

# The Standard

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The Standard.

All latest news, but not the Bulletin of Affairs. THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1904.

REVIEW FOR FOREIGN READERS. Since the sailing of the English packet we have been all plunged into the most gloomy depression by one of the most gigantic tragedies ever known in ancient or modern history—the burning of two thousand human beings in the temple of the Holy Cross.

AWFUL CALAMITY.

TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE BURNED IN CHILE.

The most disastrous affliction hangs at this moment on Chile. The papers refuse to describe such a horrible scene, because the world's history records no such dreadful catastrophe. The Company, one of the largest and handsomest concerns of Santiago, contained the most select of the best, sex, of that capital attracted by the last fashion of the month of May. Some 15,000 to 20,000 lamps of liquid and gas, lit during the hours of the temple. The height of the altar reached 50 ft, and just opposite burned brilliantly a half circle of gas. One of the burners burst, and the fire broke out, and immediately reached its doom. At the same time the crowd was all confusion. Half escaped. And the rest? Oh, horror! Search for a door, but none could be found; and to the rush and confusion they had all been closed. Hundreds of beautiful women, struggling with death, fell in numbers, until nothing remained but a few piles. The fire reached the highest point. Every part of this temple is a mass of flames, not half a yard over the multitude. Eloquent cries and heart-rending screams are heard, followed afterwards by silence. And what a stillness! The stillness of death! The stillness of the tomb! The spectacle is indeed horrible. The fire reached the principal door, and there heads burned to a cinder and skeletons met the view on all sides.

About nine o'clock at night all was over. The fire resulted in the destruction, which are all in ashes. Oh, who can form an idea of the ruin and desolation in this awful spot at this moment. Lamentations are heard in the houses and in the very streets, of those mourning the loss of parents, husbands, brothers, and sisters. In the midst of the world, in the history of misfortunes and catastrophes which have afflicted humanity, we doubt if there ever has occurred a more awful visitation of Providence. Two thousand human beings hurried into a fiery death, at the very moment of the New Year. The catastrophe is so awful, that we feel utterly unable to give expression to our feelings. We simply give a detailed statement of facts, as it only at Santiago, but half of Chile is mourning.

What heart-breaking moans of women, half-burned children almost unnumbered. The number of victims is almost incredible. It is said 17,000 to 20,000. The majority of the victims belonged to the highest class of society in Santiago. Here, too, the poor are left completely desolated, not a soul having escaped. The Minister of the United States succeeded in saving several lives, and wrote a letter of condolence to the Government. The total amount of corpses found number 1800. It would seem that the majority of the victims were men, but not burnt, as many were discovered without the slightest mark on their person or clothes. The doors of the church were narrow and some persons in the general rush having fallen, a general block up took place. In vain the crowd from behind pushed and shoved, the piles of smothered human beings were increased each moment; those at the door were trampled and crushed to death; those behind, scorched, burnt and smothered. The courts public offices, and houses of business were all closed spontaneously, and Santiago given up to a general mourning.

The walls of the ill-fated church have been ordered to be razed, and it

will be opened as a park or cemetery to all who died in this catastrophe. A general feeling of indignation is entertained against the clergy, and the most violent attacks have been made on them. But all along we condemn the usage of such an extraordinary number of lights, and the great want of precaution in having but one mode of exit in a church capable of holding so many thousands. Still we cannot load ourselves to charges which are utterly destitute of foundation; the clergy were everywhere to be seen struggling to save their fellow-beings from the flames, and succeeded in rescuing several hundreds. Our foreign readers must not think that two thousand is an exaggerated estimate of the number of victims. On the contrary, subsequent information received by the Standard from Chile, shows that the loss of life on that awful memorable occasion, was still greater. The whole contingent is plunged into mourning and grief, and we do not think that when this melancholy intelligence reaches Europe, the sensation will be so great as in martyred Chile and weeping South America.

