

The Standard

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THE WEEKLY STANDARD.

The Argentine Confederation

Events have marched rapidly of late; Mitre's expedition to Cordova, Urquiza's alliance with B. Aires and Derqui's flight are almost simultaneous...

Subsequent to Mitre's entrance into Rosario, the titular President, like Iehusel in the desert, would seem to have turned a complete vagabond. At one time he was in Paraná, soon after en route for Cordoba...

"Deserted in his utmost need"
"By those his former bounty fed"

Two journalists, Calvo and Barra, alone followed the fortunes of their master, and amid the universal depravity, it is refreshing to find such traits of heroic fidelity. As the Swiss guards stood by Lewis XVI, so these consistent advocates of an exploded policy resolved to "die game" rather than live, traitors...

Urquiza, who decreed a just vengeance on the assassins of Virasoro, who rejected our Deputies for informality of election, who elevated Derqui to the curule Chair, and dictated every important measure, is now content to eat his words, abandon his agents and unite with his late enemies...

The corps d'armée destined for operation on Cordoba is very small; and, altho' Garibaldi conquered Sicily with 800 men, we think General Paunero would find 3,000 not half enough if he should meet with active hostilities. It is, however, presumed that none of the caudillos between Paraná and the Cordillera will attempt to move without Urquiza's sanction...

present much swollen so that it is not easy to arrive at close quarters, if even both parties were anxious for a fight. Our main body is still about 14 leagues N. of Rosario. The invasion of the Indians is confirmed: the Cacique Mariano was at Melincú with 200 warriors, taming horses; and, from the flying parties seen beyond Azul and Cruz Alta, it is known that the red-men are preparing an inroad imagining that our army was scattered at Pavon...

As yet we do not know in what quarter to expect an attack, but Mitro is busily preparing detachments for emergencies, and it is believed that the garrison of Rosario will be reduced to 2 battalions of infantry a few squadrons of cavalry, and a company of gunners with 6 field-pieces, all under the orders of Major Mitro. The new head-quarters will, probably, be in a more central point, near the converging limits of Santa Fé, Cordoba & Buenos Ayres...

Meantime, the nett proceeds of the Rosario custom-house have been confiscated by Mitro, for the maintenance of our army, on the principle that, as the former is national property, it must go towards a national object, such as the troops raised by B. Aires. The 5th & 6th brigades under Col. Arredondo had, by last account, taken up a position beyond the Carcarañá. Baigorrea had marched his Indian contingent to a point indicated by the Commander-in-chief, who, moreover, gave the soubriquet "Gen. Paz" to a battalion of our Cordoban prisoners (now called volunteers). The meaning of our fleet's indifference to the movements at Diamante, is now explained by the proposals of Urquiza to Mitro; confirming, what we have so often said that the General knows his own business best, and our ephemeral critics can scarcely judge his acts, unless indeed Mitro take them for counsellors, a measure we must unhesitatingly oppose.

A visit to the ruins of Mendoza.

This interesting brochure has been published by D. Felix Frias in the columns of the Tribuna. We regret that its length precludes our translating it, but wish to give our readers some extracts of the most telling passages.

It was a moonlit night when we visited the ruined city: some leagues before reaching Mendoza we perceived the shattered turrets which first indicated our approach to the mysterious scene of death; then baring our head we penetrated among the ruins with a feeling of awe, as if treadng on the tombs of the departed.

What words can convey an idea of the tragedy here so recently enacted! Imagine a city full of life and bustle, at the hour of sunset, on the last evening in summer. Resting from their toils, surrounded by their families, some in genial conversation, others buying in the shops, and not a few assembled in church, where a Jesuit father was exhorting them to penance and preparation for the coming Holy Week; all, all the citizens in four seconds overwhelmed, and their city no more! A subterranean thunder bellowed hideously, and the earth shook so violently that the few survivors could neither walk nor stand. Then reigned a death-like stillness only interrupted by the howling of the dogs; at the same time, a thick cloud of dust obscured the moon, as with a funeral pall, and a fire breaking out in the principal street enveloped the ruins with a strange unearthly glimmer. Many perished in the flames, but others contrived to crawl on broken limbs as far as the Alameda. An extreme cold was experien-

ced, while the groans of those buried alive contributed to the sufferings of the survivors, who begged of God for mercy, thinking the terrible Day of Judgment had come.

