

The Express

THE RIVER PLATE DAILY MAIL

Vol. II.

(MELVILLE HORA—Director)

MONTEVIDEO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1888.

(ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE DIRECTOR)

Nº 188.

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ALLIANCE	Nov. 10	Dec. 1	Dec. 7	Dec. 11	Dec. 15	Jan. 6
ADVANCE	Dec. 1	Dec. 24	Dec. 27	Dec. 31	Jan. 4	Jan. 27
FINANCE	Dec. 22	Jan. 14	Jan. 17	Jan. 21	Jan. 25	Feb. 17
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DORIC	-	J. W. Jennings	Oct. 18	Nov. 8	Nov. 22	Nov. 27
ARAWA	-	J. Stuart	Nov. 15	Dec. 6 ¹⁸⁹⁹	Dec. 20	Dec. 25
IONIC	-	W. H. Kidley	Dec. 13	Jan. 3	Jan. 17	Jan. 22
COPTIC	-	J. Burton	Jan. 10	Jan. 31	Feb. 14	Feb. 19
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THE EXPRESS.

MONTEVIDEO, OCTOBER 24, 1888.

DON VIGILANTE.

Of the many bad characteristics of the

police of Montevideo and the River Plate

generally, one of the worst is the ex-

treme jealousy with which they regard

any interference or even interest in

their proceedings on the part of the

public.

A glance at the origin of the police

function will show the extreme falsity

of this attitude.

In primitive societies, as also in newly

formed colonies beyond the pale of civil-

ization there is at first no police admin-

istration. Each man is a law unto him-

self, and club or gun in hand, protects

himself and his property as best he can.

A stage higher in the social scale and

the duty of vigilance and protection is

taken in turn by the various members

of the community. But with further

evolution of the social organism, when

the various social functions become more

completely differentiated, the last named

process becomes his one and instead of

the citizen's sharing the duty between

them, it is found more convenient to

pay a certain trained band of men whose

duty consist in the maintenance of

public order, the execution of the com-

mands of the administrators of law, the

pursuit, detection and prevention of

crime and the general protection of the

citizens. These are the police; or, we

call them here, *vigilantes* by day, *se-*

nor by night.

But the police here, forgetting or

never having known that they are merely

appointed to do for the citizens that

which it is not convenient for the citizens

to do for themselves, assume a tone of

superior authority and absolutism that

is not only entirely unbecoming, but

that places both them and the people in

an entirely false position. Instead of

acting as the friends and protectors of

the people and expecting and accepting

from the latter an amicable assistance in

the discharge of their duties, they assume

a position of enmity and stand-lack

intolerance akin to that of the old-fash-

ioned schoolmaster who ruled by terror

instead of love and who saw in every

school-boy a possible subject for the rod.

In a word, they are protectors whose

attitude is a threat and whose presence

is a menace.

In England, except in the midst of

criminal districts, a policeman, finding

a man in a subject too much to deal with

single handed, has no hesitation in

calling on the bystanders for assistance,

nor would that assistance be refused.

Any person witnessing a police case

goes to the station without compulsion,

makes his deposition before the inspector,

leaves his name and address, and appears

before the magistrate or judge when called

upon, care being taken to give him as

little personal inconvenience as possible.

Witnesses are paid their expenses and

for their loss of time. Any respectable

person seeing a policeman abuse his

EXAMINATION BLUNDERS

The Annual Report of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education in Scotland has just been issued, and forms a document of more than ordinary weight. However, by those who choose to search among the weary columns of figures and the pages of solid type, not a few *nugae Academicæ*, of a character which one does not expect to find in Blue-Books, may be unearthed. In the shape of choice specimens of the wild answers which hard-run pupils are apt to vouchsafe. The answers of the Scotch pupil have, as a rule, a fine national smack, which hints at the kind of teaching that has been vaguely running through the mind of the hapless novice.

«Cromwell's eyes,» were, for example, told, «were keen and grey; but he was a God-fearing man—the Lord Protector's pious disposition being, evidently, in the mind of the lad, a set-off against the colour of his eyes.