In Argentine affairs we have little to write of interest to the foreign reader. The disturbance in Entre Rios has been quelled by the energetic steps of Urquiza, and in every part of the Republic we have peace. On the proximity of the elections, politics are in a state of the ascendant. A very strong party has been formed for the purpose of opposing the candidature of Rivadavia from the city of Buenos Ayres, but all the merchants and capitalists in the country are in favour of the present candidate, who is thought to improve public affairs, and all capitalists will succeed in their attempt.

The revolution in the Banda Oriental still continues. Flores has attacked an important river town called Paysandú, which was repulsed; the fifth gumbán Spiller has gone up to protect British ships and properties. Owing to the pro-secessionist efforts of our Minister, M. Thornton, some communication between Montevideo and Buenos Ayres has been resumed, and the difficulties long existing between the two Governments are being gradually removed. We cannot too highly praise the conduct of M. Thornton in using his best exertions to preserve peace in the Plata. Mr. and Mrs. Richard have at last returned out of San Juan after a long and arduous journey. The machinery is still on the road. The news from the mines is the best.

The company Patrons and Regulars advised the latter made a splendid passage. Education is steadily on the increase, but we cannot too strongly caution clerks and others from entering into this country unless they are willing to endure hardships which they cannot even imagine. Our farmers are suffering severely from the drought, and we regret to say they are dying by moving out to the frontier with their flocks, where the grass is good and water abundant.

Our English Companies here are doing a very excellent business. We refer to the Northern Railway and the London and River Plate Bank, both of which we are happy to say are doing a much better business as they are attended to. M. G. Mullall, editor of the Standard, is at present in Paraguay, inspecting the cotton plantations, which, we are happy to say, are in the most promising condition. He informs us that in Paraguay there are about seven millions of plants in the very best condition. His report through the plantations is so convincing, and we understand that with the very slightest efforts, cotton on a large scale can be grown in that province. A full report of his travels in the cotton regions of the Plata, will, on his return be at once forwarded to the Cotton Supply Association in Manchester. The British brig, Golden Eagle, has proved a total wreck, but a good deal of her cargo has been saved.

The foreign colony of Papayaza, in this year, has had a splendid harvest. Santa Fé, has had a special harvest which we are happy to say are in the hands of twenty-two thousand hogs, and in all the other crops a proportionate return. The colonists, from being poor, are now becoming rich in property and capital. Not even in the out nation statistics of the United States or Australia, can we find an equal to the singular prosperity of this colony. In Buenos Ayres, industry is rather good, flights very steady, money a little tight, but the country, in fact, the whole country, is rapidly recovering.

RECENT EVENTS.

The accounts from the camp are truly frightful. In all parts of the camp within 30 leagues of town, the drought has assumed the most alarming proportions. We hear of one Irish settler, who out of four thousand sheep, which he had a couple of months ago, has now only two hundred. In every

part of the country, bands of sheep owners are to be found moving out to the frontier lands. From all quarters we hear nothing but complaints. If the rain does not come soon, not a live animal will be found within 40 leagues of Buenos Ayres.

The particulars of Flores' defeat at Paysandú will be found in another column. Yesterday evening, owing to the heroic exertions of a French gentleman in Argentine was saved from being drowned. It appears that the savant had taken it into his head to have a bath; and to the no small astonishment of the crowd, stripped off the landing immediately under the acquiescence of the officer. He had hardly entered the river, when he got but that 'Kerryman' called an 'Argentine tub' or, in other words, 'the end of the world' while for the confinement of the wash-bowling. Dressed, and then up he came; his eyes were heard by hundreds, but not offered to save him, but a little French man, who stripped in an instant, and grasped the expiring Argentine by the hair of his head, as he was descending for the third and last time. We think such heroic worthy of note, and hope the Frenchman will be rewarded by the Municipality.

Sunday being the last day for registration, the polling rooms were crowded, and some of the most laughable scenes occurred in many of the parishes. We are pleased to say, that in every part the 'Nationalists' were in the majority. Owing to the extreme heat, many who left their canvases in the morning, were 'accidentals' before night.

