

The Express

THE RIVER PLATE DAILY

MAIL

VOL. III.

(MILVILLI HORA—Proprietor)

MONTEVIDEO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1889.

[CHARLES CUNNEY—Editor] No. 282.

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The Express.

MONTEVIDEO, FEBRUARY 20, 1889.

THE CARIDAD HOSPITAL.

This fine Charitable Institution will be today visited by President Celman, accompanied by his host President Tajes. Owing to the urbanity of the Directors of the Hospital we were shown over the Establishment by one of the Sisters of Charity by whom the whole administration and nursing, including the entire interior economy is managed.

The Hospital was built just one hundred years ago, as is attested by a marble slab in the entrance corridor, and the names of the principal Sisters who have devoted their lives to this work are also engraved upon memorials on each side of the slab. The Hospital which has been added to at different times, can now make up about 600 beds, and an additional court is in the course of building.

The entire house has been built upon a system of open courts, each surrounded with corridors also open to the outward air; into these again the various wards communicate, the windows of the wards opening outwards, on the opposite walls to the corridors, so a perfect current of air can be obtained at any time through the wards.

On the 1st January 1888 there were 492 patients under treatment in the Hospital, and during the year 3642 persons had been taken in, of these 3322 had been discharged and 451 deaths occurred in the Hospital during the year.

The Hospital is in beautiful order and although the weather was decidedly hot on the day of our visit there was not the slightest disagreeable smell anywhere about the building. We visited the principal wards, where the patients seemed as comfortable as the circumstances would permit; and all the Offices, Kitchen and Dispensary, bath rooms and lavatories were in perfect order. The Sisters have every thing under their charge, the Doctors not having to do with the Administration. A committee of gentlemen appointed by the Government Superintendent the receipts of Income and expenditure. The expense of the Hospital is defrayed by the proceeds of the lotteries which are allowed by the Government only for the purposes of this charity.

WASHINGTON, SHEARING, AND STORAGE OF WOOL.

Sir,—In your December issue, in "Washed and Unwashed Wool," I described the size and condition of our washing-pool pens; the height of the drop into the water; the length of the swim, and the passage out for the sheep. I will now give you in detail our procedure in washing, shearing, and storage of wool.

We commence to wash first with the hogs that are forward in condition; but washing is not allowed to interfere with the regularity of the shepherd's rounds, so we have staled hours to accomplish our washing business. Hogs off a rich pasture are more safe from any injury by being confined about two hours in a fold before leaping them through the pool. At the pool a shepherd is placed on each side of the leap (which is not

more than three and a half feet wide) to keep the sheep from jumping on the back of those already in the water, and assisting those over the leap that are reluctant to go.

Another shepherd is behind the sheep in the inner pen, forcing them forward when required, and keeping their heads always towards the leap. When the last sheep is forward at the leap, it is held fast as a decoy for the remaining outer pen; the fourth and responsible shepherd has to take special care that no abuse or injury is done to the sheep. The hogs being once through are allowed to stand outside the pens for twenty minutes; and being saturated to the skin the dirt softens and goes rapidly off the wool in their other courses through the pool. Hogs that are fed on the turnip land during winter require, at least four times through the pool, and this can be done without any exhaustion or injury to the animals. Eyes do not in general take so much washing as hogs. The lambs should be left in some secure place at the homestead, and their mothers driven quietly to the pool end, not in any case heated. After three times through the pool the water runs off them very pure, which is a sure sign of them being clean. From three to four thousand sheep of different breeds, from the heavy Leicester to the Cheviot, and blackfaced, go through the pool here annually.

The clipping begins about eight days after washing, and is daily continued (if weather permits) until finished, which is in about three weeks. The clipping house is a large and commodious building, divided into pens, with a small wicket-gate into each pen, and all boarded in front of the pens for the clippers to execute their work and keep the fleeces clean. The doors into the pens are so arranged that the sheep can be put in without traversing the boards or annoying the clippers in any way. The pens are kept orderly and clean with abundance of sawdust. The clippers are paid according to the numbers shorn, and their work is inspected several times in the day. Each night after the clipping is over the sheep are all branded with the initial of the party to whom they belong and counted away to their grazing. The fleeces are then removed from the clipping-house to the wool store, and counted into one of the sections, the clip sheep and the number of fleeces agreed upon.

The wool store is divided into forty sections along each side of the building, with a four-feet alley down the centre. Each section as it is filled with wool is ticketed with the owner's name and number of his fleeces so that any wool-buyer can go along the alley and mark in his book the names and number of fleeces belonging to the different parties and also see the quality of wool without any trouble whatever. Other accommodations especially for ewes lambing are all equally commodious and a great benefit to grass-takers on the Ewart estate. I may possibly forward you a letter on ewes lambing for February number, as it is a time of anxiety to the shepherd and a loss or gain matter to the flock-master, according as ewes are then managed.—I am, &c.—Sheep and Wool.

DOCTOR JOHNSON'S OPINION OF NEWSPAPERS.

