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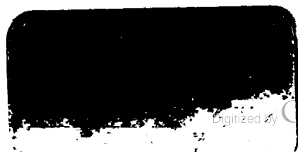
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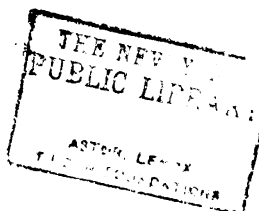


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JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE
TO THE
RIVER PLATE;
INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS
MADE DURING A RESIDENCE IN THE REPUBLIC
OF
MONTE VIDEO.

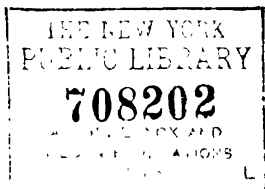
BY W. WHITTLE.

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1846.

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INTRODUCTION.

POSITION OF AFFAIRS.—CONTENDING PARTIES.—JOINT INTERFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND FRANCE.—CHARACTER AND POLICY OF ROSAS; A TYRANT AND A TERRORIST.—WEAKNESS AND COMMERCIAL IMPOLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BUENOS AYRES.—IMPORTANCE OF MONTE VIDEO; ITS INCREASE AND PROSPECTS.—CAUTION NECESSARY IN RESPECT OF MISREPRESENTATIONS BY INTERESTED PARTIES.—INDECISION OF THE ENGLISH CABINET.—COLONIAL AND COMMERCIAL CAPABILITIES OF THE COUNTRY.

THE fine provinces bordering on the River Plate have, for a series of years, been the arena of civil strife, and all its attendant horrors. Deeds have been perpetrated that would make a savage blush. A stranger to the country will naturally ask, what is the cause of all this? Simply, the Monte Videans claiming that to which they are as much entitled as the Buenos Ayreans, viz., Independence.

It is not my intention to set down aught in malice; but there can be no question with any unprejudiced mind, that the joint interposition of Great Britain and France was required to put an end to such an untoward state of things. Justice and Humanity demanded it. And it is to be hoped that, after the mature deliberation exercised by the two powers, they will not rest content with any thing short of a final and equitable adjustment of the differences which have called it forth.

The manifesto of the British and French Ambassadors, published in the *Times* newspaper, shows the causes which compelled them to take coercive measures at last, and it is much to be lamented that they were delayed so long. With such a man as Rosas, negotiation is a farce. Experience has long since proved that force is the only thing which, by possibility, can bring him to his senses, or rather, as I should say, to a course of common honesty.

Some have attempted to defend, and even justify, the oppressive acts of General Rosas; but, upon enquiry, they will be found to be either the paid tools of his government, or that their persons, and perhaps property, were under his control.

Many circumstances have contributed to Rosas' importance. The French, after a blockade of three years, virtually effected nothing. The position of Buenos Ayres is naturally strong. No ships of war can approach it; the depth of water over the bar being only ten feet. Rosas has also boasted that he holds the British flag as a "trophy." This is a fact, and occurred through the cowardice and treachery, or incapacity, of General Whitelock, who infinitely more deserved death than Admiral Byng. In respect of ability, there can be no question that General Rosas possesses talents of a high order; but they have hitherto been a curse instead of a blessing to his country. Even to British subjects his acts of tyranny and oppression are notorious. For instance, his conduct to General O'Brien, a man well known and respected, both in Monte Video and Buenos Ayres, and who, in an able pamphlet, published some time since, very justly exposed some of them. I went out to the country under an impression that these were grossly exaggerated, or utterly false; but I was quickly unde-



ceived. For years he has carried on a system of warfare and desolation, and wasted the resources of his country to obtain revenge upon his adversaries, *one thousand of whom were shot* on being made prisoners last year. His rule has been, if it may be so termed, that of a second Francia—a reign indeed of terror. It is by terror he rules, aided by the deplorable ignorance of the people over whom he tyrannises.

Through the shortsighted policy pursued by the Buenos Ayrean government, the River Parana, navigable fifteen hundred miles into the heart of Central America, with all its tributary streams, has been a sealed barrier, impervious to foreign enterprise, is now in prospect. At last they are thrown open, and a wide field for our merchants and manufacturers. By the last accounts, the exploring expedition had overcome all difficulties, and there is little doubt that, ere long, we shall receive information from the officers accompanying it alike interesting to the literary and commercial world.

That the Governor of Buenos Ayres, with all his fertility of resources, can long resist the force now opposed to him, I much question; if he do, it will be a lasting stigma upon those who have taken up arms against him, and they ought for the remainder of their lives, to be branded arrant cowards. He has now to contend not only with the Banda Oriental, but also with the Paraguayans and the people of Corrientes, and these, supported by a few English and French troops, backed by a joint squadron of the ships of each. It would seem to any one not conversant with the matter, that the Buenos Ayrean exchequer is in a most flourishing condition, by the number of dollars voted for carrying on the war; but when we consider that "twopence" is about the value of their paper,

according to the present rate of exchange, the wonder ceases! The cause of the Monte Videans is that of justice. They are a brave people, resisting to the death the infringement of their rights and liberties, and the gallant defence of their capital during a three years' siege, very justly entitles them to the appellation of gallant.

No city in South America progressed in wealth, in population, and in buildings, in the same ratio as Monte Video during the four years preceding the siege. On the advance of Oribe, the inhabitants rose *en masse*. Entrenchments were made and ditches formed—their only means of defence against a cruel and remorseless enemy; for the regular fortifications, as I have remarked elsewhere, have long since been razed to the ground, the city now extending far beyond their limits. The Basques, of whom there were supposed to be ten thousand, did good service. Many had been soldiers under Don Carlos in Spain. They had the land of their adoption to defend, and the property they had made in it to protect, and well did they perform their duty.

The following description applies to Monte Video up to the period of the siege; but the damage cannot be very great, or the English and other foreigners could not have remained in it, especially as there were many ladies.

In the course of this narrative, I have included the incidents of the voyage, for to many who are fond of such details they will be of interest. For a more extended description of these delightful provinces, I would refer to the works of Robertson, and Sir Woodbine Parish, published some years since.

I have strongly to caution parties against placing implicit confidence in the reports, which from time to time appear in some of the newspapers. They are often inserted by interested parties: sensible people on their guard should wait for the government despatches, always inserted in the leading London journals. There seems to be on the part of our Cabinet an indecision on this question somewhat surprising. The Premier, a short time since, in answer to a question put by Lord Palmerston, as to whether we were at war with the government of Buenos Ayres, replied *we were not*; although we have taken the forts at the entrance of the Parana, captured, or rather taken possession of their fleet, and turned it against their late masters.

Suppose "Young France" took it into its head some day to send out a squadron and take possession of Guernsey and Jersey—as of right belonging to France—oust their respective garrisons, and politely request them to find quarters down channel; I wonder whether John Bull would not construe this as something very *like declaration of war*? What Buenos Ayres and the Provinces on the opposite bank of the river may become, should a settled order of things succeed the present, it is almost impossible to surmise. The products of the tropics, as well as the fruits and vegetables of Europe, all flourish in its fine climate and luxuriant soil. In fact, the land swelters in richness. How can it be otherwise, when we reflect that for hundreds of years myriads of cattle and luxuriant vegetation have rotted upon its plains. I have often thought what a "land of promise" might this become, were it only in the hands of British agriculturists. It is to be regretted, for the sake of the people themselves, that their offer of being under the English flag was not accepted. It would have been permanently to their advantage. The number of troops sent to the

aid of the Monte Videans appears totally inadequate to the emergency. What are two regiments? True, we have a strong fleet in the Plate, but sailors and marines are not exactly adapted for field service. In a case like this, *if we interfere at all*, it should be with *a force sufficient to overcome all opposition*. How often has the gallant veteran at the head of the British army deprecated a "*little war*." It would, indeed, be a contemptible affair if two such powers as England and France were to be baffled by the Government of Buenos Ayres. A comparatively short time will show whether bigotry of the deepest dye, supported by a system of atrocious cruelty, and a mercantile policy of the narrowest description, or an enlightened one, founded upon the basis of mutual reciprocity and good faith, is to prevail.

There are many much more competent to advocate this cause than myself, and whose station and rank in society would add weight to their opinions, and whose interests are much more deeply affected. But their time is otherwise occupied. In concluding this introduction, I respectfully beg the indulgence of those who may favour me by a perusal of it and the sequel.

W. WHITTLE.

July, 1846.

CHAP. I.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE VOYAGE.—THE RUN DOWN CHANNEL.—MADEIRA.—
DESCRIPTION OF THE NAUTILUS.—SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY AT
SEA.—PASS THE CANARY ISLANDS.—BRUTALITY OF THE COOK.—SKETCHES
OF THE CREW.

April 10th, 1842.—HAVING for a long period felt an earnest desire to proceed to South America, an opportunity at this period presented itself, and I embarked in a fine new ship, commanded by an experienced and skilful seaman. Although so anxious to depart from “merry England,” when the time for doing so arrived, it was not without a feeling of regret that I saw the well-remembered objects from boyhood’s earliest days gradually disappearing from my view. But these feelings are generally only of an evanescent nature; at least I found them so. We had a splendid day to commence our transatlantic trip, and what was more cheering still, a fair wind. The noble Mersey, with its splendid piers, was soon left behind, and the Light-ship made. Here we bid adieu to those friends who had thus far accompanied

us on our way; they left us with many good wishes, giving us three cheers at parting, we, of course, returning the compliment.

All sail was now put on the ship, and we cracked on with top-gallant studding sails set. Holyhead was soon passed, and the next morning the Wicklow hills appeared in the distance; but such was the rapidity of our progress, that we had but a casual glimpse of the "gem of the ocean, and pride of the sea"—the Green Isle of Erin. Thank the fates, sea sickness and I are not acquainted, and I was fully able to appreciate the varying scene.

Numerous vessels were beating up Channel, but they made but slow progress, for the easterly wind was dead against them. This is one of the many hardships of a sailor's life: suddenly, almost in a few hours very often, rushing into an atmosphere of piercing cold, after for a long period encountering extreme heat. The sufferings undergone on these occasions on making the Channel in the winter, cannot be imagined except by those who have experienced them. We made signals to one or two, but I suppose Marriott's code was all Greek to them, as they only showed their ensigns in return. It is singular how few ships you fall in with at sea are provided with this simple and ingenious contrivance, whereby they could communicate with one another, although at a considerable dis-

tance. A complete set of signals and book, I believe, is only ten guineas. On the second evening we passed Tusker, and the following morning the old Head of Kinsale was in view; shortly after out of soundings. Thus our run down Channel had been a most rapid one, and we had a good prospect before us of a pleasant voyage.

On, on the vessel flies, the land is gone,
And winds are rude in Biscay's sleepless bay.

BYRON.

We experienced much the same weather that Lord Byron describes he met with in crossing it, and we made it in the same period, viz., the fifth day.

On the morning of the 21st we came in sight of the Island of Porto Santo; it is distant from Madeira only a few leagues. It presents a very barren appearance. The weather was now truly delightful, all that could be desired. The beautiful skies of these climes have often been pourtrayed both by the pencil of the painter, and the pen of the poet, and they have not been overrated. Madeira! there is something soft and pleasing in the very name. With what feelings must the consumptive invalid first view it, who is hastening to its shore as his only hope to escape the terrors of the grave! And should the blessing of renewed health and vigour be restored to his before-drooping and emaciated frame, from the effects of its salubrious

climate, with what regret will he quit its health-restoring woods, and balmy breezes, again to encounter the cold winds of the north! I need not say how much I longed for a cruise upon this justly celebrated spot, especially as we were nearly becalmed. We remained in sight of the island for two days.

April 22.—On this day I first saw that singular little fish, the “Nautilus”, or as the sailors term it, “Portuguese Man of War;” on several occasions I had a very good observation of this singular little fish. The lamented Bishop Heber thus describes the Nautilus in the narrative of his voyage to the seat of his episcopal functions:—“The lower part of its body is of a pale blue; on its back is something very similar to a lady’s fan, beautifully transparent, which it seems to erect at pleasure, and it also serves as a sail to facilitate its progress through the water.” A light breeze springing up, we at last lost sight of Tristram Point, the most westerly part of the island, steering for the Canaries.

April 23rd.—*Noon.*—The Royal West India Mail Steamer “Forth” passed us, Captain Fayrer, formerly of the unfortunate “President.” It was probably a most *fortunate* thing for him the Company treating him in the scurvy way they did; thus proving the old proverb that “out of evil good may come.”

April 24th.—Spoke a large Dutch Indiaman, bound to Batavia; she had been into Funchal Harbour for wines. The thermometer was now at 74 degrees of Fahrenheit, an increase of twenty at least since leaving England.

“Saturday Night at Sea.”—This was, in days of yore, more observed than now. We, however, although on the briny waves, always on this evening took care to remember our fair friends at home, in the good old toast of “Sweethearts and wives.” The Captain, being a Benedict, very properly reversed this.

April 26.—*“Sunday at Sea.”*—This day, in all well-regulated ships, is properly observed, so far as abstaining from all work not absolutely requisite. The crew are to be seen in clean clothes, some reading, others, perhaps, spinning a yarn; the ropes coiled with extra neatness; the decks beautifully clean; and at dinner, both in the cabin and forecastle, something extra is generally provided. Some Captains read prayers, and compel the attendance of the crew. This is all very well, if they are *truly sincere*, although religion is a thing not to be thrust down a man’s throat, whether he will or no. I allude to this more on account of an instance that came under my own observation, which was one of gross hypocrisy on the part of the Captain. The man was so hated by his crew, that on the arrival of the ship at Buenos Ayres, the whole of them de-

served. I always made it a rule on this day to read part of the morning service of the Church, but no compulsion for me. If a man has not that innate sense of what is due to his Creator, especially upon the great deep, an ignorant Captain will not be likely to impress upon his mind the importance of divine truth.