In the country round, many wondered what had happened, and the gauchos seeing rockets, which accidentally exploded, concluded it was a merry-making and rushed into town. These savages, nowise awed by the wrathful visitation of Heaven, nor moved by the cries of the dying, set to plunder every thing: the sack lasted 4 days. This eternal stain upon our name and nation surpasses in horror the bloody orgies of Rosas. Some foreigners, whose country he untold, emulated our gauchos; one man was shot for robbery by those who wanted to take his booty. An unfortunate drunkard who had fallen asleep and was awakened by the earthquake, insisted that he had died the night before and was in hell, since he could see no city, but only flames and dénon-like men around him.

The enemies of religion have asserted that these sacrilegious robbers fell on their knees when the ground quaked, and then continued their plunder: this is a malicious lie intended to cast odium upon those holy precepts which forbid such enormities. It was said the Jesuits (whom calumny follows like a shadow) alarmed the escaped victims by saying that the earth would swallow them up; but such a story is due rather to the wreckers who wished to paralyze the energies of all that might oppose their depredation.

In the suburb of St. Nicolas an hospital was formed of three large sheds which held 60 persons: the timely succour from Chili saved these poor people, who, clad in rude mourning, assisted at a daily mass for the repose of their lost relatives. After the destruction, there was heard a frightful echo in the Andes produced by an aerolite; but, to us there seemed a more horrible echo, 'twas the sound of the trumpet calling Argentines to civil war on the day after the catastrophe: it was unshathing the weapons of Cain ere the unburied corpses were yet cold, which lay among the ruin profaned by our impiety. The very gauchos are after all, not so criminal as the authorities, who during half a century have left them in brutal ignorance; and we would ask is it true? that the money generously sent by foreign nations, for the surviving victims, was expended on shot and shell to mow down Argentines on a battlefield. Remember if the property of the dead is sacred, the money of the poor is doubly so.

A writer of the "Debates" has sought to explain away this awful phenomenon, by the law of Nature; yet who dictated such a law, or in what fabric was nature manufactured: the theory is adopted to make Nature independent of the Creator.

Yet we have seen the Creator's care, in a manner which justifies our incorrigible fanaticism. One building has escaped, a large and handsome chapel of three aisles, in which took refuge a community of nuns and the members of St. Vincent de Paul's conference. Not far off the ground opened up a fissure from which welled out a stream of water. The pious sisters devote themselves to the education of such poor girls as escaped, while every effort is made to relieve the sufferers. Among those who have sent their contribution, is the holy and venerable Pontiff who once passed as a simple traveller through that very city whose destruction has moved his paternal heart. In the list of charity we must return special gratitude to Chile, Perú, Banda Oriental, Paraguay, Brasil, England and France, which nations have bestowed considerable sums. In particular Pius IX amidst all his domestic afflictions, as also the Emperor Napoleon, have been signally generous. Chile and Montevideo were the first to lend assistance, showing that neither the waters of La Plata nor the peaks of the Andes are wide or lofty enough, to separate nations that wish to draw closer the

links of Christian fraternity which unite us all in one great family. This inspires us with hope for the future in the genius of civilization.

The city of Mendoza has been utterly destroyed and 14,000 inhabitants buried in its ruins: we would then remind our Catholic readers that, to-morrow being the festival of All Souls, they should consecrate a special part of their devotions before the altar of the Most High, to the pious memory of their brethren who perished on that sad occasion.

November 1 1861. Felix Frias

The Emigration Scheme.

It will be perceived that an item of two million currency enters into the new budget "for immigration purposes." To any man of moderate experience in this country, such a vote appears eminently calculated to secure for us a signal blessing. The scarcity of farm servants, the increasing resources of our pampas, the high price of manual labor, all demonstrate to what utility the current of emigration may be here-turned. Not even the United States, nor the Australian gold-fields nor the banks of the St. Lawrence, nor the pastures of Cape Colony afford the same advantages for the farmer or labouring man, as this country. The importation of 20,000 Irishmen would be therefore a common benefit to Buenos Ayres and our poorer countrymen at home. No selfish feeling induces us to wish that, of all European nations, Ireland should get the preference, but, if we consider the class of foreigners most in requisition, it will be admitted they are shepherds; and as the flocks of this province are almost totally held by Irishmen, there is a tacit admission of their superiority in this branch of industry.

