

The Standard

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THE WEEKLY STANDARD.

The Clock controversy.

The all-absorbing topic of the day is neither peace nor differential duties. By common consent every eye is turned on the Cabildo clock, not to see the time of day, but to criticise the ominous inscription "Jaeggli y Diavet, Buenos Ayres." As usual there are two sides to the question, but looking at the clock on every side, it is found fault with. We fancy this is premature. It is manifestly unjust to condemn without a trial, and as the virtue of a clock is to keep time we withhold our sentence until we have a test of its working qualities. Even supposing it is a "mala cara" we are not so Indian in our tastes as to refuse either a horse or a clock if it be a good goer. Some there are, it is true, who judge of everything by appearances, but this is proverbially foolish. The "cronista" of the Tribuna would, perhaps, prefer a nicely bound edition of "Ali Baba" or his own *hechos locales* to a dusty Shakspeare or moth-eaten Cicero; but thank heaven we are not of his mind. We accept nothing at first-bush, but rather estimate everything by its contents. The "cronista" may possess some advantages as to appearance: he may be a very handsome walking encyclopedia, nicely bound in black cloth; he may understand clock-making better than Sam Slick. But if there is appeal from his mandate, we would invoke the common sense of our readers to reverse so arbitrary a fiat.

The "Tribuna" at first asserted that it was indecent to have any private name on a public monument, but when it was told them that this indecency was prevalent in Europe, and that even Mr. Spurgeon received £50 to put up a clock with the maker's name in his tabernacle, they changed their tone, and maintained that it was a standing lie, to write "Jaeggli and Diavet, Buenos Ayres" when these gentlemen did not make the clock. As well might they object that Malcom and Allinson have no right to put their mark on the *quadrapeds* coming from their establishment, since they are not manufactured in this city. As well might we deny that "D. Saturnino Cordoba" is editor of the Tribuna, or Lucien printer of the books bearing his mark.

A man's mark does not always denote his property, for we put our names on Pagares that belong to other people, and the baker marks the bread intended for public consumption. This is even required by law for good faith, and in the respectable firm already named we have the security of a good clock intended (like the bread) for public use, though, not like it, to be broken for the caprice of penny-a-liners.

If the cronista of the Tribuna could trace gypsy lineage, we should reckon him rightful heir-at-law of King Rhamsdames who erected the pyramids. For in his case the architect Cheops was afraid to put his own name on the structure, and it was not until the lapse of ages had worn away the superficial inscription of royalty that the name of "Cheops" was found graven in the immortal stone. So may it now be if the Monogram of our cronista take the place of Jaeggli and Diavet whose names shall be commemorated with the Cabildo Clock, long after the Tribuna and its scribblers shall have passed into their primitive nothingness.

Life and Fire Insurance.

Nothing can be more prudent than to make a provision for future exigencies, by laying up for tomorrow a small part of our daily gains. How many do we see however, who toil and economize in order to provide for their families, and are suddenly cut off leaving their business-accounts complicated and their children penniless. No doubt the inventor of life-insurance has merited the blessings of numberless widows and orphans, who but for these institutions must have fallen from comfort to misery, and who have received an easy opulence in return for the yearly stipend of a few shillings. We do not mean to recite the dry preamble of an Insurance prospectus in pointing out the peculiar benefit which must result to fathers of families from such enterprises. Nor is it useless to single men, since a Policy is always of value, and may even be reckoned a negociable item in the money market; without taking into account the idea of bequest. Such is the value set on Insurances in Dublin, that few men can marry unless the Policy form a part of the Marriage settlement.

Moreover the *Life-policy* is scarcely inferior in advantages to that against *fire*, a calamity that has often reduced the thriving trader to the condition of a houseless mendicant. We have long wondered why our home companies did not compete with the Spanish "Tutelar" or "Porvenir"; and we think the Northern Company deserves here something more than a "local event" to call the attention of our countrymen to a system of domestic economy that has met with universal success in the United Kingdom and is doubly necessary in countries where life and property are held by a less stable tenure.

Genuine Philanthropy.

We are not all agreed on the excellence of a life of celibacy, neither do we attach more sanctity to convent-walls than to the domestic hearth. We are even inclined to accuse some nuns of a selfishness which makes them useless to their fellow-beings, and un-serviceable members of society. It is not therefore from any blind admiration of conventual institutions that we feel bound to offer a passing tribute of praise to the good Sisters of Mercy of our Irish convent.