April 28.—We had a distant view of the most westerly of the Canaries. Observed a great quantity of vegetable substance floating on the surface of the water, probably detached from the rocks of the neighbouring islands.

A circumstance of a somewhat comic, also tragic nature, occupied a good deal of our attention this day. The cabin steward, after dinner, charged the "Doctor," alias the cook, with throwing the cat overboard!! Of course, a charge of so heinous and brutal a nature, was not to be passed over with impunity. A court of enquiry was consequently summoned to investigate the matter. The witnesses having been duly cross-examined, it appeared in evidence that the doctor, in his official capacity, had received orders from the Captain to commit justifiable homicide upon the body of one of the feathered community on board; that the doctor had duly carried this order into execution, and deposited the body outside his galley, until he should be enabled to perform the last rites to the

deceased on the following morning; that the aforesaid cat, *alias* Grimalkin, not having the fear of him, the doctor, before its eyes, and also not having its carnivorous propensities under due and proper control, did, during the night, or early the following morning, mutilate and render unfit for the object the doctor had in view, the aforesaid feathery individual. He, the doctor, on discovering the enormity of the offence, and espying the culprit at a short distance deliberately gorging himself upon one of the legs of his deceased friend, candidly confessed to the honorable court that he could control his indignation no longer, and that as some little expiation to his deeply wounded feelings, he at once determined to inflict death upon the offender; and that as he, the cat, had taken it into his head to make such an extraordinary meal, he should, in strict justice, make a mouthful for the sharks!!! The court, not deeming the defendant's plea of *provocation, justification* for such an act of barbarity, do order that the doctor's grog be stopped for the space of one calendar month!!!*

Signed, By order of the President.

At sea, April 28, 1842.

The crew, fourteen in number, consisted of five nations, viz., English, Welsh, French, Scotch, and

* As cats, or in fact any animal, are favourites at sea, the doctor was threatened with a cobbing by the men; but as he was a strong determined fellow, and always had his knife for use in case of attack, he escaped.

Irish. Having nothing better to do, it was a source of much amusement to me in observing the characteristics of each. The first mate was a Cornish man, and, what is not general on that part of our island, rather of the dwarfish order. He was determined to make up by a shew of bustle and consequence, what he was short of in length. He was in constant hot water with the men ; but a short time at sea soon proves whether master, mate, and men, severally know their respective duties. In such a motley ship's company, it is a difficult task for a mate to please both the captain and crew, but in the long run a good practical seaman, who, if required, can teach a man his duty, will have the best chance and receive respect, rather than a clever navigator only. The second mate was a canny Scotchman, fra bonny Aberdeen; he had been for thirty years knocking about in all quarters of the globe, had commanded several ships; but, as he said, he was born under an unlucky star, as he could never contrive to keep the weather guage long together; he was, however, every inch a sailor.

The only others I shall mention were an Irishman and a Frenchman. The former had contrived to run away from the unfortunate sloop of war *Fairy*, only the day before she sailed on her last cruise in the North Sea, where she foundered, and every soul on board perished. The latter was a thorough specimen of *Le grand Nationne*, but a first-rate seaman for all

that. In fact, I hardly know what he could not do ; it was quite a treat to hear him spin a yarn in broken English of his exploits, and the glory of *La Belle France*. He had been in the French navy, but like the Irishman, cut his country's service the first opportunity that presented itself.

I never met with a sailor that possessed the bump of inquisitiveness very strongly developed. If you ask a thorough tar to give you some account of the various places to which he has sailed, he will generally know as little about them as the man in the moon. As soon as they get ashore, they make for the nearest grog shop, and do not often sally out of it until they are cleaned out of their coin. They are a singular race, but an improvement is visible ; the institutions in our various large seaports, of libraries and sailors' homes, is highly creditable to the public spirit of our merchants and shipowners, but it will take some time to make Jack fully aware of the value of such institutions. It is truly surprising to see how recklessly they will throw away the hard-won earnings of many months. Some time ago I happened to be in the office of a merchant whose ship had arrived only the day before from a two years' voyage, when a sailor came in almost in a state of frenzy, without his jacket. It appeared he had that morning only received upwards of *thirty-six pounds*, had got beastly drunk, and been robbed of *every fraction*, including his new

jacket. That evening he went to the rendezvous, entered for a ship of war, and on the day following was shipped off to Portsmouth for a three years' cruise. This man had a wife and three children living in Cork, who were, no doubt, anxiously awaiting his long-looked-for arrival. He was a very fine-looking man, not more, I should think, than three and twenty. The agony of his poor wife may be easily imagined.

April 28.—On going upon deck after dinner, I perceived the mate and one of the men struggling together on the main rigging, and both in imminent danger of going overboard. I instantly ran below for the Captain, who ordered both to descend at once. It appeared the man had let his tar bucket fall, which so enraged the mate, that he ran up and struck him. The man afterwards acknowledged, that if the Captain had not been called so opportunely, he should have undoubtedly pitched the mate overboard. He was one of the strongest men in the ship. We were going free at the time, and before a vessel under such circumstances could be put about, several miles would have to be gone over: for a good swimmer the chances against him would be great, but neither of these men could swim.

There is too much of this sort of work at sea. An officer in the navy is not now allowed to strike a man, and I do not see why the first officer of a merchantman

should be allowed that privilege. An officer of one of H. M. Steam Frigates, was tried by court martial at Portsmouth, a short time since, for using abusive language, and striking the stoker, and sentenced to be dismissed the service.

CHAP. II.

CROSS THE TROPIC OF CANCER.—THE CAPE DE VERDES.—FLYING FISH.—HEAT RATHER OPPRESSIVE.—FIRST EVENING IN THE TORRID ZONE.—BRILLIANCY OF THE PLANETS AND STARS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.—MODE ADOPTED OF TAKING DOLPHINS AND ALBICORE.—A SAIL DESCRIBED.—THE RAINS OF THE TROPICS.—SUSPICIOUS CRAFT.—SHARKS, AND MODE OF TAKING THEM.—CROSS THE EQUATOR.—OLD NEPTUNE AND HIS SPOUSE.—PHOSPHORIC MATTER ON THE OCEAN.—THE TRADE WINDS.—HEAVY DEWS EXPERIENCED IN THESE LATITUDES.—SAGACITY OF ANIMALS AT SEA.—APPEARANCE OF APPROACHING BAD WEATHER VISIBLE.—ENCOUNTER A SUCCESSION OF HEAVY GALES.—NARROW ESCAPE OFF CAPE ST. MARY'S.—CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.—MAKE THE RIVER PLATE.—FLORES ISLAND.—ARRIVAL AT MONTE VIDEO.

May 1.—Crossed the Tropic of Cancer, and consequently in the torrid zone. Thermometer 85 degrees.

May 3.—Great numbers of birds around the ship; and by way of company, I suppose, the “flying fish” also sporting about. Several of them having taken it into their heads to fly on board, we had them cooked for tea, and found them excellent eating.

May 4.—We had now passed the “Cape de Verds.” The sun was this day vertical, and very hot; but a

good trade breeze took somewhat of its severity from us. However, I found the perspiration pretty copious.

Eight, p.m.—A night such as can only be met with in the tropics. The canopy of heaven, down to the verge of the horizon, glittering in splendour, with a brightness unknown in our latitudes. The planet Jupiter rising on one side of us, emitting a soft and beautiful light, and the full moon sinking beyond “old ocean’s bed,” in majestic grandeur, on the other. On such evenings as these I was loth to leave the deck, which was always at a late hour; for, in spite of every attempt to the contrary, I could not but dwell upon the things of other days, the majority of which were of a heterogeneous nature; also what the future might produce. At home I was certainly not much of a star-gazer, or thinker by moonlight; but at sea, without you choose to shut your eyes, it is almost impossible to be otherwise.

May 9.—Great numbers of Dolphins and Albicore in sight. We immediately got the grains and requisite tackle ready, in order to capture a few. We had a glorious hour’s sport. We caught several large albicore; the way we took them was as follows:—

A couple of hands run out to the jib boom, with a good strong line and hook, a piece of white calico being attached to it. This is darted upon the surface of the

water, so as to appear like a flying fish ; the albacore, being deceived, darts upon it. They are very strong, and about the length of a good sized cod, but much thicker in the back. They are of a beautiful colour ; the quantity of blood in them is surprising. The last we caught weighed about forty pounds. The flesh is very solid and white, but rather insipid. However, I prefer them to dolphin.

We had now arrived in what the sailors call "the variables," about five degrees north of the Equator ; and until the south-east trade winds are fallen in with, a very tiresome part of the voyage.

May 11.—A sail on the starboard bow, and evidently homeward bound. The Union Jack of Old England was hoisted at the main-mast head, with the ship's number at the mizen. We were shortly afterwards answered with the tri-colour of France. I hastily wrote a few letters ; by the time I had finished, she had come within half a mile of us. The gig was immediately manned : upon boarding her, she proved to be "*Le Fanny*, of Marseilles, from Bony ; *six of the crew were dead*, and one dying when we boarded her ; the Captain also appeared very ill.

What thousands does this pestilential clime hurry to a premature grave ! She was a fine barque of about three hundred tons, and had been out thirteen months.

We this day saw, for the first time, a flock of Mother Cary's chickens.

May 12.—Heavy rains, and a prisoner in the cabin; no very enviable position, with every thing close down, and within a few degrees of the line. The appearance of the sea in one of these tremendous showers is most singular. I can assimilate it more to the appearance of clouds of grey curling smoke than any thing else.

Before these rains come on the atmosphere is oppressively sultry; scarcely a breath of wind out of the heavens. On many occasions these tropical showers are anxiously looked for; all hands are instantly at work filling the casks; the poop awning, with a weight at one end, will catch an immense deal of water in a short time. The crew were shortly afterwards to be seen washing their clothes; and the process of cleansing, both in ship and crew, conduces much to the health and well-being of all on board.

Economy in the water is strictly looked to (*or ought to be*) at sea. Great evils, in long voyages, often occur from a want of precaution in this essential particular. A vessel trusting to *chance* for supplies of this indispensable requisite, is very bad policy; but such is very often the case.

May 13.—The mate brought to me an enormous

butterfly, which he had caught on deck. This was certainly a somewhat singular circumstance, as we were several hundred miles from any land, the coast of Africa being the nearest.

We were now drawing near old Neptune's dominions, and the sailors began to be a good deal on the *qui vivé*. His submarine highness was, however, compelled to wait awhile for his victims, as we had calms and contrary winds for several days.

May 14.—A schooner to windward, and a very rakish looking fellow he appeared; long and low in the water, with immense spars. She kept dodging about us for two days, first on one tack and then the other, we not at all liking her manœuvres; she, however, kept her distance. She was no doubt a slaver; but if these gentry can occasionally pick up a few odds and ends without the trouble of paying for them, they are not over particular, I believe, generally. In these latitudes, where the winds are generally light, they are by no means pleasant sort of companions to fall in with. *Meum and tuum* are not in their vocabulary, when circumstances require it especially.

May 15.—Several large sharks following us, no doubt attracted by the scent of some pieces of beef which were towing astern, for the purpose of washing the salt out. The mode of capturing these gentry has

often been described; but as there is nothing new under the sun, I'll e'en venture to give my description. As it was determined not to baulk their fancy for a little flesh meat, a large hook was baited with a piece of pork, having a strong chain to it. On their espying the tempting morsel, a race immediately ensued, and, of course, the largest and the strongest distanced his competitors in the struggle, and pounced upon the prize. On his finding himself somewhat queer about the throat, and that he had got something more than he bargained for in his own mind, his exertions to escape were terrific; but as we were not going to be done by any gammon of that sort, a strong running noose was lowered down, and passed around the thick part of his body; we then hauled with a will, and soon brought upon deck the "*pirate of the deep*." He measured fifteen feet, and there were four sucking fish adhering to him. These are fac-similes of a shark in miniature. I got one off by putting a marling spike into its mouth, and placed it in a bucket, to the side of which it immediately fastened.

Sailors are always in high glee when they get one of these voracious creatures in their power; they show no mercy. Their tenacity to life is extraordinary: in this instance the tail was first cut off, as a blow with this is no trifle. He was then cut open, and also divided into several pieces, yet the one with the head on

still showed symptoms of life. I preserved his backbone for a walking stick; when cleaned and polished it makes a very good one. I also partook of some steaks cut from the tail.

May 16.—A large bird discovered at daybreak asleep on the bowsprit end; it was *from the land*, not being web-footed, and must have been blown out to sea in a hurricane. It measured twenty inches from the beak to the tail, was very prettily marked, and had a long neck and black beak; it was the Captains intention to have it stuffed. It was of brown and white plumage, with black legs.

May 17.—Spoke the "Richmond," of London, bound to Algoa Bay, Cape of Good Hope; *she was full of women! going out as settlers, and to find husbands.* We came so close as to converse some time with them; they all appeared in good spirits. We asked the Captain how he managed to keep them in order; he said it was almost more than he *could do*, and he should be heartily glad when he was quit of them. We left him with an injunction to mind they did not run away with the ship.

May 18.—Crossed the Line with all the customary ceremonies, his watery highness being personated by the second mate, and his spouse by the cook. Several of the crew were shaved: I paid his godship, as forfeit,

some tobacco, and a bottle of his favourite beverage, viz., rum. A female passenger on board was frightened out of her senses almost; old Neptune having expressed a wish for a chaste salute, she locked herself up for a whole afternoon. At last I persuaded her to come out, as I had induced the old gentleman to go and pay a visit to another ship which had just hove in sight. She was one of the most unsophisticated specimens of nature's handywork I ever met with. Bred in the wilds of Ireland, she was going out to join a sister who had been wrecked on the coast of Brazil, and, by her good conduct, gained the affections of a worthy British merchant, who was proud to make her his wife.