The Northern Railway will be opened to San Fernando, we hear, by the end of this month. M. Rossi has published a most interesting table of exports for the last five years, by which we perceive our exports have rapidly increased in every article, save that of 'pisco'. We intend to publish the table at the earliest opportunity.

The soldiers who are at present marching the frontier in the invasion of the Llanos, are to be changed to the 1st of February. As this is the first packet which takes the Standard's news of the awful Chilean catastrophe, we publish part of it in Standard in mourning. We send the 'Times' a list of the names of those who perished, which we were unable to publish in the Standard, owing to the magnitude of the list.

President Mitre's ratification, it is said, are giving great offence to the 'chique' of Argentine. 'Know nothing' who state that the President ought to do as Rosas did, treat his 'chique' to 'mate' and in total retreat his visitors to Paisian city chairs should have nothing in his house but 'mate' and 'bread'.

We have received a letter, relative to the great Chas accident, which we will publish to-morrow. It appears that it was a much more serious affair than what we imagined. Mr. Chas and family, we are happy to say, escaped unharmed. On Sunday last, the Croceto was blown up by the company of blowing the Rosario Monument total. Thousands of Basques and Gallegos perished. Several Irishmen 1 ft in the Pavao, retired, had expired in prison. Carlos Angel, another notorious revolutionist, is in prison. Arretinos expected shortly to be brought with him. We understand that he brings with him 'Donna' widow. Busto, it appears will be elected the Governor. He is present the most popular candidate. Several Irishmen 1 ft in the Pavao, Sunday, for Rosas, where they go about to look for camp for their trip.

Both parties, the 'Grandes' and 'Chiques' have made out their lists for the elections. We hear, however, that the President is also about to make one, which, as a matter of course, will carry the day. On Saturday, all the Anti-National or Club Libertad party were struck with terror by the very sight of the Government forces. Several officers, who mistook themselves rather prominent in politics were sent with despatches of the kind, some to Rivas, others to Bahia Blanca, and a few out to Juan de Urduey. The measure had the desired effect, over three hundred members of the club, we hear, at once resigned.

Another column will be found in this month's balance sheet of the Bank of Buenos Ayres. We highly approve of the Baron publishing his balance sheet, as it shows the business of any banking institution. In San Fernando, on last Sunday evening was the greatest excitement, owing to the capture of voters, in a little town was thrown into the streets, as both parties worked hard to

capture the day. The Club del Pueblo or Government party, are so happy to say, had sweeping majority. It is rumored that a good deal of specie is expected out in the packet. We cannot say, with what truth or not, our impression is, that gold is rather scarce at home to remit much to the River Plate, unless it be from Montevideo, but the gold is expected.

On Sunday evening, an almost fatal accident occurred in the old Plaza. A sailor, who had hired a horse, had just one of the sides when the horse was kicked at some children who were playing; the far pulled hard at one of the reins, the horse turned suddenly round, and down came Jack. How the children were averted is unaccountable, as they were taken out from the horse's feet. The rider got an ugly fall, but his head being higher than the pavement, he was up and off in a moment.

On Saturday night, at Quilmes, some fifteen persons or persons, set fire to a building, in the Club del Pueblo, the residence of the Wined London.

THE MONEY MARKET.

Since the sailing of the English packet, our money market has suffered a slight stringency, which, owing to the tightness of the rate of interest by the Provincial Banks, has been increased rather than otherwise. The paper currency, the total circulation of which is estimated at about three hundred and fifty millions, is suffering a most serious depreciation. When it is borne in mind, that this amount of our hundred and fifty millions are held by foreign merchants and financiers, it can at once be seen what a heavy loss this fluctuation in our circulating medium is causing the foreign community.

In Exchange on England and France, we notice a very increased animation, over £20,000 in bills, principally on London, have been drawn and taken. Exchange opened on England for this packet at 51 pence per silver dollar, and at five francs per franc and Germany per patacon, or silver dollar. Over £70,000 was negotiated at these quotations, but as drawers became more numerous, the rate went up, particularly in bills on France, the following are the quotations:—

Table with exchange rates for various locations including London, Hamburg, Geneva, and others.

