

# The Express

THE RIVER PLATE DAILY MAIL

Vol. I.

[MELVILLE HORA—Director]

MONTEVIDEO, TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1888.

[ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE DIRECTOR]

Nº 90.



## NATIONAL BANK

OF THE

ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

Capital: 12,000,000 dollars

NATIONAL GOLD CURRENCY

The Bank receives applications either direct or by broker or all business operations which it is authorized to undertake according to its Statutes.

### RATES OF INTEREST

On current account at sight 3 per cent per annum.  
On overdrawn account . . . 10 do. do.

### SAVINGS BANK

Open every day (Sundays inclusive) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 5 per cent per annum  
paid on all sums deposited in the Bank for over 90 days.

### DEPOSITS AT PREMIUM

5 per cent per annum on the Balance. The depositor will be entitled to withdraw all or part at any time with 10 days notice.

### Fixed Deposits

Rates of interest conventional according to the length of time, the depositor receiving a bill for the full amount of capital and interest.  
On Discounts, Loans, and Advances the rates of interest will be proportional to amount and period.

Montevideo, 19 of August 1887.

Pedro Bustamante.

President.

Daniel Muñoz.

Secretary.

Emilio Reus.

Managing Director.



## NATIONAL BANK

OF THE

ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

### BALANCE SHEET FOR MAY, 1888

#### ACTIVE

Shares, amount due on	\$2,647,048.91
Superior Government	1,100,000.00
Securities: Commercial Section	10,573,141.77
City Mortgage	8,410,611.60
Plant and Material for Emission	73,027.91
Conversion of the Consolidated Debt	12,214,766.97
Negotiation of Cédulas	961,332.00
City Mortgage	1,500,000.00
Rural	501,500.00
Branches—Emission	1,279,000.00
Santos	200.00
Florida	25,000.29
Future	6,274,033.12
Various debits	857,081.00
Dividends, coupons paid	6,883,109.11
Cash in hand	\$14,420,850.98

#### PASSIVE

Capital	\$12,000,000.00
Deposits: fixed and premium	175,961.01
in account current	8,314,032.23
Emission (including branches)	6,569,219.00
Savings Bank	19,251.50
Judicial deposits	406,517.73
Montepio	6,207.13
Cédulas emitted, Series A	2,053,400.00
Guarantees of City Mortgage	2,020,264.40
Rural	881,017.16
Reserva Fund	43,022.18
Mato Branch	65,705.59
Salto	105,500.21
Paysandú	83,089.99
Colonia	110,000.19
Durazno	87,329.20
Soriano	118,118.50
Rocha Branch	119,102.50
Tacuarembó ditto	149,900.00
San José ditto	119,700.00
Mina ditto	108,400.12
Rio Negro ditto	140,812.00
Canelones	15,064,235.75
20 million loan	664,020.04
Various Credits	\$15,420,850.98

Montevideo, 31th March 1888.

Pedro Bustamante.

President.

F. C. Tappen.

Accountant-General.

B. Quiñones.

Chief of Emisión.

E. Reus.

Managing Director.

## English Bank of the River Plate

### DIRECTORS:

O. A. Cater, of the firm J. W. Cater, Sons & Co., London.  
Honourable S. Carr Glyn, M. P.  
Rt. Honourable Lord G. Hamilton, M. P.  
M. H. Moses, Director of the Buenos Aires and Pacific R. L. Co.  
W. Rodger, of the firm Rodger, Best & Co., Liverpool.  
A. E. Smithers, Assistant Director.

### Established in:

LONDON, BUENOS AIRES, ROSARIO DE SANTA FE, PAYSAU, AND MONTEVIDEO

Authorized Capital 7,050,000 dols.

### Interest on Deposits:

5 per cent on current account.  
5 " " at ten days' notice.  
5 " " for thirty days fixed.  
Other periods according to agreement.

Deposits of 25 dols. and upwards received. Interest paid on all deposits of 30 days, upwards.

For Discounts, Exchange, and other business apply to the Bank.