May 20.—It is surprising the quantity of luminous or phosphoric matter the sea abounds with, more especially between the tropics. As the vessel ploughs her way through the water at night, in her wake, and around the bows, appears a sea of liquid fire. On many occasions I am certain, if I had been lowered to the water's edge, I could have almost seen to read, so vivid was the light..

May 21.—We had now the south-east trade winds pretty strong, and were running down the Coast of Brazil, keeping it, however, at a good distance, say about one hundred leagues.

May 22.—The water we were drinking was almost warm; what a luxury cold spring water would have proved. The thermometer upwards of ninety-eight degrees in the shade during the day, but the nights in the southern hemisphere are truly beautiful. The dews are, however, extremely heavy; although I never received any injury by being exposed to them, I know several who have.

May 25.—I was much amused this day at the cunning and sagacity of the pig on board. On deck there is always a cask of water for the use of the crew; they take the water out by means of a narrow tin can, through the bung hole, having a cord attached to it. I noticed the pig go several times to the cask, each time casting a very wistful look at it. Presently one of the men came for a drink; the pig no doubt having duly noticed the process, and probably seeing no just cause for his remaining thirsty in the midst of plenty, placed his fore feet upon the cask, and with his mouth drew up the bucket, but of course the principal part was spilled upon the deck. It is said pigs are not reasoning beings, but upon my word after this specimen, I am inclined to doubt it. He was the most knowing and mischievous rascal I ever met with of the swinish order. If he could get one of the jackets of the sailors, he would tear it to pieces in a moment. He got many a hiding from them, without making much improvement in his morals; at last he got so

bad, he was sentenced to death somewhat before he was fully prepared for the operation.

May 30.—The dampness of the atmosphere in these latitudes, where the sun has such intense power, is extraordinary. Any article of clothing, for instance, or books, will in a couple of days be covered with mould. I had several things spoiled in this manner.

We had great numbers of birds about us, especially Cape Pigeons. These are to be met with all down the coast of South America, as far as Cape Horn: they are about double the size of a wood pigeon, and are web-footed. We caught a good many by baiting a small fish hook with a bit of meat, and allowing a long line to tow overboard; an immediate battle ensues among the pigeons to obtain it. *Fishing for birds* is somewhat a novel idea to a landsman.

June 4.—Up to this period we had met with little bad weather, but now we were destined to taste a little of the sour, after experiencing the sweets, of a voyage. On the afternoon of this day there was every appearance of a heavy gale from the north-west.

Six p.m.—Up to this hour the wind and sea had been getting up, and it now blew very hard. The royal yards were sent down on deck, topsails double-reefed, mainsail furled, and jib housed. It abated about midnight.

June 5.—Heavy rain and frequent squalls. At noon no observation. Great numbers of large birds hovering about, the most conspicuous of which was the Albatross. Drawing near the coast of Rio Grande.

June 6.—The weather boisterous throughout; sail reduced to close-reefed fore and main topsails, and fore trysail. On sounding, fifty fathoms.

June 7.—No change for the better; sounded in twenty-five fathoms; nearer the land than the Captain anticipated, but as we could obtain no observation, dead reckoning was the only guide. The currents had set us in much nearer the coast than we at all desired. As the night set in the wind increased, with a high rolling sea.

Six p.m.—Sounded only ten fathoms! We were truly not in the most agreeable position, for the gale was blowing dead upon the land, and each succeeding hour seemed to strengthen it. However, there was no help for it; the lead was kept constantly going. We were by this time about twelve leagues distant from Cape St. Mary's, which forms a good headland, at the entrance to the River Plate.

Midnight.—The Captain appeared somewhat alarmed. He was, however, a cool, clever navigator, and all that thorough seamanship and expe-

rience could, under existing circumstances, avail, was fully, in this instance, displayed. He pointed out to me our correct position on the chart, which was one of imminent danger.

June 8.—Two a.m.—Thank God, the wind veered two points about this time, which enabled us to edge along the land, instead of being driven on it. At this period we had only *four fathoms under us*. I was on deck the whole night : it was one of intense anxiety. We could not see (except when the lightning enabled us) half the ship's length, the night was so dreadfully dark ; and the rain descended in torrents until about four in the morning. About half-past five day broke, Cape St. Mary's distant about three leagues.

If we had been driven on shore in such a gale on this part of the coast, we should have been in pieces in ten minutes. The "S. G.," Captain G., was wrecked a short time prior, about ten leagues further up the coast.

Finding it impossible to get round the Cape, the wind having veered completely round, we were obliged to stand out to sea ; and for near a week we were beating about, as it was blowing a regular "Pampero" right down the river. These come on very suddenly, and blow with intense violence for several days. In the port of Buenos Ayres it is no uncommon occur-

rence for the whole of the ships to be aground, the strength of the wind actually forcing the water out of this part of the river. In the harbour of Monte Video H. M. steam ship of war Gorgon was blown (having all her steam up at the time) so far inland, that it took many months to dig a canal in order to get her afloat again,

June 12.—At last a change in our favor. We immediately stood for the river, and shortly afterwards made the low island of Lobos, and in a few hours the high land of Pan de Azúcar, or the “Sugar Loaf;” and about twelve at night made the light on Flores Island, ten leagues from Monte Video. How this little spot should have been designated *Flores* I cannot imagine, for a more barren bit of mother earth cannot be conceived. The Island of Flowers, forsooth!

June 13.—*Five a.m.*—Here we were obliged to anchor, to keep off a low ledge of rocks which appeared just above the water. The mate who had the watch at this time, although he had been three voyages to the river, had actually steered the ship to the wrong side of the island, and thereby we had a narrow escape; it was fortunate the day broke just in time. We remained until about noon. We saw numbers of seals here; a great many are taken for their skins and oil, also at Lobos; they are, without exception, the most frightful creatures I ever beheld.

Shortly after making sail from Flores, a Monte Video pilot came down to us, and carried the ship into the harbour, where we arrived about four in the afternoon, thus making the passage, although blown off for nearly a week, in two months and two days, one of the swiftest that had been made for some time. The pilots usually make their appearance when the dangers have been passed; at least they did in this instance. We actually made the entrance to the harbour before the pilot boarded us.

CHAP. III.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY AND HARBOUR OF MONTE VIDEO.—CIVILITY OF THE AUTHORITIES.—SOUTH AMERICAN LADIES.—PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—APPEARANCE OF THE TROOPS, ETC.—AN ENGLISH CHURCH DESIRABLE.—THE PUBLIC MARKETS, AND THE NATURE OF THE PRODUCTS INTRODUCED.—EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HOUSES.—FORMER AND PRESENT STATE OF THE FORTIFICATIONS.—LAWS RELATIVE TO SERVING AS SOLDIERS.—PUBLIC SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MERCHANTS.—THE MASQUES.

The mount from which Monte Video takes its name, forms one of the most conspicuous objects in this immense river. Vessels both going and returning from Buenos Ayres, take it as a land-mark by which to steer their course. At the top is a building formerly fortified, but now only used as a light-house. The city is situated at the bottom of the bay, which is well sheltered, but a vessel drawing more than fourteen feet of water would have to anchor a short way off; although it is much better in this respect than Buenos Ayres. Heavy ships always moor in Man of War's Road in the first instance, until they are sufficiently lightened to proceed into the harbour. The town

presents rather an imposing appearance when viewed from the water, the Cathedral forming a most conspicuous object. The bay has a very lively appearance, numerous gaily-painted boats continually sailing about; they are exceedingly well managed. The large lattine sail is almost universal in these small craft: the boatmen are nearly all Italians, principally Genoese. These men make a fine thing of it, when the shipping is numerous; they will very modestly require a "patacone" (four and two-pence) for putting you on board a vessel lying perhaps half a mile from the shore. This fraternity appear the same all over the world; they are almost as bad as hackney coachmen, but not quite.

The vehicles in use are truly of a primitive order; the refuse of the coachmakers' yards of England and France, mounted upon high wheels, clumsily put together. The brutality of the fellows who drive them is beyond all conception. The horses are placed three abreast, the postilion mounting the right hand one; the harness, if such a name may be given to it, is of bulls' hide, and the whip composed of the same tough material. If Mr. Humanity Martin, or Sir Andrew Agnew were here, it would make their hair stand on end to witness the conduct of these brutes in human form. I often longed to see the same instrument applied to their own persons. A good bastinading would be of infinite service to them. I

would any time prefer walking ten miles than riding one in these villainous importations.

I was rather disappointed at the appearance of the place on first landing. The Mole is a wooden erection, projecting into the water perhaps a couple of hundred feet, the steps of which are much in need of repair; and if you do not happen to be careful, stand a good chance of breaking your neck, or going into the water.

As soon as I had set my foot (I was about to say upon *terra firma*) upon the Mole I mean, I was in immediate anticipation of an order to turn out my traps, to see how much I had in the contraband or smuggling line, but on proceeding to the "*Resgnardo*," I received a polite intimation to pass on to the "*Aduana*," or custom-house. On presenting myself to the *ufficiale* there, I supposed I should at once have to shell out: not a bit of it: I was declared passed without *unlocking a trunk*. Such was the courtesy I experienced from the custom-house authorities. I much doubt if the same would be shown by any of the like fraternity at home.

To the generality of the world I believe the republic of Monte Video, or the "*Banda Oriental*," or Eastern Bank, as they are pleased to designate it, is known but by name, and scarcely that. It is, in fact, only a state of yesterday, comparatively speaking, sprung up from the internal disquietude which has for so long a

period distracted the South American provinces, since they threw off the sovereignty of Spain. This nation, once so great and powerful, and to whose enterprising navigators of former days we are so much indebted, do not now hold *one foot* of land in all that immense continent. The mines of Peru, the envy of the world, snatched from their grasp! The conquests of a Pizarro and a Cortes, have, piece by piece, slipped away. It would almost seem that the original inhabitants were destined, at some period or other, to have the cruelties practised upon them visited upon the heads of their persecutors' descendants. These countries present a lesson which, in my humble opinion, the present generation would do very well to profit by. And in the mother country, what a lamentable picture does it present: anarchy and confusion! The cause of this I leave to abler hands than mine to explain. For myself, I am almost inclined to think it inexplicable.

Sudden changes must deeply affect the commercial interests of any country, and what appears at the moment a desirable change, is often found, when proved by the test of time and experience, not to effect the good or the evil its promoters or opponents imagined. The manufacturers of England, by the immense power of machinery, which may be increased to almost an unlimited extent, can glut the markets of the world by over production. There is much to be done

yet to induce the whole trading world to follow the example we are desirous of setting them. If we could get them of *one mind*, that would indeed be free trade. But deeply-rooted prejudices have to be overcome, before we can venture to hope for reciprocity. It is devoutly to be wished that such, ere long, will be the case.

It is only of late years that the independence of this country has been recognised by the European powers, and having done so, they are bound to maintain it; and it is, up to the present moment, fighting for its existence with its determined and inveterate enemy, Rosas, the Dictator of Buenos Ayres.

The city has, within the last few years, risen to considerable commercial importance. One main cause of this was the long blockade of Buenos Ayres by the French, which caused the trade to centre in Monte Video. Since that period the mercantile community have directed their attention a good deal towards it.

The trade is principally carried on by foreigners, the natives of the country being more engaged in preserving its independence, than directing their attention to commercial pursuits. The town is laid out in squares, that is, the streets regularly crossing each other. The principal are the *Calle Porton*, *Calle San Francisco*, *San Gabriel*, *San Juan*, *San Carlos*,

Calle de Pescadores, and a few others of minor note. The first I have mentioned is the principal; in this street, or *Calle*, the best shops are situated. On fine evenings it is quite a treat to perambulate it, and take a glance at the *Sennoras* who congregate to make their purchases. The ladies here, like the sex, I believe, in general, (God bless them)! are very fond of spending money, and as the different articles are all displayed before them in the most enticing manner, they have ample opportunities for exercising their taste.

French and English fashions are fast gaining ground, and but few ladies are to be seen walking abroad in the old Spanish costume; but the majority still decline bonnets. They mostly wear a lace veil, or handsome silk scarf, thrown gracefully over the back of the head, so as fully to display their beautiful black hair, of which they are justly proud. The *abaneco*, or fan, forms an indispensable accompaniment, no lady being seen in public without it. The carriage of the women is superb; their manner of walking is grace personified.

By these observations I do not wish to throw into the shade my own dear countrywomen. Take them for *all in all*, give me *the latter*, but I can but pay this just tribute to the former.

I shall now proceed to describe the public buildings. Of course these are not to be compared to European edifices, but as I went to the country with no exaggerated notions in this particular at least, I had no reason to be disappointed.

The Hospital was the first I visited. The arrangements, making due allowance, were creditable, and the medical officers and attendants appeared to me desirous to promote the comforts of their patients. The monks have, of course, free access, and I saw several praying by the bedside of those supposed to be in a dangerous state. The building is of a somewhat motley order, having from time to time been extended; but altogether a highly creditable institution for so new a country, or, perhaps, more correctly speaking, one where the skill of the eminent practitioners of Europe has only hitherto been imitated at an humble distance. There is a chapel attached to it, and this is also open to the public who choose to pay their devotions in it.

The Cathedral, or "*Matrez*," as it is more generally termed, is of considerable dimensions; it has a dome and two towers, one of which was a few years since struck by lightning, and is now in process of repair. The exterior has never been finished; the interior is, however, completed. The floor is of marble, also the steps. There are several handsomely decorated

shrines, especially the one dedicated to the Holy Virgin. There are also a good many pictures of different saints, one representing the martyrdom of St. Lawrence, who was burned on a grid iron, &c., &c., but not any, in my opinion, of much excellence, except, perhaps, one of the crucifixion.

When the ladies attend *misa*, they always come prepared with a nice little carpet, which a servant, mostly a black girl, spreads upon the floor. When they are tired of kneeling, or the forms of the service permit, they have a way of reclining at their ease somewhat in the Turkish fashion, anon casting a few lightning-like glances around them, to see if any Cavaliero of their acquaintance is present.