Yet the modus operandi is also important, and it would be a decided mistake to propose, as is rumored, a fixed premium to captains of ships, for every passenger, if even such were all Irishmen. The Government emigration at home is conducted on a safe plan, and is productive of good results in the Australian colonies. Not only is it limited to certain conditions of life, but the intending emigrant must produce a certificate of good character from the priest and magistrate of his district. For if ships be laden pell-mell with an indiscriminate cargo of human live-stock, we run the risk of spending money to over-run the place with vagabonds. Supposing again that a conscientious captain succeeded in weeding out bad characters from a crowd of applicants, much inconvenience may be caused. As it will be evidently his interest to ship as many as possible, he will not look to their chance of employment or probable utility, and merely land them in this port to claim his freight. Milliners bankrupt traders, ex-officio clerks are generally anxious for a change of air, and are just the persons not wanted here. Men with families and without money, girls with characters and without husbands, are equally useless.

Two kinds of emigrants are especially wanted: strong young men bringing a capital of £1,000 or upwards, and single farm servants. It is foolish to expect that stylish young fellows with a couple of hundred pounds can better themselves here, since sheep are worth 10j each and less than 1,500 is too little for a start.

The class denominated farm-servants is very eligible, but, unhappily, we hear many complaints among our own countrymen, of the gross inexperience and exorbitant demands of many lately arrived. It would be, therefore, desirable to ensure for the public money, so expended, a selection of our home peasantry, striplings of brawny arms, robust constitution, sober habits and the least taste of experience.

This cannot be effected by shipping promiscuously a whole Barony or Parish, nor by means of the sagacious navigators. It is necessary that some Agent, who feels and understands the interest of this country, should take in charge this Emigration scheme

without any sordid view of percentage. Much will depend hereon. The two millions if rightly applied may give us 1,000 or 1,500 useful citizens, but, if merely given as a premium on live importation, must prove money thrown away, and perhaps, lay the seed of serious evils.

All's well that ends well.

The mission of Don Juan C. Ocampo has been fruitful in results. Rumor had spoken truly of an understanding between Mitro and Urquiza, and now nothing remains, but the official declaration, to inform us that the rival athletes have consented, in a charming and mutual manner, to cast all the blame of late differences on the luckless Derqui. Thus state-jugglery becomes canonized amongst us, and the ex-president slips between the two stools; Federal & Unitario, to the amusement of all parties. Politics are, of course, naturally variable, but it would be difficult for any other than a S. American to follow the twists and turns of our most crooked diplomacy, even for a single season. Statesmen are the puppets and scribblers the showmen: a string is pulled, and up starts some well-known character for whom are invoked cheers or curses as suits the showman.

Poor Derqui! there are few among us who doubt that he was merely Urquiza's stalking-horse, and without saying whether he acted right or wrong, it is plain that he is made answerable for obeying his master. Some say he was an enthusiastic servant, often anticipating his superior's pleasure, and that this led him into many a faux pas. Others think that he conspired, with Saá, the overthrown of the Captain General. If he did, then grievously hath he answered for it; but we are inclined to believe rather it was Urquiza who betrayed his compadre. The former saw that he was urged to a war for which he was little prepared; and, being deceived, found it necessary to abandon either his friends or his cattle. He chose, with the instinct of selfishness, to imperil everything but his estates; and hence we read of his treating with Mitro, at the very time that he abandons the President to their common enemies. "No hay mal que por bien no venga" is a proverb older than the days of Margarinos Curvantez, and there can be little doubt that Urquiza's tergiversation and Derqui's flight will tend to a speedy resolution of standing difficulties.

Latest News.

President Derqui bade his adieu to Paraná and the Sovereign Congress in a letter of abdication, stating that it was alleged he was the only obstacle to the public happiness and he was therefore resolved to retire, from the scene: he added that the armed presence of the enemy had not afforded the least motive for such a step. An amusing incident of his flight is the fact that the commander at Martín García sent a messenger on board H. B. M. S. Ardent, demanding the person of his ex-excellency as a public offender. We do not know whether the "Gibraltar of the Plata" offered to stop the passage; it is however certain that the English officer replied, with an intimation that he would not give up his guest; but, at the same time, felt highly honored by his communication and kissed his hands.

