the commercial emporium of the republic, when Asuncion was closed to all strangers, but has now lost much of its importance. It is still the third city of the republic, with a population of 8 to 10 thousand souls, and a church dedicated to the Virgin of Pilar.

In another hour we were again steaming up the river, and soon came abreast of the Tibiquari, a large stream which rises in the Yerbales or mate fields of Misiones, and after a course of 400 miles falls into the Paraguay at this place. By sunset we reached Villa Franca, a village whose district only counts 10 thousand inhabitants: without dropping anchor we threw the mail bags into a small boat manned by soldiers. The evening was cool and delightful, and we retired to rest on deck, with anticipations of a pleasant day, the morrow, when—hall! we're aground, and as the night is dark, there's no hope of getting off till daybreak if then,

EDITOR'S TABLE.

We call attention to the Bishop's letter and Dr. Rawson's answer, respecting the election riots at the churches. President Mitre seems at last fully determined to act, and has promised the Bishop that measures shall be taken to prevent future riots. This is very satisfactory. We thank the Bishop for bringing the matter under the immediate notice of the Government. It may possibly be necessary for the Government to line the streets with soldiers, but far better that we have cannon placed at every corner, and the law of the land supreme, than a repetition of those disgraceful riots which the Bishop refers to.

Republicans though we all are, it is strange how we imitate the great European powers. One of our colleagues is shortly expected to arrive after sojourning in those hateful monarchies for nearly two years. His furniture exceeds in magnificence that of the Duke of Newcastle, who has such an abundance of public clerks muddling with politics: but it is not M. Varela's magnificent household furniture which now attracts our notice, but the singular coincidence that as the Banks of France and England have raised their rates of interest, we, of course, must do the same, when only the other day the Bank of Buenos Ayres reduced its rate of interest at the most inopportune time of the year. There are many who say

that the drain on the Bank is heavy, and that paper money by millions is flying from the vaults, but we think that the directors are themselves to blame for this, and we commend their discretion in raising the rate of interest since the Banks of England and France have set the example. The new rate is 6 per cent. to depositors, and 9 per cent. for discounts, on both paper and gold. Depositors in account current shall be allowed 5 per cent. per annum.

It is the greatest pity in the world that Captain Ausilla does not read English, we should so like to furnish him with a copy of the Duke of Newcastle's letter. The "Tribuna" and "Nacional" publish a letter from this officer, which the captain evidently wrote on the spur of the moment before he left for service.

As General Hornos has taken such prominent part in politics, possibly we can say nothing against Captain Ausilla, but as there is a great difference between both the age and position of the two men, we could have preferred that the captain had left for Rojas without offering his sentiments to the public; however they will go for what they are worth, and we regret sincerely that so influential a man as Captain Ausilla should be so greatly opposed to Buenos Ayres being the capital of the Republic.

Officers on duty and in command are not allowed to meddle in politics in England unless they are members of parliament: it might be desirable that we had the same rule here.

We call attention to a communicated article entitled "The Foreign Element," which emanates from the pen of a distinguished foreigner. There is a pretty general feeling amongst foreign merchants that the National Government must be supported. The article in question contains a great deal of sound common sense, and is to the point. The "River Plate Magazine" makes its debut to-day. Our messenger will leave one copy at the residence of each of our subscribers: those who do not wish to support this English literary pedagogic will have the kindness to return to the repartidor on the following day the copy delivered. The contents of the first number will be found in another column. All parties wishing to subscribe, and to whom the first number has not been sent, will please send their names and address to the Standard office as early as possible, as the editor is anxious to know the number of his subscribers before the 1st of February.

There appeared in yesterday's "Mercurio" a very good communicated article respecting the proper influence which the commercial body should have in the political questions of the day. It seems to us that the popular impression about town is that only custom-house clerks, municipal employees and officers in the army should have a voice in politics.

The sooner we get rid of such notions the better. We are well pleased to see men like Lecanda, Llavallo and Lucia coming forward to support the Government.