MONTEVIDEO—115, 117 & 119—CALLE MISIONES

J. Mac GRINDLE,  
Manager

## LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK

(LIMITED)

LONDON, 52 Moorgate Street; PARIS, 16 rue HALÉVY

BUENOS AIRES; MONTEVIDEO; ROSARIO DE SANTA FE

Authorized Capital . . . £2,000,000

Subscribed Capital . . . 1,500,000

Reserve Fund . . . 350,000

Current Accounts opened with Commercial Firms and private individuals. Customers have the advantage of having approved Bills discounted—of obtaining Loans upon Negotiable Securities, of Depositing Bills, Coupons, etc., for collection—subject to a conventional commission.

The Bank receives deposits either at sight, for fixed periods, or at thirty days' notice of withdrawal, interest on which is regulated by the market value of money. The Bank notifying any change in Rates, by Advertisement in the principal daily papers.

Letters of Credit issued to parties travelling abroad.

Letters of Credit issued to parties for the purpose of purchasing Goods in Europe, the United States, etc., the terms of which can be ascertained on application to the Bank.

Parties wishing to bring out funds to the River Plate, can do so through the medium of the Bank's chief office.

No. 52 Moorgate Street, London E. C.

OR OF THE

Paris Branch, 16 rue Halévy.

## BILLS OF EXCHANGE

Issued and Purchased on the following places

LONDON

And all the principal towns of

ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, & IRELAND.

PARIS. And all the principal towns of FRANCE

AND OF

GERMANY

SPAIN

AFRICA

AUSTRALIA

BRAZIL

CANADA

CHILE

ALSO ON

PORTUGAL

SWITZERLAND

UNITED STATES

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

R. A. Thurburn

MANAGER

### LONDON & BRAZILIAN BANK LIMITED

## BANCO DE LONDRES Y BRASIL

Capital suscrita . . . £1,250,000

Ido reservada . . . 625,000

Fondo de reserva . . . 325,000

Sucursal en Montevideo, Zabala 85

GIRA LETRAS de CAMBIO SOBRE las SIGUIENTES PLAZAS:

LONDRES . . . A cargo de London & Brazilian Bank Limited,

los señores Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.

GENOVA . . . Los señores Belfort Frères y Ca.

DEMAS PUNTOS DE ITALIA . . . La Banque d'Anvers.

NEW-YORK . . . Los señores Grant, Brown y Ca.

VARIOS CORRESPONSALES.

London and Brazilian Bank Limited.

De cartas de crédito sobre Londres, París, Portugal, Brasil y Nueva York.

Se encarga del cobro de letras sobre otras plazas.

Recibe dinero en cuentas corrientes.

en depósito a plazo fijo y a retiro con 30 días de aviso.

Abona por depósitos fijos

Por 3 meses a razón de 4% anual. Por 6 meses a razón de 5% anual.

Con 30 días de aviso a 4% anual.

4mlsp

## BANCO CONSTRUCTOR

### SUD-AMERICANO.

282---Calle Veinticinco de Mayo---282

Sanctioned by Governmental Decree dated June 25, 1887.

Authorized Capital. 10,000,000 dollars.

THE PUBLIC IS NOTIFIED that the Bank undertakes Building Operations in

particular, and repairs and reconstruction in general, within the radius embracing all the blocks

from the Old City of Montevideo out to the "Nueva Ciudad" (inclusive).

The Bank receives applications to the above effect on all business days, between the hours of

11 A.M. and 4 P.M.

The general conditions for building operations are as follows:

The applicant must be the proprietor of the site on which he desires to

build, and the written application must be accompanied by the title-deeds.

Payment to be effected in five, ten, or fifteen years, at the option of the

applicant, in proportional monthly instalments.

The Bank charges interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the

value of the edifice erected, besides a commission of 2 per cent. on the total

cost of same.

The details as to architecture and the materials to be employed will be

specified in accordance with the mutual agreement and the plan drawn up to

that effect.