About eleven on the Sunday morning the floor of the Cathedral presents a very gay appearance, this being the *misa* at which the *elite* make a point of attending.

I was much disappointed on my arrival to find no English Church, but was informed, should circumstances permit, one would shortly be erected; but of course the war put a stop to this and many other improvements which were in contemplation. It is somewhat strange, too, that during the years of prosperity this was not accomplished. At Buenos Ayres there is both an English and Scotch Episcopal church,

although much against the wishes of its present ruler. Not long since he issued a decree prohibiting an English teacher to give instruction founded upon the ritual of the Church of England. Another of his decrees compelled every man whose father, an Englishman, had married a Buenos Ayrean woman, to take up arms, although by so doing, he would have to fight, at least if not against the country that gave him birth, against one he could claim as his country, and one, perhaps, to which all his sympathies and feelings leaned; for although the mother very justly, in my opinion, has much to do in forming the minds of her children, yet so far as my experience has gone, and the observations I have made, their proudest boast is that they are *English* in right of *their father*, and have proved *worthy of the name*.

Now I would appeal to the feelings of any man who is entitled to the appellation, and ask him would he not resist, by every means in his power, complying with such an unjust ordinance, as a deliberate *insult to his country*? In every other but this, the English name is honoured, feared, and respected. Are British subjects to be insulted and imprisoned without the legislature coming promptly to their aid? I cannot, will not, believe they will not do so. Non-interference may be all very well in the abstract, but there is a line of demarcation which cannot be passed with impunity either by nations or individuals.

Opposite to the Cathedral is the "*Cabeildo*." In this building the sittings of the government are held; also the courts of justice. The lower story is also a prison; and as you turn out of the Plaza to the left, may be seen different small articles for sale, which the prisoners hang out from the iron bars.

A little further is the "*Policea*," which is also a prison. There is always a strong guard of soldiers at both of these places. It is customary for a stranger, on arrival, to introduce himself to the "*Oficiale Primiero*," at the *Policea*, to present his passport, and pay his respects to that functionary. Just as I got there they were relieving guard; the men were certainly a sorry set of scarecrows, and forcibly brought to my recollection Falstaff's description of his recruits before marching through Coventry; some with shoes, some with none, (the majority in the latter plight;) some with hats, others with caps, and many without either; with their complexions of black, brown, yellow, and white; presenting altogether a group, as George Robins says, only to be seen to be appreciated.

I found all the men in authority extremely courteous. The Primiero speaks English pretty well, and appeared rather partial to our country.

A short distance from the *Policea* is the Market. This was formerly a large fort, and protected the city

from the advance of an enemy from the open country. The principal market is held early on Sundays, from four to ten o'clock, and is generally abundantly supplied with flesh, fish, and fowl. Beef sells at about one penny per pound; turkeys are also abundant, and grow to an enormous size, as also domestic poultry; but every living thing *tastes of beef*, there is no sweetness of flavour like ours. I used to think the fish tasted of it, for there is always carcasses floating about the bay, which attracts them in immense numbers. There is a species of small fish called Picaries, which come in shoals. I have caught one hundred in an hour with a line, and hooks baited with raw beef. Vegetables are dear, their cultivation, however, is more attended to than formerly. Ostrich eggs are abundant; on the Pampas are immense flocks of these gigantic birds: many go out for the purpose of shooting them. Partridges are also numerous, but they have not the flavour of ours.

Round the mount there used to be plenty, but since building has commenced there, the birds have gone, and when you want a day's shooting you are obliged to go several leagues. Armadillos are also brought for sale, and considered by the natives a great luxury; also snails. One day, on entering a *Fonda* for a cup of coffee, I was surprised to see an individual discussing with great apparent *gusto* a large dish of these, and eating them as we would cockles. Lizards they

consider a dainty. A friend of mine who resided some years in British Guiana, described them as excellent, they grow to an immense size in that country.

Fruits in the season are abundant, such as oranges, peaches, grapes, figs, strawberries, and apples; the last however are but indifferent. Any of the productions of Europe will grow in this country, with anything like common attention. All that the country requires to insure its prosperity is *Peace*.

The majority of the houses in most of the *Calles* are only of one story, but latterly, in the business parts, they are building of two and three. The rooms all open into each other, by means of folding doors; the *sala*, or principal room, facing the street; but in the best houses a suite of three will run in front, these are however by no means numerous. As you enter, before you is the *patio*, this is an open space, with rooms all round it, and if it be a two story house, it will have galleries running round it. It is usually paved with marble, in squares or diamonds of black and white, flowering plants are tastefully arranged, and orange trees, with perhaps marble vases, and figures placed here and there, giving to the house a beautiful and cool appearance. The top of the house or *asetaire* is used as a promenade, and sometimes in the warm summer evenings, as you perambulate upon them, if

at all elevated, the city is spread out before you, and you see the inhabitants generally enjoying the cool of the evening after the heat and toil of the day—from the whole a fine view of the bay and shipping is obtained, the place being built upon rising ground. The *asetaire* also collects the water, pipes conveying it to the *alquivie*, or well.

The houses present to a stranger the idea of prisons more than of private dwellings; this arises from the windows having all iron bars before them; but the eye shortly becomes accustomed to this, the state of the country requiring every man to protect his property and family to the best of his ability, thus every house is more or less capable of being defended: of this I shall speak more fully.

When the British troops, after a gallant resistance, became masters of Monte Video, in the year 1809, they found extensive lines of fortification, with several strong batteries well supplied with cannon. These have all been taken down, with the exception of one which commands the harbour, and the land sold to private individuals.* This is somewhat surprising, when we reflect that a war of the most savage and sanguinary nature, has been carried on by the Buenos

* It may perhaps be as well to remark relative to this, that the Monte-Videan government required funds, and the land on which these walls stood was valuable and sold very high.

Ayres government for so long a period, against that of Monte Video, that the latter should have allowed the capital to be dismantled of its defences in this manner ; but such is the fact.

Should an enemy be bold enough to enter the place, if the inhabitants behave with any degree of bravery and determination, it ought to prove the grave of every man who has boldness enough to do so, for the houses are so built that a tremendous fire of musketry might be poured upon an enemy, and those inside not much exposed. The inhabitants in case of attack, from these circumstances, possess an advantage.

The laws of the state enact that every man from the age of sixteen to sixty, shall be enrolled as a citizen soldier for its defence ; those persons however who are foreigners, having a consul resident within the republic, are exempt from this decree, but no others ; they are obliged to take out a protection, this describes the name, age, and country of the party, and must be signed by the respective consul, also by the chief of police. By a recent order, all foreigners are requested to wear upon their hats the national cockade of the nation to which they belong ; this is done to prevent them from being mistaken for natives who are compelled to attend drills twice a week.

The rents of houses in Monte Video are enormous; of any extent, five, six, and seven hundred sterling per annum, and one English merchant, Samuel L., Esq. pays upwards of eight hundred. The commercial career of this gentleman (a native of the good old town of Liverpool) has been hitherto one of extraordinary success; his speculations have been on a very large scale, and he is erecting a new town on the opposite side of the bay, to which in compliment to our gracious queen, he has given the name of Victoria.* He is a firm supporter of the present government of Monte Video, and consequently opposed to that of which Rosas is the head; the latter threw him into prison at Buenos Ayres, a few years since, because he married a lady, a native, without the consent of the Dictator. It would be a serious matter I should think for him, should Rosas by possibility succeed in his designs upon Monte Video, for in that case land sold by the present government would no doubt be declared illegal. Such I have often heard would be the case. He has proposed, and the offer has been accepted, upon conditions to build a new mole and sea wall, which is much wanted; also to build a market upon the English plan, also an English church. All these redound highly to his honour and public spirit, and if

* Since I left, the Buenos-Ayrians have almost destroyed the buildings of the new town, at least so I have been informed—and when we take into consideration the deadly animosity existing between the two parties, it is not to be wondered at.

carried into effect, will confer an inestimable benefit to the port, and prove a lasting memorial of British industry and individual enterprise. Such men as these are a credit to the land of their birth. The force of example, in a country like this does much, where the people are naturally indolent, and who depend upon foreigners doing that for them, which they are unable or unwilling to do for themselves.

The artizans are mostly emigrants from the Basque Provinces, such as joiners, bricklayers, smiths, &c.; and a formidable body they are. It is supposed they amount to near ten thousand. They bring with them and retain their country's customs, and form a little world of themselves. They have their own places of amusement, such as billiard rooms, cafés, dancing saloons, &c.; and the Basquer's ball on Sundays and holidays is frequently resorted to by the young men of Monte Video, when they are inclined for a frolic.

Many of the women are extremely pretty, and remarkably lively. They generally speak both French and Spanish, their country being on the border of each; but neither of very pure accent, as may be imagined. They have several good bands of music, and I really do not know a class of people who appear to enjoy themselves so much. Many of them have become comparatively rich within a few years, such

has been the rapid demand for houses erected by them, in the upper part of the city.

They are, as a body, an intelligent, sober, and industrious class. Superior, in many respects, to their order with us, but certainly far behind as mechanics; but that we must expect.

One day, in a ramble, I came upon a neat, comfortable-looking wood house; it was built upon the Swiss plan, viz., a conical roof, with gallery and stairs outside. There was a neat garden, with several sheds for cattle. Altogether, it appeared to me *a place for industry and toil, to want, a stranger*. As I stopped looking upon it, the occupant, a decent good looking man, after saluting, said, *entrar amigo*,—enter friend, and as I was rather tired, I was nothing loth to avail myself of the polite invitation.

I found a couple of *Ganchos* seated at a table, and before them was a savoury mess and a jug of wine. I was instantly invited to partake, but as I smelled garlick and oil in it, I declined, but partook of a cup of the wine. Our worthy host was what we should call in England a furrier, and these men had brought some skins for sale. There were several kinds of animals, as well as birds, about the place, in cages, with several of the largest dogs I ever saw. The eldest boy pulled me away to look at his armadillos,

of which he had a many ; he offered me a couple, and was quite surprised at my refusing the offer. The man had been some years in the country ; the house was his own property. He was not exactly a Swiss, but nearly approximating to it. The houses of the Basques are mostly at the outside of the city, and they build them in such a way that they can be easily removed, and the style always assimilates to the province from which the individual comes.

There are few places in the world, I should say none for its size, where the community consists of so many different nations. Here may be found native Spaniards, Brazilians, Italians, French, English, Portuguese, Hamburgese, Dutch, Swedes, Prussians, and sometimes Russians ; also Americans and Sardinians.

CHAP IV.

THE CATTLE AND THE SALADIERAS.—MODE OF KILLING HORSES.—RAW AND DRY HIDES.—THE ESTANCIAS, OR CATTLE STATIONS.—SOUTH AMERICAN SHEEP.—IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY.—NATURE OF THE WOOL, &c.—DESCRIPTION OF A QUINTA, OR COUNTRY HOUSE.—SPANISH HOSPITALITY AND POLITENESS.—SOUTH AMERICAN DAIRY-MAIDS.—A GRAND BALL.—DARING ACT OF AN INDIVIDUAL.—A MILITARY AND NAVAL EXECUTION.—SINGULAR RENCONTRE.

The cattle are killed in such numbers in this country, as would appear to a stranger incredible. The "Saladieras," or places where they are slaughtered, are spread over the whole province. The one I first visited is the largest in the district. On a first view these places present a most extraordinary and disgusting scene; and it requires a good deal of nerve and determination to overcome the feelings produced. The one I now allude to is situated near the Mount, and a vessel that was wrecked in the bay some years since serves as a landing place, being filled with stones, and forms a very good one.

As you ascend from this towards the killing ground, the carcasses of horses and oxen strew the ground, on

each side, in thousands, in every stage of decomposition. Up and down the ground jerked beef may be seen in stacks, in form and size similar to hay stacks at home. Here and there large sheds and buildings are placed, in which are erected steam engines, boilers, vats, coolers, &c., where the tallow, grease, and size, is extracted. This article requires much improvement in the manufacture; it has a bad smell with it. This might easily be obviated by a chemical process, and the value enhanced accordingly.

Walking onwards, you shortly perceive numbers of dark, brawny, sinewy-looking men, half naked, engaged in flaying the animals just slaughtered. All this time you are walking *up to shoe soles in blood!!*

The mode adopted in killing horses is as follows:—on arrival at the *Saladiera*, they are driven into large staked inclosures, called *Craels*, and when wanted for killing, a long sliding door is opened, and they are forced into an inner one. When they have got perhaps fifty in, the door is let down. It is painful to notice the young colts following the mares, as they are mostly trod to death in these confined places. An experienced hand is stationed on a platform outside the *Crael*, with a lasso, which he dexterously throws over their necks; it is then drawn tight, and in a moment, the horse, by means of a windlass, is forced to a low wagon, and with one blow on the brain dis-

patched. When they have got as many as the wagon will hold, it is moved on a railway to the skinners. Three minutes will do the whole.

It is wonderful to see perhaps only two men driving one thousand head of cattle; they are mounted on very fleet horses, each being provided with a long lance.

Many of us have observed the labour saved at home to the drivers of sheep, more especially by employing well-trained dogs. Here they never think of such a thing. In fact, I understand the sheep-dog, like all the rest of the species, shortly become valueless. It is for naturalists to explain regarding this undoubted fact.

The manner of killing cattle is very similar, but they are always hamstrung, and stuck in the neck.

The quantity of swine fed at these places is enormous, and it is anything but a pleasing sight to witness these creatures gorging themselves upon good beef. I almost swore to turn Jew, and forswear pork for the remainder of my existence. After this I was nothing loth to avail myself of Mr. Williams's offer to walk up to his Quinta, and taste some prime Cognac Brandy; and it certainly went down with considerable gusto. On my next visit I was not quite so squeamish. Four

hundred head were killed on this day. I could have purchased many good horses for three *patacones* each, about thirteen shillings English.

