

The Standard

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The Standard.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1884.

SYNOPSIS WITH PERU.

Great Meeting at the Retiro.

The largest assemblage ever for any cause in B. Ayres, except at the day festival, was that of Sunday, convened by the Club Puelo, as a manifestation in favour of Peru in the actual question with Spain. As might be expected, there was a considerable sprinkling of foreigners, animated, perhaps, mostly by curiosity, but many also by sympathy for South American independence. It is to be regretted that the intervention and even insolent tone of the speakers alienated many friends, and there was a marked absence of enthusiasm attending the allusions to the "rotten kingdoms of Europe."

The hour appointed was noon, but when we arrived there were hardly 400 persons in the Plaza Retiro, standing in knots about the statue of General San Martín. Among these we noticed the Editors of the "Tribuna" and "Pueblo," Capt. Manilla, Sr. Bilbao, and a few other literary and forensic celebrities. At halfpast twelve, the speaker, General Yriarte, took the stand, and one of them played the National Hymn, while a battery of four pieces fired a salute from the hill overlooking the city house.

At one o'clock General Yriarte and other heroes of the Independence arrived on the ground, but were not saluted with a single "viva." A table was procured and, being placed against the railing of the statue, served for a platform. Don Hector Varela proposed that General Yriarte should preside, and that gentlemen mounted the table, each, being followed by several. At this time the crowd could not have been under 4,000 persons.

It seemed that the proceedings of the meeting had not been clearly arranged, only one member of the Club Puelo figuring on the platform, and the President of that body (Sr. Gutierrez) not attending. The veterans of Independence were so uniform, and inspired little of martial fever in their black uniforms and jerry lads. Nor were the speeches other than a few platitudes strung together on the spur of the moment, and so hackneyed that we did not hear a respectable cheer throughout. Small boys were scrambling for some printed paper among the crowd, to the effect that the great meeting of B. Ayres held in the Retiro, on June 6th, 1884, had resolved to send to Peru a public declaration of sympathy.

General Yriarte, having taken off his hat, opened the affair by exalting the statue of General San Martín, in the name of Argentina and of all South American republicans. He briefly explained the object of the meeting, and uttered amidst sundry "Vivas."

Don Alvaro Barros, an old gentleman who had held some civic post under the first Republican Government, reminded the audience of the efforts made by their forefathers for liberty, and hoped the present generation would bury the Vandals who dared to pollute the sacred soil of America. The audience was then thrown down by the tyrannical powers of Europe, and he felt that every denizen of this Continent would take it up. Buenos Ayres would, as before, in the holy cause, be the night succumb, but would never surrender her honor and liberty (loud cheers).

General Tomas Guido said—You all know, fellow-citizens, for what purpose we are assembled. The task which Argentina labored to achieve 50 years ago is not yet completed. We fought and bled in vain a fierce encounter to free ourselves from the galling yoke of Spain, the mother country, had imposed on the kingdom of the Incas. Under the leadership of this patriot hero (pointing to the statue), this second time we crossed the snow-capped Andes, we carried the Argentine banner from triumph to triumph, till San Martín, on the morning of April 18th, 1818, smote down the lion of Castile, on the plains of Chacabuco, and freed

three Republics. From the Plata to Rio de Janeiro, from the borders of the Andes, the old regime was extirpated, and our lungs breathed the vigorous and healthy air of liberty (cheers). The oppressors cherished the bitter remembrance of humiliation, and sought a pretext to send our republican institutions; but when reason was found wanting they adopted the arms of brute force and of barbarism. We are told that the War of Independence is not over—that there has only been a cessation of hostilities. Well, then, we repeat the declaration, and we urge our arms for the sword. The Spanish trumpet has already sounded: let the Argentine cannon-bell follow with a response. The history of 1810 will aid Peru to resist the aggression of our former tyrants; we will teach a lesson not to the nations of S. America, but to mankind, that the fire of patriotism is indestructible, and we will hold up to execration the Government whose officials are pirates and whose generals are robbers (applause).

Sr. Bilbao said: Citizens know what is happening in the old system of aggression of Spain? It is not merely a city or people, but an idea—the idea of Liberty and Republicanism. Liberty is America, and America is the home of every republican. The rotten thrones of Europe have conspired against this new order of things, which is destined to replace them, which is destined to replace them, which is destined to replace them.