Blank forms for the drawing-up of applications are supplied by the Bank's Secretary.

THE SECRETARY.

## THE EXPRESS

DAILY MORNING PAPER

OFFICES CALLE SOLIS 20

MONTEVIDEO.

Cable Address:

"EXPRESS,"

Montevideo

Gower-Bell Telephone No. 297

TERMS:—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

ADVERTISEMENTS

GENERAL TARIFF

Single column per centimeter per month \$100 gold

3 line advertisements such as "Wanted"

"To Let" etc. per 3 publications . . . 50 do.

Accroxa—Single column per centimeter, per publication . . . 100 do.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages, per publication . . . 100 do.

Special advertisements, conventional.

The same rates will be charged for advertisements in the Argentine Republic with 50 per cent added for difference in exchange.

SOLE AGENT FOR THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

FRED STEARN

11/a 30 SAN MARTIN 50 11/a

Sub-Agents for the Province of Santa Fé

Messrs. McLEAN BROS.,

Corriola 180/2, Rosario

Agent for Great Britain and the Continent

Messrs. G. STREET & Co.

30 CORNHILL, LONDON.

AGENT FOR THE UNITED STATES

V. de MESTRE Y AMABLE

TRIUMPH BUILDING, NEW-YORK.

LOCAL AGENT:

C. J. JOHNSON,

Successor to A. E. SEEGER,

224 Calle 25 de Mayo-224

All correspondence whether on business or intended for publication must be addressed to the Director.

No anonymous communications will be attended to, nor manuscript returned.

## The Express

MONTEVIDEO, JUNE 26, 1888

### EXPRESSIONS

—After a wintry storm that raged with various degrees of violence for nearly a week. Sunday dawned a magnificent day. The rain had ceased, the piercing wind subsided and the sun beamed forth once more radiant and genial. The waters of the bay and the sea had assuaged their fury and merely smiled with pleasant ripples. Half Montevideo took advantage of the glorious day to get a airing; great coats and mufflers were discarded altogether, or at most worn but lightly, and from an early hour the streets were thronged with pedestrians enjoying the crisp, fresh air and paying off their arrears of visits.

—In addition to being a remarkably fine day, Sunday was the feast-day of St. John the Baptist and was celebrated in the usual barbarous fashion by the letting off of crackers and bombs in the streets, to the annoyance and disgust of all people with tympana in their ears and nerves in their bodies. This is a savage custom "more honored in the breach than the observance" and one we sincerely hope to see soon swept away by the advancing tide of civilization.

—This love of brutal and unmeaning noise, evinced in the perpetual letting off of bombs and crackers, the constant braying of bugles, and the applause accorded to the singer who can yell the loudest, common throughout the River Plate, shows how near we still are to barbarism and how far removed from the spirit of civilization that leads to order, quiet and mutual consideration.

—It is to be regretted that not a few of the lower classes took advantage of the combination of fine weather and feast-day to get decidedly drunk. That quarter of the town where the writer lives was full of drunken youths and men on Sunday night, and until after midnight the air was resonant with their discordant howlings.

—The police of this town, in their kind-hearted leniency, seem to think that a party of some four, six or eight, rowdy youths and men, more than half seas over, parading the streets at midnight yelling lawdy songs with all the dissonant force of their brazen throats need not be taken any notice of.

—As fiendish a piece of wanton cruelty as any we have met was that which prompted the discharge, on Sunday morning and again in the evening, right under the walls of the Caridad Hospital, of a number of extra powerful maroons and bomb-shells. The noise made, sufficient to shake the windows of houses many squares off, was appalling to a man in health, its effect on the patients in the Hospital must have been most painful.

—The inmates of this Hospital may get superior medical assistance and great care, but they certainly do not enjoy the blessings of that great curative agent, quiet. Not only is the Hospital situated

in a noisy quarter of the town and close to some excessively noisy barracks, but no precautions whatever seem to be taken to ensure any quietness at all for the unfortunate patients, as is proved by the frequent jangling of the loud chapel bell.

