

# The Standard

## Ficha Bibliográfica

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TO CORRESPONDENTS. We notice some letters of anonymous communications. Whatever is lodged for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily in publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Standard.

THE FLORES BANDETS. A band of 80 men, well armed and equipped, under the command of a retired officer of the Buenos Ayres army, is, according to our information, regularly enrolled for active service on all the highways leading to the capital: its headquarters is in Flores. Any persons who are sceptical enough to call in question our statement may have practical proof of the same by taking a quinta in Flores, or attempting to go out of town after nightfall. Yesterday we gave three cases of house-breaking, which accidentally came off in that neighbourhood since last Sunday, and we expect to make up a formidable list by next Monday.

The Chief of Police good soul, laughs at the recidity of people who read the Standard. President Mitre has his concerns of state to look after in town, and family cares in San Pedro. Gov. Saavedra thinks it is certainly not his business to hunt up banditti; Dr. Acosta is occupied in election matters; Sor. Dominguez is perhaps revising a second edition of his Argentine History; and the other public functionaries leave such disagreeable subjects to those whom it may concern.

Meantime these outrages are committed so openly, that we should at first sight suppose they had the tacit approbation of some persons high in authority, who derived a percentage from the black mail. The National Government will fall into just odium if things be allowed to continue so. It is useless to say that Flores pretends to the Provincial Government, and that our city police cannot pursue the malefactors. We do not understand such hair-splitting excuses, for it would be easy to place a cordon of military on the district and seize the 80 bandits.

It is most disgraceful and unfortunate that a small army of freebooters should establish itself at the gates of our city, and that both the National and Provincial Governments should be powerless to repress them. Verily, we have 'slipped 'twixt the two stools, and three conflicting administrations only serve to place life and property in jeopardy. The Robin Hood of this Flores' internity is a fine, gentlemanly-looking individual, who wears a sword and pistols in his 40 men all wear pistols. One day, last week, he presented himself to a gentleman who was walking with his wife, and in that matter-of-fact manner, so free from the absurd formalities of other public characters, said, 'Sir, my case is simple, I want money, and do not, much either to offend or molest you.' We need not add, that so polite a request succeeded. A gardener was coming in from Flores, on a Tuesday morning, when he was on the highway, near Almagro, some 'chevaliers' despoiling a poor fellow, who was on the ground, and crying out, 'For God's sake, don't kill me!' Our informant at that once turned back, and one of the bandits pursued him, inquiring where he was going? The former, pretending to have seen nothing, said he had forgotten something in the quinta, which he was going to fetch into town.

As some of our readers may doubt such hearsay statements, we will refresh their memory with a list of the recent outrages, some of them committed on individuals well known in our society.

- 1. Man murdered on the Caballito road. 2. Two milkmen stripped near Flores. 3. Two extortions dismounted and robbed. 4. St. Rita's quinta fired into. 5. St. Llanos's quinta attacked. 6. Dr. Eguias, chased near Flores. 7. Gentleman and wife robbed. 8. Man waylaid at Almagro. 9. Two boys robbed of hides.

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A TALE OF BLOOD

If our readers will, for a moment accompany us to the Carcel, we will unveil to them one of the most hideous tragedies and its hero, that has occurred since murder set its grey stain upon this country, without an availing justice to purge away the same.

About two years ago, a squeaky girl was employed on an estancia, a few leagues south of this city, and it chanced one night that the owner was absent, and only the capataz to keep her company. At dusk one of those murderous-looking ruffians, a commonly seen in camp and town, came up to the house, intimating that he would pass the night there. The girl, not liking his looks, playfully showed her discomfiture with the pot, by firing at him with the crack. He observed that she was a well-sit, to which she significantly replied that she always kept her hand in practice. On her retiring to rest she secured the door and window, leaving the capataz and gaucho to sleep outside. Next morning she was a little alarmed at not hearing the capataz as usual rousing the echoes with his lively whistling; she went out and found him murdered, and the gaucho gone.

Subsequently, it was ascertained the strange visitor had just fled from Lolos, after committing two heinous murders, and took himself to the Fortin de Areco, his native district. The Basque girl had a sister employed at a finca, in the last-mentioned place, and in a short time after the above occurrences, two men came in together to the house, and being quizzing the girl. One of them asked her to hand him some matches, which she refused; he then asked his companion to do so, and while the latter was reaching for them, struck him in the back with a knife, which grazed the victim's head.