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Here the speaker apologized for not being better prepared with his speech, and was warmly embraced by General Yriarte and Guido. The meeting was about to adjourn to the Plaza Victoria, Sr. Varela inviting those present to accept Gen. Yriarte's idea of swearing the Independence at the foot of the column of Liberty. Capt. Manilla directed the musicians to lead the procession, but an enthusiastic lady (name unknown) insisted on declaring his sympathy for Peru. He said—Citizens, hold up your heads and look at the hero of Maypú, Chacabuco, Junín, Cañal, Rayalá, Ayacucho, &c. He was a great man, and in his day there was less noise and more work, for San Martín cared little about popular demonstrations, but planted the corselet Argentine banner victory on every field. We Italians are sworn enemies to tyranny; we will lend our arms to an oppressed nation, but you Argentines must come forward with active measures, and if the Government will not do its duty, you know how to act.

A person calling himself a Spaniard (name unknown) declared himself a Spaniard, and hoped the Republic would allow him to fraternize, as all upright Spaniards detested the tyrannical measures of the Madrid Cabinet, and regarded Pinzon as a pirate (cheers and hiss).

A nervous looking young man named Rodriguez, from the Custom-house returned to remind the meeting that the wily great man of Argentine Independence, General Moreno (murmurs). No one could well understand the drift of this speech, and as the orators were becoming rather tiresome with dry repetition, the meeting moved off in silence "to the Plaza."

When the crowd turned down Calle Florida, there were close upon 5,000 persons in the long file of well-dressed citizens. Several carriages full of ladies were waiting at the corner of the Retiro, and the sounds of martial music drew all the occupants of the houses to the doors and windows, while an eagle carried the Argentine flag at the head of the procession. It was evident that most of those present were disgusted at the tone and insolent tone of the "friends of Peru," and when we reached the Plaza Victoria hardly 2,000 in all, including street urinals, assembled at the foot of the column, and went through the formality of swearing Independence at 2.30 p.m.

We understand that a part of the procession came down Calle San Martín, and stopped at the house of the President, who came out and told them they were fine fellows, and so were the "Chirinos," "honorable men," or so-called thing to that effect, but the bulk of the meeting knew nothing of this episode, following Calle Florida the whole way.

IMPRESSIONS IN A BALLOON.

From the moment of quitting the earth until arriving at the greatest possible height in space which man can reach, one passes (says M. Dupin Delcourt) through a series of new sensations. The most agreeable impression, undoubtedly, is that when we first leave the earth. In the commencement of the ascent, until reaching about 1,000 yards, the aerial voyager experiences a delightful flow of spirits, and one feels as in a pleasant dream.

wayed hither and thither by the zephyrus. With this sentiment is mixed an admiration for the lovely picture unfolded to us by Nature. As the horizon extends, the rivers show themselves in a hundred windings, the cities and hamlets are seen as in groups, we can count the roads and highways uniting them with each other, and the whole panorama is highly interesting. The different productions of the earth are readily distinguished by their variety of hue and shade. A field of corn is easily discernible, from a glass meadow, a forest from a vineyard. Passing 500 yards, the proportions of each object diminish most sensibly: men look like insects, and have also the atmosphere becomes gradually broken, and we begin to perceive ideas concerning the subject.

Soon the ascending force of the balloon impels us to a height of 1,000 or 1,200 yards; and with a more intense cold we feel a humming in the ears. At 2,000 yards we can make ourselves heard only with a great effort, the medium of sound (density) is felt in every part of the body. The air is gradually becoming more and more rarefied. The expansion of hydrogen gas, contained in the balloon, which began on our leaving earth, increases so rapidly, that it is sometimes necessary to turn the valve and allow it greater escape.

At 4,000 yards high the cold becomes excessive, the surface of the earth covered with a thin layer of snow, the rivers more streamlets, the sky is serene and generally deep blue. Reach 6,000 yards we see only large masses, and if a cannon shot is fired below, the fusils of heaven quiver and the balloons vibrate. If we let go birds at this height they fall or hardly fly, the air being too rarefied for their wings to find any support.

At 10,000 yards we see the greatest height to which man can ascend, and here the isolation is complete, but we cannot look remain here, for the cold is terrible, and a general uneasiness is felt in every part of the body. The voice can no longer be heard, except with extreme difficulty; and small animals die at this degree of elevation. Observations must be made with the greatest rapidity, for the balloon, which is the only visible object in the immensity of space, seems about to lose itself, and the hydrogen gas begins to escape unperceived. The atmospheric region is lost amidst profound gloom, for here physical Nature terminates.

The loss of gas, or sometimes its condensation by cold, causes the balloon to descend very rapidly, the cold becomes less intense, and the earth, which has now seemed but a grayish mass, unfolds itself anew, with its various and beautiful features, and the forest appears up and assume life on its surface. The trees seem budding plants, and the nearer we approach the more each individual mass, as it were, opens out and reveals its form and features. Some of us distinguish men and beasts, and at last again touch terra firma.

