

The Standard

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SUBSCRIPTION TO THE STANDARD

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ADVERTISEMENTS.
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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The Standard.

"All taint pudem nil veri non audem dicere."—Cicero.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1864.

THE AMERICAN BENEFIT

To night the Italian company will give the opera of 'Marta' at Colón Theatre, for the benefit of the United States Sanitary Committee. If there is a pleasure in doing good, we may be excused any mention of the theatrical attractions on this night, and make a few remarks about the charitable object in view.

Many and contending opinions are held about the present war in the United States, but no one can fail to entertain the highest esteem for the philanthropic association, which entirely dedicates its energies to the care of the poor wounded soldier, rescuing him on the field of battle and tending him in hospital. Who so helpless and deserving of pity as he? What mission more angelic than that of lending him relief? These two reflections are worth a homily on Christian charity.

In claiming the sympathy of our readers, we address ourselves to the English and Germans: the Americans need no invitation. On a former occasion we called to mind the princely and indiscriminate generosity of the United States to Ireland, Lancashire, and other suffering populations. Yet in the present case, we do not so much consider it a matter of national acknowledgment, as a noble act of kindness, where kindness is most felt, and purely individual.

Each of those who assist at the Benefit to-night, so generously given by the Italian lessee (Sr. Postalardo), will have the just conviction that he has bound up the bleeding limb, perhaps preserved the life, of a fellow-countryman; we may say of a countryman. Every dollar so contributed, will furnish the medicine and attendance of hospital care to some disabled poor fellow, or bring comfort to his home.

Many a grateful tear will course down the bronzed cheek of the veteran lying on his bed of pain, when he hears that far-off friends in Buenos Ayres have contributed for his relief. Many a sorrow-stricken wife will praise God with joy for the husband restored to her through the efforts of our citizens. Many a fervent prayer will be offered up night and morning by infant voices for those generous persons who have saved them from orphanage. And yet it is no less easy than pleasant to do this good work. We feel we have said enough by merely reminding our readers that the American benefit takes place to-night.

THE CENSUS

When the new Provincial Minister entered office, the first thing we heard of was, that the Government of Buenos Ayres had determined to take a census, which, to our mind, would be a most beneficial measure. Application was made to us by a gentleman who has the *entré* at the Government-house, for any census returns or books which we had or knew of. We at once applied to a distinguished foreign gentleman for the last census book of the United States, and obtained same, but there the matter apparently ended. We profess to be utterly ignorant of the reason why the census project seems to have been suspended, and think that as no good objection can be offered to it, that the Government should carry it out.

The economists of Buenos Ayres base all their calculations upon the Custom-house returns: the number of sheep, cows, horses, and mares in the country are all *guessed* at from the Custom-house figures, which represent wool and hides exported. The reason of this is, that real statistics cannot be got at, and in the taking of the proposed census equal care should be taken in ascertaining the number of sheep and cattle in each partido, as the white, black, and mixed population of the province.

But the labours of the census takers should not be confined to these items only, they should also take the number of unemployed gauchos living in each partido: that is to say, it is notorious that in every district there are mud ranches occupied by people who follow no particular industry, and who have no visible means of subsistence. These hovels are the nests of crime: they shelter the murderer, the thief, the vagrant of every description. We want to get at the exact number of these establishments, to show up to the public, and to our rulers the urgent necessity of a sweeping camp reform.

Another interesting item would be the number of those 'boliches,' or grog shops, the average capital of the proprietors, and also the number of 'mercaderes' perching through the partidos.

The Minister who obtains such a census, whether Crudo or Cocido, we care not, deserves well of the country, for the present unprotected state of the camp baffles all description: homeless gauchos are galloping day and night, robbing in one place, selling in another, and fighting and killing in a third. We feel in justice bound to say, that the majority of these characters are provincianos, the natives of the camps of Buenos Ayres, for the most part, having their families and struggling in an honest way to eke out a livelihood.

We hope, therefore, that the census project is not lost sight of, as we feel convinced, if properly taken, it will do a deal of good, and at least serve to convince the men in power that the 'Standard' had good cause for demanding a thorough camp reform.

