

AFFAIRS IN BRAZIL.

Progress of the War with Paraguay.

OPERATIONS OF THE BRAZILIAN FLEET.

Serious Disaster to a Brazilian Iron-clad.

Attempted Surprise by the Paraguayans.

AMERICAN EMIGRATION TO BRAZIL.

The steamship *Morning Star*, Capt. E. HOWES, from Rio de Janeiro, arrived at this port last night.

The *Morning Star* left Rio de Janeiro May 4, Bohia May 8, Pernambuco May 11, Mara 17th, St. Thomas 25th, with mails and passengers to GANNISON & ALLEN.

Left at Rio, United States gunboat *Shomokin* and supply-ship *Onward*.

The United States frigate *Susquehanna* left Rio April 27 for New-York via St. Thomas.

Left at St. Thomas, United States gunboat *Bienville*, to sail same day for Ponce, P. R.

May 23, 10 A. M., off Montserrat, W. I., signaled English bark *Fontabelle*, of London, for Jamaica, and English bark *Westmorland*, bound west.

OUR RIO CORRESPONDENCE.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Friday, 4th May, 1866.

The latest advices from the River Plate give us the hope that the war with Paraguay will soon come to an end, as it is at present the all absorbing question. I will begin by giving your readers an account of all that has happened here during the last month.

After a delay of nearly ten months, active operations have at last been commenced. The allied fleet, composed of about thirty vessels, including four iron-clads, left its moorings at Corrientes, and, proceeding up the river, anchored in two divisions opposite the territory of the little Republic of Paraguay. The allied army, consisting of about 50,000 men of all arms, also advanced towards the western bank of the River Paraná.

The first work of the fleet was to sound the river and examine its channels, in order to obtain the best ford for the crossing of the army. This was accomplished under some difficulty, as I will mention hereafter, and it was resolved to cross at a place called Paso da Patria, although defended by the small fortress of Itapiru.

In consequence of this decision, the Admiral, Viscount TAMANDARÉ, sent an expedition up the Parana River on the 21st of March, composed of two gun-boats and one iron-clad, for the purpose of taking the soundings and bearings of the ford and other passes in the river. The first expedition did not go very far from the *Paso de Patria*, but performed its work well, under a brisk fire of the enemy, who, besides firing from the foot of Itapiru, that commands the Paso, brought three flat-boats to the bank of the river and moving them close to the rocks which line the coast, poured into the gun-boats a lively fire that, however, did very little damage on the first day. These flat-boats are roughly built, but have answer their purpose very well, they are about 40 to fifty feet long, flush-decked and carry one sixty-eight pounder smooth-bore gun. As they draw very little water, they can be taken to any part of the river and hiding behind the rocks, annoy the fleet constantly.

DISASTER TO A BRAZILIAN IRON-CLAD.

Other expeditions followed in the ensuing days with a very insignificant loss to the allies, until the 27th, when, on the return of a reconnoitering party, and after a bombardment of a few hours by two iron-clads, the *Tamandaré* and *Bahia*, against the fort of Itapiru and a flat-boat, as the iron-clads were about retiring down the river, two sixty-eight-pound shots from the fort struck a porthole of the *Tamandare*, and, breaking into many pieces, flew inside the casemate, making a terrible havoc in that small space, where all the officers and most of the crew were collected, putting 34 men *hors-de-combat*; of the former only a Second Lieutenant escaped. This being the first serious loss suffered by the Brazilian fleet, naturally caused a very sorrowful impression throughout the country, and especially in this city, where the Captain, quite a young man, was esteemed by all, as one of the bravest officers of the Imperial Navy.

On the 10th ult. the first battle was fought between Brazilian and Paraguayan soldiers. The Imperial forces alone having taken possession of a small island in front of Itapiru and about half way across the ford, the Paraguayans attempted to dislodge them, and having embarked a force about of 900 men in 50 canoes, paddled silently across the channel and landed a little before dawn, close to a battery of nine rifled guns hastily erected by the Brazilians; the pickets, however, saw them in time, and having given the alarm, the garrison, consisting of nearly the same number of men as the enemy, were quickly formed in line-of-battle, and as the Paraguayans drew near the Brazilians poured a murderous volley into their ranks, and followed it up by a bayonet charge drove them to the beach, killing over 600 (?) of them, taking 64 prisoners, 30 canoes and 700 muskets. The Brazilian loss is reported at 49 killed and 166 wounded; the Colonel commanding the garrison and three of his staff were killed some time after the conflict by the explosion of a shell, while writing the official report of the events of the day.

