

The Standard

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STEAMERS TO SAIL, TO-DAY.
For Rosetta.
The *Faron* at 12 noon.

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE STANDARD.
\$30 PER MONTH.
ADVERTISEMENTS.
Not exceeding six lines inserted three times for \$5.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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The Standard.

SPRING, JANUARY 3, 1861.

A CRUDE IDEA.

Party spirit runs so high in this country that there is positively nothing attended to in the place but politics. In vain the newly elected Governor or President settles himself down to develop the industrial resources of the country, or reform abuses, he is hardly seated in his chair when some new elections, according to the constitution, are to come off. The newspapers begin to publish the names of the candidates, and the politicians out of office or aspiring for employment follow, and before we know where we are we find the train of elections, and the match about to be applied—the slightest oversight or want of precaution, and we are in for another revolution.

This very day, in Buenos Ayres, what is talked or written of save politics? The *Crudos* and the *Coridos* have the city between them; personalities the most disgusting, abuse and calumny the most revolting are resorted to until the peaceably disposed citizens are actually persuaded that the nation is on the brink of ruin, and a bloody civil war inevitable. Of the 140,000 inhabitants in the city of Buenos Ayres there are not five thousand who know what all the present fighting is about. In fact we doubt if the very custom-house clerks themselves could define the cause.

Some short-sighted people imagine that the approaching elections are the great bone of contention, but we hold the contrary, for take it even for granted that the *Crudos* succeed in having their own men elected in every parish and partido, still in Congress they are in the minority so long as the provinces stand true to themselves. The plain fact of the matter is that the old chronic complaint which for so many years has afflicted this country has again broken out; the *crudos* are tired of the existing order of things; there is no novelty, nothing stirring, they have therefore raised the cry of "Turn out the National Government." We are anxious however that some intelligent *Crudo* (if such a character exists) would inform us what injury the federalization of this city has done the province or city of Buenos Ayres. Has the residence of the President with his cabinet and the foreign ministers lessened the value of household property, or increased our taxes? Has it injured trade? Has it improved the commerce of the Interior at the expense of Buenos Ayres? We opine that so far from doing so, it has done quite the reverse. The city of Buenos Ayres is making great strides, because it is the Washington of the Republic; splendid new hotels and mansions are springing up because Buenos Ayres has ceased to be an insignificant province: it is the *Residencia* where foreigners visit us daily, our hotels are full to overflowing, house rent is enormous, because the *White House* is in Buenos Ayres.

We can hardly conceive a man so blind to the material interests of Buenos Ayres, as to suppose that the capitalization of the city has proved injurious. Let us speak the truth, the *crudos* are fighting for what the Yankees call the *spoils*, and they make the capital question the pretext for getting up a row. Owing to the political disputes and election riots, President Mitre seems to have forgotten the great danger of the *Yungas* territory, which the *Nacional* some time since pointed out. We feel bound to call the President's attention to this matter now; a legion of *crudos* sent down there, to guard the coast against invasion, might not be so unprofitable. The *Club Libertad*, which is composed of men of such known abilities, would, if employed in so meritorious an enterprise, be calculated to effect the greatest good.

When the volunteers from Paris arrived at Toulon, and demanded of

Napoleon why the siege was so tedious, he ordered them to the front of the lines, where their patriotic ardour soon evaporated. If President Mitre could only follow Napoleon's example, and find employment for those extra patriotic gentlemen, called *crudos*, who are at present causing such political fighting in Buenos Ayres. If he could dispatch them down to that coast which our evening colleague represents to be in such danger, we possibly would have more peace at home and less invasions abroad.

A legion of *crudos*, well officered and manned, would, we have no doubt, plant the Argentine flag in Tierra del Fuego, and free the navigation of the straits from the hands of pirates which, to the disgrace of the Argentine nation, exists in that quarter. A couple of good-ferret-boats, plying between the Pacific and Atlantic would pay well, if the handful of *crudos*, who are at present so noisy, would turn their attention to this matter, we have no doubt they would find it more lucrative than attending club meetings, for the purpose of ejecting the capital out of Buenos Ayres.

GOOD INTENTIONS.

No matter what the evils are which afflict this country, we are willing to admit that they all spring from 'good intentions.' There never was a country where 'good intentions' were so abundant—there never was a nation where they really did more injury.