RAISES OF INTEREST.

Table with interest rates for various banks and locations.

BANK OF LONDON.

Table with bank of London account details.

BANK MEXICO AND CO.

Table with bank Mexico and Co. account details.

PRICE OF SILVER DOLLARS.

Table with silver dollar prices.

STOCKS OF PANAMA.

1000 Buenos Ayres beaten by 42 men. The city was convulsed yesterday by the Paysandu news. Flores with his four thousand veterans was beaten back from the city of Paysandu by a small force of Langens men, 42 in number, who just landed at the very moment Flores was mounting in column up the main street of Paysandu. Langens' men never expecting to come in contact with the rebels, soon had their fire-locks in readiness, but like the invaders at Fray Bentos they at once betook to vegetable weapons of offence, papallo and cabbage-stalks were to be had on all sides, so they let the rebels have it. As mounted at the onward position in which he found himself, Flores ordered his men into the ditch. The Government officer in the plaza preserving the assembly began to play with them, shooting at their new postures. Meanwhile it being about eleven a.m., the nightbirds came out to join in the sport, and the rebels with their rifles, but, as they were ordered, they are not yet heard, and reader, our first post was issued. Flores retreated, he is not terribly wounded, his men are killed, but, as they were ordered, they are not yet heard, and reader, our first post was issued. Flores retreated, he is not terribly wounded, his men are killed, but, as they were ordered, they are not yet heard, and reader, our first post was issued.

LATEST FROM MONTEVIDEO. The steamer Mersey arrived yesterday morning. There is positively nothing of any importance in the state.

The members of the foreign club are complaining that the directors have not held an annual meeting.

President Berro has left town, for San José, it is said, in order to pay the troops.

The gala of the night of the 9th inst. not satisfied with putting to rest the pleasure-seekers of the Plaza, with breaking the shop windows, and playing all manner of mischief with crinoline, must needs try its force upon and damage the Mecklenburg brig 'Julius and British brig 'Lyon.' These vessels were anchored in the outer roads, and had only arrived a few days previously—the former from Rio Janeiro and the latter from Cadix.

Business was rather good. The Mersey was expected on the 20th.

HUTCHINSON CAPTURED OF THE ALABAMA.

We read in one of the Havre journals that the fast-famed Alabama has been captured by the United States war-steamers San Jacinto. As the particulars of the fight are not given, and the latest we heard respecting this celebrated privateer, per Kepler, was that he had been at the Cape of Good Hope, where several of her men deserted, we are inclined to regard the rumour to be too good to be true.

Loss of the Steamer 'Chile.' CAPTAIN C. H. SIBEL. 31 days passage from Liverpool to Valparaiso.

Table with shipping arrivals and departures including ship names, destinations, and dates.

Time under Steam 31 15. The greatest speed attained was 14 knots an hour—average speed 12 1/2 knots.

The weather throughout the passage in the Atlantic was generally good, with the exception of a tempest experienced immediately after leaving Montevideo, and which lasted 24 hours in the Straits of Magellan she had good weather as far as the Chilina settlement of Punta Arenas, but from that point it changed entirely, and she met with equally severe, accompanied by thunder, lightning and hail, which continued during the rest of her passage in the Straits.

From Cape Horn to the Island of Mocha, she experienced a series of strong gales from N.E. to N. and E. and was during the strongest gale forced immediately after leaving Montevideo, and which lasted 24 hours in the Straits of Magellan she had good weather as far as the Chilina settlement of Punta Arenas, but from that point it changed entirely, and she met with equally severe, accompanied by thunder, lightning and hail, which continued during the rest of her passage in the Straits.

AFLORES IN PAYSANDU?

Yesterday at half past four p.m. Flores made an attack on Paysandu, with great vigor, but fortunately he was driven back at all points, and obliged to abandon the good position which he held.