Pedernera wishes to assume the cast-off mantle but he will probably find it not to fit him, unless thoroughly remodelled by Urquiza and Mitro, state tailors to the Executive. Affairs at Paraná are "out of joint," and it is plain that the last fashion of constitutional garb is thrown aside as unfit for the proximate change of season—Mitre is elected Provisional Director, with Urquiza's acquiescence. The expedition to Cordoba is ready to strike tents and off—: ex-Governor Peña is intent to oust governor Olmos, just as titular governor Alcora went to supersede the Taboada; but it is possible Olmos may not "kneckle down" so softly as did Villafañe of Tucuman. The latter it seems, suffered a severe

defeat at Manantiales, and altho' Col. Nayarro did not nominate the new Governor of Tucuman, yet the change of hands shows anything but a victory for the Liberals.

Montevideo.

The old proverb "one must go abroad to learn news of home" is verified in a statement in the "Nacion" of Oct. 19 that Derqui had resigned the Presidency: the same paper mentions a fight to have taken place between the hostile fleets, and says that Mitro is running short of provisions in Rosario, where beef sold at 22 silver reals per arroba. We read of a low volcano in Chile, which opened a crater near the city of Chillan; throwing up clouds of smoke by day and fiery scintillations by night.

The Matrix church was opened for the novenas of All Souls, on Friday 25th ult. The "Nacion" calls loudly for a concordat with Rome to avoid ecclesiastical difficulties. The Brazilian war-steamer Pedro II was stranded on the Punta de Carretas and all efforts to get her off were unavailing: this is the third vessel of the Impeljal navy lost within one year. The society of painters gave a grand ball in Solís theatre, and a beer-distillery has been established. Government is preparing a polyglot work on the varied riches of the Banda Oriental, which is to be distributed at the London E. exhibition of '62.

An article on Mendoza shows that the work of rebuilding on the ruined sites goes on actively; over 8,000 persons inhabit already the new city which is built mostly of wood. Reports in Montevideo said that Saá has returned to Santa Fé with 2,000 men, being joined by La Prieta & others: it is believed that Urquiza will form an inter-fluvial Republic of Entre-Ríos & Corrientes.

On the 5th & 6th ult. a strong gale from the N. W. but, fortunately, there are no grave casualties. The pilot boat "Eduardo" master Nicholas Tandy, succeeded in rescuing the crew, 4 in number, of the golden "Rosita" which had foundered about 4 leagues from S. Gregorio. These poor men had taken to the boat, and expected immediate death, when they were gallantly saved. One man, a passenger, was, however, lost. The Spanish war-steamer "Covadonga" went to assist a dismasted barque, near Isla de Flores, supposed to be the "Eva" from Havana.

It is rumored that the foreign merc-of-war will ply as packets between this city & Buenos Aires, seeing the want of a regular steam communication. The Chief of Police, Botana, was severely reprimanded for misconduct in arresting an Editor, and resigned his office, but the President refused admitting his resignation. Important gold and iron mines have been discovered in Rio Grande, which Mr. Plant, an English geologist sent thither on exploring pursuits, has declared valuable. The Lyric Company is about to leave for Buenos Aires.

Paraguay.

A new customs tariff is about to be published. On the 14th ult. a strange meteor was observed near Piribebuy, about 3 P. M. It was a ball of fire, rapidly revolving and casting forth electric sparks resembling lightning; leaving, in its passage, long blue stripes, and then disappearing in the S. W. Immediately after, a great report was heard, which lasted for some time, being distinctly audible in the Department of Misiones.

General items.

Doctor Lorenzo Torreá has returned from Paraguay, and Doctor Obligado from Rosario. Don Juan C. Ocampo left the last city for San José on the 6th inst. Ex-Governor Pascual Rosas had gone to hold a conference with Urquiza. L. Col. Sandes, who talks of 49 wounds (make it even 50) is elevated to the grade of Colonel. Major Clavero attacked a gang of brigands near Saeco, taking 18 prisoners. Of