No matter what the offences, no matter what the abuses, if sited to the bottom, they will be found to spring from the most meritorious of intentions. The Flores revolution was hatched in our territory, the constant supplies which he received were sent from Buenos Ayres, and if in the prosecution of his views he has ruined his native country, it must be borne in mind that he has effected all this misfortune influenced only by the best of intentions. As the would be regenerator of his country, we have given him moral and physical support, but we did so with the 'good intention' of seeing Montevideo liberated. None, not even the most sinister opponent, can charge us with mercenary motives.

The subjugation of the Chacho has cost the nation over eighteen millions of paper money. People may say, 'Why spend such a treasure on so worthless a man? Why not have bought the fellow up with a couple of millions?' No, we pursued him to the last, and we all will most willingly refund the Government the amount since it was spent with such 'good intentions.'

The election riots, about which there has been such a noise, took place because the authorities did not interfere; but if no soldiers were present, no cannons at the corner of the street, it was because the Executive wished to respect the right of universal suffrage; and therefore if the Government is to blame for refraining to take any measures for the preservation of peace, it must be borne in mind that it so acted with a 'good intention.'

If Sor. Martinez de Hoz was shot at when in the balcony of the Hotel de la Paiz, who is it that for a moment supposed the intention was to murder him? From him it is the hand that he pulled the pistol fired it with the good intention of only *scaring* him, or frightening him away from the dangerous place which he was in. The shot was fired with the best of intentions.

If a number of citizens gained the roof of the Mercaderes and threw bricks on the multitude beneath, was their intention bad? By no means. Every brickbat that they threw they flung with the good intention of preventing the voters from electing the wrong man.

A political party called the *Crudos* is at present working heaven and earth against the National Government. Are they criminal for so doing? By no means; their intentions are good—they only labour for what they consider constitutes the independence of Buenos Ayres.

In fact, as we have already remarked, all the evils and misfortunes which afflict this country spring from good intentions; and we verily believe that as everything in this country goes by what is called 'contrarios,' now that the new year has come, it might prove more beneficial if we were henceforward to act from less pure motives. We just throw out the hint. We have so frequently heard of a certain place which is said to be paved with 'good intentions,' that we are beginning to fear, if we go on as we are going, we may ultimately succeed in converting the Argentine Republic into a similar abode.

We want fewer 'good intentions' and more good acts. Laws upon laws have been passed, reforms without end have

been spoken of, new measures by the hundred have been introduced, but they have all proved simply 'good intentions.' We are governed by good intentions—we are ruined by them also. It is to be regretted that they have no market value in Europe, else we would be the greatest exporters on the face of the globe.

The watering of the city has proved a 'good intention.'

The Alsina Rural Code has proved another.

The Free Banks Bill another.

The Custom House reform another. In fact, we could recount some five hundred splendid intentions, but mentioning, notwithstanding the total absence of evil or corrupt intentions, we are ruining our neighbours' country and destroying our own. The 'good intentions' politicians are drifting us fast to another revolution.

Guns are 45 lb. gunpowder in demand, and exhibiting the most active business going—all with good intentions. We have entered on a new year, let us also strike out a new career, pitch all these good intentions into the river, and, no matter what the motives may be, let us at last try and effect some good acts.

Put down election riots.

Stifle this party animosity, which is destroying the country.

Let President Mitre preserve peace, rule the country with a firm hand, and, above all things, let us get rid of these accursed *good intentions*.

UNPLEASANT BUSINESS.

THE BRITISH CONSUL WOUNDED IN THE ELBOW.

About a year ago we called attention to the scandalous rules in force, at the Captain of the Ports. We all remember the stabbing of the Captain's horse, and the cutting of the young German broker; but, of course, not the slightest heed was paid to our remarks. On the 26th December last, however, about ten o'clock at night, an event occurred which has opened the eyes of the President and his Ministers to the monstrous regulations still in force at the Captain of the Ports, and, we are happy to say, has led to the abolition of one of its most dangerous rules.