The miscreant who ordered the discharge of maroons and bomb shells under the Hospital walls would be let off lightly with six months hard labour.

—It appears that Sr. De Leon, the Secretary of the Argentine Legation in Paris who complained of the conduct of the Minister there, has not been dismissed, as our Buenos Aires telegrams falsely stated, but has been transferred to Madrid. That is all right. But it also appears that he has been reprimanded for daring to complain and that the Foreign Minister has expressed his approval of the conduct of the Minister whose tyranny was complained of. That, on the evidence so far made public, seems anything but right.

—This is by no means the first instance in which the news telegraphed by the agent from Buenos Aires has been decidedly at variance with the facts recorded in the papers. Let Havas' Agency see to this.

—The Buenos Aires telegrams would also be more valuable if the transmitter would refrain from sending news that has already appeared in the papers some two or three days previously.

—Those who care to see themselves as others see them would do well to read *El Censor* of Sunday which contains a long article on "Costumbres Inglesas." This article contains a good deal of truth, cleverly intermixed with some wholesome sarcasm, and is well worth the pains of reading.

—Spain, we read without surprise, puts obstacles in the way of her subjects wishing to emigrate to Argentina. Argentina need not fret therefore, there are plenty of quite as desirous to emigrate—if not more so—to be found elsewhere.

—By way of some really pretty reading *La Tribuna* of yesterday evening entertains its patrons with a long and dramatic account of the adventures of the stomach of a glutton and its struggles with a dose of citrate of magnesia. We can recommend the article to those who require an emetic.

—The presents received by Patti on her benefit on Saturday were tremendous. It required four carts to carry away all the bouquets.

—The Buenos Aires Standard is as glib as the Caridad Lottery as if it had won the big prize. Big prizes do not fall to editors as a rule. We should be perfectly content to see an exception to this in our favour.

—Having made a great to-do over the abolition of slavery, means are now being concerted in B. Aires to make a fuss over the Brazilian Journalists coming to thank the Argentines for their demonstration. Not having taken much trouble here in the first instance we can hardly be expected to go out of our way in the second.

—Opinions seem to differ in B. Aires over the Argentine actor Almada, and the enthusiasm, for once, seems to have fallen something short of frenzied. Is it the old story of a prophet without honour in his own country, or is it that Almada is no prophet?

### THE BRITISH ARMY AS SEEN BY A FRENCHMAN.

A writer, who signs himself Commandant Blanc, and may, therefore, be presumed to be a soldier, undertakes to tell the readers of the *Gaulois* all about the British Army. Some of his facts will, as novel to English as to French readers, and are worth noting, chiefly as a further illustration of the singular inability of even well-informed Frenchmen to write about English affairs without blundering, but his estimate of our powers of resisting invasion is deserving of notice, as proceeding from one who has certainly no bias in our favour. Commandant Blanc points out that in some respects our Army bears a striking analogy to that of the French Army before 1793. His remarks are—

"There is nothing Democratic about its organisation, and there will be no great harm in that, if the instruction of the officers was not almost as completely neglected as that of the men. On the other hand, this body of mercenaries, whose chiefs for the most part have bought their commissions, possesses a military spirit and traditions which we might envy it. For though individually the English are accessible to the same panics and flutterings as other peoples, we must do them this justice, that once formed into a troop, they very rarely allow themselves to be demoralised. History has recorded the exploits, even more useless than heroic, which they accomplished during the Crimean war. But other facts quite as well worthy of commemoration are but little known. Thus, at the time of the Sepoy insurrection old General Wheeler marched with two European battalions and a few natives of doubtful fidelity, against the famous Nana Sahib, who was utterly routed in spite of the dogged resistance of his 20 thousand fanatic partisans. We may also note the defence of Cawnpore and Lucknow, which has hardly any parallel in modern military annals. As regards tenacity and power of resistance, no force is superior to the British Army. And what I saw in the Crimea and during my stay on the West Coast of Africa, where native rebellions are common enough, enables me to affirm