The philosopher and the philanthropist must alike confess how deeply we are indebted to those excellent ladies who devote a portion of their lives to the pious education of youth, and consecrate the remainder to the care of the sick, the protection of orphans and destitute females, and to meditation and prayer. In the modest edifice of the calle Tucuman, retiring from the eyes of the busy world, we possess a community of Irish ladies who reflect honor upon their native country, and render incalculable services. Here are found some 70 girls the daughters of our Irish estancieros who receive an education befitting the highest rank: here too are 100 poor children trained up in habits of obedience and order calculated to make them worthy specimens of conventual discipline. Nor does the work of mercy end with mere instruction, for some poor fatherless outcasts depend on the sisters for food and raiment; and servants out of employment find a safe and tender refuge in the House of Mercy.

We can only add that if all religious sisters devoted as much time and energies to their fellow-beings, the enemies of monasticism should render the same tribute to convents in general as the Irish nuns now call for at our hands.

The Argentine War.

Every cloud has a silver lining. A few days ago everyone reckoned the probabilities of an immediate war; now the general idea is peace, and it seems but a question of time as to the final arrangement. Of course there is much mystification, and many are still unwilling to believe the pacific intelli-

gence which, they say, is too good to be true. Our local press is also in the dark, and as they have nothing tangible to combat, they occupy themselves with the supposed conditions of treaty. Rumor assigns the following items:

1st.—Buenos Ayres shall pay to Paraná two millions of paper dollars per month, during the term of five years, making a sum of 120 millions.

2d.—Buenos Ayres shall enjoy a virtual independence, and, in return for the monthly subsidy, shall be free from differential duties.

3d.—At the expiration of five years she shall be at full liberty to elect Deputies and join in the Argentine Republic; or, if more pleasing, separate wholly from the sister-provinces.

These are not very hard terms, and better than we expected Urquiza would consent to; yet the war-party puts them down as disgraceful to this city, viewing the subsidy as a bribe to the cupidity of our neighbors. Surely Buenos Ayres does not expect to be freed from the disagreeable impost, and give nothing in return. Moreover if Porteños profess so much contempt for the provincials, and desire independence, they effectually gain their point. But some people are difficult to satisfy and we really believe the "Nacional" and "Tribuna" would grumble at whatever favors or concessions the provincial bug-bears could devise.

The long-expected conference between Urquiza, Derqui and Mitre took place on board the "Oberon" at Las Piedras; the only witnesses were the foreign ministers, and as nothing positive has transpired, we are at liberty to conjecture. Some say that the discussion was rather animated and that the three Masonic brethren pitched into one-another so heartily that they all seemed considerably *ried*. It is more probable that they came to an understanding, for Derqui at once set out for Paraná dropping Urquiza at Gorodona. One of the President's first acts was to send away two of his ministers, Gonzalez and Echague. As the sovereign congress was over-zealous in preaching the crusade against Buenos Ayres, Derqui is said to have curbed their indiscreet patriotism, and afforded motive for parliamentary polemics.

No doubt Urquiza has given the cue to the President's movements, and, as it was rightly judged the Captain General was not inclined for war, the minor dignitaries bent implicitly to his nod. With respect to the "Corrientes" steamer which Urquiza seized while carrying the Yankee flag, it appears the authorities of Paraná hesitated to break the consular protection improperly given her by the U. S. consul at Asuncion. On her capture at Rosario, she was delivered up to Captain Macomb of the Pulaski who hauled down the stars and stripes, while an officer of Urquiza's hoisted the Argentine flag at her mast-head.

The two special envoys Don B. Garcia and Don L. Torres respectively sent by Paraná and Buenos Ayres to canvass Lopez' alliance, returned in the Salto de Guayrá with, no doubt, equal success, and similar ideas of Paraguayan policy. Sr. Obligado likewise arrived from San Nicolas, last Wednesday, his return was the signal for all kinds of strange reports; and, when compared with Mitre's march to Rojas, was deemed an omen of hostilities. Riestra our Finance minister left on Friday for head-quarters, and as considerable activity prevailed at the Parque, conflicting opinions were rife until the news by the Doloreitas confirmed the peace rumor. This had a marked effect on doubloons; and we should be confident that peace was a *fait accompli* were it not for the redoubled progress at the fortifications,

and the forced marches of several battalions to head-quarters. Don Juan Chassaing, one of the heroes of the Marcos Paz expedition, having escaped from Cordova, passed safely through Rosario, and is now at Rojas. One of the latest arrivals is Captain Pezzutti Pilloni, a Sardinian officer of Magenta and Solferino celebrity, who has offered his services to Mitre, like his countrymen of the Legion Libertad. The latter appear now in full Garibaldi rig, and however objectionable their conduct in enlisting, look as soldier-like as if they formed part of the brave Marsala adventurers.