On the night in question, Frank Parish, Esq., our esteemed Consul, happened to be passing by the Captain of the Ports on horseback. The sentry, perceiving him, and that he was on what is called *Paseo Julio*, hailed him, desiring him to pass down on the street and report himself to the guard. Mr. Parish, it appears, was as ignorant as ourselves of the rule, and either did not hear the sentry, or was lost in reverie, and paid no attention to the summons. But he was soon brought to his senses; the sergeant of the guard rushed out sword in hand, and made one cut, which it appears was only intended for the brute, but which cut the Consul in the elbow. The language of the Captain of the Ports's report, concerning this part of the business, is so original and rich, that we give it verbatim:—"The sergeant of the guard started off to stop him, with his naked sword; he made a cut at the hind quarters of the brute, but as it was a pony which the offender rode, the blow took the individual in the elbow. Then the horseman, apparently awakened from his reflections, and disgusted at the rough manner in which he had been treated by the sergeant, accompanied the soldier to the Captain's, where a *Vr. Moneta* was the officer in charge, and demanded of him why he had been attacked. Perceiving that it was Mr. Parish, the Consul, he gave him 'the word,' and immediately put the sergeant under arrest, apologising for the attack. Mr. Parish expressed himself satisfied, and departed; suddenly, however, he returned, and begged of the officer to release the sergeant. The account of this disagreeable affair completely 'disturbed my system, on account of the unpleasant consequences to which it might give rise, and also because the honourable Consul was the person in question, a gentleman who for the last ten years I have had the pleasure of knowing.' Wringing up to the highest pitch of affliction, I immediately started off to the Consul's office, but found, as it was Sunday, that it was closed, I therefore, postponed the affair until Monday. At ten o'clock on Monday, the very first thing, I waited on the Consul, and had the happiness to see him. I offered him every satisfaction in my power, but Mr. Parish expressed himself fully satisfied; he remarked, however, that this regulation was the cause of great complaint, and ought to be modified. I well remembered, that this same rule had got me into several unpleasant squabbles previously, so I forthwith abolished it altogether."

This is all the Captain of the Ports says, about the matter, but Gelly Obes ordered that the affair be laid before the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and that the sergeant be kept in prison. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, when he heard of the matter, wrote a polite note to the wounded Consul, stating that the President himself

regretted sincerely the occurrence, and that he had given orders, so that a repetition of such outrageous acts might not occur.

Although we regret sincerely that Mr. Parish should have been wounded, yet we feel thankful to Heaven that the affair took place—no *fi-y mal que por bien no venga*.

There is at present a monstrous law, prohibiting persons from walking under the *balda* after eleven o'clock at night. As the city is full of foreigners, and visitor who do not understand one word of Spanish, this is rather a dangerous rule. We have spoken about the matter, until we have tired our readers; the Government will pay no heed to our remarks. It is the French Consul's turn now. When he gets a bayonet wound in the calf of his leg, or is injured in any way, from one of these idle, slovenly-looking soldiers, who are eternally loitering about the *Capitales*, then, and not till then, may we hope that the rule will be abolished.

LATEST FROM MONTEVIDEO.

The people in Montevideo seem to know less about Flores than even ourselves. Flores is said to be dodging about Fray Bentos, waiting for some 70 men which, it is said, were to leave Buenos Ayres last Thursday.

All the officers in Montevideo on arrival have been ordered to attend their barracks.

It is believed in Montevideo that Mr. Thornton will ultimately bring about peace, and terminate the Flores revolution. The 'Reforma' states that President Mitre has accepted Mr. Thornton's offer to mediate.

The Minister of War has resigned, and the 'Official Mayor' is in charge of the portfolios.

Mr. Thornton had not arrived in Montevideo as was stated, but his *attaché* was there.

A special despatch from Salto received in Montevideo on the 26th Dec. states that large numbers of soldiers and others are passing over to fight against Flores.

Sr. Don Joé M. Estrada has been named Chief of Police for Montevideo. The 'Comercio' states that Flores wants to establish a Provincial Government in Buenos Ayres, and for this purpose, sent a commission to wait on Mitre, composed of Bustamante, Aguirre, and Arroyo, but that Mitre did not relish the idea.

People in Montevideo say that Pres. Mitre has the notion to invade the Banda Oriental, and to send off Ignacio Rivas for that purpose.

Mrs. Flores has sent over twelve ounces to her husband.

Carabai and Flores have had a regular row about the desertion of the troops.

Waldino Urquiza has been recalled by his father.

The steamer "33" took on board several soldiers and pieces of artillery for San José.

The Bank Maas and the Custom House narrowly escaped being destroyed by lightning the other day.

The steamer *Parana* has arrived out from Liverpool with a full cargo and 35 passengers.

HORRIBLE ASSASSINATION.

A LADY MURDERED.