THE CALVETE QUESTION

We regret to be obliged emphatically to deny all participation in the opinions of the 'Nacion Argentina' and other impartial papers who seek to defend the Calvete libel or at least save its author from the chastisement of Congress and quote the 'Standard' as an ally in their opinions. The 'Nacion,' being Senator Piñero's penny-whistle, of course invokes vengeance on the offender; but in the present case the 'Standard' is above suspicion of bias, and on principle we demand punishment for a disgraceful and scurrilous attack based on a personal infirmity of the aggrieved party. In our idea it is perfectly lawful, being, matter of opinion, to call the Congress-a set of donkeys; the camp alcaides-a parcel of scoundrels, the judges-a corrupt body of hypocrites; the President-a tyrant, and the Governor-a pettifogger, since the very office these men hold exposes them to fearless censure. We should be sorry to see any attempt to bridge the public voice in such appreciations, be they true or false.

But it is very different when a poor man is held up to public ridicule for a defect in his features. That assailant has indeed a bad case who is reduced to the miserable extremity of proving that his adversary is wrong, because he is ugly. And what shall we say of the logical brother-Senator who sought to defend Calvete on the grounds that Sor Piñero does squint? He might study English law to advantage, for in such cases it is laid down—the greater the truth the greater the libel.

As to the threat of horse whipping, it is equivalent to the fulfilment of so scandalous an outrage; and it is surprising if Congress can pass over the same with indifference. Certainly our National Chambers in such a case would sink below the level of a parish school. It is, moreover, necessary to put a stop to this system of military bullying: we remember the case of the German gentleman who was shot for not giving the side path to a fellow wearing a sword. Are we to canonize such outrages? General Gelly obeys is highly reprehensible for the liberty given to soldiers: we wish to see it checked with an iron hand.

The 'Nacion Argentina,' and French paper oppose the interference of Congress in the present confessedly scandalous case, on grounds apparently judicious and most plausible. It is feared that if an example be given for arbitrary jurisdiction in matters of the Press, all freedom of speech will be destroyed or at least menaced. We do not fear such an event, although the 'Standard' might naturally expect to be most obnoxious, as we are daily in the habit of saying that our legislators are not giving value for their high salaries, and that they often commit fooleries.

Nevertheless we uphold public decency and the dignity of the popular representatives, and while arming Congress with a weapon which it may afterwards employ against itself, we have sufficient confidence to continue our fearless censure when we consider it merited, whether by President or Chambers; but we will never descend to the ignominy of ridiculing a man's features, or threatening to horsewhip him because he squints.

In may appear the more strange that we take this view of M. Piñero's case, since that Senator had the audacity and disregard for truth to say in his paper 'El Nacional' that one of the Editors of the 'Standard' when formerly a teacher of languages was guilty of stealing candles from his pupils. The charge was absurd, but no less an indication of the venom of an ill-regulated mind. We pity the unfortunate man that in his old age, he has to complain of an abuse which he was the first to introduce.

The sooner, however, such abuses are stopped, the better for the honour of Buenos Ayres, for the dignity of the Press, and for the happiness of all. We therefore, demand a prosecution of the Calvete libel.

EDITOR'S TABLE

It rained heavily on Wednesday night. The roads are, as a matter of course, in a most horrible state, and as for the streets, the ladies will have to put on Bloomer costume, if the Municipality do not employ some scavengers to clear away the mud and puddle.

The Brazilian steamer Gerente arrived in Montevideo on the 3d inst., with a number of passengers, and bringing dates from Rio to the 20th of July. She brought a number of passengers to Montevideo, but no later dates from Europe or the States.

The great row in the Boca seems to have completely subsided, but as yet we have not heard the number of killed, wounded, and missing.

Minister Saraiva has at last gone down to Montevideo with an ultimatum in his pocket for President Aguirre, allowing him only 48 hours to give an answer, *puo* or *con*. We understand that Sr. Aguirre is as anxious as ever for peace, but that there are now difficulties in the way now. It is the ardent wish of all, that terms should be come to, and an end put to the Flores' revolution.

In the town of Chascomus another meeting has been held for the purpose of building an hospital which is so much required. We are glad to see that the Juez de Paz, and all the principal men in Chascomus take part in the movement; and it is to be hoped, that the Provincial Government will also lend its aid, as owing to the growing importance of the town an hospital is very much required.

In the southern part of this city robberies are alarmingly increasing. A gentleman who resides near Lezama's Quinta, in Calle Defensa, states that during the last few days more than half a dozen of houses have been robbed.

Captain Hanham sailed from Montevideo for the Pacific, on the 3rd inst., in his yacht Themis. When in Buenos Ayres he offered to take Mr. John Lelong with him to Valparaiso and the Sandwich Islands; but, we are happy to say, Mr. Lelong declined most graciously the offer.

