

The Standard

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The Standard.
"All latest and most interesting news from all parts of the world."
—Globe.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1864.

ARGENTINE INTERESTS.

Our present system of Government seems so identical with that of the United States that at first sight it would appear that our constitution was framed in Washington and not Buenos Ayres, but a minute investigation of the obligations of the ruled and the duties of the rulers would soon convince the impartial foreigner of the wide and important difference which exists between the two systems.

The Argentine nation, ruled as it is at present, never can progress in any branch of industry or manufacture which requires the fostering care of legislation or national protection, and this is simply because our institution have been framed more with the view to rule a people than build up a nation.

The present National Government is so admirably adapted for a country thickly populated and in a country flourishing condition, but for a nation such as this, in, as it were, the very morning of its existence, it is not only unsuitable but actually tends to retard the progress of the country at large.

In the United States of North America the most important branch of the executive is the agricultural department, the very one which is unknown in this country. Until the revolution broke out the workings of that department were seen from Maine to Florida. From Long Island to the Rocky Mountains; the secretary of this department was, after the President, the most influential man in the Union—and let our readers bear in mind that although Argentina have imitated North Americans in their institutions, they have studiously omitted this most important of all.

Any man to judge the Argentine Republic by the debates going on in Congress, which is alleged by some historians to be a very safe mode of judging a nation or a people, would be led to believe that the industry of this country was so advanced, that our manufactures were so numerous and flourishing that these subjects required no further legislation, and that the Congress men who sit every day in the Plaza 26 de Mayo were not the representatives of miserable half starved provinces, but of a powerful republic boasting of forty millions of inhabitants.

Why, we take up the records of the North American Congress, and we find these Argentine legislators not at present occupied discussing subjects which only in recent years were often mooted in Washington.

The cold, cruel, systematic indifference of our senators and deputies to everything that concerns the industrial progress of the country has inflamed our animosity against this Argentine Congress, which wastes its time in long windy discussions on rights and privileges which are neither comprehended nor appreciated beyond the paved streets of Buenos Ayres.

Of one thing there cannot be the slightest doubt, and that is, that either our legislators are too far ahead of the people whom they rule, or the people are too far behind our legislators; in either case the result is the same—Congress makes laws which are never carried out, and the people adopt customs which never become laws. Thus in fact the beneficial influence of a constitutional house of representatives is utterly unknown in this country, for the Congress is going one way and the people another.

In our anxiety to call attention to these matters it is to be hoped that we will not be deemed hostile to the institutions of the country, for such is

not our intention, but when we see the same jog-trot proceedings going on in Congress every day of every year, we cannot withhold from making these few cursory remarks.

We have a minister of government, a minister of war, a minister of education, a minister of finance, and a minister of foreign affairs, and then we have a minister to the Court of St. James and St. Cloud, we have another minister on his way to the United States, and if we are rightly informed we have some half dozen others in embryo; and where does the money come from to pay all the salaries and outlays for these ministers, their attaches and secretaries? Go ask the starving gauchos of the interior—ask the unfortunate Argentine who is torn from his home and his family to defend the frontier—ask the miserable farmer in the provinces, whose industry is limited to a few cobs of maize for the want of seed, for the want of capital, for the want of proper legislation.

We call the attention of Argentina to the great want of an agricultural department in our executive; we can dispense with diplomatic dinners for the present, we question even if we would feel the want of the ministers who give them; but of the most beneficial reforms for the country would be to turn half our ministers into agricultural agents empowered by Congress to distribute seeds and farming implements amongst the neglected provinces.

We hold that there are too many engaged in the administration of public affairs in this country, and that the condition of a nation is dangerous in the extreme where three-fourths of the community are engaged in ruling the remaining one-fourth. It may not be because we are foreigners to attack too severely the introduction of expensive habits so hostile to republican simplicity, but if the Argentine Republic was even not so poor as it is, it would, with all our ministerialism, require more than the genius of Mr. Chase to make both ends meet.

Few in Buenos Ayres are acquainted with the impoverished state of the people in the interior. It is high time that Congress should do something for them; the people want seeds, want money, want farming implements—why does not Congress supply them?