that the British soldier of to-day has in no way deteriorated. Therefore I cannot help smiling when I read in habitually serious English papers that in the present condition of the British forces a body of one hundred thousand men, once disembarked, could march, unimpeded from Capo Lizard to the Land's End. If these hundred thousand men were commanded by the First Napoleon, I will not say what they might not do; but until further orders the English have nothing to fear from us for a thousand reasons, the first being that, pace Sir Charles Dilke, there is not a single Frenchman (*un seul*) who is at present anxious for a war with England, whatever professional men—whose competency we by no means question, but who have too many interests at stake to be impartial—may allege to the contrary. We contend that the British army presents a most respectable force, more, than sufficient to protect the country from invasion were it not for its Colonies. These Colonies are the one vulnerable point to the power of England. It is through her colonial possessions, and through them alone, that our old Crimen and Chinese ally can be attacked. When it is borne in mind that India alone requires for her defence an army of close upon one hundred thousand Europeans, it is easy to understand the anxiety of high military magnates like Lord Wolseley and General Roberts to find means of increasing the forces of which they could readily dispose in time of war. The solution of the problem is attended with no other difficulty than that arising from the smallness of the estimates, as in virtue of a law of 1752, which has never been repealed, every British subject is bound to serve the State from his eighteenth to his forty-fifth year. It is true that the operation of this statute is annually suspended, but the obligation to serve exists none the less, so that it rests with the Parliament to call five millions of men under arms. But the Government has never been obliged to resort to his extremity. As to the Volunteers, as many of them are occasionally remarkable shots, they would form a far more formidable force than people in Europe generally suppose, in the event of a foreign army attempting the invasion of England."

Finally, Commandant Blanc comes to the conclusion, first, that England is quite able to defy invasion with her present resources; secondly, that her present resources are incapable of her from taking part in any great European war; and, thirdly, that it is in order to be able to mix themselves up with continental affairs that certain *Anglais* so ardently demand an increase in their military expenditure. In short, "Commandant Blanc thinks our army is feeble, and that those who raise the bugbear of a French invasion really want England actively to join the Triple Alliance in aggression against France."

A MOST ACCOMPLISHED SWINDLER.

A telegram from New York announces the termination, by suicide, of the career of Henry Benson, perhaps the most accomplished swindler of the century. Whilst in jail he is said to have thrown himself from a staircase on to a stone floor below, and to have sustained injuries which caused his death. His notoriety was chiefly obtained by his share in the great turf frauds by which Madame de Goncourt and other victims were defrauded of about £13,000; but his whole career was one of crime, and the police record against him stamps him as a man who devoted considerable powers of mind, good address, great decision of character and readiness of resource to dishonest practices, consistently pursued through his life. The son of a Paris merchant, Henry Benson received a good education, but speedily became known to the continental police as an adventurer who, under various names and titles, obtained entrance into, and preyed upon, the fashionable circles of the chief European cities. As the Marquis de Maurency, he paid England a visit in 1872, and obtained £1,000 from the Lord Mayor of London by representing himself as the Maître of Chateau d'On, a district that suffered from the ravages of war during the conflict with Germany. This, however, led to his arrest, and the greater part of the money was recovered. An incident that shows the character of the man occurred while awaiting trial for this offence.