It is a good sign, and augurs well for the country.

Felipe Varela, who was one of the

Chaco's officers, has crossed over to Copiapo. This fellow created great disturbance in the revolt in the provinces, and we hope will be made to keep quiet in Chile. He created

more anarchy than even the Chaco.

In Cordoba, politics are at nearly as great a rage as in Buenos Ayres. Dr. Bedoya had accused the Reo de Cordoba, Captain Pizarro had just returned from the Rioja, where he left everything very quiet.

We have several complaints lying on our table against the Municipality, the Chief of police, the Land office, Messrs Dominguez and Costa, the country Justices of the peace, the wool buyers in the plain, the Custom house collector, the British Consul, the Standard abroad all at home, the Northern, Western, Southern, Boas and Cordobá Railways, the vigilantes and sevillas—but we now make one clean sweep of them all. Away with them, away with them, let them be buried with the records of the past year. Readers we salute you, and wish you all a happy new year, and many of them.

THE ELECTION RIOTS.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 22, 1863.

The Bishop to the Minister of Justice.

Not doubting that the National Government has paid all due attention

to the scandals riots at the elections on last Sunday require, nevertheless, I feel bound as far as respects the churches and houses in the parishes to call attention the matter.

It is notorious that day a crowd of rioters burst into the vestries, and disregarding the orders of the curato smashed in the doors, and gained the roof, which they pulled to pieces and kept firing bricks, &c., upon the multitude beneath. The churches were converted into a sort of battle-field, and we have to deplore many victims. Divine service had to be stopped, and the last sacrament had to be taken even from some other church to a dying Christian.

If the law had named private houses

for election purposes, it never would

have left such places unprotected or liable to suffer such extreme damage,

still less therefore should the House of God be so decorated. When I solicited

cited of the Ayres that take place in answer date Government which it has disorders, and not uniformly disturbed in the moment comprehended its best to perform.

It is not my intention

Government for what

knowing the extreme

justify the Government.

But I cannot forget the sand-

ple, and therefore I impli-

National Govern-

opportunity-measures to take

abolition of the law authori-

elections to be held in the

and that henceforth no riots

will be permitted either

churches, or at the doors,

roofs, or in the houses of the

and that the public authorities

defend both these sacred edi-

the people's lives.

God protect your Excellency

MARIANO JUSTE, Bishop of B

THE MINISTER'S REPORT.

Pueños Ayres, Dec. 31, 1863.

To the Bishop of Buenos Ayres.

In answer to the letter your

has designed to forward me on the

jet of the disgraceful riots that

occurred in the different places of

ship in this city, I have the hon-

inform your Grace that I have im-

mediately drawn the notice of the Ge-

ment on these scandalous proceed-

His Excellency the President

cerely laments an occurrence

which has excited the indignation of all

able citizens and is determined to

avert their repetition.

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" Los Olivos ...	6 45	10 10	1 40	5 10
" Belgrano ...	7 15	10 30	2 15	5 30
" Los Olivos ...	7 15	10 45	2 15	5 45
Arrives at San Isidro ...	7 30	11	2 30	6

RETURNS.

LEAVES.	1st Train a.m.	2nd Train a.m.	3rd Train p.m.	4th Train p.m.
From San Isidro ...	8	11	3	7
" Los Olivos ...	8 15	11 45	3 15	7 15
" Belgrano ...	8 40	12 10	3 40	7 40
" Los Olivos ...	9	12 30	4 15	8 45
Arrives at San Isidro ...	9 10	12 45	4 15	8 10

Sundays and Holidays.

LEAVES.	1st Train a.m.	2nd Train a.m.	3rd Train p.m.	4th Train p.m.
From 25 de Mayo ...	8 30	11 30	3	7
" Los Olivos ...	8 40	11 45	3 15	7 15
" Belgrano ...	8 40	12 10	3 40	7 40
" Los Olivos ...	9	12 30	4 15	8 45
Arrives at San Isidro ...	9 10	12 45	4 15	8 10

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