The raw hides are generally salted at the *Saladieras*, and afterwards on board the vessel, in layers. The dry hides mostly come from the interior of the country, in wagons drawn by six or eight oxen, and deposited in *Barraccas*, from whence they are purchased by the merchants and shipped: one of the most extensive of these is that of Mr. Mc. Eachen. The wagons are constructed upon a very simple process, being nothing more than a few poles mounted on wheels. They contrive to bring these a long distance, over tracts not worth calling by the name of roads. I have seen fourteen bullocks used upon emergency. In the rainy season these may be considered almost impassable. In the city a great improvement has taken place in this respect; they were formerly a heap of mud or dust, without paving. In the new part of the town deep sewers are formed; the only city, I should say, in South America, where such a thing has ever been thought of. This speaks well for the good intentions of the executive government, and what they would do, should the Buenos Ayreans allow them the same privileges that they themselves have fought for and won.

The "*Estantias*," or cattle stations, are in many instances of immense extent; many thousand acres.

The cattle, of course, are not to be compared with ours generally, although I have seen many fine animals, especially bulls.

The sheep of these countries are very inferior ; the wool coarse and poor in the extreme, and the mutton without flavour ; but in some districts they are, I believe, trying to improve the breed, but not, as yet, to any extent. I have been informed that the pampero winds, so prevalent at certain seasons, prove very injurious to the fleece. I am inclined to think that the strong grasses of South America are unsuited to them. The Llama is the native sheep, but these are now met with only on the shores of the Pacific. The Spaniards introduced those we see on the east coast from Europe, and as the Spanish sheep have for ages produced fine fleeces, the natural conclusion is, that they must have deteriorated.

The land in cultivation is comparatively trifling, except at the " Quintas." A good deal of fine wheat is grown in the neighbourhood of Maldonada, for the Monte Videan market. The people in the interior almost all live upon animal food, eggs, &c.

The implements of husbandry in use are of the worst and most primitive description imaginable. The English, however, pursue a system somewhat similar to what we do in this country.

It is surprising the dexterity displayed in throwing the lasso. A horse never forgets the punishment he receives on being first caught. They drag him along the ground for some time, and if a lasso is quietly put over his neck, he will begin to tremble: in fact, this is the only breaking nine-tenths ever obtain. The first time I mounted a South American horse, strongly reminded me of the story of Mazeppa; I was quite at his mercy. I rode him with an English curb-bit, but I might as well have tried to pull up an elephant, he was so hard mouthed. He at last took it into his head to stop at a *pastorea*, where he had no doubt often been before, about eight miles from the city. The keepers of these places always serve a new comer out, by perhaps giving him one of the most vicious brutes in their stud. These places (the livery-stables of this country) are nothing more than enclosures, with long lines of sheds quite open to the weather. The next time I took care to use one of their own severe bits, but English stirrups; for those they use you can only get the point of your toe into; these are as proportionably small as the bit and spurs are large.

A few leagues, or sometimes miles, from the city, the wealthy inhabitants have their *Quintas*, or country residences. One morning early, in company with a friend, I set out to pay a visit to one of these. The place was beautifully situated, commanding a view

seaward. The grounds were enclosed with the gigantic American Aloe and Cactus. These form impervious fences. Round the house ran a stream of water, on which numerous aquatic birds, of beautiful plumage, were sporting. Across it was placed a prettily-constructed bridge, which led to the orangery; the trees laden with fruit, some ripe, other kinds of a later description, their dark foliage affording a delightful and cooling shade

Turning to the right and left were walks covered over with trellis work, to which the vines were trained, the rich grapes hanging suspended in all directions. Flowers of every hue and beauty interspersed around. Humming birds and paroquets, with the beautiful tinted cardinal, were in abundance.

The family consisted of an elderly lady, the mother of our host, his wife, and two children. My knowledge of Spanish being limited, my friend who accompanied me acted as an interpreter.

The old lady was a native of Seville, but had been a many years in the country; but until the last four years they had resided in Buenos Ayres. Like a number of others they had been obliged to leave on account of the son being supposed not to be favourable to the domination of Rosas. The *Senora* produced a very beautiful dress, and inquired if it were not *fabrica*

Englese, (of English manufacture,) and she was informed it was.

The largest strawberries I ever saw was at this *quinta*, but we were short of the rich cream of England to mix with them. The dairy-maids are a sorry set. I never tasted a drop of good milk during my stay in the country. These people have no idea of making butter or cheese. I have been told a little is made in Buenos Ayres, by a few English at the *Estantias*, but only for their own consumption. Now there is nothing in the climate to prevent this for at least six months in the twelve. All is imported from Holland or the United Kingdom: the price varies from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per pound; Dutch cheese about 1s. 6d.; English 2s.

On taking our leave our kind hostess, with genuine Spanish politeness, presented to each of us a small bouquet of choice flowers, as a parting gift of friendship, with an invitation to repeat our visit.*

Shortly after my arrival, the President, General Reveira, made his public entry into the city from the camp. On this occasion the different corps of National Guards were drawn up, in order to receive him with

* From a letter I received from Monte Video, dated April 4, I find that the enemy has taken possession of the above, burned the trees, &c., and made a barrack of the house!!!

the honours due to his rank as Chief of the Republic. He made his appearance escorted by a body-guard, composed of Indian cavalry, (wild looking beings enough.) He is a man of rather prepossessing appearance, of dark complexion, and looks about fifty years of age. He was dressed in full uniform as a general, with a profusion of gold lace, and gold bullion epaulets; the troops as he passed presenting arms.

A series of balls and entertainments were given on his arrival. The British ambassador, Mr. Mandeville, was down from Buenos Ayres, in order to ratify a treaty of commerce with the Monte Videan government. The English merchants, in honour of the latter, gave a grand dinner and ball, to which his Excellency, the President, was invited.

The ball took place in the largest house in the city. The whole of the *patios* were covered in, and the walls tastefully hung with fluted drapery. The different suites of rooms presented a most superb appearance; every thing that could please the eye, and add beauty to the scene, was provided without regard to the cost. In the dance were to be seen some of the finest women in South America, and they are not a few; they were all most splendidly dressed, and they appeared to enjoy themselves exceedingly. The officers of the different ships of war in the harbour were present, consisting of

English, French, Sardinian, and a few Brazilian, and they contributed much to the gaiety of the evening.

A most luxurious supper was also not forgotten, which Dons and Donnas alike did ample justice to. Such an entertainment had never been given in this part of the world before, and will not be readily forgotten. It cost the British houses upwards of *one thousand pounds*.

A few days afterwards a somewhat singular performance took place in the Plaza, or great square. A large stage was erected in the centre, from which a tight rope was carried to the roof of the *Cabildo*. A daring fellow, in consideration of receiving one thousand dollars if he accomplished it, proposed to ascend it and alight on the top of the building. The ascent must have been several hundred feet. The day at first fixed upon was that on which the President arrived, but there was too much wind, and it was postponed, much to the disappointment of the populace. At last, however, they were to be gratified. All being prepared, he began his attempt, and got to about thirty feet from the top, when the rope began to vibrate a good deal: this was a most anxious moment. The rope was found not tight enough. He contrived, however, to get down again backwards, and the rope being made tighter, he at last accomplished his daring undertaking amid the shouts of the assembled thou-

sands. If he had fallen, he would have been dashed to atoms! Any thing where life is at stake is sure to attract the most. In the evening a grand display of fire-works took place.

Soon after the President arrived, he ordered two men to be shot for murder. The scene was of a most awful and imposing description. These men had quarrelled with their victim relative to Don Carlos, the whole being Spaniards. These two were Carlists, and the man they murdered an adherent of Donna Maria. They stabbed the man, and then *cut his body in pieces.*

On the morning of execution they were taken from the prison in two coaches, escorted by a large body of troops. One of them was a fine looking young man, about five and twenty. He walked to the carriage with an air of perfect indifference, in which were seated two priests. He had, during his imprisonment, refused their aid, and continued to do so to the last. The other had to be supported, and fainted before he reached the coach. The cavalcade then moved forward, the band playing a funeral dirge, to the place of execution: this was close to where the murder was committed. Two strong posts were erected, with seats at the bottom, to which the prisoners were tied, the priests standing close to them.

The first I have mentioned, although within a few moments of eternity, waved them from him with contempt: he then asked for an orange, which he eat; he then called for a cigar. While smoking this, the signal was given for the firing party to advance; the priests retired gradually backwards, holding up the cross towards the prisoners, deeply affected. The men levelled their carbines, and fired:—the cool, determined, self-possessed murderer was a corpse!

The other poor wretch did not die so easy, they failed to hit him on the first volley in a vital part, and the wadding had caught his clothes; he was actually on fire! One of the soldiers then stepped up and put his carbine close to his ear, and literally blew his *head to pieces*! They were then hung up for an hour for the multitude to gaze upon. Such is an execution in South America!!!

I was witness, some time afterwards, to a naval execution. One evening I happened to be on board a vessel lying in the Roads, and close to the Sardinian Frigate *Euradice*. At about five o'clock we heard them beat to quarters. There was now evidently something unusual going forward. Shortly afterwards we could distinctly see a priest on the quarter deck in full canonicals, with a man kneeling, engaged in prayer. After a short interval, one of the crew ran out to the end of the main yard with a snatch block

and whip. It was now easy to imagine what was to follow. At the moment the evening gun was fired, a poor fellow was run up like a shot to the yard arm, with two heavy weights to his legs. After hanging about a quarter of an hour, the body was cut down, and the crew piped to supper. It appeared he had drawn his knife, and attempted to stab the second lieutenant. Their forms of justice on these occasions are more summary than ours; only four hours was given to him to prepare for eternity.

I had no idea this power possessed so many vessels of war as they do. The officers are the greatest naval dandies I ever saw, and they had one or two turns-up with the English officers. I was taking coffee at the *Café Mercantile*; at a table opposite three Sardinian naval officers were partaking of wine and cigars; on the other two English. The former seemed to have drank pretty freely, and their manner appeared offensive. In a little while one of the English officers went over to them, and addressed them in Italian; high words ensued, cards were exchanged, and one or two duels would have ensued, had not the proprietor of the *Café* despatched a messenger for the Captain, who happened to be dining with the Consul close to. He reprimanded them severely, and sent them on board the frigate under arrest: he also apologised to the English officers for their rudeness.

One day, being some leagues in the country, and feeling the heat oppressive, and my horse being tired, I made for a Pulperea, in order to obtain some refreshment for both. On alighting, I was much surprised to hear myself accosted in English, although with a strong Irish accent, by an old man, who had every appearance of being a native. He very kindly invited me to go into his own room, and lie down for an hour. Upon my inquiring how long he had been in South America, his reply was, nearly half a century.

He had lived many years in Peru and Chili, also in Buenos Ayres, and had taken an active part in most of the stirring scenes in all those countries. He said he had also been engaged in the rebellion in Ireland in the year 1798, and had been obliged to fly from his native land in consequence. He appeared very anxious to know what O'Connell was doing; he did not appear to like him much; he said he did not *move fast enough*. Although in the sear and yellow leaf, and with one foot in the grave, he was as great a rebel as ever, and would, no doubt, prove *the ruling passion strong in death*. He was anxious to see an English newspaper, and I shortly afterwards contrived to send him the *Liverpool Albion*, by an officer stationed at an outpost in his neighbourhood. He produced some excellent Hollands, with some more substantial accompaniments, for which he would accept of no payment. He was a genuine specimen of a

hot-headed, warm-hearted denizen of the Emerald Isle.

The bull fights form the grand source of amusement. At the outskirts of the city is a building of immense size, capable of accommodating six thousand spectators: it is in the form of a Roman amphitheatre. A good military band is always in attendance.

On the proper signal being given they commence a march, and the *matadore* and assistants enter in procession, bearing different coloured silken flags. They make their bow to the audience, and then range themselves for action. A door being opened, the bull dashes into the arena; if he is one of the savage description, he mostly runs at the first near him: the whole of the men keep waving the flags at him, in order to vex him. The activity displayed by these men is truly wonderful.

The first thing they attempt is to place a piece of paper right in the middle of the bull's forehead, and this they do when he makes a spring, dexterously avoiding him; shortly afterwards they place a couple of darts on each side his neck: he will now begin to feel a little pain, and he tears the ground up with his hoofs; fireworks are also used, which *explode in the flesh*. When they have got the poor goaded animal to a sufficient state of irritation, the *matadore* will

draw his small sword, and boldly advance to the attack, and almost with unerring aim plunge it into his breast, reaching the heart. The bull instantly falls dead at his feet.

The other mode adopted is with horsemen, armed with lances. Many horses are goaded to death by the horns of the bull, in this mode of attack. When the bull is not found sufficiently savage, he is lassoed, his hamstrings cut, and drawn out by a couple of horses, and killed by proper attendants for the purpose, the company making all sorts of contemptuous noises.

The *matadore* and his attendants are dressed in velvet breeches, silk stockings and jackets, covered with embroidery; in fact, the same costume as in the palmy days of Ferdinand and Isabella, when the fair, the noble, and the beautiful, of Castile and Andalusia, graced these sports with their presence. The present Queen of Spain seems determined to revive these barbarous pastimes of a bygone age, and which for some time had been going into disuse; and I think very properly so too. Is it not surprising that the cruel sports of the ancients should be tolerated in a country *professing itself a Christian one?*

CHAP. V.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AMUSEMENTS.—THE FLY AND DOG NUISANCE.—BLACKS AT DRILL.—SLAVERY.—SAINT DAYS.—RELIGIOUS PROCESSIONS.—GUACHOS.—A MOUNTED CAVILERO.—SCARCITY OF HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.—ENGLISH AND SPANISH CEMETERIES.—CLIMATE.—ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY.—BUENOS AYREAN DESPOTISM —CAPABILITIES FOR TRADE, &c.