A skilful aeronaut can postpone this moment at will, throwing out the ballast which he carries in the basket. He may even leap over great distances and pass above the tree tops, amusing himself with frightening the cattle, whose alarming cries and precipitate flight show that they perceive a strange body of terrible appearance. The aeronaut may even attempt a second ascent, and if perchance a storm visit the earth he will be enabled to descend him new spectacles of admiration unknown to the rest of mankind. The wondrous formation of the clouds and the great operations wrought in the midst thereof are calculated to inspire respect and even awe in him who sees them for the first time.—Le Progrès.

LATEST FROM CATAMARCA.

According to our colleague, the "Puro Caril" of Rosario, things are in a bad way in this province.

The Government, it is said, has declared the greatest hostility against these very influential men in the province named Lobo, Augier, and Moreno, who are declared "maquis" by the authorities. But the Government of this province, it appears, has excluded 800 Catamarcanians, and has taken some 70,000 head of horned cattle from their owners, without paying them one farthing.

Besides this, our colleague's correspondent charges the Government with shooting a man, named Puelito, without any trial whatever, and four hours after his arrest.

We regret to say that upon the same authority we learn that this Government has executed 40 men, burnt down houses, and positively refused to receive any more Catamarcanians. This same Government, it is said, has discovered a wide-spread conspiracy, headed by Moreno, Augier, and Recalde, and a man named Lobo. Castro, has been arrested, and is expected to be shot hourly.

Commander Cordova, who is the most influential officer in the province, has had a split with the Government, and the Catamarcanians believe a revolution is imminent.

It is most afflictive to learn the foregoing particulars, respecting a province, which, if properly governed, would be the richest in the Republic. Catamarca cotton ranks higher than even United States. San Island, and yet notwithstanding the enormous value of such cotton, not one pound is produced. The leading idea of the province, instead of occupying themselves with augmenting the staples, are wasting their time and the public money in hateful politics. What, may we ask, do our readers think of these Provincial Governments? If it not true that they should be all abolished?

EDITORS' TABLE.

The departure of the three Ministers, on Sunday evening, for Montevideo, took all the town by surprise. If Sr. Lamas and Elizalde had gone down by themselves on board any of our river steamers, people would not have wondered so much, but when it was known that the *Sheldrake* was getting up steam, and Mr. Thornton, the British Minister, was to accompany their Excellencies, the quidnuncs were on the tip-toe of excitement. We hope this distinguished trio will succeed in arranging the Oriental Brazilian question, as things are beginning to look very cloudy on the other side.

Yesterday it rained all day long in town, and we have not heard from the camp; but from the appearance of the weather, we think it must have rained from here to the Chichas Islands.

A German sheepfarmer, resident at San Borombon, has bought a splendid estancia in Santa Fe, the other side of the Caracaras, 17 leagues from Rosario, at the rate of 4,000 Bolivian dollars per square league. The land has a fine monte on it, and is meadowed and bounded. He says that people who go down to Tandil, and pay 20,000 dollars, where they are constantly in danger of the Indians, instead of buying land in Santa Fe at 50,000 dollars, will yet find out their mistake. Three leagues further out, two Englishmen have also recently bought an estancia, and driven their sheep from Buenos Ayres on to the land. Four leagues this side of the German's estancia, an Irishman has purchased some four square leagues of land. This is what the Argentine Central Railway is doing for the province!

Our evening colleague, the "Pueblo," has got an "absent friend" in San Carlos, who has commenced a series of letters, entitled "Flores on San Nicolas." This plagiarist correspondent states that he was half-starved on board the *Pavon* on his way up, and owing to the diminutive size of the blatt, he almost froze in the berth. Other people, who have travelled on board this favourite steamer, however, give a very different account of the accommodation on board, and we ourselves, who have more than once made a trip on board the *Pavon*, can well willingly testify not only to the superior cuisine and comfortable beds, but to the courteous conduct of the commander of the steamer, Captain Price.

It appears that the negotiations going on between Brazil and the Oriental Government have suddenly terminated. No reason is alleged for this abrupt conclusion, but the Brazilian Minister forthwith went on board a Brazilian man-of-war lying in the harbour.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that the hint we threw out, respecting the establishment of an English theatre, has been productive of good effect.

Several parties have already caught up the idea, and soon we hope to publish, in the "Standard," that on the 10th inst. we will be given "Shakespeare to Conquer," or the "Lady of Lyons," to conclude with the popular farce of "Box and Cox," &c. We promise our enterprising friends, that if they set their hearts on it, we will secure for them a full house twice a week.