## THE LATEST FROM MARS.

Monsieur Perrotin, of the Nice Observatory, has been looking through his big telescope at the planet Mars, and M. Faye, the Astronomer of Paris, has read notes of what his compatriot has discovered at the Academy of Science in that gay capital. Our report stated: "This gentleman lately brought a powerful glass to bear on the planet, and, from what he observed, it appears that Mars is not only inhabited by men, but by most skillful and energetic canal-cutters and engineers who put M. de Lesseps and his fellow-pioneers of isthmuses in lack seats." Astronomers have already called the lines going from sea to sea on the surface of Mars "canals"; but M. Perrotin says that some of these waterways are, like the Panama project, still undischarged. M. Berthelot, one of the Académiciens, is evidently a light-hearted savant, for he at once asked M. de Lesseps, who was present at the meeting, if he had by chance a brother projector in Mars, whereat all the learned astronomers sniggered solemnly. This is, surely, the first time that a joke has been imported from a spot thirty-five millions of miles off, which is about the distance of the planet Mars from our Earth. The canals perceived by M. Perrotin upon the surface of the solar system, however, are a long-known mystery of the heavens, and one that is probably as far as ever from being solved by the facetious Nizard. Mars happens to be better situated for observation by astronomers than any other body in the sky except the Moon. Everybody knows the appearance of the planet, bright as Achebar in the bull, or as Deleuze in Orion, and of a rusty tinting. Long-fellow has called it the star of the unquered will, the red planet Mars. It never approaches us nearer than the somewhat considerable interval already mentioned of thirty-five millions of miles, but this is as good as being "next door," relatively to the more remote orbs of the system, to say nothing of the nearest fixed stars; so that our little neighbour has been well examined. "Little" we may fairly call him in comparison with ourselves, since, if we take the earth to be represented by a cricket ball, Mars is not so large as a small-sized billiard ball. He is more than a hundred times further off than the moon, at his very closest approach, and measures only four thousand two hundred miles through at his equator; but, unlike the moon, he exhibits in turn every portion of his surface, rotating in a day which is about half-an-hour longer than our own. Thus the entire face of the planet Mars has been pretty accurately mapped, and presents a diversified aspect of large patches of alternating lighter and darker markings which may naturally suggest the divisions of land and water. At the poles of Mars are extensive white regions which sometimes show up in the field of the telescope with striking brilliancy and clearness of definition; and, since these undergo periodic changes, occasionally almost vanishing and then shining forth again at just the seasons when it would be winter with the Martians, astronomers have been led to call them "ice-caps," and to believe that we actually behold the Arctic and Antarctic Polar seas of the planet in the form of these little white swimmers stuck on each end of the star of war. As for the canals with which M. Perrotin poked scientific fun at M. Lesseps, they are certainly very curious objects. From sea to sea, or what looks like it, run these straight passages, wearing an appearance, no doubt, of some immense artificial work—some Panama or Suez Canal on a colossal scale. They do not alter or extend—there they always are—some of them completed, others apparently imperfect, as if the Martian Chamber of Deputies had refused to sanction a lottery-loan for the fulfilment of the original design. But when M. Perrotin and Faye begin to talk of "engineers" and "men in Mars" it is necessary to remember that to be seen at all, even as a hair-line, these canals in Mars would have to be at least five hundred times as broad as the Thames—say thirty or forty miles across, and as their length is to be reckoned in hundreds of miles, the navies in Mars, if they exist, must certainly be wonderful beings!

Yet it is the merest conjecture to call them "canals" at all, and we must wait for very much better information from M. Perrotin, or from the great Lick Lens, before any serious idea can be formed of their true nature. Telescopic observation has, however, achieved such really marvellous things with this planet that there is no need to despair of further discoveries. For a long time nobody had seen the moons of Mars. It was reasonable to think he must possess one or more, situated as he is between our own moon-filled globe and Jupiter with his four satellites. For centuries astronomers sought every favourable moment, and hunted the vicinity of Mars for a moon, but saw none, until the idea grew strong that the moonless planet formed an exception to the rule that outside Venus all the solar family go attended with lamps. In 1877 Professor Asaph Hall, with a lens manufactured by Messrs. Alvan Clark, "spotted" the desired objects. The American astronomers found first one and then the other satellite, which have been named "Deimos" and "Phobos"; and, while the outer attendant revolves about its planet in some thirty hours and a half, the inner satellite spins round Mars three times while that body is turning once. They are no great things in moons, if we go by mere size. Deimos is about as large as the Isle of Wight would be rolled into a sphere, and Phobos, the larger one, measures perhaps twenty-three miles in diameter. Yet nothing astronomically can be more interesting than those moonlets, which go so close to their planet that many people in Mars—if people there be—never see them both together at all. And it is a curious literary fact, alluded to by Sir Robert Ball in his admirable book, "The Story of the Heavens," that Swift, in his "Gulliver's Travels," guessed at the exact truth both as regards the unseen moons of Mars and their rates of revolution. The astronomers of the flying island of Laputa were absolutely right in telling Captain Lemuel Gulliver that Mars had two