Cock fighting is a favourite amusement. There are a great number of cockpits in various parts of the city, but as I never attended them, I cannot say how they are conducted.

The theatre is well attended, but it is small and mean; but a new one is now building, which will be considerably larger than the theatre royal in the Hay-market.

The men are passionately fond of billiards. Every *Fonda* and *Café* has its billiard table, and they are in general admirable players, but they do not gamble much.

The ladies are extremely fond of dancing ; private *tertullias* are their delight. I have also heard some splendid players on the piano. Their manners are very soft and fascinating ; they have not the shyness about them that the English ladies possess, and they will, without any hesitation, tell you what they think of you, good or bad. The best way to get acquainted with the language is to be presented to the mothers of the *Senoretas* as they come out of *Misa*, and you mostly receive a polite invitation to call with your friend. The young *Senoras* will not scruple to say at parting *Adios, tu hermosa, mi gusto mucho !* Adieu, my dear fellow, I like you very much ! or *vice versa*.

One of the greatest torments are the flies ; they are infinitely worse than mosquitoes ; and if any article of food is exposed, you will not be able to see one particle of it. I have often seen a bullock, after the hide has been removed, in half an hour one black mass. Another great nuisance is the number of dogs which you see continually prowling about ; but the best way is always to carry a good stout stick with you when walking out. One day I thought I should have been worried by them, for upwards of twenty of them came barking after me ; however, fortunately, a good-sized stone was at hand, with which I hit the foremost on the head, when he ran howling away, the others politely following his example : although very large, they are shocking cowards. About every six months great numbers

are killed by order of the authorities: they use the lasso for catching them. This abates the evil for a while, but one almost as great is, to see them lying dead about the streets. The boys are very fond of trying their dexterity in the use of the lasso on these occasions: many of these urchins are as knowing as any to be found in the purlieus of St. Giles, and quite as mischievous.

For want of something better to do, I used, sometimes, to take a stroll to the barracks, to see the blacks at drill. Their uncouth forms under the hands of the drill sergeant, attempting to be converted into something, at least, like the form of a soldier,—their attempts at marching and countermarching were ludicrous in the extreme; their enormous flat splay feet, very often grinding the skin off the heels of the front-rank men, and the distortions of countenance in consequence, (for cry out they dare not,) would have made a saint laugh. The sergeant is extremely profuse in administering the rattan to their shins, or, in fact, to any other part of their persons.

The Monte Videan blacks are about the ugliest of the race I have seen. These are the *peons* or porters of these countries: the weight they can carry on the head is wonderful. When trade is good, these fellows make a deal of money; they get so much for every package, so that if you require a bale or cask of a par-

ticular mark, they will perhaps have to remove twenty or thirty before you can come at it; and if only one or two have to be displaced, they will be as saucy and independent as possible. They make a tremendous chattering and noise during their operations: there is always one who acts as director on these occasions, and it is amusing to see the authority he will assume: they are for the most part runaway slaves from the Brazils. There are a few slaves here, but the majority have had their freedom given to them on condition of serving during the war: and like their sable brother, Othello, are said to have done the *state some service*. It may be asked, which of the two they would prefer, if left to their own choice to decide.

Saint days occur very frequently; they are more observed than the Sunday: in fact, most of the shops are open on that day. The pomp, processions, and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic ritual can be but faintly conceived as practised in England. Here they almost out-Herod Herod; fireworks, illuminations, bonfires, cannon, all contribute in the display. Formerly there were a many convents, but at the revolution they were suppressed. Up and down the public roads are small rude chapels, with here and there a gaudily decorated saint in a niche, mostly of the feminine gender. I have often noticed the devout bearing of these rude half-civilized people, when prostrate before their simple altars, perhaps supplicating for some dark deed of vengeance to be forgiven them. The priests

wear large black shovel hats; they are often to be seen on horseback, and present rather a singular appearance, but like all the rest of the people, they are excellent horsemen; none of your sleek fat friars, mounted on ambling mules, riding at the rate of four miles an hour, but at the rate of perhaps twelve or fourteen.

You very often meet the "Host," accompanied by several priests, going to visit the sick; all take off their hats and bow to it; some will fall on their knees in the dirty street. I presume these have the odour of sanctity; I should think they would have an odour of another description to accompany it sometimes, for the streets are not in the cleanest condition.

I once saw an Englishman have a narrow chance for his life by refusing to take off his hat on one of these occasions. One of the mob pulled it off, and flung it into the mud, when he instantly knocked the man down. Knives were immediately drawn, and he would certainly have been sacrificed to the fury of the populace, had it not been for the priests. It is a strange thing that a man who comes out to a foreign country cannot comply with the simple forms required: if he cannot, he should stay at home.

In a ramble over the city, there is much amusement in studying the different characters that present themselves. In the busy *Calles* may be seen the swarthy

Guacho on his *Caballo*, his lasso of twisted bull's hide in folds on the crupper, with his broad conical *sombrero* decorated with a red ribbon ; his *poncho* cloth of blue, and boots of untanned leather, with spurs of perhaps six or eight inches, and rowels of three inches diameter, proceeding to the stores to make his purchases, after having driven his cattle to a *Saladiera*, and received the dollars in lieu. On his alighting, he merely throws the bridle over the horse's head, and if he is away for hours, the horse never moves from the spot.

The natives are all superb horsemen, and a mounted *Cavaleiro* is a pleasing sight. The saddle, bridle, bit, spurs, &c., are all profusely ornamented with solid silver, if he be a man of note ; the inferior classes now use plated or German silver. I once had the curiosity to weigh a pair of these gigantic spurs, with the chains by which they are buckled across the boot ; they weighed thirty ounces. When walking with these on, they always reminded me of a game cock strutting about a barn-yard.

There is much need of a good English hotel ; there is but one, and the accommodations are very inferior, and the charges enormous ; a dollar for a bed, (4s. 2d.) and every thing in proportion. There is only one good boarding-house ; the charge was forty dollars a month. Wines and spirits are cheap : brandy 7s. per gallon, which causes a good many to kill them-

selves. In the French *Cafes* and *Fondas* living is pretty cheap, but the dishes are not suited to our English taste generally.

At the outskirts, near the *Cordon*, there is an English cemetery; it is walled round, and laid out in walks with plantations. There are several monuments; one very beautiful, of white marble, to the memory of the Captain of an American Frigate, who died on this station. Close to it, in simple contrast, is a small slab of oak; it merely denotes the spot where lie the remains of a British seaman, late of H. M. ship, *Pearl*, with this inscription after the name, "He always did his duty." He who reads this, go and do likewise.

In a foreign clime it is pleasing to notice that the departed of our country repose in such receptacles as this, and that amid the toils and anxieties ever attendant upon commercial pursuits, are to be found individuals who bear in mind that ere long they must find a resting place in the grave.

On my first visit to this spot I was accompanied by a friend and fellow-townsmen; the next was to follow him to the silent tomb, only two months afterwards! He was one of the many unequal to bear the disappointments, trials, and vexations, frequently met with in our pilgrimage through the world. He had resided many years in Rio de Janeiro, but business being

extremely dull there, he had proceeded to Monte Video, where he found things worse. This he took so much to heart, that a rapid decline, from dissipation, was the consequence. He was only twenty-nine; his attainments were of no mean order; he spoke several languages.

How many go out to these countries with anticipations never to be realized; and, like my friend, often to meet an early grave! When the destroying cancer-worm of deep disappointment enters the soul, it is a fearful thing.

Not far from the English is the Spanish cemetery: it is of great extent. In the centre is a colossal figure of our Saviour on the cross, in stone. The vaults are built in the walls, which are of great thickness, rising one above another, with monumental devices before each. The design of the ground is good, but is sadly neglected.

Since I left, the British cemetery has been almost annihilated; the walls partly taken down, trenches made in it, and the ground occupied by troops!! Thus the labour of years has been destroyed: such are some of the consequences of war! All foreigners were ordered by the government to take up arms, or quit the city; however, this order has been rescinded, and very properly so.

The climate of the whole of the provinces on the borders of the River Plate is very variable, especially during the months of May, June, July, and August. I have observed the thermometer to vary fifteen or twenty degrees in a few hours. The pampero winds are, however, extremely beneficial; were it not for these winds, which are always accompanied by heavy rains, and which cleanse and purify the atmosphere from all noxious exhalations, arising from the immense quantity of decaying animal matter exposed to its influence, I can but think the country would be far from healthful.

It is by no means pleasant to be caught in one of these *pamperos* when they first come on. I happened one day to be at the "*Arorjea Soca*," a place near the shore, and where there is nothing but sand hills, when a tremendous one came on: in a moment my clothes, hair, ears, and nose, were filled with sand; I was nearly blinded, and almost suffocated, and it was with great difficulty that I made my way to a cattle station in the neighbourhood: as I was situated, it put me forcibly in mind of the dreaded *sirocco* of the African Dessert. My eyesight has never been so good since this occurred.

The general aspect of the country is rather monotonous; this arises from there being but few hills, and the scarcity of timber. How to account for this I

know not, as the land is exceedingly good.* In the neighbouring province of Paraguay, however, the timber grows to an amazing size. It is to be hoped that Mr. Gordon, who went there on a special mission, has been enabled to effect his object. It is described by those who have visited it as a splendid country.

I was in company several times with a gentleman who had travelled through it overland from Chili. He was sent out by the geological society of London to collect specimens ; he appeared much pleased with it ; he was an extremely communicative and agreeable man : he left on another expedition, and, in fact, accompanied Mr. Gordon, who had a guard granted him by the government to the borders of the Monte Videan frontiers.

The curse of South America is, the continual wars and internal feuds of demagogue rulers with one another ; and if any thing were needed to prove the instability of *Republican Governments*, these countries afford abundant proof ; and if a few of the would-be patriots or chartists, and brawlers of ours, were shipped off to it, they would learn a wholesome lesson.

The atrocities daily perpetrated in Buenos Ayres

* Most of the timber used for building purposes comes from North America, which of course, from the distance it is brought, makes the price exceedingly high. Coal is also very dear, this being brought from England.

under the name of liberty and federalism, upon those supposed to differ from government, make humanity shudder. The "Mashorca Club," as they are termed, are nothing more or less than a band of assassins,—Rosas the head of them. I went to the country under the impression that the reports were gross fabrications, or utterly false, but I was very shortly undeceived. The capabilities for trade are immense, but so long as one party endeavours to put down the other, and war and desolation reign instead of peace, commercial speculations are at a stand.

The British and French ministers protest against the further continuance of this unnatural state of things, and the offered mediation of England has been treated by the Buenos Ayreans with contempt; and, in fact, without some effectual measures had been determined upon in the event of non-compliance, the demand ought never to have been made. The system of warfare carried on is without precedent. It is much to be regretted they did not *act* instead of *protesting*. It used to be a maxim of Lord Nelson's, that to negotiate with effect, *force should be at hand*. However, *better late than never*.

The position of Monte Video for trade is much superior to Buenos Ayres. In the first place it is much nearer the open sea,—an intricate and dangerous navigation avoided,—the depth of water much greater,

and less duties and port charges. These, and many other circumstances must naturally operate eventually in its favour; and in my humble opinion, whoever may be the dominant party in power, Buenos Ayres will never regain its lost ground.

The number of ships of war frequenting the port also add to its importance. No heavy ship can get up to Buenos Ayres; there is not water for her. The British ships of war, *Malabar*, of seventy-four guns, *Alfred*, fifty, *Pearl*, twenty, and *Phantom*, eighteen, were at various times in the harbour during my stay; also the United States' ship, *Delaware*, of ninety-eight guns, besides French frigates, *Sardinian*, &c.

Having been introduced to some of the officers of the *Pearl*, I received an invitation to dine with them in the gun room; and one of the pleasantest days I ever spent was on board that ship. On foreign stations naval officers are not quite so straight-laced as at home, and if you have anything like respectable introductions, receive every attention.

The first lieutenant shewed me through every part of the ship, and a most beautiful craft she is, and kept in admirable order. She was commanded by the Hon. Captain Stopford, a nephew of Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Stopford.

On the following day I was to have gone with Mr. F., of the *Pearl*, on board the *Delaware*, but much to my regret it blew a strong pampero, and the following day she sailed for Rio de Janiero. I certainly should have much liked to have gone over this crack ship, this leviathan of the American navy. She carries very heavy metal, and mounts all her guns upon *two decks*.

It is rather too bad that the Yankees should rate their ships in the manner they do. Eight or ten guns more than her rating is no trifle, and the sooner they *repudiate* this custom, and *non-repudiate* others which shall be nameless, the better. This ship is called a ninety-eight, whereas she mounts *one hundred and six* guns.

There can be no better criterion of the relative importance of a sea-port, than the number of ships frequenting it. Now at the beginning of January, 1843, there were 113 vessels in the port of Monte Video, exclusive of ships of war, and 43 in *Buenos Ayres*. Now supposing we say that in 1840-41, and 42, 600 tons of hides, tallow, &c., were shipped to this country in each week, sometimes it would be more, sometimes less, this would give 31,200 *tons*, principally in return for our manufactures.

Business, during the latter period of my residence

in the country, was in a deplorable state, and at last actually no goods selling; the enemy within a league of the city, and a siege inevitable. Under these circumstances, although much against my inclination, I had no alternative but to quit, at least for a time, the Republic; but it is to be hoped, ere long, a brighter day will dawn upon it, when instead of cutting one another's throats, the inhabitants will turn their attention to promote the arts of peace, of commerce, and civilization.

CHAP. VI.

