

# The Standard

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## The Standard.

"Nil falsi, autem all veri non eudem die."—Grecia.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1864.

### THE DOUBLE VICTORY.

In Argentine annals we read more than once of battles in which both combatants retired from the field in disorder, neither confessing a defeat, although feeling terribly demoralized. We can, therefore, easily account for the paradoxical election of Sunday last, which gave general satisfaction, as Crudos and Cocidos alike entone hymns of victory. The lists are published, and it betrays an innate amiability of character on the part of B. Ayres, candidates that all parties are equally satisfied at the result. Philanthropists, in endeavouring to seek the primary truth, did not content themselves with Descartes' famous apophthegm, "cogito, ergo sum," but chose as a universal basis the axiom, "It is impossible for a thing to be and not be at the same time." Happily, a new era has arisen for science in B. Ayres: the Crudos are and are not victorious—the Crudos are and are not vanquished. For this wonderful discovery, read the papers of the rival clubs, and be convinced.

Respecting the city, both parties erred in their calculations. The "Cocidos" anticipated a majority of some thousands, and barely saved their distance by 270 votes or 7 per cent of the gross number. The "Crudos," instead of polling more than half the city, could not muster one third. So little interest did the public take in the rivalry of factions, that over 40 per cent abstained from voting. Nor can we charge the latter with dereliction of duty or want of patriotism, for, as we already declared (and General Mitre expressed the same), it matters not a dollar of our rotten currency which list gains. No honest man thinks the country will be ruined by electing D. Norberto Riestra, nor can even Dr. Chassagnon's most enthusiastic admirers believe that the hero of the overland route to Cordoba will infuse much wisdom into the National Council.

Following the adage, "he that is not with me, is against me," we find that instead of both lists gaining, both have been signally defeated. Nine hundred have protested against the Cocidos, twelve hundred against the Crudos, but fifteen hundred have condemned both, judging, like General Hornos, that it is a question of personal ambition, in which the public is sure to lose, win who will. Under these circumstances, both of the victors should make a modest use of the triumph, for neither represents the real feeling of the city.

Let our European readers fancy a population of 150,000 souls, enjoying universal suffrage, in which the successful candidates (even with all the aid of Government influence) cannot muster one per cent of that figure, in their support. This simple fact is conclusive, showing to what a low ebb political integrity has fallen in Buenos Ayres, and how disgusted is the public.

As usual the combatants throw dirt at each other; we read of double and triple voters, of 50 bad votes in San Nicolas parish, of forged registers, of bribery, of intimidation, &c. &c. Nevertheless there is probably little room for such accusations, and we may call it a model election, so far as those who voted were concerned. In eight parishes the Cocidos gained, in three the Crudos, and one (San Nicolas) is disputed.

In the campaign, the Crudo party turned heaven and earth to secure a triumph, which now seems doubtful. Governor Saavedra, good soul has got himself into a mess through the zeal of his Minister, and the Cocido papers hesitate not to charge him with barbarities of the "Knap" style. For Acosta is the alter ego of Mariano Varela, and his instructions to the justices seem not over scrupulous. In San Pedro, the National party were ordered to the frontier (the usual punishment for murder). In Zarate, M. Latoro did not mince matters in proving to the gauchos his ideas of liberty of suffrage. In Navarro, we hear the justice threatened

to shoot all who did not conform their consciences to that of the Bishop's nephew (Acosta).

As the natural result of such intimidation we find various districts have voted en masse for the Crudos. Any one acquainted with camp matters will know the absurdity of such elections: as well might the city water-carriers drive their horses to the poll, and turn the scale of victory by the number of heads. In Magdalena not a single Cocido vote was recorded, while 393 enthusiastic citizens declared their preference for Montes de Oca over Chassagnon. Voron, too, had a happy unanimity of 166 Crudos, and no one was rude enough to disturb public opinion by voting contra. Villa Mercedes shews 293 Crudos and 9 heroic Cocidos. Belgrano a mixed population, returns 5 votes in opposition to Gov. Saavedra's party. Lomas de Zamora only had 2 rebels. Of course the whole thing is a farce, for it is notorious that the camp is not of the Varela or ultra party, as the following list would lead us to suppose.

Crudos	Cocidos
San José de Flores	99
Lomas de Zamora	81
Villa de Mercedes	293
Belgrano	113
San Isidro	119
San Fernando	99
Conchas	62
Matanza	78
Villa de Lujan	341
Pilar	197
Barracas al Sud	18
Moron	166
Quilmes	94
Magdalena	393
Ensenada	130
2,377	499

Here is a majority, (including the city), of fifteen hundred for the Crudos, but the strongholds of the Cocidos have not yet sent their returns, and the issue seems in favor of the latter. The N. Argentina gives the following yet received.