Another pupil—and it ought to be remarked that these crumpled flowers of rhetoric and poetry, as Inspector Bathgate styles them, are not the work of the ordinary school-boy, but of students from the training colleges for teachers—avowed that the same ruler had «a head too big for his body;» but, he adds, «he ruled his Army well.» This information was not inaccurate, though somewhat beside the mark—like that of the lad who, as the sum total of his acquaintance with the history of Nelson, remarks that he «was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, amid the groans of a dying nation.» In definitions, and in grammar generally, the native talent of the pupil for absurdity appears most brilliantly. «Blackguard—one who has been a shoebuck,» has a touch of genius about it, which almost reminds us of Johnson's definition of a lexicographer, and an exclamation—though the perplexed examinee is about the first person in the world not to be despatched in earnest.

Compared with this, the definition of a «blackguard» being a man dressed in black, or a policeman, is poor. But it is impossible not to suspect the pupil of risking a lot of humour when he defines «a villain» as «an imbecile,» or «an ugly person, from vice.» To attribute the adjective «polite» is derived from «Pole,» owing to the affinity of the Polish race, is not much worse than some etymologies which we have seen in more pretentious places; and there is something worthy of Horne Tooke in deriving «clarity» from «clair,» whence the Queen doleth out gifts, «clathen» from Latin, «clathum,» faith, and «en,» note is really fine, though it is, in its way, run close by the answer to the effect that «leathen means «covered with leath.» Compared with this, to connect the Argonauts with Arius is commonplace, and to ascribe the «Sands of Dee» to Mrs. Hemans, betrays a certain critical faculty, divorced from knowledge of literary history, which is lacking in the loyal desperado who ventures to credit Prince Leopold with its authorship.

Geography and history appear to be the points in which the Scottish students are most deficient, a circumstance in no way to be wondered at by anyone who is aware of the wretched manner in which these subjects are taught in nearly every school throughout the length and breadth of the land. But these defects are amply compensated in a different way when he comes to the mathematical papers. «A straight line,» it is the opinion of the youth, «is one which lies in the same regular length from a point to a point.» «A superficies,» remarked another pupil with his back to the wall, «is the point taken between any two straight lines.» Compared with the definition of a circle as «a figure bounded by a straight line,» or the demonstration, «as the whole are equal, the parts must be equal,» the characterisation of an isosceles triangle as «one having two opposite sides to one another,» is simply a piece of drollish stupidity. In reality, it is impossible to read these, and a host of similar blunders, without a certain degree of pity. They display some shockingly bad teaching, in a blithely to some egregiously bad learning.

Yet every University and School Board examiner can recall something almost as good, even when he does not draw upon the ample store of such answers invented by ingenious undergraduates, who, in the day of their own tribulation, do not sometimes face much better. The narrative of Jonah and «that whale who was almost persuaded to be a Christian» is painfully good. But it is not equal to the biography of the same Patriarch compiled by a Board School boy competing for one of the Beck prizes. «He was the father of Lot, and had two wives, one was called Ishmael, and the other Hagar; he kept one at home, and he turned the other into the desert, when she became a pillow of salt in the day time, and a pillow of fire at night.» The following is almost equally impressive. «Moses was an Egyptian. He lived in an ark made of bull-horns, and he kept a golden calf and worshipped brazen snakes, and at nothing but kuales and mamma for forty years. He was caught by the hair of his head, while riding under the branch of a tree, and he was killed by his son Absalom as he was hanging from the boughs.»

It would be difficult to equal the following explanation of the Seasons, written down by a London School Board pupil not later than four years ago. «The sun goes round on its axis. The earth's axis is a pole put through the centre of the sun, which turns it round, and thus we get the seasons; or the equator is a line running through the centre of the earth. At one end is the Tropice of Cancer; at the other, the Tropice of Capricorn; or, the Nile is the only remarkable river in the world. It was discovered by Dr. Livingstone, and it rises in Mungo Park.» «The Boers are the wild people of the Cape Colony,» is not bad; though it is far in the rear of that despatch from Downing-street, which suggested that the Chaplain at Port Elizabeth might do duty at Pietermaritzburg on the same day, or the reported opinion of an Admiralty Clerk, to the effect that Potelestrom might be attacked from sea.

«Cyprus,» another gem of school-child lore tells us, «came into our possession in 1878, and was given to Lord Beacons-

field,» and the following description of Constantinople, if lacking something in accuracy, is notable for its splendid comprehensiveness:—«It is on the Golden Horn; a strong fortress; has a University, and is the residence of Peter the Great. Its chief building is the Sublime Port.»