satellites, one of which revolved in about ten hours—the happiest "shot" perhaps ever taken by a daring fictionist. If all this has been lately revealed, it is not beyond hope that, with the gigantic instrument recently erected at the Lick Observatory in California, more may be hereafter learned about the canals of Mars than we, or M. Perrotin, or anybody else, at present know. It has been remarked that to be visible, and so very plainly too, their breadth must be reckoned in scores, perhaps in hundreds of miles. The Martian ships must, therefore, be broad of beam, or the Martian commerce enormous, to need such waterways as these; indeed, one would rather suppose that, if the long straight furrows in the planet are canals, they navigated their beautiful world on floating islands. The moons of Mars could easily bowl through the narrowest portions of these passages, and, moreover, it is not in the least degree certain that the brighter surfaces of the sphere are oceans at all, or connected, whether by cosmic forces or Martian engineers and speculators, with each other.

Astronomers, admirable as so many points, are never so stupid and unimaginative as when meditating on the probabilities of life beyond this Earth, that old and fascinating topic of "more worlds than one." They take their terrestrial notions and experiences much too blindly into space; they ask if there be an atmosphere in the Moon, or water in Mars; and if any doubts exist about these elements they solemnly conclude that these and other lovely and eligible celestial abodes are tenanted. As if life were not conceivable without lungs and a liver! As if we must always carry about with us into the glorious promotions of inter-stellar space the dentist, the anti-bilious pill, and bronchitis! It is true that for beings constructed as we are at present Mars would be a novel and rather a surprising kind of abode. Supposing we found air dense enough to breathe there, and water sufficient for tea and washing—which are both dubious points, the diminished gravitation of the little planet is so great that it would induce a physical and mental levity fatal to dulness and forbidding sense of fatigue. What is a hundredweight here would weigh only fifty-six pounds, and we could all go up stairs five steps at a time, or jump twice our own height with ease and grace. Then it would assuredly be very nice, if we were living in the right latitude on Mars, to have a quick moon and a slow moon, always carcering round like splendid Chinese lanterns, saving gas bills, and encouraging long walks of lovers and Martial poetry. A fall from a horse would seldom or never prove at all serious in the Martian hunting-fields; the rider would rebound from the soft soil like an indiarubber cushion. Aerial navigation has quite possibly been solved long ago by the fortunate people of the red planet, the conditions being so extremely favourable; and who knows, indeed, whether the so-called "canals" are not vast tologazian slides, where the theatre-population enjoys the unwonted sense of swift descent and some little spice of peril? But we may be sure of this, that if there be sentient creatures on the silver and pearl surfaces of Mars, they are of a very different type from our terrestrial frames, for life is always the equation of its surrounding conditions, and we denizens of the Earth have lungs and a larynx simply because we live at the bottom of an aerial sea, just as the fish possess gills because they breathe the water. Meantime, they speculate in Mars, perchance, upon us as much as we on them, and wonder if people can possibly live with only one moon and with two-thirds of their planet swamped by water, to say nothing of how much nearer to the fiery sun, and revolving round him in a circle instead of an ellipse. Of a truth it is very little that the wisest can know of the wonderful universe which night after night reveals infinite to our eyes, but not to our understandings. Enough that its visible possibilities are quite as boundless, as are the imagination and the aspirations of Man himself.