Crudos	Cocidos
Chascomus	400
San Vicente	majority
Ranchos	33
Zarate	majority
Pila	1
Navarro	123
Lobos	36
197	2184

Taking both tables as correct, we find a majority of 500 on the total for the Cocidos, who also count on large majorities in S. Nicolas, Arceles, Pergamino, Azul, Bragado, Las Flores, Tandil, Dolores, and Saladillo. San Nicolas alone is expected to give 1300 Cocidos, or more than Buenos Ayres.

If the Crudos lose, it would be advisable to remove Sr. Acosta from the Provincial Ministry, as his rashness is only equalled by his ill-fortune and improper use of authority. If he had displayed but half the energy to cleanse the camp of noon-day assassins, which he wasted in perverting the right of suffrage, we should have voted him a silver medal or other suitable testimonial; but his supine laziness, in matters of great interest and activity at the wrong time, would seem to earn for him a distinctive epithet, which we refrain from applying, as it may seem ungentlemanly and disrespectful towards his Excellency. It cannot, however, be denied that any country must be considered unfortunate, when delivered up to the management of a Gaucho Minister.

### The Acrobat of the Press.

The lovers of tight-ropes were for a time dazzled by the capers and somersaults of four wonderful acrobats in Colon Theatre, and a nice sum was realized by selling their photographs, when about to leave us. They are encased in many an album, and literature has immortalized them in the above familiar distich.

No less elastic, no less popular, no less talented, no less deserving public eulogium for exalting themselves above the crowd, are the Varela brothers, of our city press. Who can make such aerial flights as Hector? who can poise himself so nicely as Mariano? who can climb to the poetic summit with Juan Cruz? who can toss a hat (at election times) with the more juvenile brother? Observe how the first (worthy of his Grecian namesake) supports the united weight of the rest, catching Mariano when he falls, aiding another to ascend on his shoulders, and holding the ladder for a third! Yet he grows not dizzy. He can turn and twist in mid-air, and if by chance he makes a faux pas, he only gains fresh applause by the grace with which he recovers himself. He can twirl round a musket faster than the oldest campaigner, but then its discharge is harmless. He can stand on one leg better than another man on two. And Mariano he will swing out of a slender cord, walk on his head, and do fifty things, one more daring than another, till the public is amazed which to account the cleverer of the two. The one lies, while the other pirouettes; and at last the performance winds up by Hector getting on Mariano's head, and extending his arms for public applause.

II. F. V. fills the "Tribuna" of yesterday with his own fame. Again, we

are "bothered" about "albums," and F. de Girardin says something about "last year 'twas fighting, now it's only talk," which II. F. V. does not understand any more than he did the sarcasm of Dumas, when he asked him for something for his album: "it is a pity there are so many fools and so few wise men."

II. F. V. salutes the "Nacional" and "Nacion Argentina," and, by the rules of the Mutual Admirer Society, calls D'Amico a writer of stupendous talent. Unhappily the silver talents of that paper are every day declining. He admires Gutierrez as a very smart fellow, with all the superciliousness of a Macaulay who praises the composition of a grammar-school pupil. He quotes Seneca, "that man should be sacred to man," but we cannot see the force of the sentence or its application. He praises his brother Mariano as a very honest individual, and declares his intention to defend President Mitre; against whom? (Mariano). He magnanimously compliments Napoleon III., forgetful of the slight put on him in Paris.

Enough! H. F. V. has not been cured of vanity, but we are willing to admit the *Peculiarities* of yesterday and absolve Hector for his brother's backslidings. Of course the profits of the paper are in common, though not the responsibility, and Mariano loses nothing by a temporary ostracism. He may even, like Hector, improve his health by crossing the Atlantic.

Let us now hope for improvement in the great organ of Buenos Ayres. The press is the mightiest laborer in the work of progress, and the *Tribuna* can do much for good or evil. Politics were interred last Sunday by a small number of friends, and work is the motto of the hour. If our lately "absent friend" will strenuously aid as in the development of the industry and resources of the country, in supporting a stable and solid Government, in inciting his countrymen to imitate what he has seen in Europe, in treating foreign residents with a little more courtesy, in seeking a thorough police-reform, and aiming only to advance B. Ayres in the highway of civilization, we will cordially shake hands over the past and be not merely colleagues but brethren for the future.