Oliver Cromwell is always a favourite personage with unfortunate examinees. The following, which some years ago went the rounds, is perhaps as choice as any of the many answers touching his history which have been presented to examiners:—«Oliver Cromwell is said to have exclaimed, when he cut off King Charles's head, and got on the throne:—«If I had served my God as I served my King he would not have left me to mine enemies.» Also that the word «Charles» would be found on his heart.»

That «the Druids were an ancient people supposed to be Roman Catholics,» is a thesis which, considering the endless hypotheses promulgated regarding them might be defended, especially by the youth who enunciated the following profound logical theorem: «The word frigid means cold, and the word temperate neither hot nor cold. Therefore, the temperate zone is neither hot nor cold.» To attribute «Guy Mannering» and «Peveril of the Peak» to Lord Beaconsfield, and «Don Juan» to Miss Bradshaw, are venial blunders, and there is only a trailing mixing up of ideas in the mind of the boy who makes Gibraltar «an island built on a rock,» and «discovered in 1701 by Sir G. Rooke.» But we get simply amazed when we learn that Portugal can only be reached through the St. Bernard Pass «by means of sledges drawn by reindeer and dogs,» that Turin is the capital of China, or that «Cuba is a town in Africa, very difficult of access.» And it is certain that the youth who answered that «the dog has four toes on his front feet and four toes on his hind feet, and the cow has no toes and cannot bark,» did not intend to be humorous at his own expense.

One more specimen of the endless examples of «blunders» by dazed or desperate examinees, taken from some given by candidates for admission to a Training College will serve to show what examining, confusion, and an incapacity to bring ordinary intelligence to bear upon the contents of books can accomplish. «The Spanish Armada,» wrote a young man of seventeen, «took place in the reign of Queen Anne; she married Philip of Spain, who was a very cruel man. The Spanish and the English fought very bravely against each other. The English wanted to conquer Spain. Several battles were fought, in which hundreds of the English and Spanish were defeated. They lost some very large ships, and were at a great loss on both sides.» The scholar who told his tormentors that «the Saxons retired to rest in the time of the Heptarchy in a state of nudity, and laid upon a bed of straw—they were so eminently social—was a lad destined for greater things. —The Star Herald.

A HUGE CALDRON.

According to an account given by Dr. Ernst Weissenbauer, Professor of Geology at the University of Heidelberg, who has been recently visiting the natural gas districts of Ohio, the inhabitants of the town of Findlay, in that State, are actually living over a huge caldron, in which they may be engulfed sooner or later. Professor Weissenbauer, who had a scientific object in view in his visit, states that the extent of the region of the American natural gas wells is considerably underestimated, and that at a great depth under the town of Findlay in particular there is a large cave which is filled with highly explosive gases, and that a fearful explosion, considering the great pressure at which these gases are bottled up, may take place at any time. The following are his reasons for arriving at such a conclusion. By employing very sensitive telephones, which were inserted in the shafts of the gas wells, and brought into contact at a considerable depth with the strata below, noises as of rocks bursting and exploding could plainly be heard.

By means of a pyrometer the professor ascertained that under the town of Findlay, at a depth of a mile below the cave filled with gases, a fire is raging, developing a temperature of 350° degrees. The same observations were made by Professor Weissenbauer at various spots within a radius of five miles. He concludes that at a depth of only 1,200 feet below Findlay there is an immense cave, compared with the size of which the well-known Mammoth Cave is insignificant. The cave extends for many miles, and has a depth in various places of over half a mile. Highly explosive gases fill this cave at a great pressure. There are several strata of rock about a mile thick below the cave. The flames of an interior fire are impinging against this wall of rock at the high temperature mentioned. The wall of rock separating the gas-filled cave from the fire below has been examined by Professor Weissenbauer as to its constituents. He finds that the upper stratum consists of solid rock, then follows a considerable stratum of soft friable formation, and below this again is another layer like the top stratum, the lower portion of which is being gradually but surely eaten away by the fire burning below it.

The protecting wall of rock is considerably thinner below Findlay than at some distance round the town. From the continuous noises observed by means of the telephones it may be concluded, he says, that the consumption of the protecting rock by the fire is making uninterrupted progress. Professor Weissenbauer expresses the opinion that the bursting of that portion of earth's crust on which Findlay stands, should an explosion of gas below take place, is not only possible but probable, and that an early catastrophe is impending. It should be added, however, that American geologists, and among them Professor J. K. Gilbert, of Washington, do not share Professor Weissenbauer's apprehensions, and have expressed doubts as to the correctness of the observations of and the validity of the conclusions arrived at by the German geologist.