Mr. Hamberger, who was formerly United States' Consul in Asuncion, we understand is compiling a history of Paraguay, which will be shortly published in Stuttgart, in four different languages. German, French, English, and Spanish. Our colleague, the 'Tribuna,' who has probably seen the proof sheets, states that this work in question will not tend to create any very favourable opinion of Paraguay in Europe. We are surprised at this, as from what we know of Mr. Hamberger's diplomatic, or rather Consular, career in Paraguay, we should say he would be the last person to speak badly of a country where he received such uniform kindness.

To day three or four young Englishmen take a run up to Entre Rios to look for camp and sheep. They all have money. They are pushing fellows, and we wish them the best of good luck.

House rent, we read in the 'Tribuna,' is falling, or rather the land lords who attempted to increase their rents 25 or 30 per cent., have found out their mistake, as the tenants fled, and the houses have for the last three months remained unoccupied.

A subscriber from Escudra writes us that the camps are in splendid condition, and the farmers out there in the best of humor. No sales of sheep or land out in that neighborhood lately. The heirs of one John Butler are notified in a legal manner to present themselves. We see the advertisements in the Spanish papers, and think probably it may concern some of our subscribers. Mr. Fox evidently forgot to publish the advertisement in the 'Standard.'

The English ship Sea Park, which sailed from Cardiff to Callao, was lost on the Brazilian coast: the captain, pilot, and ten of the crew were picked up by the Fraternidade, after being three days in the ocean.

DEBATE IN THE BRAZILIAN CHAMBERS

Hostilities to Banda Oriental

On the 23rd ult. the Brazilian Senate was occupied with Sor Da Motta's interpellation of the Cabinet, calling for explanations as to the course intended by Government in the Montevidean question.

The President of the Council objected to such explanation as highly inconvenient in the present state of affairs. The failure of negotiations between Flores and President Aguirre did not import a defeat to our envoy, since his business was quite distinct, namely to demand reparation for injuries done to Brazilian subjects. It happened that the British Minister, Mr. Thornton, proposed to the Argentine Foreign Secretary, Sor Elizalde, to attempt a mediation, in which Sor Saraiva was afterwards invited to take part. The latter did so, to show the interests of Brazil in a pacific arrangement. It is therefore not true that Sor Saraiva went in the tail of Sor Elizalde, but rather vice-versa. Neither is the retirement of our envoy from Montevideo equivalent to a rupture of diplomatic relations, since he only went to B. Ayres to present his credentials to the Argentine Government. On his return he would present an Ultimatum to President Aguirre. This does not amount to a declaration of war, but simply measures of precaution or reprisal to enforce respect for the rights of Brazilian residents. For this purpose our army is about to cross the frontier a step justified by the law of nations, which may be a prelude to war, though not actually a commencement of hostilities. Such is the actual state of the question. We may be forced into war; if so the Government will not hesitate, but there is still a hope of peace.

Sr Da Motta thanked the Minister for his observations, but regretted he had not answered with more frankness to the popular enquiries. He was however mistaken in attributing to Mr. Thornton the idea of mediation first, since President Mitre in his pretended excursion on board the English gunboat had on that previous occasion an interview with Flores in Argentine waters. The Brazilian Minister unfortunately held an inferior position in the mediation, for at a conference held in Montevideo, the English Minister sat at the head of the table. It is also stated in that capital that the English Government will take measures to prevent any coercive action on the part of Brazil in the republic. It is clear that the English Minister got up the mediation in order to counteract the Brazilian demands. Sor Saraiva was so pusillanimous as to withdraw his note of our demands at Pres. Aguirre's request. Our Government cannot be so blind as to think President Aguirre the only enemy Brazil has in that country. Experience shows the contrary. In 1851 we aided Gen. Flores to be elected President. What satisfaction did we get for our claims in 1857, similar to the present? Montevideo has cost Brazil much blood and money, and our experience there is unfortunate. The lawful Government cannot hold its ground. The Ministry talk of an Ultimatum, but do not state what our army is going to do. It will cross the frontier, but what places will it seize, what armies will it first encounter, or is it merely intended for a grand parade?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs in reply stated that Sor Saraiva was slow to intimidate the Oriental Government, since it would have the effect of strengthening the rebels. His mission was one of peace although charged with an Ultimatum; hence he at once joined the mediation; but now that it had failed it was time to present the Ultimatum, and take the law into our own hands, by occupying the frontier, placing forces in the Uruguay and preventing the repetition of injuries. The Imperial Government is determined to display great firmness.