### LATEST FROM MONTEVIDEO.

A passenger arrived yesterday morning, per "Caaguazu," with the following important news:—Flores was still closely investing Montevideo and firing was heard at intervals by night. On Sunday night an attack on the town was feared, and the troops drove the crowd out of the plaza, at the point of the bayonet. About 11 p.m. the besiegers commenced firing on the barricades, some ten shots being discharged from Flores' solitary 6 pounder. A German officer attempted to reply by letting off some Congreve rockets, but, as we foretold, it proved a dangerous matter, for instead of hurting the enemy it blew off the officer's leg. Another misfortune occurred with the "Palaski," which opened fire in the direction of the artillery flash, but mistook President Berro's outpost for Flores' headquarters, driving out the troops in great confusion.

Flores' forces number nearly 3,000 men; the garrison, including Nat. Guards, about 2,000. The army under Servando Gomez is shortly expected to relieve the city, being 3,000 strong, and including two good battalions, Bastardes and Lengua; as their whereabouts is not exactly known, and they march slowly, Flores has a chance of taking the city by a coup de main. If he waits, and loses the game this time, he is undone.

Meantime arrests follow quickly, one after another, the presence of the filibuster general serving still more to compromise his partisans within the walls. Everyone is grumbling of Pres. Berro's severity, although it is probably necessary, but he cannot long hold his ground, on so fragile a power. We do not hear of pacific overtures on either side; neither is there much disposition to fight.

The Chamber of Senators was summoned on Sunday to read a special message from the President, asking what's to be done? but a quorum could not be formed, and the meeting was postponed till some night. Again the number was short, and nothing could be done. This was partly owing to the banishment of several senators, and the refusal of some others to attend. All the shops are closed at 8 p.m., and people begin to feel very uncomfortable. Any solution of the crisis would be a blessing. The port is closed, and martial law in full force.

### EUROPEAN REVIEW.

According to the "Nation," the revival of the French Congress scheme is now a settled affair; that journal even goes so far as to assert that England and Austria have adhered to the proposal of a conference of Ministers, and that as to the adhesion of Prussia and Russia there has not been a moment's doubt. The authority for this broad assertion is seriously questioned.

The series of Royal replies to the French Imperial proposal for a Congress has been completed by the arrival, and publication in the "Moniteur," of the letter of the Sultan. That document is highly complimentary to the Emperor, but the acceptance of the Congress proposal is conditional.

The French Government is said to have at last yielded to the pressing solicitations of the Italian Government for 50,000 rifles. The order for the exportation of the weapons has been issued from the Ministry of War, undeterred by the conviction, it is said, that many of the guns will find their way into Hungary. This statement is looked upon as irreconcilable with the declaration of M. Rouher, that "were Italy to burst forth into war she would do so at her own risk, and must expect no help from France."

A letter from Milan, in contradiction of the assurances of peace which proceed from Paris, states that several French officers are now in Italy inspecting the military forces of that country, and daily conferences take place at Turin between the Italian War Minister and a French general. By order of the King, every facility is given the French officers to study and inspect the whole lines both of the Mincio and the Po. In Lombardy six field hospitals have been established, and the necessary ambulances have been provided.

The ex-King of Naples is now raising, through a French banking firm, a loan of 30,000,000 francs.

The Pope received the annual congratulations of the cardinals on Saturday, when, in allocution, he expressed his confidence that the Church would recover possession of the usurped provinces, by firmness, constancy, and prudence. He declared that he expected serious events next year, but entreated the cardinals to remain calm, for the Church would ultimately triumph.

The appointment by the Pope of 14 archbishops and bishops, several of them being for districts annexed to the kingdom of Italy, is sure to bring the Papal and Italian Governments into conflict.

As the result of the measures taken by the Italian Government for the suppression of brigandage, all the larger bands, with the exception of Crocco's, have been broken up whilst the smaller ones have been greatly reduced in numbers either by the voluntary surrender of their chiefs or in pursuance of the measures taken by the military authorities. It has been determined to continue the brigand law in operation until the end of 1864.

The text of the proclamation issued by order of Kossuth, by the Hungarian National Committee, and distributed through all the cities and towns of Hungary, has been published. It proclaims the determination of the majority of the people to cast off the yoke of Austrian domination and to remove all doubt upon the question "in view of the new direction of European affairs, which offers a tempting perspective to all peoples groaning under a foreign yoke." The object of the proclamation is, moreover, the realization of the declaration of independence of 1849, in support whereof the committee has undertaken the management of public affairs, and calls upon the nation patriotically to support the execution of its orders.