THE EFFECTS PRODUCED BY EARTHQUAKES UPON THE LOWER ANIMALS.

In the last issue of the «Transactions of the Seismological Society of Japan,» Professor Milne, the well-known student of volcanic phenomena, discusses the effects of earthquakes on animals. The records of most great earthquakes refer to the consternation of dogs, horses, cattle, and other domestic animals. Fish also are frequently affected. In the London earthquake of 1719, roach and other fish in a canal showed evident signs of confusion and fright, and sometimes after an earthquake fish rise to the surface dead and dying. During the Tokio earthquake of 1890, cats inside a house ran about trying to escape, foxes barked, and horses tried to kick down the boards confining them to their stables. There can, therefore, be no doubt that animals know something unusual and terrifying is taking place. More interesting than these are the observations showing that animals are agitated just before an earthquake. Ponies have been known to prance about their stalls, pheasants to scream, and frogs to cease croaking suddenly a little time before a shock, as if aware of its coming.

The Japanese say that moles show their agitation by burrowing. Geese, pigs, and dogs appear more sensitive in this respect than other animals. After the great Calabrian earthquake it is said that the neighing of a horse, the braying of an ass, or the cackle of a goose was sufficient to cause the inhabitants to fly from their houses in expectation of a shock. Many birds are said to show their uneasiness before an earthquake by hiding their heads under their wings and behaving in an unusual manner. At the time of the Calabrian shock little fish like sand eels (*amurella*), which are usually buried in the sand, came to the top and were caught in multitudes. In South America certain quadrupeds, such as dogs, cats, and jacks, are believed by the people to give warning of coming danger by their restlessness sometimes immense flocks of sea birds fly inland before an earthquake, as if alarmed by the commencement of some sub-oceanic disturbance. Before the shock of 1835 in Chile all the dogs are said to have escaped from the city of Talcahuano.

The explanation offered by Professor Milne of this apparent prescience is that some animals are sensitive to the small tremors which precede nearly all earthquakes. He has himself felt them some seconds before the actual earthquake came. The alarm of intelligent animals would then be the result of their own experience, which has taught them that small tremors are premonitory of movements more alarming. Signs of alarm days before an earthquake are probably accidental; but sometimes in volcanic districts gases have emanated from the ground prior to earthquakes and have poisoned animals. In one case large numbers of fish were killed in this way in the Tiber, and at Follonica on the morning of April 6, 1871, the streets and roads were covered with dead rats and mice. In fact, it seemed as if it had rained rats. The only explanation of the phenomena was that these animals had been destroyed by emanations of carbon dioxide.

MISSIONARY PREACHING IN AN INFIRMARY

At the usual fortnightly meeting of the Lambeth Board of Guardians, Mr. George Howlett presiding, Mr. Stockbridge moved: «In consequence of the complaints made by, and the unnecessary pain caused to, the inmates of the wards of the infirmary from the public preaching in the wards, it is resolved that the same be discontinued, and that the ladies and gentlemen attending the wards be requested to confine their ministrations to the bedside, having first obtained the sanction of the medical officer.» Addressing the Board in support of his resolution, Mr. Stockbridge said he had, in the discharge of his duties as a guardian, come across a series of scenes which he thought were detrimental to the welfare of the infirmary. He objected to a man standing in a ward, with poor people lying around, covering up their ears with their hands, and declaring that they were all going to hell.

In the event of any objection being made, the missionaries invariably answered that they had to make a certain number of addresses, and it would seem therefore that the welfare of the patients was altogether out of question and that it was only a question of a certain number of addresses.—Mr. Garlick, in seconding the motion, remarked that he had lately paid a visit to one of the wards. At the end of the ward there was a missionary mounted on a platform, shouting so as to make himself heard at the other end of the room, in a by no means musical voice.—The Rev. Walter Hobbs observed that that day fortnight four men died in the infirmary within a very short time of the awful display of indifference on the part of the missionary.—Mr. Cobdick supported the resolution on the condition that the Sunday services were permitted, and the resolution was agreed to on that understanding.