Doctor Johnson in one of the numbers of the *«Older»* which he wrote and edited says:

One of my principal amusements is to read the works of those minute historians, the writers of news, who though contemptuously overlooked by composers of bulky volumes are yet necessary in a nation where much wealth produces much leisure, and one part of the people has nothing to do but to observe the lives and fortunes of the other. To us, who are regaled every morning and evening with intelligence, and are supplied from day to day with materials for conversation, it is difficult to conceive how man can subsist without a newspaper, or to what entertainment companies can assemble in those wild regions of the earth that have neither *«Chronicles»* nor *«Magazines»*, neither *«Morning Journals»* nor *«Evening Posts»*. The compilation of newspapers is often committed to narrow and mercenary minds, not qualified for the task of enlightening or instructing, who are content to fill their paper with whatever matter is at hand, without industry to gather or discernment to select.

Thus journals are daily multiplied without increase of knowledge. The tale of the morning is told in the evening, and the narratives of the evening are brought out again in the morning. These repetitions, indeed, waste time, but they do not shorten it. The most eager pursuer of news is tired before he has completed his labour, and many a man who enters the coffee house to hear the news is called away to his shop or his dinner before he has well considered the state of Europe.

In Sir Henry Wotton's jocular definition, an ambassador is said to be a man of virtue sent abroad to tell lies for the advantage of his country. A news writer is a man who writes lies at home for his own profit.

To these compositions is required neither industry nor sprightliness, but contempt of shame and indifference to truth are absolutely necessary.

AFRICAN NEWS.

There is no lack at present of news from Africa. Unfortunately it is not

generally of a pleasing description. Everything we hear relating to Mr. Stanley is hopeful; but from Khartoum there is an apparently authoritative report of the death of Lupton Boy, long the gallant defender of the *«Bahr-el-Chazel»* and lately the cruelly threatened prisoner of the Mahdi. From the East coast startling evidence of the activity of the Arabs is supplied by the account of an onslaught on a German mission station and a massacre of missionaries. The uneasiness caused by such events is by no means local. Their influence on the interests of other nationalities and on the fortunes of travellers in the interior is not likely to be favourable. It is certainly not surprising to learn that there is anxiety at Zanzibar.

The repetition of the report that the Equatorial province had fallen need not however add to the general concern. That is so obviously the old story, told that it need not be deemed worthy of more serious consideration than has been given to it since Stanley was last heard of. The report of Lupton Boy's death is confirmed by a letter from Sir Francis de Winton, which embodies the substance of a conversation between Major Parmenter and Tippos Tib's inviolable secretary, whom he met on the way to Leopoldville.

It adds to our previous information the news that Stanley had by the end of August looked the fate of Major Bartlett, taken up the remainder of that unhappy officer's detachment, and set out on his return journey to Wadelai. He is expected home by the East coast. The statement that no other letters were sent by Stanley excepting the one to Tippos Tib may have been made according to his secretary's knowledge, but, as our readers know, it is inconsistent with telegrams already received announcing that letters are on the way.

Lupton Boy, whose life has been so sadly ended at Khartoum, has had a singular career. He was mate on board a trading vessel in the Red Sea when he was taken up by the late General Gordon. That distinguished man, placing a high value upon his abilities and upon his proved integrity, gave him charge of the flotilla, and in due course made him Governor of the *«Bahr-el-Chazel»* Province. It was stated in Parliament last year that in his administration of that province he converted a deficit into a surplus of 30,000, and had stored 150,000 worth of ivory before the rising in the Sudan.

A glimpse of the spirit which he displayed in the defence of his province has been given us in Emin Pacha's letters to Dr. Schweinfurth, one of which says:—*«I believe I told you about Lupton Boy's last letters, in one of which he announced that the Mahdi's men—several thousands in number—were encamped five hours' march to the west of him, and that he was resolved to fight or die. Another followed directly after with the news that, being left in the lurch by all his men, he had surrendered his province and was going to Kordofan.»*

In another of Emin's letters it is stated that Lupton had been betrayed by his own men, who had been in league with the rebels for a long time, that the Danagla, directly after they had occupied the mudir's, had burnt all the books and Government documents, had opened and plundered the magazine, had seized all the arms and ammunition which they found in store or in the hands of the soldiers, and sold them to the highest bidder for money and slaves, and finally had put the soldiers in slavo chains. Sir Francis de Winton, Emin Pacha's secretary, is said to be in close attendance on the new Prophet and to enjoy great honours; but if that is true why does not Lupton write?

The fears thus indicated were amply justified by news which afterwards reached us through our Berlin Correspondent as to the cruel treatment of the Mahdi's prisoners. It was said that he had to work in the arsenal and to do the most menial and hardest labour. Later his position was slightly improved on account of his services in coining. He acted then as a kind of Master of the Mahdi's Mint. His death is another sad incident in the history of the Sudan.

BANK CHEQUES.

If a cheque for eight pounds is fraudulently altered to eighty before its presentation to the Bank on which it is drawn, and if payment is made before the deception is discovered, who should bear the loss? We believe the answer depends entirely on the circumstances, though the owner of the cheque-book may be pardoned for considering this to be a fraud on the bankers and for trying to recover the money thus ingeniously abstracted from his account through their instrumentality. In the particular case tried yesterday before Mr. Justice Grantham and a jury, however, the Banker Bank, confessed their liability on the ground of the negligence of the drawer, who, according to their contention, had so drawn the cheque as to leave it open to alteration. The plaintiff appears to have retorted that the different ink in which the alteration was made ought to have put the bankers on their guard, and this contention was successful with the jury. The plaintiff got judgment for the difference between the 8s. and the 80s. The ground of the verdict suggests the need for caution in drawing cheques for figures that are liable to alteration.

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