COMMENCE THE VOYAGE HOME.—BAD WEATHER.—TURTLE.—CHRISTMAS DAY.
THE MAGELLAN CLOUDS —PERNAMBUCO.—BLACKS FISHING —STORM OF
LIGHTNING AND THUNDER.—STEAM SHIPS DESIRABLE AS PACKETS.—
DRUNKEN SAILORS.—FERNANDA DE NORHONA.—RE-CROSS THE TROPIC OF
CANCER.—BOATSWAIN'S YARNS, &c.—NARROW ESCAPE.—CONTRARY WINDS
AND GALES.—ARRIVAL HOME.

Dec. 2nd, 1843.—This day found me again at sea. On the evening we passed Pan de Azucar, and soon after experienced bad weather; however we got clear of the river in a couple of days.

5th.—During this day we shipped a sea which drowned three sheep in the long boat, and did other damage. During the night the ship rolled dreadfully, and several things got adrift in the cabin; I got myself hurt by my endeavours in the dark to secure them. In the morning found one of the state room doors stove in.

8th.—Several fine turtle floated past us, but the sea was running too high to attempt to lower a boat. How

provoking, as these gentry are not to be met with every day.

Dec. 9th.—Exchanged colours with a large French ship, supposed to be steering to some port in the Brazils.

10th.—Incessant heavy rain and thunder: this is rather unusual at this season. Nearly suffocated below, and half drowned on deck. Rather difficult to choose between the evils.

14th.—Several ships in sight, one supposed to be an English Frigate.

18th.—Fell in again with my old acquaintances the flying fish. On the passage out we had an Irish female as passenger, going out to her sister in Buenos Ayres: we could easily make her believe that in South America there were rivers of rum and mountains of sugar, but she would not be persuaded that fish could possibly fly; and not until she actually saw several fly on board would she believe to the contrary.

20th.—Several whales sporting about; had some sport by firing at them with a rifle.

21st.—Intensely hot—almost a calm; thermometer upwards of ninety degrees in the shade. Commenced

painting the gig by way of amusement, and to assist to drive away *ennui*. Two of the seamen jumped overboard by way of cooling themselves. This is a very dangerous and fool-hardy practice, although they were expert swimmers; if a shark had made his appearance, they would have looked rather foolish.

Dec. 23rd.—Tacked ship—obliged to stand to the eastward again, in order to double Cape St. Augustine. Weather still squally.

25th.—Christmas day. Enjoyed the usual fare of plum pudding, &c.: the skipper opened his heart a little for once. After dinner two sharks made their appearance; I imagine they were aware of the spread. The tackle having been overhauled, we made a prize of one of them; he proved to be a large ground shark, about twelve feet long; the other was too much of a lawyer for us, it was no go. One of the crew had a narrow escape from having his leg walked off by the monster, just as we got him on board.

26th, 8 p.m.—The Magellan clouds very conspicuous. These clouds, which are stationary in the heavens, are supposed to be caused by the rays of a great number of small stars, invisible to the eye. They were first noticed by Magellan on his voyage round Cape Horn, and have consequently borne his name. They may be seen throughout the southern hemisphere.

Dec. 28th.—Great quantities of flying fish to be seen. A small whale also came very close to us; he was in sight for some time, and spouted several times.

31st.—This evening we came in sight of Pernambuco, so close as to see the town and lighthouse, the currents having driven us in. The appearance of the coast is extremely pleasing, Cape St. Augustine forming the extremity. The lighthouse is situated on a reef of rocks at the entrance to the port. During the early part of the night we saw the Blacks fishing; the mode they adopt is singular. They carry with them an iron grate, on which they make a blazing fire; this immediately attracts the fish, and as they come up to the surface they spear them. Pernambuco is in 8 20 40 south lat., and 34 56 42 west long.; it is very hot; during the time we were off it, the thermometer was at 94 degrees.

The *Catamarans*, or canoes, used here, are simply composed of three pieces of timber, and formed to a point, the feet of the crew being in the water. The blacks will venture out to a ship a long way in this fragile craft, for if they are capsized, they are such admirable swimmers they are seldom drowned, but soon right her.

Jan. 1st, 1844.—Squalls, with heavy rain, which, as the night came on, continued to increase. At 8,

p.m., a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, which continued until near midnight. At one time the lightning was playing about the brass work of the binnacle. The carpenter, at the commencement, unshipped the pump rods, as without this requisite precaution, the electric fluid would be very likely to go down them, and through the ship's bottom: many vessels have been in great danger from this cause. To witness a storm of this nature upon the ocean, is to see the Creator's power displayed in sublime, yet awful grandeur.

A vessel homeward bound, either from the east or west coast of South America, southward of this cape, has to steer many hundred miles to the eastward, in order to double it. A steam ship possesses great advantages in this respect; and it is very desirable to have large and powerful steamers employed in the packet service both from the river Plate and the Brazils, and, in fact, between all the ports in the Pacific. For instance: a sailing vessel proceeding to a port only perhaps two hundred miles distant by the coast line, would probably have to sail eight hundred in order to make it.

A great resort of sailors in Monte Video is called *High, Low, Jack, and the Game*. Here they get drunk to their heart's content, get into a row with the natives, perhaps, and often have a knife put into them

through their own folly. Going one day across the Plaza, I saw a drunken sailor: he had thrown his hat, jacket, and shirt, into the mud,—literally stripped to the buff offering to fight any *two Spanish* — *for a dollar*. On another occasion I was crossing the Plaza, when I met four *Seranoes* carrying a drunken sailor to the *Cabeldo*; it was as much as they could do, and at last he managed to throw himself from them, but he was too drunk to run fast, and one of them ran after him, and applied the point of his lance into rather a fleshy part of his person; this brought him up, as he would say, all standing, in fact, he *was taken all aback*; he roared out most lustily; they, however, consigned him to *durance vile*, amid the laughter of all who witnessed it. He would, no doubt, suffer a good deal of pain for his folly.

Jan. 3rd.—We made the island of *Fernanda de Norhona*, three degrees south of the Equator. It is of very singular appearance; it has a high peak upon it, which appears to lean to the eastward, and is called the Pyramid. It is inhabited by Portuguese prisoners, who have been banished from the different settlements in Brazil. There are several dangerous rocks in its neighbourhood, which have to be guarded against. It is about seven miles long, and perhaps two broad; we passed it at a considerable distance to the westward.

On overhauling my traps, I found I had nineteen

shirts, sundry pairs of trousers, waistcoats, stockings, &c., completely spoiled with salt water and mildew, in consequence of the heavy seas we encountered; not particularly pleasant with a wardrobe somewhat considerably diminished already. However, there is no help for these disasters consequent on a voyage; it is, however, mortifying to the temper. I now, for the first time in my life, was attacked with rheumatism, so bad, it was painful to move, and it was a long time before I could recover: it is a disease easier got than got quit of. This occurred through the quarter deck wanting caulking. In hot latitudes the seams open, and the pitch ooses out: the best preventative for this is a couple of coats of varnish on the decks, which also preserves the wood.

Jan. 5th.—Recrossed the Equator, with a strong south-east trade breeze.

10th.—Observed the north star this night. With what anxiety must the adventurous seaman of the olden days have looked for this friendly beacon to guide him to the shores of the north? This well-known star was the pilot to which he had to trust before navigation was known.

15th.—Full moon, and with it a gale; a very common occurrence in these latitudes. It is a magnificent sight to witness the ocean on such occasions; the

waves present the colours of the rainbow, as the moon's rays are reflected upon them. I have seen the ocean in all its forms, but in none is it so beautiful as this.

Jan. 17th.—Crossed the tropic of Cancer; are consequently again in the temperate zone. From here to about forty degrees north latitude is the finest climate on the globe.

19th.—Great quantities of weed floating on the surface of the water. This is generally supposed to be brought by the current called the *Gulf Stream*. The weed has an extremely unpleasant smell: on it are clusters of small berries. We had now sailed upwards of three thousand miles, without seeing a vessel of any description!

22nd, 10 a.m.—A large ship in sight, supposed to be an homeward-bound Indiaman.

26th.—Running between the beautiful islands of St. Michael's and Terceira, the sea almost as tranquil as the bosom of a lake, the air delightfully soft and balmy. I can almost fancy it scented with the fragrance of the orange groves in sight. The thermometer at sixty-four degrees, although not more than nine hundred miles from the *Lizard*, where perhaps it is at this moment as low as forty!

One of the most enlivening things to break in upon the monotony of a long voyage, is when another ship challenges for a trial of speed, especially if the rate of sailing is pretty equal. In some cases you may perhaps keep company for days together, and if beaten, the skipper will always have a ready excuse, such as, "if it had only come on to blow a bit," or "the wind had lulled a little," or, perhaps, "she is flying light," &c.; she is certain to have one good point, although she may be the slowest coach afloat. The great point in making a quick passage is the judicious manner in which extra sail is put on and taken in. Some Captains are celebrated for what is termed "cracking on," and some argue in this way, that it is better to split a sail, or carry away a top-gallant mast occasionally, than make a long trip of it. I quite agree with this, provided spare spars and canvass are at hand in case of emergency. Again, there is a great diversity of opinion relative to accepting certain rates of freight. If there are many ships waiting for return cargoes in port, some will accept a lower rate than is usual, in order to get quickly laden, while others will hold out, and probably eventually obtain a considerably higher figure. But the question is, will the detention and consequent expense on the ship not counterbalance the additional freight obtained? This, of course, is a matter for the judgment of the Captain or consignee, as the case may be.

The freights generally obtained now are far too low, adequately to remunerate the owner of a vessel for his outlay. A ship ought to clear herself in the first four years, or the probability is she never will; for then comes heavy bills for new copper, new sails, and all the etceteras, which amount to no trifle; a good deal also depends upon properly adapting the size of a vessel to suit a particular trade; in some neither a small or large ship will pay, but one of medium size. For instance: in the Levant and Mediterranean trade, generally small vessels are employed, while in the North American and East Indian, scarcely any but large ships, at least from European ports. Of course, all conversant with shipping know this, but there are many who take an interest in these matters who are not quite so well-informed upon the subject. I have often noticed in an inland town a greater desire to be informed upon nautical subjects, than I ever did in London, Liverpool, or Bristol; and this is very natural, for what is daily before our eyes, presents but little interest to us. A person from the country, after returning perhaps after a month's sojourn in the metropolis, will know more of St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, &c., than at least two-thirds of those who have lived in it all their lives.

There is often amongst boys brought up in country places an earnest wish to go to sea, much more so than

those born in a seaport. In fact, most lads, at some time or other, think they should like the sea, little aware of the hardships they would have to encounter ; and perhaps nearly one half who do go, (at least of the respectable classes,) get tired of it after one voyage, for if a lad is bound apprentice before he goes, he is free to leave after the expiration of the first voyage ; but he cannot quit his ship or employers for any other, should he not like his captain, unless gross ill usage could be proved, and that only on the interference of a magistrate. But much more attention is paid now a-days to the comforts of the crew than used to be the case : the awful ravages that the scurvy formerly made amongst a ship's company is now comparatively trifling. This, of course, arises from the improvement in the construction of ships, better provisions, and superior ventilation, although there is ample room for improvement still.

A century ago, when Lord Anson circumnavigated the globe, before he made the island of St. Catharine's, on the coast of Brazil, one half of his crew were ill of this fell disease, and a many had died ; and before he had made the island of Juan Fernandes, in the Pacific ocean, not a man was free from it, and *one half had died of it*, in a sixty-gun ship. One of the best counteractives is vinegar and lime-juice, used with salt provisions, and keeping the body cool.

I had, on this day, a narrow escape from being washed overboard, I was almost overcome with the heat, and had laid down on the quarter deck, near the wheel, when all of a sudden a tremendous wave came right over the taffrail. I could feel it lift me up, and if I had not caught hold of the wheel chains, must have gone. The steward was bringing up his crockery by the companion ladder at the time; it sent him headlong down the steps, and the soup tureen and dishes rattling after him, half filling the cabin with water.*

We had for boatswain an old man-of-war's-man, who was going home to be an out-pensioner of Greenwich Hospital. He was a regular thorough-built specimen of the order, but a good-tempered civil fellow when kept clear of the grog; he had served upwards of twenty-five years in the navy, under various commanders; was at the battle of Algiers with Lord Exmouth, and was not a little proud of the honour; he had a long

* This occurred solely through bad steering; at the time there happened to be one of the most sleepy-headed men in the ship at the wheel. There cannot be anything more vexatious than for a Captain to find, perhaps, little more than half the ship's company properly understand this essential part of their profession. Nothing can try a man's temper more than this, and, certainly, if there is any excuse for rough usage on the part of a Captain to make, this is one. What right has a man to come forward and ship himself as an able seaman, when very often a lad, who has been at sea only two years, is a much better one? If a man is found not to be conversant with what he engages for on shore, he can in some trades be at once discharged, but at sea you must take a man for better or worse the whole voyage.

mark on the right cheek from a cutlass wound. One evening, during his watch, I asked him how he received it, and as it will be better to give his yarns in his own lingo, as he called it, I shall endeavour to do so.