A distinguished English merchant, who has received a "notice" of the new yerba, about which there was so much talk previous to the Pinzon question. Every one is invited to call and see it, but we have not been informed whether samples are given or not. Novel as it is, this yerba in our market, still more novel is it to see an English merchant selected to introduce it to the market. We have some excellent samples of Jameson's five year old whisky at our office, but, from private motives of our own, we refrain from inducing the public to inspect it.

The *Triton* and *Palmist*, both war vessels, arrived in port on Saturday, from Montevideo.

The Provincial Government has paid up the first call on the shares of the Central Railway which it subscribed for. The call amounted to the sum of 88,410 dollars.

Notwithstanding the rain, there was a tremendous conflagration at the bank and four millions burnt, we believe that, like the last, the "quemazon" was strictly private. Mr. Zamudio sought to burn the money in the patio, where the public could see for themselves the paper money going to blazes.

Mr. Sunblad, a distinguished foreigner, married into one of the oldest families in town, died on Saturday. Messrs. Drabble Brothers have presented the Correntine Government with two cotton gins. This leading English house has always displayed the most praiseworthy interest in cotton-planting, and has set a good example to all the other English houses in town. We hope Mr. Blanco, of Montevideo, who is present in this city trying to get up a cotton-planting society, will meet with support from our English houses; they should study their own interests in promoting this industry. The day we export fifty thousand bales of cotton, our English merchants may double their incomes.

"Compas," the great monetary correspondent of the "Nacion Argentina," has published his last article. This project is, to get large quantities of specie from Europe and retain it here. We agree with this tedious correspondent, but we are anxious to know how we can keep the specie here when we spend more than we earn. M. Riestra's project is the most sensible yet proposed; we hope to see it carried, but Article 88 must be passed.

COLUMBIANS FROM MONTVIDEO.

We have been informed that the Argentine steamer *Corrientes*, coming to this port from Buenos Ayres, met a vessel at 11.20 p.m. without any lights.

When the *Corrientes* saw her, she was at such a short distance, that they had no time but to put the helm a starboard, and run into the prow of the N.E., the wind being fresh a head, and fanning 54 knots an hour. The vessel suffered the collision between the mainmast and *Corrientes* port, with the following injuries:—Cordage and stays of the mainmast broken, the masts wrecked, and a boat knocked to pieces, the masts and rigging of engineers' cabin and pantry, with a great deal of the glass and earthenware they contained, damaged, mainmast and keel gut and, in general, great damage to the rigging.

The Swedish brig *Wallekron*, and English ship *Don Diego*, which left Montevideo on the 2nd inst., the first to meet the wrecked vessel, were in New York, laden with produce, came fast of each other at 11 p.m., same night. The Swedish lost her bowsprit, and suffered other injuries, which obliged her to put back to port for repairs. The *Don Diego* (this is the iron vessel which made so rapid a trip from Liverpool) was also injured, but has not returned.—Telegrafo Marítimo.

PERFORMANCE OF ATAR-GULL.

On Saturday evening at the invitation of Capt. Manilla we attended his Benefit at the Victoria Theatre. The house was crowded, the President and his family being present, and we remarked a good many English and other foreigners. The drama went off very well, the interest of the plot being sustained throughout, and the actors doing full justice to the various brilliant passages of the play. The author's political adversaries condemn *Atar-Gull* as a horribly stupid and also charged him with borrowing from Eugene Sue, but these assertions must destroy each other, and although we do not go so far as the "Tribuna" in our admiration, the tragedy seems to us really well written and full of dramatic effect.

The first act is the weakest, the dialogue being somewhat tedious. In the 2d and 3d, the incidents are well arranged, but the apostrophe of the ugly old negro in love with the heroine is too sublime, elevating *Samba* to the level of a Platonic philosopher. The "denouement" of *Atar-Gull's* conspiracy is very fine, except that we doubt the fact of the slaves committing suicide merely to do him a favor. In Act IV, we regret that the romance of implacable revenge has destroyed the moral, for the treacherous negro poisons his master, while the latter leaves him all his fortune.

Atar-Gull is a series of fine tableaux, in which the brilliancy of coloring destroys the effect of light and shade. It is a poetic narration in which the redundancy of metaphor sometimes clogs too argument, but the poetry of sentiment and dramatic grouping of characters and events carry us through, and we are entertained with the recital; however displaced by the moral. Few did crime is made to triumph over repent virtue, and the most diabolical villain is shown to be a natural impulse in the hearts of that race which we are asked to place on a level with