At the beginning of the skirmish a battery of the Langens battalion, who had come from Salto, were landed about four squares below the port, and with out waiting for the shelter of the town they charged upon the foot guard and all the infantry of Flores, keeping up their fire, the two guerrillas, killing both by the Chile Red, sought the aid of the Guardia Nacional and the civic company, and continued firing for about an hour. Afterwards the enemy's cavalry placed themselves on the high road, a position favorable for the infantry on account of the ditches which extend far as the quinta de Pao, where they were protected by the forces of the Maus guard, suffering only a loss of three prisoners and two dead. Flores was wounded by a ball in his neck and another in his right hand, which carried off four of his fingers. We do not know if it is still living.

The fire from the port caused the loss of 9 dead and 0 wounded on both

sides. To-day will be known all particulars of the attack. The action alone of 42 menprising a guard and all the enemy's infantry, is sufficient to stamp these brave soldiers with glory.

Flores was very dejected at the result he met with, and it is said some of his officers have left him in consequence.

PRODUCE.

During the fortnight there has been a good deal of activity in our produce market. The demand for dry hides seems to have slackened since the new year. Wool sales well at present quotations, but purchases are made more to meet orders from foreign manufacturers than for speculation purposes. The finest classes and the coarsest are in great demand for the American market, but second class mexas or ill-conditioned wools are disregarded, and are sold at some 15 per cent. under best prices. Superior wools are going out and greatly looked for. A very superior lot belonging to a well known Irish estancia of the partido of the Villa Lujan has just arrived, but the owner refuses to sell under one hundred and twenty-five dollars per arroba, which is some 25 per cent. in advance of the market prices. It is estimated that about half a million of arrobas have come into market, been sold and shipped as fast as baled.

Salted hides are at present very firm; they suffered a slight decline with tallow, but subsequently they stiffened, and both these articles are at present very firm.

The total sales of dry hides during the fortnight amount to 67,000 of various classifications, of which 32,000 are for the States, 17,000 for France, Spain, and Italy, and 8000 for the North Continent. The principal demand is however from the United States; some descriptions have suffered a slight decline, whilst others have an upward tendency. (See prices.)

The following is a detail of the sales effected since the sailing of the British packet. North American Hides.—Of the 32,000 hides sold those of Entre Rios realised 40 to 41 rls, of Corrientes 39 do; weighing 20 1/2 to 21 1/2 lbs. Stock 10,000 hides.

North Continent Hides.—Eight thousand were sold at the following prices: half ox half cow, camp 46rs, camp do, butchers 34 rls, ox do 44 rls; stock 4000 hides.

Hides for France and Italy.—The following were the sales:—3999 Correntina at 39 rls; 2000 Entre Rios 41 33; 1000 heavy 39.

Spanish Hides.—20 to Paraguay hides at 41 rls, and 6000 Cordoba do 37 do, stock 10,000 hides classified.

Entre Rios Hides.—Sales from 40 to 41 rls stock 4000. Corrientes—Sales at 39 rls; stock 1000. Cordoba—000 have been sold at 37 rls; stock 000.

Paraguay.—00 hides sold at 41 rls; stock 5000 hides. Light hides sold at 34rs. Dry horse hides command from 30 to 40 rls mte.

Carpenter's skins.—Sales have been made at 1 sly rls. Present Stock of Dry Hides. Classified.

Table with classified hide prices for North America, Spain, and Without Classification.

Total 75,010. The sales during the fortnight have been less than previously, which is mainly attributed to the fact that the arrivals from the camp during the same period have diminished. Wools are invariably bought of the producer in the paper currency of this country, the consequence is that although prices have apparently improved, owing to the depreciation of the currency, they are almost the same. The sales of wool during the fortnight are slightly under those of last year. The wools of Buenos Ayres have suffered deterioration from too much this year, caretila and last 1000 bales of Cordoba wools have been sold at 4 rls per arroba.

Small lots of Entre Rios wools have also been sold at 20 1/2 to 28 rls; common 10 to 22 rls. Corrientes wool show a slight rise, but sales 20 1/2 rls. Sheepskins with wool are very scarce and in demand.