Immediately after this victory, Gen. OSORIO issued the following proclamation to his troops:

SOLDIERS OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY: The bank that lies before you is the end of your hardships and of the sacrifices of the Brazilian nation.

The time of expiation is come to that cruel enemy who devastated our defenceless fields and committed so many acts of ferocity against disarmed settlements.

The ingrate upon whom Brazil has bestowed so many favors, will see now that we do not fear the importance of his resources. Very soon, but rather late, he shall know that the generous policy of the Imperial Government toward Paraguay was inspired by the magnanimity of its principles, and by the nobleness of the Brazilian character.

Soldiers and fellow-countrymen, I have witnessed your constancy in suffering, your serenity in the midst of great privations.

You have shown the most brilliant example of devotion to your country, whose call you obeyed with enthusiasm, coming from the remotest points of the Empire to gather around the national banner. I profit by this solemn moment to thank you in the name of Brazil and of the Government of His Majesty the Emperor.

Soldiers! The mission of commanding free men is an easy one; to show them the path of duty is sufficient.

Your road lies before you. It is not necessary to tell you that the vanquished enemy and the Paraguayan disarmed or peaceful should be sacred to an army composed of men of honor and heart.

Let us once more show to the world that the Brazilian legions in the River Plate war only against despotism and fraternize with the people.

Forward, soldiers!

MANUEL LUIZ OSORIO.

The 1st of May was a day of great rejoicing in this Capital. A Brazilian gunboat arrived from Buenos Ayres, bearing the important news of the invasion of Paraguay by a division of the allied army, about 10,000 strong, on the morning of the 16th ult. They crossed the river, not at Paso da Patria, as before intended, but about three miles further out, at the southwestern extremity of the Republic, advanced slowly toward Itapiru, following the bank of the Parana, had a slight skirmish with the pickets of the enemy, and encamped close to the landing, as it rained very hard through the day;

On the following morning they again advanced, supported by the fleet. The Paraguayans attacked them with considerable bravery and great tenacity, as usual, but only brought 3,500 men to the field, who were completely routed, losing two pieces of artillery, one flag, a great number of muskets, and about 400 men killed and wounded. The Brazilian loss was 40 killed and 180 wounded.

The Paraguayans abandoned Itapiru and retired to their camp, which is reported to be fully entrenched and fortified. It is incredible that they will attempt to offer any resistance there, because it is within range of the artillery of the fleet; it is possible, however, and it will only be one more blunder to add to the many they have already committed; an attack on it was to be made on the 23d.

On the 18th the allies hoisted their national flag on the Fort Itapiru, and the balance of the army continued to cross at the ford.

OPENING OF THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

The Emperor opened Parliament in person yesterday. His Majesty's speech on that occasion was not an important one; he announced the birth of a prince,

son of his youngest daughter, the Princess LEOPOLDINA, and congratulated the country on its tranquility during the war, and rejoiced at the victories won by by the allied forces in the river Plate. His Majesty also called the attention of Parliament to the state of the Empire, which is not at all flattering.

An association of foreign and native merchants, and others, was formed here a few months ago for the purpose of encouraging emigration (especially American) into this country, but as yet they have not been able to do much, partly because of the war, and partly because the Constitution will have to be amended before the association can be of any great utility.

The *Morning Star*, that leaves to-day, came in two days after her time; she was very anxiously expected by Brazilians and Americans. Her delay was caused by the bad management of some of the agents of the Company in the northern ports, who do not seem to take much interest in the enterprise. In this port, at present, such is not the case, for no one could have been selected as a representative of the Company more competent than the gentleman now occupying that position, Mr. D. CAYMAN, who has the sympathies of all who know him, and is very active in promoting the interests of this great line.

J. M. B.

LATEST FROM THE RIVER PLATE.

Just before the closing of the New-York mail, the English packet arrived from Montevideo, with dates to the 29th ult. The Paraguayans did not wait to be attacked by the allies, but set fire to their camp on the morning of the 23d, and fell back to Humaita.

The allied army is beginning to march on that stronghold. I believe I will be able to give your readers news of the end of the war by the next packet (English) of the 9th inst.

J. W. B.