Accounts received from Poland speak of the apparent impossibility of suppressing the insurrection. The continuance of Russian brutality has created a fixed determination on the part of the Poles never to surrender to their oppressors, and, as a consequence, we hear of the most dreadful tortures supported with the utmost bravery and heroism.

Orders have been received at Hamburg to prepare immediately the necessary quarters for the reception of the medical staff, surgeons, and assistants of the field lazaretto of the third Prussian army corps.

The Duke of Augustenburg arrived at Kiel on Wednesday, and was enthusiastically welcomed by the inhabitants. The German troops are advancing towards Rendsburg and Friedrickstadt, and the Danish soldiers are said to be retiring.

It is said that the Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark will shortly join the army, which the King has gone to visit. The fidelity of the Schleswig regiments having been distracted by the Danes, these troops are now occupied in the construction of earthworks.

The enthusiasm in favour of the Duke of Schleswig Holstein appears to have spread to every country where the German language is spoken; volunteers have arrived from the Russian provinces on the Baltic, and have been enrolled amongst the German corps, and addresses of sympathy, with promises of assistance, have been received from Switzerland.

According to the letter of the Paris correspondent of the "Morning Post," the state of Greece is most deplorable. The Treasury is said to be empty, the army is demoralized, and the country in a state of anarchy. It is added a coup d'etat of some sort will be necessary.

The most contradictory statements prevail with regard to the acceptance of the Mexican throne. On the one hand, the Archduke Maximilian is represented as "about shortly to embark

for Mexico "to prevent himself to the wishes of the people who have proclaimed their Sovereign;" on the other, he is represented as having positively refused the throne, and the French Government as being about to recall the troops from Mexico, which are to be replaced by a foreign legion of 12,500 men. The rumour, however, needs confirmation.

According to the Paris correspondent of the "Morning Herald," the message of President Davis has created a most favourable impression in France by its manly tone of self-reliance and the absence of that boasting which is so conspicuous in President Lincoln's manifesto.

### MEXICO.

By way of the Pacific, we have dates from that Republic up to the 11th December.

Notices from the city of Mexico and San Luis de Potosi, continue favourable to the Republican cause. "By a private letter" (says the "Tribuna") we learn that the French expedition had left the city of Mexico about the middle of November, and although it consisted of 16,000 men, counting French troops and Mexicans who had joined their cause, they had effected nothing decisive against Queretaro or Guanajuato: the roads were still muddy and bad, and all the country infested with guerrillas. Comonfort, who had been appointed General-in-Chief, on going to take command of the army, accompanied by 100 chiefs and officers, was surprised by Mejia. They were taken aback so suddenly, that they had to fight against a body of 2000 men, and were all taken prisoners. Comonfort fell in the action.

General Doblado, who is now in charge of the forces intended to resist the French, has taken possession of eight leagues of the most rugged part of the road, so as to make use of his army of 20,000 men as guerrillas. General Bazaine is constantly falling into ambushes. General Negrete has reinforced himself, and is about to make an attack on the French, who have gone into quarters. There are upwards of 1,000 guerrillas in front of the city of Mexico, besides many more in the neighbourhood of Orizaba and Puebla.

Two large French convoys are said to have fallen into the hands of the Mexicans, the one between Vera Cruz and Orizaba, and the other between Cuernavaca and Mexico.

### THE "ECHO DEL RIO NEGRO."

The "Eco del Rio Negro" has the following news:

The sea still continuing, news from the camp was every day more depressing, and the small amount of sheep which still remained in the partido are suffering from the bad state of the pasture.

With regard to the war, it says: The Rincon de las Gallinas is still the scene of the deeds of some parties of Floristas. The broken and uneven nature of the country affords shelter to these troops which would be unable to withstand an attack on more level ground. Since the clearing out of the Isla Infante and other "montes" of Yaguari, these bodies of Floristas disappeared, but this week (12th Feb.) they have again made their appearance on the side of the Rio Negro, in front of Veredices. Early yesterday morning some thirty men made their appearance near Mercedes, but as soon as this was known two boats went out into the middle of the river, and after a sharp firing managed to dislodge them from their position. Further particulars of this skirmish are not known.

### DEATH OF COMONFORT.

In the obituary of the "Times," received by this mail, the death of this Mexican patriot General is simply mentioned as though he was no greater person than William Brown, Thomas Jones, or George Robinson. It is a pretty fair sign of what the good folks in Europe think of Spanish American politicians.