Our government has seized an English vessel, laden with coal, near Martin Garcia, and as France and England have agreed that this is not a contraband of war, we anticipate this Province has found a mare's nest. However as the Rosario fleet is reported short of coal, the capture may hobble Urquiza even more than the captors. The Argentine camp has been joined by a volunteer of the Bishop of Beauvais' school, in the person of Father Marin; and the Uruguay journalists clamor so loudly for war, that it would seem fighting now-a-days is not only the profession of soldiers, but the amusement of adventurers and prosy declaimers. On our side Don Octavio Gonzalez of the Policia who has had some experience in levying 208 for galloping over the police regulations, has marched to the defence of our Lares and Penates; but we sincerely hope that we shall soon have the pleasure of announcing that these fiery patriots have returned to their pacific haunts when they no longer stand in need of such Davids to defend them.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Paraguay.

In the "Semanario of Asuncion," Aug 3rd we read of the reception by President Lopez of the Argentine Ambassador, and also of the Buenos Ayrean envoy. Don Baldomero Garcia had a state audience in which he explained the object of his mission, indulging in useless regrets for the present *casus belli*, and reminding Lopez of the friendly services he rendered both parties in November, 69. In reply to his assurance of the wish to strengthen family ties with Paraguay, the President returned much common-place politeness which meant little more than that he was glad to see him. As to our special commissioner it may be doubted whether any political importance can be attached to the fact that his was a private interview, and we may suppose that Don Carlos Antonio Lopez has wisely resolved not to be fool in the middle, but rather dedicate himself to the development of Paraguay, for which Sor Garcia passed him a well-merited encomium. The railway was still progressing; but it is remarkable that except the import and export returns, we find not a single item in the state-journal, relative to the topics or movements incident at Asuncion.

Banda Oriental.

President Berro expressed his sincere condolence with the cabinet of St James, on the death of H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent, conveyed to him in an encyclical letter from the English court. The affair of an ultimatum on the part of the English and French agents was contradicted as the republic professes readiness to pay the 4 millions stipulated, but demands long credit, to which the foreign duns seem unwilling. It is probable they will soon come to an arrangement. Meantime some of the Blancos endeavor to induce Berro to side with Urquiza, but the former persists in a sincere neutrality. Signor

Antonini, Oriental consul-general in Sardinia has been replaced by Doctor Bottini. A splendid banner will be presented to the troops by the President, at his own private expense, on the national anniversary of August 25th. The recent gale caused some damage to the shipping: H. B. M. S. "Spy" ran foul of a Spanish war-vessel, the "Gravina." The "Anne Nelson" was driven on shore, as also the "Sublime;" the former is from Liverpool, the latter a Brazilian brig.

Chilo.

The elections for President have passed off quietly. In the districts of Valparaiso, Quillota and Casa Blanca, a great majority was secured for Don José Joaquin Perez, who has been elected for ten years. In a letter from Valparaiso to the Dublin Freeman it is stated that very large sums were contributed to the sufferers of Mendoza, particularly by the English community.

LOCAL EVENTS.

American Minister.—We cordially salute the Hon. Robert Palmer, who arrived last week, as Representative of the United States, and hope his advent may be an augury of peace.

Holiday.—Tomorrow being the Assumption of the B. Virgin is a strict church festival.

Conversion.—On Sunday in the church of La Merced the interesting ceremony of baptizing a Jew, took place. The neophyte is a Mr. Rosanz; His lordship the Bishop officiated, Sor. Llavallol was sponsor, and a select congregation witnessed the holy rite.

French Packet.—The Saintonge goes out this evening and the mail-bag is closed at the French Consulate by noon.

Magnum bonum.—After four months' circulation, we have resolved to enlarge "the Standard," in accordance with a generally expressed wish. New edition on September 1st.

Look out for squalls.—Ship-captains are hereby advised that Santa Rosa intends, this year, paying them an early visit, and expects to find everything ship-shape.

Soft soap.—The "Tribuna" keeps a quantity of this article on hand for ministerial subjects, and says it is quite equal to the most improved "blarney."

Important news.—By passengers lately arrived from Rosario we learn that the prevailing conviction there is: if war does not break out, we may be sure of peace.

Safe arrival.—The Captain and mate of the American ship "Lancashire" about whom some fears were entertained have happily reached "terra firma."

9 years old.—On last Wednesday our veteran colleague the "Tribuna" completed his ninth year, counting at present 4,000 subscribers. This is a proof of popularity, and however humble our tribute of congratulation, we wish him many happy returns of the day.

Curiosities of Literature.—Some of the sign-boards of our city are amusing. We have the *central druggist* who does not believe in extreme cases; the tailoring-shop of Noah, who, as we read, had to borrow a cloak from his grandson; and the *cigarrera* of the three Graces; whom poets have never painted with a pipe in their mouths.

The Lucky Number.—As was the great prize, 500 doubloons, of the Montevideo lottery has fallen in this city. Strange to say, the municipality set their face against these windfalls of fortune, by prohibiting them. They say with Virgil *Tunc Danaos et dona*