The assassin called out, with the knife dripping blood, the girl rushing from the door to raise an alarm. An officer, with two soldiers, happened to be in the town, and he at once sent his men in pursuit, telling them to take the murderer or answer with their own lives. Such energy is generally successful, and the assassin was soon overtaken; he drew his knife, and vowed not to be taken alive. Making on his pursuers, he stabbed the horse of one in the chest, but was finally overpowered, and after the usual delays sent into town. This happened in 1867, and the identity of the murderer or answer with their own lives. Such energy is generally successful, and the assassin was soon overtaken; he drew his knife, and vowed not to be taken alive.

A few days ago one of the Basque sisters had occasion to visit some one confined in prison, and that was her horror to see 'he assassin, who had already murdered four persons, still enjoying the light and air of Heaven! It occurred to her only a question of months when he shall be again free to commit his diabolical villainy, as he says 'he is anxious to get out as soon as possible, to kill some one he has sworn to despatch.'

Last month six notorious murderers escaped from our city prison, and are probably now a part of the Flores banditti. A week later it was found a great hole had been bored in the wall, to permit a wholesale gun delivery. A third attempt last night was reported some days after, and we must not be at all surprised if 3000 murderers and robbers are soon let loose on us.

The demon is, however, what his iniquities we have related, is wanting his opportunity for release, and yet, ready to do, we will, we pay a Government to ransom him and vindictive justice.

Mr. Flower is rotting in prison, for having shot a gaucho after the ruffian had stabbed him. Months and years roll over, but Habes Corpus does not exist in Buenos Ayres, and the poor fellow who defends his life from an arson assassin, may be in a dungeon for an indefinite period, as his trial cannot be immediately enforced. If our countrymen had a spark of patriotism or generosity they would call a meeting to take into account this remarkable case, and the best means of procuring a remedy.

The gaucho who shot the robber near Quilmes (the story of the robber in the well) is still in prison. He has suffered over twelve months incarceration, for defending his property from a house-breaker. No hope of his release.

We believe the alcalde and his gang whom Burnengo accused of shooting at and wounding him, for refusing to sell two dozen of beer on credit, were all suffered to go scot-free, without trial. Nay, they are still, as we learn, guards of public tranquility.

God! and this country claims to be civilized. No wonder we have all the maledictions of Heaven daily and hourly afflicting us, as they did Sodom and Gomorrah.

EDITO'S TABLE

The barque 'Jil-lan' is at last almost discharged, only about one ton of coke being now on board. The 'Luz' suit still goes on, the vessel being now 132 days in port.

Mr. Wells (improperly called Janks by the native papers) will exhibit his balloon in Colon theatre on Sunday admission 45. It is 40 feet high, 120 in circumference, containing about 9,000 cubic yards, and made of 9,000 yards of the finest Irish linen, provided by Messrs. Daguid. It will contain 60-70 feet of gas, but on Sunday will be inflated with air. The first ascent will be from San Fernando on tomorrow fortnight.

We have been requested to do an act of justice to the rebels of 'Tanda Ontario, by testifying their generous assistance to save the cargo of the Royal Dane, wrecked near Cape St. Mary. Many of Flores' officers waded into the surf, and laboured strenuously to relieve the ship wrecked vessel. This news was not published in the Montevideo papers, out of a natural animosity to the rebels.

There are stories current about towns respecting the late shipment of arms on board the Salto, for Flores' troops. It seems the Englishman, Mr. Oliver, who came to this city procured large military supplies and landed same at Fray Bentos, the rebel General being in camp 15 leagues distant. As soon as the 'colorado' got this supply they abandoned Fray Bentos, which is now equally free from friends and foes.

We learn that a gaucho has been arrested for attempted violence on a Irishwoman in the camp; but we are ignorant of the particulars. An unfortunate foreigner was fearfully cut and lacerated by the fellow's sword, and calling out for 'mercy.' The victim believes had been expelled the theatre for disorder, but nothing can justify among the righteously with such deadly weapons.