THE PALLERIE ALBUM.
This fortnight's pictures are interesting in subject, being purely characteristic of the River Plate, and well-conceived in grouping and expression.

The Vigil of the Dead represents a custom of Christian piety, on the eve of All Souls day. The scene is laid in the churchyard of Victoria, Entre Rios, and the sunset of a summer evening throws a soothing mellowness over the surrounding landscape. In the middle of the picture stands the emblem of Christianity, encircled by a small railing on which are hung funeral garlands. To the right is a group of an old woman and a boy praying beside a grave, and a young man and girl placing lanterns and fresh flowers over a stone; the deceased was probably brother and son to the mourners, and the flowers and lighted candles are strikingly figurative of the perfume of a good name, and the light of immortality. In front of the cross is a rural maiden, with her infant sister, come to pay the annual tribute of filial remembrance to a departed parent; the child has a wreath of flowers, and five candles are burning over the grave.

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many being bare-foot, and others, including the captain, have untanned "botas de potro." The foreground is occupied by three cavaliers, with lances, of whom carry the red cross which gives their army the name of "Colorados," and seems a burlesque on the crusades. The third is evidently a General or of the like, and is receiving despatches from an officer on foot; his horse is a fine animal, caparisoned with silver mountings, and the rider wears a handsome white poncho. The ensigns carry lances which may be considered their real emblem, for the present war has been directed entirely against cattle and the lasso often used than lance or sword. The background shows the suburbs of Paysandú, the picture having been taken during the raid and last of the unsuccessful siege by Flores' rebel followers.

Articles for the Paris Exhibition (Continued).

31. Pedigree Wheat. This sample was brought to Buenos Ayres, by Mr. Phibis, from Europe, and is supposed to be very fertile. Nevertheless, it has not been tried in the River Plate, the name "pedigree" being offensive to Republicans, and suggestive of aristocracy, monarchy, &c.

32. Ready-reckoner. The cabinet bearing this name contains a revolver and 100 patent cartridges; it is very useful in attending meetings, elections, or evening parties, enabling the possessor to settle accounts *a la Tuluza*, with any one making an unreasonable claim.

33. Meat-cutter. The machine so marked is an American invention, patented by Dr. Cornwall: the upper and lower rolls cut simultaneously. Visitors requested to take care of their fingers when the operator shows the machine in motion.

34. There are two kinds: those used in the National Congress, and those adopted at camp elections. The first are worked by a backward movement of the left hand, and the second kept well-closed. The second requires a horse "al tiro," and are usually managed by alcaldes.

35. Higger stypes. This is a pretty collection—"The pictures of the Parana," "The Calidito patients," "The San Juan Rifles," "The Flores banditti," &c.

36. Mexican time. A live animal stationed near the entrance to take charge of sticks and umbrellas. Some people would term this shade, in English, "half and half," in any event he will serve for purpose.

37. Preserved beef. This method is not the Olden or Brazen, but one invented by a German land surveyor who lately succeeded in saving his bacon in a warlike manner on the Indian frontier.

38. Camp cooking apparatus. This exceedingly simple contrivance is only an iron bar, called an "sendero"; it is so portable that when you go out of your house at night, anytime it will serve for cooking any kind of food.

39. Argentine Salt. Very useful in the Attic, and found mostly in large beds near Patagonias. As the Indians take the credit of these deposits in the Colorado banks, they often draw on us three days after sight, but these transactions have been protested by Sr. Ufiero. Many old salts are to be found in Buenos Ayres. That kind imported from Gibraltar is called Rock salt.

40. Indian Arms. A bow and arrow exhibited by Sr. Sarmiento, Quisque de San Juan, who is very expert in pulling the long bow. A lance belonging to Juan San. A lasso and bolas worn by the late launched General Guecho, of the Indian cavalry brigade.

EDITORIAL TABLE.

We are happy to hear that there is the greatest demand for boxes and tents in Colon for the benefit on Friday night. The Buenos Ayres agents of the United States Sanitary Commission will, after all, be able to remit home a respectable sum for the poor wretched soldiers and their distressed families.