A GENTLEMAN STABBED.

On New Year's night one of the most frightful murders ever known, took place in a public ball-room in calle Ceru.

The particulars respecting this awful tragedy are as follows:—

A certain Italian lady whose name we have not heard, separated from her husband some months ago; the husband searched every place imaginable for her, but failed to discover her, at last by the greatest chance one day strolling down a retired street in the south part of the town, he saw his long lost wife; she however eluded him, and all he could find out from the neighbours was that she was earning her livelihood as a dressmaker, and that she was living with some native gentleman. Nothing more was heard about the husband or wife until on the night of Friday. The lady in question was walking with her paramour the Italian entered, rushed on the couple, stabbed the woman in the womb in a most frightful manner, and her partner (who it appears is named Escalada) in the ribs. The lady in question expired in about an hour, and Sr. Escalada lies in a rather critical condition. The murderer flung the knife on the ground and at once gave himself up. We are told by parties who inspected the knife that it had been sharpened until its edge was more like a razor than a knife. Over 40 people were present at the time; the greater part of them dancing. The whole floor was covered with blood. A surgeon was sent for, but for two hours we are told none could be found. The murderer is in the Carcel, and we hear expresses no regret whatsoever for his crime. He states that he on y intended to kill the woman, but not the man.

LA ZINGARA.

Dec. 27, 1863.

To Captain Stocks.

My dear Sir—We the undersigned passengers on board the *La Zingara* feel it incumbent upon us, to express our warmest thanks for your invariably kind attentions, and your indefatigable exertions during the rough weather we experienced in the Channel.

In parting we beg to state that no captain could be more respected by his passengers than yourself, for your kind and social manners, and the great care and attention you paid to your ship during the passage.

Wishing you every success,

We remain dear sir,

Yours sincerely,

William H. Rogers

Robert A. Beck

F. M. Bennett

Lewis Henry Thomas

E. Milard Bennett.

We the undersigned passengers per ship *La Zingara*, who embarked for Buenos Ayres on the 24th October 1863 from Liverpool, having arrived safely at our destination, join unanimously in returning our sincere thanks to Captain Stocks and his first officer Mr. Downer, for their kind, humane, and gentlemanly attention, and we only regret that it does not lie within the sphere of our abilities to return our acknowledgments equal to their merits and our desires, for on all occasions, especially of emergency and where imminent danger from the contention of the elements menaced, they were to be seen contending against it with fortitude and heroic resolution, and on many occasions Captain Stocks himself performing the duties of his officers when he saw it required; so that on the whole we not only deem but hail him, as also Mr. Downer, well adapted and efficient to procure the good wishes and respect of their passengers, which this but too feebly tends to show.

Michael Hyland
Richard Howlin
Nicholas Doyle
Christopher Molloy
John Brosnan
Patrick Berne
Michael Flanagan
Michael Molloy
Michael Dolan
John Cowper
Thomas Harrington
Patrick Berne
Thomas M'Loughlin
John Higgins
Thomas M'Loughlin
Michael Donleary
Peter Ward
Thos. O'C. Duke
John Ward
Thomas Hughes
Owen Ward
John Leary
James Leonard
Thomas Leonard
Patrick Fitzpatrick
James Shule
James Fox
Michael Griffin
William Spellman
Michael Casey
Michael Farrell
Joseph M'Govern
Patrick Kilmarny
Thomas Carney
Thomas Harrington
Michael Moloy
John Bakon
James Farrell
Andrew Calligan
William Spellman.

There are numbers of others who would be happy to add their signatures, but as time did not permit, they hope the above sufficient.

Reconstruction of Europe.

The expectation of all Europe, which hung upon the speech of which the Emperor of the French was to deliver to his Chambers this year, has not been disappointed. Something unusual was calculated upon; and, while it was on all hands admitted that no less an issue than that of peace or war was involved in the almost oracular deliverance of the old world, no one ventured on a special guess as to what was forthcoming. It was known that the speech of the Emperor was this time, more than ever, his own composition—a clothing in his own words of his own ideas; and, within twenty-four hours of its utterance, his Ministers were equally ignorant with outer mankind of its nature and contents. Whatever it is original, and born of Louis Napoleon's own conceptions, and is the result of his own consideration of the political situation of the time. In the preparation of his annual speeches the Emperor is rivalled by no Sovereign, the custom of whose realms requires the delivery of these great State papers; and it may well be said, as it is universally said, that he never produced a speech which he can be compared with this. With a frankness of tone which equals, if it does not exceed, that which is supposed to characterise the Royal document which the Ministers of our constitutional country theoretically and practically put into the hands of the Monarch on the opening of Parliament, it is full of the plainest and most colloquial references to the circumstances of the moment, and especially dwells on the internal affairs of France from a point of view which, if slightly argumentative, is in the main