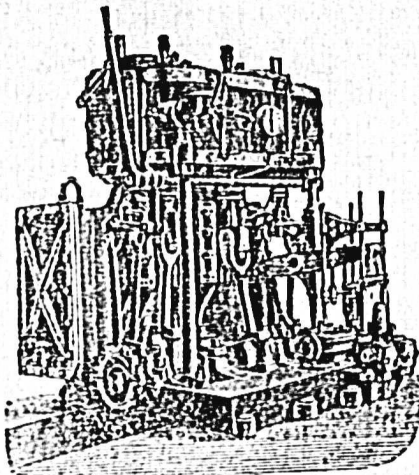
AN INFAMOUS TRAFFIC

The St. Petersburg Correspondent of a London paper writes: «The Russian police has recently discovered the existence at Odessa and Warsaw of well-organised bands, the members of which under different false pretences have persuaded a number of young Russian girls to leave their homes and to go with them abroad, ordinarily to Hamburg, where they are embarked on board Transatlantic steamers bound more especially for the great ports of South America. It is stated that Russia and Austria overflow with the agents of these bands, which have their central office at Hamburg. The agents receive up to 5,000 roubles for every attractive victim they succeed in bringing on board a steamer. The Russian police is joining with that of Hamburg in putting an end to this infamous traffic.»

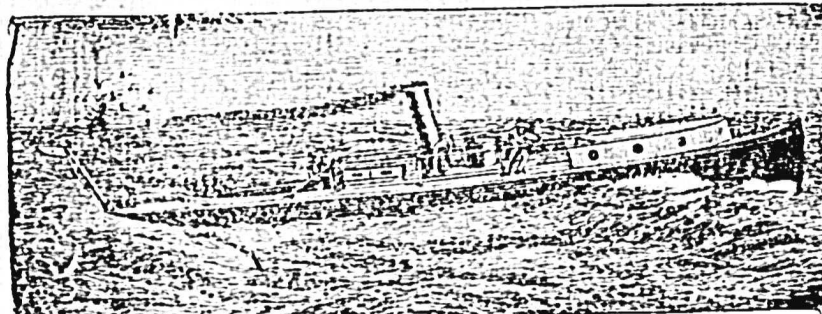
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PARIS

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El Catalogo Album ilustrado de las Modas y Novedades de la Estacion, que será enviado GRATIS y FRANCO a quien le pidiere á MM. JULES JALUZOT & Co. PARIS

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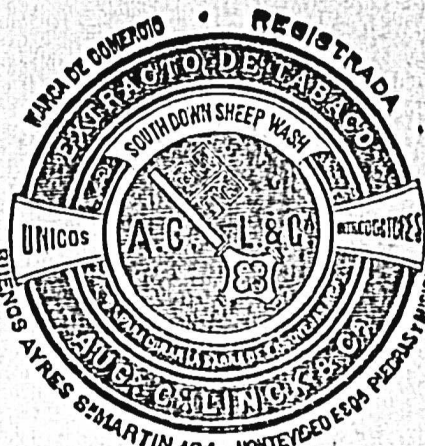
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Ferro-Carril Central del Uruguay

Itinerario á regir desde el 14 de Octubre de 1887

HASTA NUEVO AVISO

SALIDAS

ESTACIONES	1 a. m.	3 a. m.	5 a. m.	7 p. m.	9 p. m.	Días DE FIESTA p. m.
Central . . .	6	7.10	10.30	4.30	5.15	12.30
Bella Vista . .	6.3	7.15	10.33	4.37	5.51	12.30
Yatay . . .	6.10	7.25	10.45	4.43	6	12.46
Savay . . .	6.20	7.32	10.50	4.49	6.7	12.54
Colon . . .	6.25	7.38	11.5	4.55	6.13	1.02
Independencia .	6.16	7.49	11.17	5.4	6.25	1.14
Las Piedras (Ll)	6.50	7.57	—	—	6.35	1.24
Progreso (S.) .	—	8.16	11.39	5.12	—	—
Joquin Suarez .	—	8.31	12.7	5.35	—	—
Canelones . .	—	8.49	12.27	5.46	—	—
Santa Lucia (Ll)	—	9.19	—	6.10	—	—
25 de Agosto. Ll	—	9.31	1.10	6.29	—	—
25 de Agosto S.	—	—	1.18	6.28	—	—
Isla Mala . .	—	—	1.33	6.43	—	—
Capurro . .	—	—	1.53	7.3	—	—
Rodriguez . .	—	—	2.30	7.40	—	—
San José . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 de Agosto S.	—	9.31	—	—	—	—
Isla Mala . .	—	10.29	—	—	—	—
Florida (Ll.) .	—	11.5	—	—	—	—
La Cruz . .	—	11.35	—	—	—	—
Sarandí . .	—	12.20	—	—	—	—
Goñi . .	—	1.12	—	—	—	—
Goñi . .	—	2.3	—	—	—	—
Durazno (Ll.) .	—	2.46	—	—	—	—
Yi . .	—	3	—	—	—	—
Molles . .	—	4.10	—	—	—	—
Rio Negro . .	—	5.10	—	—	—	—