The latest news from the interior—ask the unfortunate Argentine who is torn from his home and his family to defend the frontier—ask the miserable farmer in the provinces, whose industry is limited to a few cobs of maize for the want of seed, for the want of capital, for the want of proper legislation.

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Fortunate Intelligence.
The Plata ball will be given on Saturday night. There will be a large attendance, including President Mitre and family.

The second lecture of the British Library will be given next week by the senior Scotch chaplain, Rev. Mr. Smith; we have not heard the subject. The ensuing one will be given by the American pastor, Rev. Mr. Goodfellow. It is also proposed to get up a series of lectures at the American church.

The third meeting of the Literary Circle took place last night: one lady (Miss. Vorelia) has been elected honor ary member and attends the Club. It is hoped that others will follow her example.

On Monday evening the editor of the "Tribuna" gave a grand ball. On Tuesday the English society took place.

A concert for the Irish School will be given at the grand saloon of Colanthea on Tuesday evening 9th inst.

It is expected the American Sanatory Benefit will be a great success on Friday evening.

Nothing positive is known about Mr. Wells' balloon ascent, as the required amount (\$30,000 mps.) in jets cannot be made up.

A morning paper mentions as "a sign of the times" that six fashionable marriages were celebrated on Saturday.

The "Blanc" white-bait dinner on Monday evening was quite on the European style. President Mitre, Dr. Rawson, Sr. Gonzalez, Dr. Costa, and General Gelly-ubel, all the foreign consuls, and several other guests were present.

The "Nation" mentions two grand tournaments to come off this week, in calles Saipulca and Maypu.

The obsequies of the late Dr. Victorio Peña were celebrated on Monday in presence of a large concourse of friends.

On Saturday a private concert was given in calle Chaya, which is said to have been most successful.

His Excellency Count Uffys Barbolani, Italian Minister to the courts of B. Ayres and Montevideo, arrived here on Sunday aboard the Italian war steamer Fulminante.

The Chevalier Grece, Spanish Minister to the Oriental republic has been also accredited in a like capacity to B. Ayres.

Mme Curtis teacher of music and singing, has grown as popular as we are anticipated, in her profession. She has changed her residence to No. 79 Tucuman.

Byron's poem of the Giaour has been translated into Spanish by an Argentine writer named Pedro Espinosa. We shall be obliged to any fair reader who will favor us with a review of same.

The foot-race will take place at Palermo on Saturday between our three English friends, for £20 a side. We incorrectly stated that Mr. B. ran 100 in 22 seconds: the time was but 10 seconds.

Parties now are all the rage: that on Friday evening was well attended, but we regret to learn that one of the gentlemen was slightly injured by slipping from a form which overbalanced.

His Excellency Sr. J. de Saravia, Brazilian plenipotentiary for Montevideo, to-day.

By next mail we may expect the engineers of the Central Argentine railway.

The traction engine El Buoy got up steam on Monday and proceeded from the Riachuelo wharf to the barraca.

RIO NEGRO.

The Eco brings dates from Mercedes to the 30th ult. On the day previous a man named Maximino Perez, commanding a small force of rebels, made a descent on the neighbourhood of Bacocho, and carried off all the men and horses that he met in his march. The event of the Manu Bank in Mercedes, Mr. J. P. Ritter, advises his customers that their correspondence must be in one of the following languages: Spanish, Portuguese, English, French or German.

This gives us an idea of the label of tongues prevalent in a town of 8,000 inhabitants; we regret to find that Mr. Ritter does not understand Guarani, it is a sweet language.

The Italian Consul and Sr. Pezel. The rumour so prevalent in town on Monday to the effect that Signor Astengo was dead and buried is manifestly untrue. In yesterday's "Nation" Argentina he publishes several documents explanatory of the quarrel, which we have not space to give. The quarrel was not about playing the Garibaldi and San Martin hymns at the late benefit of the Italian Hospital. The Consul's secretary, Sr. Pennino and Harro, insisted that Pezzi was guilty of a personal insult to the Consul's health (declined), Sr. Francini and Berrafini, maintained the contrary. A jury was then named, of the editors of the "Nation," and "Pueblo" and Dr. Montenegro (all free-lancers), who decided that there was nothing personally injurious to the Consul, but merely an appreciation of