consistent with facts. After a semi-satirical allusion to the infusion of the Opposition element in the Chambers, a brief but pregnant sketch is given of the results of his system of government during the past year in the progress of national improvement. Notable question—vexed even in France—of the Mexican war is touched upon. Its policy is vindicated upon principles which no Frenchman can well gainsay; and the ticklish point of finance in connection with this subject is, to use a legal phrase, at once confessed and avoided. It will, no doubt, sound agreeably to French ears that the influence of France has been largely extended on the American and Asiatic continents, and that there is nothing particular to pay in hard cash for the possession of such advantages. In effect, also, the speech contains items of proposed administrative reform in France, which are founded on principles which, in England are recognised as inalienably associated with Constitutional Government, while the reference to new regulations relating to baking establishments and theatres inevitably suggests a politic ministering to certain tendencies of the French people akin to those of the ancient race, whose most hearty cry to their Emperor was "Panem et circenses!" All the clever manipulation of home affairs the nations may admire and pass by, in order to come to that which to them is the staple of the speech, and for which they have been anxiously waiting. In the midst of the complexity of the affairs of the present time the Emperor comes forward with a plan. He proposes to reconstruct Europe. This idea is eminently Napoleonic. It must be remembered that in this proposition is implied a dealing with, in the 'cause of abrogating, the Treaty of Vienna. The occasion of that treaty was the re-settlement of Europe after the fall of the first Napoleon. At that time what in common parlance is called the Continent was practically under the dominion of the French empire. That system having crumbled, or rather having been battered, down, and the monarchy of the Bourbons restored, it was thought by the allied conquerors that a mere return to the *status quo* was not an adequate compensation for the sufferings and the efforts of the nations which had combined against the great military arbiter of crowns and dynasties, and the representatives of the chief military powers set about to share the spoil of the vanquished, in a territorial sense. Bearing in mind the exact spirit and the nature of the proceedings of that congress, it is not difficult to understand the feeling by which the Napoleon of to-day is actuated when he demands rather than proposes another Congress, the object of which is, so to speak, to stamp out the Treaty of Vienna.

But whatever latent motive may lurk at the bottom of this proposition of the Emperor, those to whom it is addressed are bound to judge of it by the doctrines and principles which it discloses. Those doctrines and principles might have been enunciated by Mr. Bright or by Mr. Cobden, if they had been taken into the Imperial councils, and been permitted to pierce this notable speech. There can be no question that such a man to mark a new epoch in the history of the attempts at the pacification of the world. It must be remembered that its author, who professes, and with some reason, to speak on behalf of France is the leader of the most warlike nation in Europe—a nation which is ambitious mainly, if not altogether, of military glory. It is strange—but, as we think, agreeably strange—that from Paris should come sentiments, which, if they mean anything, mean the inauguration of an era of peace and goodwill amongst the nations. It is from that oracular quarter we hear that Europe is everywhere disturbed by the elements of dissolution; that it is the jealousies of the great Powers which hinder the march of civilization; that the moment has arrived when efforts should be made to reconstruct on a new basis the edifice ruined by time and destroyed piece by piece, by revolutions; and above all—mark the significance and importance of the phrase—it is asked whether the nations of Europe are eternally to maintain a state of things which is neither peace with its security nor war with its happy chances? In this last demand the whole question of European policy is involved. In effect, the proposal is to submit to a grand arbitration all matters in difference, with the object of obtaining a great peaceable rearrangement of European affairs, founded on the wishes of the people, and followed by a general disarmament. The alternative is put with equal clearness and perspicuity; for it is declared that at this juncture, add in the present constitution of the minds of Princes and peoples, there are but two paths open—the one which conducts to progress by civilization and peace; the other which, sooner or later, leads fatally to war by the obstinate maintenance of a *status quo* which is crumbling away. Plainly, says the dictator of an almost irresistible military country—shall it be peace which I desire, or war beginning soon and ending no one knows when.