REGRESOS

ESTACIONES	2 a. m.	4 a. m.	6 p. m.	8 p. m.	10 p. m.	Días DE FIESTA p. m.
Rio Negro . .	—	—	6	—	—	—
Molles . .	—	—	7	—	—	—
Yi . .	—	—	8.10	—	—	—
Durazno (Ll.) .	—	—	8.24	—	—	—
Sarandí (S.) .	—	—	8.32	—	—	—
Goñi . .	—	—	9.10	—	—	—
Sarandí . .	—	—	9.58	—	—	—
La Cruz . .	—	—	10.59	—	—	—
Florida (Ll.) .	—	—	11.35	—	—	—
Isla Mala . .	—	—	12.5	—	—	—
25 de Agosto .	—	—	12.40	—	—	—
San José . .	—	6.55	—	3.40	—	—
Rodriguez . .	—	7.32	—	4.17	—	—
Capurro . .	—	7.52	—	4.37	—	—
25 de Agosto Ll	—	8.7	—	4.52	—	—
25 de Agosto S.	—	8.15	1.33	5	—	—
Santa Lucia (Ll)	—	8.25	1.50	5.12	—	—
Canelones . .	—	8.40	2.20	5.40	—	—
Joquin Suarez .	—	8.50	2.35	6	—	—
Progreso . .	—	9.11	2.53	6.25	—	—
Las Piedras (Ll)	—	9.20	3.7	—	—	—
Independencia .	—	9.23	3.11	6.42	7.50	4.35
Colon . .	—	9.30	3.20	6.51	8	4.41
Savay . .	—	9.35	3.30	7.2	8.12	4.55
Yatay . .	—	9.39	3.36	7.9	8.19	5.2
Bella Vista . .	—	9.45	3.49	7.23	8.33	5.15
Central . .	—	9.57	4	7.35	8.45	5.23

NOTA núm. 1.—Los trenes partirán por señal en las Estaciones indicadas por una (*) en la parada del puente de San José y en Ituzaingó, y parada Paso de los Toros siempre que haya pasajeros.

2.—Los trenes números 3 y 6 partirán 30 minutos en Florida para que almuercen los pasajeros.

3.—Los trenes números 5 y 8 harán el viaje de 25 de Agosto á San José y viceversa, los Lunes y Sábados solamente.

Ferro-Carril del Norte

Itinerario desde el 1.º de Noviembre de 1887

HASTA NUEVO AVISO

SALIDAS

ESTACIONES Y PUNTOS DE PARADA	1 A. M.	3 A. M.	5 P. M.
Central . . .	4.30	8	5
Miguelete . .	4.42	8.12	5.12
Fynn . . .	4.49	8.16	5.16
Noctel . . .	4.49	8.19	5.19
Perez . . .	4.56	8.26	5.26
Paso de la Arena .	5	8.30	5.30
Llamas . . .	5.07	8.37	5.37
Lecoq . . .	5.17	8.47	5.47
Santa Lucia . .	5.22	8.52	5.52

REGRESOS

ESTACIONES Y PUNTOS DE PARADA	2 A. M.	4 A. M.	6 P. M.
Santa Lucia	6.30	9.30	6.20
Lecoq	6.35	9.35	6.25
Llamas	6.45	9.45	6.35
Paso de la Arena	6.52	9.52	6.42
Perez	6.55	9.55	6.46
Noceli	7.03	10.03	6.53
Eyan	7.06	10.06	6.56
Miguelato	7.10	10.10	7.00
Central	7.22	10.22	7.12