On Thursday evening a gentleman was conversing with some friends on the Male, when three fellows came close and one of them attempted to pick his pocket. Catching the ruffian in the act, he was not so foolish as to go in search of a policeman, but levelled the offender with a stunning blow from his stick.

To-night the Lyric Co. will perform 'La Sirena' at Colón; the opera is new to our public, and we believe will prove a success. It is said the Col. Luzana has given a similar forlough to his Colonians, fatigued by their late military labors. The Ros states that this lamenting time is afforded for their military state to which Flores has been reduced by his unrelenting pursuers, adding that he cannot hold out much longer. Major Pagés with the San Salvador militia also arrived at Mercedes on the 15th; this town is considered impregnable, being well fortified, and garrisoned by two regiments of Nat. Guards, the Uruguayan, the Abascoyeros cavalry, Rural Police, and Perez and Pagés battalions. Laguna is also considered safe in Colonia.

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We are happy to see our countrymen patronizing the undertaking, by taking a large number of shares; the Germans and other foreigners have done the same, but we believe, only a few Argentines have lent their money to so useful a project. It is certain that the shares will give a minimum dividend of 5 per cent. The works having already commenced, will be pushed on steadily, and without haste, under the able architect.

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THE NEW MUSIC-HALL. On yesterday the contract between the committee and architect was signed, for the construction of this projected theatre, so much wanted in Buenos Ayres. The final arrangements were agreed to at a meeting in the Bolsas, on Thursday afternoon. The capital of the company amounts to \$1,200,000, of which sum \$300,000 was paid for the site (now in course of clearance in Calle Parana, on the Esmeralda and Saipacha, on the left hand side); the estimated cost of the edifice is \$650,000; and a further sum of \$100,000 will be required for furniture and decorations.

The Music Hall will cover a superficies of 950 feet by 42, and hold from six to eight hundred seats. The architect, Messrs. Hunt and Schroeder, are well known for several splendid edifices which they have adorned our city, and they engage to conclude the work within 12 months. The Hall will be peculiarly adapted to musical soirees, and also offer a favourable field for public dinners, meetings, &c. It will be erected, in the outer part of the building will be rich and tasteful.

We are happy to see our countrymen patronizing the undertaking, by taking a large number of shares; the Germans and other foreigners have done the same, but we believe, only a few Argentines have lent their money to so useful a project. It is certain that the shares will give a minimum dividend of 5 per cent. The works having already commenced, will be pushed on steadily, and without haste, under the able architect.

NEWS FROM RIO NEGRO. The commander in Mercedes has proposed to supply the garrison with beef, yerba, tobacco and sugar, at a lower price than the huxters' charge. Up to the 7th inst. there was little of importance in the quarter of Rio Negro. Col. Torres arrived at Mercedes on the 5th, after a fruitless campaign in search of the filibuster; his men remained on the banks of the Rio Negro, to refresh themselves, and get pasture for their mules. It is said the Col. Luzana has given a similar forlough to his Colonians, fatigued by their late military labors. The Ros states that this lamenting time is afforded for their military state to which Flores has been reduced by his unrelenting pursuers, adding that he cannot hold out much longer.

Major Pagés with the San Salvador militia also arrived at Mercedes on the 15th; this town is considered impregnable, being well fortified, and garrisoned by two regiments of Nat. Guards, the Uruguayan, the Abascoyeros cavalry, Rural Police, and Perez and Pagés battalions. Laguna is also considered safe in Colonia.

Mr. Harrett has favored us with samples of cotton type in his quinta; the fibre is beautiful and decided by a Manchester friend as of superior quality. One plant has 150 bolls, and is white as snow. Mr. H. weighing the bolls, and found them to contain 76 2/3 cent, 25 2/3 cent.

Among the stories current about the fugitive M. Courant, it is said he disappeared from Rio Janeiro in a similar manner some 30 years ago. Yet the Tribune has so much sentimentalish about respectability &c.

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Yesterday, the 'Tribuna' of our city, complains that a letter-box, which was placed in its office for the benefit of anonymous correspondents, is filled with documents threatening murder, arson, turning the press into the street, &c. It warns the writer of such passions, that if they continue of their evil and foolish courses they shall be handed up before the tribunals of justice.

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