There is something so striking and so unlike what might have been expected in such a proposal, coming from such a source, that it is painful to have to come to the conclusion that it is but

grand vision. Of the impacticability of such a scheme, alas! there can be little doubt. It is vain to argue that the facts of the times are in favour of the plan. No one can deny that there are questions now agitating Europe that demand immediate solution. There is no doubt that the arrangement of 1815 has become practically a nullity. A new fundamental pact has become a necessity. Such a re-arrangement must come at the conclusion of a European war of exhaustion; and it is a fine idea to suggest its being accomplished without an intervening sacrifice of blood and treasure. The questions which may be called, in dispute, are numerous. There are the matters of Schleswig, Rome, Venetia, Poland, the Rhine, and European Turkey. What we deem a stretch of imagination, let it be conceived that the Congress is in Session, with whom will the race of disintegrated nations begin? Will France evacuate Rome without compensation on the Rhine? What is to be given to Austria for ceding Venice? Is the Turkish empire to be dismembered to repay Russia for yielding her Polish provinces? Will the German Confederation give up its pretensions on Schleswig to Denmark? What is to induce Prussia to retire from the possession of her slice of Poland? And, lastly, will England surrender her impregnable Gibraltar? All these matters, and all this devotion of cherished objects to an idea of universal peace and concord, are indispensable. Some of them, such as the Schleswig question, might really be settled by a Congress; but, unless the representatives of all the Powers enter on consultation with a pre-determination not to insist on the principle of compensation, of give and take, as a preliminary to discussion, the whole business would end in a melancholy futility. But the real question is, will such a Congress ever take place? Will the Powers whom the Emperor has bidden to a meeting—in a letter even more characteristic, if that were possible, than his speech to his Chambers—accept the invitation? That remains to be seen. No less than fifteen Sovereigns have been addressed on this subject, and, unless they all accept, the plan fails in time. England, as we believe, very naturally demands to know distinctly, before her assent is given, what is to be the subject matter of consideration, in the Congress, and on what principle its deliberations are to be based. It is, as far as we can see, inconsistent with the Emperor's idea that any nation should come to the Congress with conditions or qualifications. He requires a *tabula rasa*. Such a piece of furniture—and a curious piece of mosaic it would be—cannot be obtained. We believe that there will be no Congress.

(To be Continued.)

THE RIO DE LA PLATA.

This is the name of the new steamer which is being built on the Clyde for the line of steamers to run between Montevideo and Buenos Ayres. The Saldaña company has ordered her to be built, and she will cost when finished £147,000; her dimensions will be 210 feet keel, and entire length 220 feet; her engines will be 150 horse power, with double cylinders; one first class saloon sixty feet long, with sofas for beds for 24 passengers; the under-deck cabin divided in two, one for ladies and the other gentlemen, 44 state rooms. She will also have a saloon on deck, divided into 10 compartments independent of each other, capable of accommodating 2 passengers, and besides this splendid private apartment. Such a steamer was never seen in the River Plate before.

The entrance of the saloons will be decorated with magnificent pillars, and in the saloons will be drawings of the four streamers belonging to the line. The same company has ordered a small steamer to be constructed for the carrying of passengers from Paysandú to Salto, when the river is low, which will cost £25,000. She is to be called the *Costa*.

AWFUL CALAMITY.

TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE BURNED IN CHILE.

The most disastrous affliction hangs at this moment on Chile. The pen refuses to describe such a human sacrifice, because the world's history records no such dreadful catastrophe. The Campana, one of the largest and handsomest churches of Santiago, contained the most select of the 'bulla sex' of that capital, attracted by the last 'funcion' of the month of May. Some 15,000 to 20,000 lamps of liquid and gas oil, burning in all parts of the temple. Those of the high altar burned 5,000, and just opposite burned brilliantly a half circle of gas. One of the burners burst, and the fire broke out, and immediately reached the dome. At the same time the crowd

was all confusion. Half escaped. And the rest? Oh, horror! Search for a door, but none could be found; owing to the rush and confusion they had all been closed. Hundreds of beautiful women, struggling with death, fell in numbers, until nothing remained but a funeral pile. Here, horror reaches to the highest point. Every part of the temple is a mass of flames, not half a yard over the multitude. Frigorous cries and heart-rending moans are heard, followed afterwards by silence. And what a stillness! The stillness of death! The silence of the tomb! The spectacle is indescribable. The fire reached the principal door. There heads burned to a cinder and skeletons met the view on all sides.