“Well Sir, you sees, as how some years ago, I was in a sixteen-gun brig on the African station, a cruising for slavers. One morning, at day-break, we spies a ’spicious looking craft to windward: well, on the skipper coming on deck, as in coorse he was called, he looks at her very ’tentively; he was a knowing cove, and had made a good deal o’ prize money in the craft; she were a clipper, Sir. After he had taken a pretty long squint at her, he sings out for Mr. S—n, the first Luff, to come on deck, (it was his watch below at the time,) and axes his opinion. We had only a two-knot breeze at the time, and the schooner was ten miles to windward. Arter their palaver was over, he calls the watch aft, and says, he ‘I wants volunteers.’ Well, I steps forrard, touches my hat, and offers my sarvices, when nearly all the watch offered themselves. Says he, ‘My lads, you can’t all go, as I am not agoing to call the larboard watch till their time.’ He was a chap o’ the right sort, wot always was a sailor’s friend; but he’d stand no gammon, mind you. Well, he tells the first Luff to choose for himself, and to take twenty-four sailors and five marines. Well, we shoves off with the gig,

cutter, and pinnace. Arter two hours hard pulling, we comes within gun shot o' them, when they opens a fire upon us with their infarnal Long Tom. The first shot whisked clean over our heads. 'Give way, my hearties, give way!' sings out Mr. S——n; 'ten guineas out of my share of the prize money for the first man to board,' which was himself arter all; but he were a generous feller, and divided the blunt amongst us for all that. Well, they decreases the elevation of the gun, as we calls it, and peppered into us with musquet balls, old nails, and wot not. A poor little midddy was killed, and a marine and the master's mate wounded in the shoulder: what them ere small reefers are sent on such dangerous sprees as these, I can't make out, but somehow or another there's no keeping the varmint away. Afore they had time to load and run the gun out again, we boards through the starn port, and afore I was aware of it, a tall yellow-skinned son of a —— catches me a wipe which laid my cheek open, and walks off with part o' my ear; but it were the last stroke the blackguard ever gave, for I shot him through the head, and winged another brute wot was agoing, as he thought, to make a finish of me. I then picks up the bit o' ear, and pockets it, and the doctor sewed it on again. We had a short, but desperate bout of it, and in five minutes the craft was our own. We had four killed, and seven wounded; the slaver I can't tell you how many, for I never counted them; all I know is, I gave a

hand to shove a good many o' their carcasses overboard."

On another occasion I asked him if he had ever been flogged. This was rather a home question, certainly, and he seemed thinking whether he should answer it; at last he came out with "Well, its no use lying as I knows on; they did once wipe me down to the tune o' three dozen, but I deserv'd it, I deserv'd it, Sir. I'll tell you how it was. We were lying in Malta harbour, just off Valetta, when all at once I takes it into my head as how I should like to go ashore, for you sees I had spied one or two nice craft in the petticoat line; soon after I spies the Captain walking up and down the larboard gangway; thinks I, never venture, never win, so up I goes, and axes for leave to go ashore. 'What do you want ashore?' says he, 'you'll only get drunk if I let you go.' 'Please your honour,' says I, 'I've got a sister in this here place, wots 'tendant on an officer's lady, and I arnt seen her for five years.' This was a d—d lie, mind you, but it served my purpose. 'What's the officer's name,' says he. 'Major Jackson' says I. 'Well,' says he, 'Smith you may go, but mind you're aboard at gun fire.' 'Aye, aye, Sir,' says I, and off I started in a shore boat. Ise not going to tell you *all* o' the spree; *that wouldn't do*. I can just recollect going into a wine shop; there were a good many sailors drinking, and some of the female species, who asked me to stand treat. 'I don't

mind,' says I, 'if as how you'll return the compliment.' 'O yes,' says they, the women joining in the chorus, but I couldn't understand their gibberish. I can't recollect anything more, but I must have put under hatches a precious lot o' the wine. I can stand a pretty good dollop, but certainly this time I did take a *little* too much, and I fell fast asleep. When I awoke, I found myself atwixt two fellers, snoring away like a porpoise in a gale of wind. 'Hilloa, my hearties, where am I,' fetching one o' them a crack on the head so as to waken him; but the devil a bit of information on the subject could I get, for they were both Maltese; so out of bed I jumps, and sticks my fist through a paper winder, to see if I could make out my latitude. The sun was shining brightly: my eyes and limbs! thinks I my lad you're in for it any how. I felt most tarnashonly thirsty, so I made for the door, and nearly broke my neck down a ladder; it was a loft over the wine shop. On getting up, who should I spy at the counter but the corporal, and a file o' marines. 'Oh, oh, is that you, Mr. Smith?' says he, 'you're wanted aboard.' 'Am I,' says I, 'then in coorse I must go.' 'You must,' says he. The wine wern't out o' my head yet; howsomever, the corporal took pity on me, because, you sees, I had cotched him at it. 'I won't split,' says I, 'purviding you lets me have a jug.' 'Agreed,' says he; and in a quarter of an hour I was as drunk as ever, and in that precious pickle they lugged me on board. A pretty

figure I must a cut, I don't recollect any thing about it, but a messmate told me all a few days after. On getting on board, the captain called for the master at arms, and told him to put me in irons, and take me below until I was sober. In the evening the master-at-arms comes down for me. 'The Captain has sent for you,' says he, 'you know what's to follow.' 'I do,' says I, for I heard the boatswain piping all hands for punishment. 'Smith,' says the Captain, 'I'm going to punish you, not only for getting drunk and absenting yourself, but also for telling me a wilful and deliberate lie. *Tie him up*, and, boatswain, don't stop till I tell you.' But he was a marcifful man, and let me off with three dozen. 'Well, John, you would be a marked man after this, would you not?' Yes, I was a marked man, I was *marked a bit on the back*, but that was all. Lord bless you! you must not believe all the stuff you reads in the papers; in six months the same man wot flogged me made me a quarter-master. There would be no living in a man-o'-war if there was not an example made, as they call it, now and then. I wonder what these here quill-driving heggars would do, if they hadn't something to spin a yarn about. Its all very fine to talk about the brutality o' the navy; why, bless your soul, they knows as much about it as a chimley top does to a haystack. Now I makes so bold as to ax you this, is there not more brutality in them ere workhouses, they calls them unions now a-days, although I never could

find any *union about them*; they appears a precious deal more like disunions, for it seems to me they *can never agree*—I don't know how much longer he would have gone on, if his services had not been called for forward.

Upon another occasion I was much amused; he came up to me one night in the middle watch, it was so hot I could not sleep, so I took a turn on deck. He commenced with, "what do you think of this here *Chiny question*?" Before I could reply, he went on with, "I'll tell you what sir, them ere Chinymen are rum uns, they once sarved me out most preciously. You sees I was then in the Ingia Company's sarvis, and a smart young feller enough; when we gets to Whampoa the skipper sings out to lower and man the gig, I was coxswain of her, so in I jumps, and in two minutes we were clear of the davits, and oars poised; as soon as we lands the skipper, and he was fairly hull down, I thought I should jist like to have a squint round or so, afore I had got a kipple o' hundred yards I feels myself gripped by each arm, but I managed to floor the two lubbers wot had got hold on me, and makes for the boat; afore I could reach her about fifty Chiny sojers were achasing of me, so I hails our chaps in the gig, my eyes hadn't we a precious row, they were ten to one; well arter beating us almost into nothing at all, they walkt us off to quod. Next morning they takes us afore a queer looking customer, with a long

tail, and I dont know what they would have done to us had not the skipper and consul made their appearance, and we were lugged aboard again. I was disgrated and my grog stopped during the time we should remain in port, but I wasn't agoing to stand that, so I cut and run, and entered for the D—— frigate, where they couldn't nab me i'ts only half-and-half sarvis at last." I referred him to Lord Palmerston as one more likely to give a lucid opinion upon the China question than I, with which he did not appear at all satisfied.

Feb. 1st.—Midnight.—Awoke by a cry from the forecandle, of a ship coming down upon us right a-head. Ship ahoy! hard a starboard, and to the man at the wheel, hard down for your life, or she'll run us down, &c. &c. Jumped out of bed and rushed upon deck in my shirt, found the captain in the same condition; the mate had thrown all aback, and the canvass was flapping against the masts at a fearful rate, in a moment a large vessel dashed past us on our lee-quarter, only a few feet from us. Had she struck us, the probability is she would have instantly sunk us, and every soul in a moment ushered into eternity! Such are often the effects of a proper look out not being kept. There can be no doubt that many ships of which no tidings have been heard, have been lost from this circumstance. If a rule was established throughout the mercantile service, for every man found asleep on his

watch to forfeit one month's pay, perhaps this might induce them to perform their duty ; as soon as they are clear of the land, they appear to think a look-out is quite unnecessary.

This occurred when we were about the middle of the Bay of Biscay, the night dark and tempestuous. If I were to live to extreme old age I shall never forget that cry, as it sounded shrill and clear in the dead hour of midnight, nor the momentary sensations it caused. I awoke in the morning with great pain in my limbs and back, no doubt brought on by the exposure of the preceding night.

Feb. 2nd.—Blowing hard from the north-west, ship under stormsails, towards the night the wind increased to almost a hurricane ; we had the main trysail blown away, and some of the gear and ropes of the mizen-boom broke. The weather continued awful, and the cold was now severely felt by all.

4th.—Off Ushant, obliged to wear ship, Captain afraid to make for the English coast, blowing as it did dead upon it.

5th.—Foul wind for our consolation ! Thermometer forty-five degrees, rain, snow, and hail through the day.

10th.—Have now been seven days beating about, first on one tack and then the other, encountering gale upon gale, just in soundings, between the French coast and Cape Clear, and according to all appearance no likelihood of a change, at least until the full moon.

15th.—Full moon yesterday, and no change! Provisions of all kinds getting short, especially bread, all hands reduced to half a pound per day; the men grumbling and almost refusing to work. The weather continued the same for fourteen days longer. Several of the crew laid up, and as for myself I gave a hand on every occasion, and got many a hard knock and bruise. For one thing it assisted the circulation of the blood and made me warm. At length, on the 29th, we got into Portsmouth, and anchored on the mother bank after a passage of eighty-seven days, nearly one half of which we had heavy gales.

The following Statistics have been carefully copied from the Customs' Books of Monte Video and Buenos Ayres, and translated. The year 1842, will perhaps be the best to select in order to come to a fair conclusion on the merits of the two rival Ports, because the Trade during that year, was fully open to each. By this Return, it will be seen the former almost doubled the latter in amount, also in the number of Ships that discharged and took in cargo.

NOTE OF PRODUCE

EXPORTED FROM MONTE VIDEO, IN THE YEAR 1842.

1842 MONTHS.	Salted Hides.	Dry Hides.	Quintals Beef.	Arrobas Tallow.	Arrobas Wool.	Arrobas Hair.	Tons of Boxes.	Horse Hides.	Mares.	Horns.	Colt Hides.	Doz. Sheep Skina.	Calf Skina.
January	49,995	34,165	85,824	568	8,620	1,800	150	1,592	1,260	52,400	908	90	....
February	50,414	34,026	60,341	3,571	13,920	1,464	228	6,584	700	41,000	6,088	90	....
March	28,375	6,781	40,197	1,930	20,560	2,162	530	8,446	....	90,400	....	120	....
April	49,102	9,441	32,515	5,300	5,964	1,210	515	1,610	....	123,835	....	988	2,110
May	43,906	82,820	31,479	8,055	16,710	4,321	648	7,438	....	159,530	....	300	8,156
June	49,411	59,535	11,665	324	6,344	2,514	433	4,275	450	99,100	....	....	8,415
July	36,138	41,181	14,955	460	7,764	968	260	2,500	....	22,000	....	....	2,650
August	26,700	44,565	24,267	145	1,276	928	15	400	....	21,600	....	200	1,301
September	118,963	109,282	30,739	840	10,214	4,687	568	12,666	....	89,800	....	....	10,516
October	79,045	67,267	30,820	....	5,300	1,792	472	7,300	....	99,500	....	....	7,472
November	98,290	50,716	20,880	....	1,700	....	225	14,180	....	86,000	....	....	10,990
December	92,445	74,475	33,903	300	7,676	4,746	230	12,942	....	....	....	500	7,452
TOTAL	721,784	614,264	367,576	21,433	105,948	26,592	4,304	79,883	2,410	885,488	6,991	2,288	59,052

The Value of the above produce is about Seven Million Dollars.

NOTE OF PRODUCE

EXPORTED FROM BUENOS AYRES, IN THE YEAR 1843.

1843 MONTHS.	Salted Hides.	Dry Hides.	Arrobas Tallow.	Doc. Calf Skins.	Pos. Nutria Skins.	Arrobas Hair.	Arrobas Wool.	Horse Hides.	Doc. Sheep Skins.	Quintals Beef.	lb. Ostrich Feathers.	Arrobas Grease.	Pos. Deer Skins.	Pos. Goat Skins.	Pos. Chin- chilla Skins.
January ...	26,069	97,252	16,544	168	800	3,196	27,237	1,000	5,847	18,379	1,165	1,750	...	...	...
February ...	38,581	53,929	29,248	889	18,983	6,115	40,879	4,304	9,050	20,214	...	2,000	125	388	...
March ...	51,724	64,786	30,894	1,057	6,663	14,096	70,085	4,829	15,281	14,168	...	...	715	178	...
April ...	28,698	89,686	44,681	612	5,106	10,902	22,585	2,172	6,900	6,537	8,206	...	...	25	...
May ...	55,817	117,555	55,094	1,646	4,526	10,616	67,358	580	8,087	11,092	...	...	3,758	...	...
June ...	25,091	61,148	35,188	84	9,299	1,390	14,267	265	2,079	1,501	...	...	...	...	...
July ...	34,802	99,844	47,620	61	7,063	6,757	33,912	5,066	4,040	6,553	2,110	...	...	360	...
August ...	16,667	58,503	6,010	78	1,450	5,455	18,995	8,099	12,475	4,590	200	...	1,991	110	1,000
September ...	36,497	167,907	14,264	1,131	6,904	7,793	20,378	6,764	8,637	10,380	97	...	1,804	583	...
October ...	9,423	83,688	12,170	325	5,596	1,300	7,915	1,636	10,615	2,460	1,570	...	210	...	...
November ...	36,914	116,846	29,686	691	8,512	9,750	18,010	11,088	18,060	6,941	1,846	...	2,451	42	...
December ...	21,808	62,681	16,592	174	6,794	1,984	34,897	8,658	6,775	7,271	5,029	...	...	286	...
TOTAL ...	381,091	1,017,725	886,071	7,116	82,315	79,864	371,498	49,771	102,816	109,706	15,248	8,760	10,554	1,834	1,000

The Value of the above Produce is about Four Million Dollars.

Messrs. Bradshaw and Blacklock, Printers.

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