Sr Pimenta deprecated the mediation of Saraiva, as being a recognition of Flores as a belligerent. In future the Imperial Government must treat with that rebel.

Sor Ferrez stated that the rebels had received supplies from the Brazilian provinces openly, and denied Flores' rights as a belligerent.

The debate was continued in the session of the 25th ult.

Sor Paranhos condemned the ultimatum as being a menace of hostilities, and likely to involve Brazil in a serious war. Sor Saraiva was also wrong in joining a mediation got up with a view to counteract the demands of Brazil, and initiated by the Minister of a court which our diplomatic relations are at present suspended. As to reprisals this would be worse than armed intervention, for the former exposes us to war, while the latter would in any case restore peace to the Oriental republic.

As to recognition of Flores as a belligerent. Sor Saraiva was not to blame, since President Aguirre admitted him such rights. It would be well therefore for Brazil to make an armed intervention.

Sor Zacharias insisted on reprisals for the murders and robberies committed on Brazilian subjects, for which the Oriental republic must make satisfaction. Brazil should employ her forces by land and sea to do herself justice, and protect her citizens resident in that republic. War might ensue from the reprisals, but no other means was left. Armed intervention was inconvenient as the Imperial Government would side with neither of the belligerents.

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Extract from the Banda Oriental.

From Paysandu we learn that everything is very quiet. The Government troops are in possession of the camps, and patrols are kept up on account of the bands of runaways said to exist in the woods.

Ledesma and several other prisoners have been sent on to Salta, and Saldañas and others have taken their place.

In Nueva Palmyra there has been a grand 'facion,' and a public dinner given in the hotel to commemorate the victory of Laguna over the rebels. Laguna is at present in Fray Bentos.

In Montevideo public attention is attracted on the Bolsa question. Several of the leading merchants have offered to subscribe a fund.

The foreign estancieros are doing well, but the natives are fairly beggared by the revolution. The camps could not be in better condition, but it is almost impossible at present to sell land or sheep, and even sheepskins and hides have to be stored at the estancias, owing to the want of carts and peons.

The town of Fray Bentos which before the revolution was making such rapid progress, is now, in consequence of the mutations of authority, and the clean sweeps which have been made on the principal shops, almost deserted, the streets are covered with grass, and half the houses untenanted.

In Paysandu there is not such a visible sign of decay, owing to the presence of the troops and the numerous English estancieros in the vicinity, but still the place has suffered seriously. If the revolution lasts another 6 months the towns along the Uruguay will be all ruined and deserted.

POLICE REPORT.

1. The rioters in the Boca, who repulsed the Commissary and police, took to flight before the reinforcement from the Police could arrive.

2. The following articles were stolen from the shop at No. 76 Calle Cordoba: 1 piece of cloth, 1 piece of cashmere, 12 cloth bags, 4 cloth shirts, 2 plaid do., several linen shirts, a frock-coat, 2 vest-patterns, 4 hats, and several pieces of tailoring.

3. Colonel Arredondo, lodging in room 60 of the Ancla Dorada, was robbed of some clo hes, jewellery and a revolver, which were taken while he was dining in the hotel. The robber has not been discovered.

4. Mrs. Juana Gonzalez, Miss Navid Plater, and Mrs. Jacinta Navia were taken to the Municipal House. It seems they had confused ideas about *meum* and *tuum*.

5. The 2d Section of Police sent 11 women under arrest, during last month, to the Police. Taking the other sections in the same ratio, we have 184 females arrested each month, or 2,208 per annum.

6. By a new police regulation the horses of vigilantes are only allowed 38 of hay per diem; those of Commissaries 108.

7. Latest accounts from Barracas state that a number of desertors have taken refuge on board a vessel in the Riachuelo. It is hoped the police will be able to catch them. [Nacion Argentina.]

LAW ON PUBLIC LANDS.