### MISCELLANY.

MEN WHO MET THEIR CALLING.—Mr. Charles Mathews made his first appearance in the character of a student of architecture. Ben Jonson was apprentice to a bricklayer, and then enlisted for a soldier, before he set up as a wit-combatant with Shakespeare, and fell out with Inigo Jones, who was a member of the club Sir Walter Raleigh founded, and wrote that song "Drink to me only with thine eyes," that lies like a loose pearl among his more lengthy trifles. James Cook, the navigator, instead of running away to sea like another Robinson Crusoe, was apprenticed to a small country shipkeeper, who, however, detecting the vital games the lad cast towards the ocean, returned him his indentures. As a reverse to this example, enacted within remembrance, Clarkson Stanfield, R.A., went to sea instead of turning his back straightway to a studio. Mr. Charles Dickens and the younger Dis-

ræi both mistook their roads on first setting out in life, thinking a lawyer's office lay in their right paths. Barry Cornwall fell into the same error. Mr. Thackeray likewise lost his way at first, and tarried in Rome, studying as an artist. David Roberts, R.A., climbed the ladder that led to his present elevation from the level of a house-painter's apprentice, with an interval of novice ship spent as a scene-painter in Drury Lane Theatre. Mr. Ruskin quitted with the brush before he took up the pen, as vigorously as Bishop Colenso attacked algebra before he distinguished himself as a theologian.—BUILDERS.

ANTI-DOTE FOR CHLOROFORM.—A Paris letter says:—A doctor here has discovered that brandy or rum is the best antidote for chloroform, and that it will at once counteract the effects of an overdose. PARK.—The firm of Messrs. W. & R. Chambers consume an annual quantity of paper averaging 220 tons.—Another distinguished firm consumes 250 tons, which at 8d. a pound, is over £11,000. The saving to the latter firm in duty is about £2,775.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS.—The *Figaro* Programme publishes the following curious detail:—Alexandre Dumas, the novelist, is no longer paid by the line, but by the letter. Yes, the "San Felipe," which is now published, is paid for at the rate of a centime a letter! We can guarantee the exactitude of this fact.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CHINA.—A new discovery, or rather application, of photography has been made by a Mr. W. S. Shirras, of Aberdeen, who is busy transferring photographs from paper to china. The portraits are quite perfect. We may now expect to see home-hold tea-service adorned with the likenesses of our friends. It would be an improvement if the cup were prepared photographically, so as to take the likeness of the person while he was sipping his Bohemian.

According to the census of 1851 there were 1,564 male and 100 females "authors, editors, and writers" in England and Wales. The census returns for 1861 revealed but a very slight increase—namely, 1,523 male and 145 female "authors, editor and writers." Thus male authorship, as a distinct profession, appears to be stationary, while the only augmentation of the literary profession is due to the introduction of an increased number of ladies into its ranks.

### PRIZES CAPTURED BY THE FEDERALS.

The Secretary of the Federal Navy, in his official report to Congress, refers to the number and value of the prizes captured since the declaration of the blockade. He says that the captures of 1,045 prizes, representing property to the amount of upwards of £3,000,000, have been submitted to the judgment of the Federal prize courts. About half that sum has been adjudicated upon, leaving after paying all expenses, about £1,200,000 for distribution amongst the captors of the several prizes.

### LATEST ELECTION REPORT.

#### VICTORY FOR THE COCIDOS.

A friend has just favored us with the latest returns, showing a large majority for the "National" party. State of the poll on Monday, including San A. de Giles and B. Ayres:—

Crudos	Cocidos
majority	1511
Fortin de Areco	0
Lobos	36
Navarro	123
Ranchos	33
Pila	1
Arceles	270
Areco	150
G. Monto	137
Chascomus	0
Capilla Schor	115
2814	3677

The Crudos expect majorities in 25 de Mayo, Baradero, Pergamino, Junin, Tandil, Ajó, Monsalvo, Dolores, Arceles, Lobos, Vecino, and Bragado. The Cocidos count on Tandil, Tapalquea, Azul, Rojas, Patagones, and Bahia Blanca. It is thought the majority for whichever side will be under 500.

### ATTACK ON MONTEVIDEO.

Last night, about twelve o'clock, Flores attacked Montevideo, in good Aguarda, and was repulsed. A good deal of shot was fired from the "cantones," in the Aguarda, and from the steamer Pulaski. Flores had a couple of pieces of artillery in action; in all, 30 or 40 cannon shots were fired. We cannot find out if any damage was done, as communication with the advance guards is cut off. Flores' main