About nine o'clock at night all was over. The fire reached the belfry and turret which are all in ashes. Oh! who can form an idea of the ruin and desolation in this awful spot at this moment. Lamentations are heard in the houses and in the very streets; of those mourning the loss of parents, husbands, brothers, and sisters. In the annals of the world, in the history of misfortunes and catastrophes which have afflicted humanity, we doubt if there ever has occurred a more awful visitation of Providence. Two thousand human beings hurried into eternity, at the very foot of the altar of the Most High. The catastrophe is so awful, that we feel utterly unable to give expression to our feelings. We simply give a detailed statement of facts. Not only all Santiago, but half of Chile, is in mourning.

What heart-breaking moans of women, half-burnt—children, almost smothered. The number of victims is almost incredible. It is said 1700 to 2000. The majority of the victims belonged to the highest class of society in Santiago. More than seven houses are left completely desolate, not a soul having escaped.

The Minister of the United States succeeded in saving several lives, and wrote a letter of condolence to the Government. The total amount of corpses found number 1800. It would seem that the majority of the victims were smothered not burnt, as many were discovered without the slightest mark on their person or clothes.

The doors of the church were narrow, and some persons in the general rush having fallen, a general block up took place. In vain the crowd from behind pushed, and shouted, the piles of smothered human beings at the door were increased each moment; those at the door were trampled and crushed to death; those behind, scorched, burnt, and smothered. The courts, public offices, and houses of business were all closed spontaneously, and Santiago given up to a general mourning.

COLONEL ESCOLA.

We read, in the Montevideo papers, the dignified reply of this gallant Colonel, when invited to join the Club Libertad, and which is worthy of note:—

"When a revolution is attempted to be made against the national authorities, the duties of the officers in command are to labour actively in favour of the Government."

This is a worthy reply from the first artillery officer in the Place.

RELIGIOUS GRIEVANCE.

Mr. Editor,

Like too many of my countrymen, it is seldom I am found in my pew; but last Sunday, with the view of closing the year, respectfully, I resolved to do the correct thing for once. At the usual hour, I attempted to enter the seat it has always been my pride and boast to pay for. You, Sir, know the tenacity with which I have clung to this last rag of orthodoxy, and will you credit it, the ungrateful thing would hardly own me. In fact, if I had not, with characteristic prudence, taken the precaution of putting the receipt for the last quarter's rent in my pocket before leaving home, I might have found myself adrift in the aisle, or consigned to the uncongenial atmosphere of the public sittings. I doubt if my new-born resolution to be good would have stood this. A little more, and I might have been driven to excommunications. As it was, the discharged rent bill removed all doubt as to my identity. Explanation and apologies ensued, and as I went disposed to do the best and patronizing in the most generous manner, my pew and I were soon on the best of terms.

It would interest your philosophical and discriminating readers were I to attempt to analyse the sensations I experienced in the novel circumstances under which I found myself. Please do not for a moment suppose I had never been in church before—though, between us, it is so long since that I was quite out of practice. It is a long time, however, since I felt so happy and contented with myself; and how ever fashionable it may be to say against creeds and churches, there is no doubt I found the order and serenity of the place elevating and impressive. My vanity and imagination were also busy, and I thought I was transported to other times and scenes, when I sustained the part of a promising juvenile, and was less disposed than now to say with Solomon, that "all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

There is no saying how long my reverie might have lasted; but I was specially recalled from the past to the present by the commencement of the service. Do not be afraid that I am going to attempt to retail the sermons for your benefit. I would only ask you if you do not agree with me in thinking that one sermon would better answer the purposes of instruction and edification in this hot weather than two. If you thought so, a word from you spoken in the right place might do a world of good.

What gratified most on my feelings was the devotional part of the service. You know I am not one of the "knowing ones" in music, though I like to hear a good song well sung as well as anybody. I had read your account of the great improvement made by the congregation in producing music without a presbytery to expect to find in the church the "Kist of whistles" you made so much of. From the first, I suspected it was one of those figures of speech with which you sometimes embellish your paper, and, after what I heard on Sunday, I have no doubt in saying you have been terribly imposed on. My seat is under the clock, so I must not speak of what I saw; but the observations of my acute and cultivated ear are almost as good as what many see with their eyes; and I have no hesitation in saying that neither "Kist of whistles," nor any of the nice varieties of male or female voices you wrote so eloquently about, were used in praising God on Sunday last. The choir seemed to consist of two male voices, one of which did all the singing, the other only putting his word in now and then by way of an accompaniment. What surprised me most, however, was the patient and resigned spirit in which the majority of the congregation went through this part of the service. A few of the younger and more adventurous members tried to get their word in now and then, but I saw that the older and more experienced people had made up their minds long ago that it was no use.