The Finance Minister is laudably endeavoring to hunt jobbers in the public lands from the field: his decree, of July 28th, and that of October, are serious stumbling blocks to the fraternity. His preamble to the decree of October is solely directed to the 'Negocioito' Club, but unfortunately it came into force when the best lands in quality and locality were in the hands of those the Minister alluded to; the consequence is, that a great part of them really are, as he states, 'unstocked and uncultivated.' Almost every land agent in town has some of these lands to dispose of, at prices varying from fifteen thousand to fifty thousand dollars per square league, for the right of possession—a title which experience shows to be very brittle, owing to the first holders not fulfilling the conditions required by Government. With this the land agents have nothing to do, they dispose of the article without meddling with the disposer's right to it. In fact, so few and exceptional are those who have got quiet or peaceable possession of public land, that the very name of Government land is enough to frighten the intending purchaser, if he purchases with the intention of settling. When that is not the case—when the

purchaser is a jobber who buys with the view of effecting a 'negocioito'—then, indeed, he buys without any fear, because he has most likely, in view some hard working, honest farmer to whom he transfers his right in the land as well as the right to defend some half dozen lawsuits with which it is, in ninety cases out of a hundred, already entangled. This is what brings Government land into disrepute, and what has caused, and will yet cause, thousands to seek in Santa Fé the home Buenos Ayres denies them.

The Minister, who has already done so much, should not rest on his oars. It would be advisable to keep in the Public Lands Office three separate lists of all the public lands ceded or rented inside and outside the frontier; one list to contain all the lands in litigation, the second all those to which there is an undisputed title, with the name of the person holding such title, and the third a full and explicit statement of the lots at the disposal of Government. This is asking very little more than what the 3d Article of the Decree of the 25th of June, 1863, orders. The advantage of this is obvious, for instance: Mr. A. offers to sell me his right to three leagues of land in Junin, whereupon I go to the Public Lands Office for information and am told there that Mr. A.'s title is good; with such information I may safely buy, but if I am told that Mr. A.'s title is disputed, I refuse purchasing from Mr. A. until he proves his claim, unless, indeed, I were a member of the Negocioito Club, in which I would very probably come to terms with Mr. A.—some such terms as this: if I caught the fish I would be entitled to half, or a certain share, of the profits—you understand me, brethren. It is probable the Public Lands Office could class the lands under these heads from the register ordered by the decree of June, 1863; if not, it would be absolutely necessary to put again in force the 18th Article of the old law. Another effort, Mr. Minister, will crown your work, and the brightest page in some futuro edition of the Historia Argentina will be the historian's noble efforts to serve his country. DICK.

AN INCORRIGIBLE ROBBER.

Military Flogging Necessary.

About twelve months ago four English ladies, (three of them belonging to the house and the other a visitor), after having gossiped a little about their neighbors, shut the doors and retired to rest, the stranger sleeping in the room next the sala. The doors of the adjoining rooms were left open, but the one communicating with the back premises was shut and locked, so that it was impossible for any one to enter except by this door, and to reach the strange lady's apartment it would be necessary to pass through the three others.

Night wore on and nothing of consequence occurred, save that one of the ladies thought she heard the door creaking on its hinges, but on calling out, 'who's there?' the noise ceased, and she slept soundly until morning. Morning dawned, and with it the ladies awoke, when lo! it was discovered that the lady's watch, chain, and other trinkets had disappeared!

Here was a mystery. Not a shadow of doubt could be thrown on the ladies of the house. The servant girl's apt in another room—she was called, but could give no account of the missing watch. It is true the door leading from the back premises already mentioned, was found open, but then, how could a robber enter and pass through three occupied rooms, enter a fourth, possess himself of all the articles belonging to the strange lady, and no more, and then return unperceived? It was thought impossible—the good people alone must have taken them.

The ladies left the house: a native gentleman with a large family went to live in it, and about a month after, just at day-break, as he was between asleep and awake, he heard the door before mentioned creak on its hinges! He fixed his eyes on it, when lo! he beheld the arm of a soldier gently pushing it back. Presently after the soldier entered, and advanced with cautious steps to the head of the gentleman's bed, (where lay his watch on a table) he took possession of it, and the gentleman was so paralyzed with fear that he could not give the alarm until the soldier had disappeared.

The gentleman presented himself at the Retiro, made his case known to the Commander, and, on the latter assembling the soldiers, the watch was discovered on the thief. Search was made in his quarters, and, amongst other articles, the watch and chain belonging to the English lady turned up. The soldier got a few months' incarceration in prison, and, I believe, 500 lashes. About a month ago he was liberated and again took up his quarters in the Retiro, placed, however, under the surveillance of the guard, which he managed to elude the other night, and attempted another robbery. He penetrated into the back premises of a house in calle Sta. Fé, entered the servant's apartment, placed a knife at her throat and