OF COURSE, no reasonable objection can be taken to the Official Secrets Bill of the Government if it is honestly worked. But will it apply to others than poor clerks or artificers in the dockyards and arsenals? Will it affect the scented dandies of the Foreign Office, for example, whose enterprise in selling diplomatic secrets to London newspapers, according to Mr. Marvin, tempted him to forestall them by communicating the secret treaty embodying the Jingo surrender to Russia which Lord Salisbury signed, and the existence of which he denied after he had signed it? It will be remembered that the prosecution against Mr. Marvin was suddenly dropped by the Government when it was hinted that the relations between the Foreign Office and the Jingo Press would be gone into. Then, will the bill be put into action against the impecunious brother of an earl who till very recently was—and perhaps still is, for aught we know—allowed access to official documents and reports at the Admiralty, so that he might compile articles out of them for the *Times* in advance of the rest of the Press? We suppose not, for this gentleman is not an official. Only his brother was a "good fellow," and he is "hard up." Moreover, as he can write English sufficiently grammatical for Printing House-square, why, if he can make an honest penny out of it, successive Ministers let him exam the official archives for the *Times*—more especially as they can get them examined in a way likely to produce an impression in advance that is favourable to themselves? Will the bill apply to such a high personage as him who gave the *Daily Telegraph* the "clips" about the purchase of the Suez Canal Shares, and who sold Mr. Gladstone's Irish Land Bill and the private and confidential Cabinet copies of the Redistribution Bill to the *Standard* newspaper in return for personal puff? We fear not. It is only the humble folk in the public service who are to be scourged for offences which their superiors may commit with comparative impunity. *London Exchange.*

## BALLOON VOYAGE.

Mr. Joseph Simmons, the aeronaut, gives the following particulars of a balloon ascent, which he made from Swansea on Monday May 21st:—I started with considerable upward force, for the balloon was inflated with pure hydrogen gas. Therefore it was too difficult to keep in the low current, and dangerous to keep in the high one, which I found rapidly wafting me forward. I, therefore, sought and succeeded in finding a current at the happy medium altitude of about eleven thousand feet, in a direct line for Horsedown Point, in England. This I could see very distinctly, and within six minutes from the time I started I had a distinct view of the entire south coast of Wales, also about half of its west coast. Then I could see the entire length of the Bristol Channel and the entire area of Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, Devonshire, and Cornwall, and these four counties looked only like a narrow ragged strip. The sun's rays upon the English Channel made it seem to me to stand up above England like a mass of quicksilver. I felt great confidence with my cork jacket and belt on, but I did not think they would be called into requisition, because, so far, I was keeping in the current from the north-west. I left the earth at 2.40 p.m., and at 3.30 I was seven miles west of Nash Point, South Wales. I reckoned I was now half way to the nearest point in England, and still going straight for it. Every town along the south shores of the Bristol Channel I could now see very distinctly, far more distinctly than any part of Wales. At 3.41 a steamer was coming in from the Atlantic just north of Lundy Isle. This island was bright, but the Flat Holm and the Steep Holm were quite black. Most of the Channel looked of a lead colour, but the Atlantic as bright as quicksilver. At 3.55 there was a steamer right under me going up Channel. At 3.56 a mist intervened and excluded every earthly scene, but the clearness of the sky far away over the Atlantic was enchanting. At 4.0 p.m. the space around me was clear again. I could not trace a phantom of the cloud above, beneath, or around me. At 4.3 I was almost over Horsedown Point. At 4.8 Somersetshire, like a beautiful carpet, was beneath me, except that there was upon it a little brown patch or stain of 21,000 acres. This is Exmoor, and it was not very inviting for a decent, but the balloon at 4.29 took a very slight movement downwards. At 4.35 I heard a cuckoo; a few minutes later sounds from cattle, dogs, and a train, but no human voice from that great wild waste. At 4.50 the grappling iron was wedged into the ground, and I was thumping and bumping at the other end of the rope until five p.m. Then the car was grabbed by Mr. George Gouindie, of Winters Head, just by Simonsbath, and I was safe upon my native county and close to the village so nearly bearing my own name.

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Montevideo, Noviembre 8 de 1887.

DANIEL MUÑOZ, Secretario

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