Before and then I have often wondered how it is that the most solemn of all duties is so frequently performed in this slovenly and unsatisfactory manner. You yourself have often heard the noisiest of hymns sung in churches so as to make them hardly endurable by an ordinary ear, and if anything else had been substituted to a similar audience the performers would have been hissed down. How is this? Are these instructed with the conduct of public worship so stupid as not to know the difference between an end and a jar, or do they purposely make the service of the sanctuary as dull and uninteresting as they can, in order that they may secure a

larger share of the good things of the word to come for themselves. Let them look to this, and see if it has not something to do with the many empty pews which I saw.

If I don't stop, Mr. Editor, you will think I am getting prosy. Don't be frightened however, I am almost done. All I have to say is that on leaving church I resolved to turn over a new leaf myself, and as a beginning I have decided to put the knife to my vegetative tendencies, and for good and all have given up both the weed and the vegetable. Wishing you the compliments of the season,

I am my dear Mr. Editor,
Yours faithfully,
Belgrano, Jan. 1, 1864.

THE BOLSA.

Jan. 4, 1864.

To-day patacones opened at 28 35 and closed at 28 25. There were 181,008 patacones sold. In the liquidation rooms there were sales made at 28 30 and 28 25.

TIME SALES.

Jan. 9. 6,700 28 25
31 56,400 28 20

PRODUCE SALES.

700 dry cow hides \$120
100 do do do 110
500 arr. wool mestiza 80
500 do do do 70
100 do do do 70
6,000 do mixed good 70
500 do do do 60
1200 do do do 60
500 do do ordinary 50
600 becerros 33 s. ris
50 pigs tallow 3 7 8

MARITIME NEWS.

ARRIVALS.

1st.
Uruguay ports, Nat. steamer Salto.

2nd.
Mideo Paraguay steamer Paraguari.
Do Oriental cutter Raggio.
Rosario, N. t. steamer Pavon.

NOTES.

The fifth term of the English School will commence on Monday, January 4, 1864. Persons who desire to place their children at this Establishment, should apply as soon as possible, as but a limited number can be received.

This Institution offers a thorough English and commercial education to its pupils.

GEORGE RYAN.
Apply at No 28, Calle Cuyo, or 17, O. de San Martin.
January 3, 3p.

NOTICE.

The undersigned has to advise his friends, that from this day Mr. Feidich has been separated from our Barracas business, and that in consequence of this the undersigned will continue to do under the firm of Luis H. Brio and Co., to bring on him the collection of all accounts due to, and the payment of all debts due by the old firm.

L. U. S. H. Brio.
Barraca, Jan 3.

The 'Nacion Argentina'

Has removed to 153, Calle Victoria, Printing Office of the 'Siete'.

Good Wanted.

Apply at Calle Victoria, No. 93, 13, 3p.

River Plate Steamship Co.

The fine steamship PARANA, 106 tons, Giron Commander, now in Montevideo, and expected here daily.

On her arrival at this port the date of her sailing will be published, in the meantime Cargo can be engaged for England and the Continent, at the office of the Consignees.

HENRY A. GREEN & CO.
83 Reconquista.

NOTICE.

The annual meeting of subscribers to the British Hospital, for the examination of the accounts, has been adjourned to the 5th proximo, at eight o'clock, p.m.

FRANK PARISH.
British Consulate, Dec. 31st, 1863.

Buenos Ayres Chamber of Commerce, Jan. 2, 1864.

ALABADO PRODUCE	VARIOUS.	PROVINCIAL BANK.	DISCOUNTS	Freights & Cattle.
Coffee, 27 silver six per cello	Cashmere, cut	Receives paper money	Receives paper money	Freights for export
Low price, 24	do, 100 yds	Charges for paper money	Charges for paper money	Freights for import
High price, 24	do, 100 yds	Receives paper money	Receives paper money	Freights for export
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