

The Express

THE RIVER PLATE DAILY MAIL

Vol. IV.

(MELVILLE HORN—Proprietor)

MONTEVIDEO—Tuesday, July 30, 1889.

(CHARLES GURNEY—Editor)

No. 408

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to, nor manuscript returned.

The Express.

MONTEVIDEO, JULY 23, 1889.

Cruelty to animals

The society which has for its object
the prevention of cruelty to animals in
England has been in existence since 1809,
and during that time has secured over
80,000 convictions. Moreover, it is clear
from the report red yesterday, that it
was never in a more efficient condition
than it is now. It is long, honest as cord
and strong, and its stakes, and, as a
natural result, it is finding more and
more work to do. Last year, it discov-
ered over 5,000 cases of cruelty, nearly
300 in excess of those dealt with in the
previous twelvemonth, and there can be
little doubt that the more widely its
branches are extended the larger num-
ber of cases it will unearth. We may
hope that, in time, when the influence
of the society is commensurate with the
superstices of the kingdom, it may have
the effect of checking the brutality
which it is putting more and more in
evidence.

Meanwhile, it is rather shocking that
in an age of supposed enlightenment and
refinement, there should be so large a
mass of cruelty to the dumb crea-
tures of man. That the greater number
of cases should have reference to horses
is indicative, not of any special unkind-
ness to that particular animal, but
simply of the fact that the horse is so
widely and constantly in use. The ill-
treatment of mules and donkeys seems
to have been comparatively slight during
1888; and that, considering the familiar
obedience of those species, is rather
creditable to those who utilise them in
their daily work.

On the other hand, it is eminently
discreditable that the list of cruelties
committed should include over 200 in-
stances of brutality to cattle and over 100
instances of brutality to dogs. There is
something peculiarly revolting in the
last-named misdeeds. The most
faithful of animals ought surely to be
exempt from the effects of man's anger
or irritation. But we do not know that,
in this matter, one animal should be pre-
ferred above another. There is some-
thing especially cowardly in any form of
unkindness to the dumb creation. A man
who could give way to it must, indeed,
be defective in nature; he must be want-
ing in some of the first elements of ge-
nuine manhood.

There seems no small likelihood that
the world will shortly witness in South
Africa a replica of the situation which
used to exist on the Spanish Main, while
England and Spain were formally at
peace, informal war almost continuously
raging between their subjects in the
Western hemisphere. And so now in
South Africa, the two nations are bitt-
ing thumbs at one another, and furnishing
up all manner of lethal weapons, al-
though their Governments are ostensi-
bly on terms of close friendship. Not
only have the Europeans employed on the
Delagoa Bay railway entrenched them-
selves at the depot, but we hear of
both an English and an American war
ship hurrying to the scene. There is
certainly a smelt of villainous saltpetre
about these proceedings. Portugal may
be a mighty Power, but her Government
can scarcely have a light heart when
thus brought face to face with the pros-
pect of a squeeze between the upper and
nether millstones. Were fighting to
occur by any mischance, it is quite cer-
tain that public opinion, both in the
United Kingdom and the United States,
would rage against Portugal with ir-
resistible force.

Even the proposal to boycott Portu-
guese securities on the Stock Exchange
should serve to make the Lisbon Cabinet
pause. This curious manifestation of
hostility proceeds from those who usual-
ly take very philosophical views of even
the most startling incidents. It must,
indeed, be a very bad case which shocks
the Stock Exchange sense of morality.
But in this instance, that institution
faithfully reflects the feeling of the whole
community. The conduct of the Portu-
guese Government is so indefensible that
the wonder is any honourable man
should care to associate their names with
the now departed in international mor-
ality. We can only hope that the Bona
will at once recognise the expediency of
withdrawing from a wholly untenable
position. The sooner they do so, the
better for their country. Their troops in
South Africa are not of quality to in-
spire much fear in the railway people
who have taken up arms; and if any at-
tempt be made, therefore, to take pos-
session of the line by force, bloodshed
will be inevitable.

Under the title of "Political Wit and
Humour in our own Times," Mr. J.
Williams has gathered together into a
little volume, published by Messrs. Field
and Tuer, a number of wise and witty
sayings by eminent politicians. The col-
lection has no pretence to be exhaustive,
nor can it be said to be adequately re-
presentative of the sagacious talents of En-
glish statesmen. The late Mr. Bernal
Osborne, for example, might surely have
contributed something brighter and
fresher than his joke of likening Mr.
Disraeli with his Reform Bill to a gipsy
who had stolen a child and disguised
it to make it pass for his own; or even
the comparison of the Palmerston Ad-
ministration to a museum of curiosities.

The Westburyana also are disappoint-
ing, for they fail to show that the ex-
Chancellor could be very witty as well
as very rude. And what are we to say of
a compiler who cites Lord Rosebery's
memorable reference to Mr. Gladstone's
cumbrotia; but forgets that admirable
bit of humorous satire the likening of
the effusive Liberal Unionist and his
Conservative ally to two convicts at a
street corner who persist in vowing
friendship because they know that the
moment they cease to rasp hands they
must fall to the ground? No collection
of this sort, however, could wholly fail
to provide amusement or to revive plea-
sant recollections of the political "word-
combats" of the past. Here the reader
will meet with some delightful samples
of Lord Palmerston's mode of turning
the tables upon his good friend Mr.
Rowley, the famous Radical butcher of
Tiverton.

It is only "chaff," as one sturdy Tiver-
tonite justly complained; but it effectually
disposed of Mr. Rowley's opposition.
The late Sir Robert Peel figures chiefly
in some sharp and pointed retorts pro-
voked by Mr. Disraeli's bitter taunts.

There is more of good-tempered fun in
his reply to Feargus O'Connor, the Chas-
tity leader, who had pictured the possi-
bility of Beelzebub being sovereign. In
that case, Peel drily observed, the ho-
nourable gentleman would certainly
enjoy the confidence of the Crown.

With equal wit and more good humour
Peel's old colleague, Sir James Graham,
having been compared during the Car-
list election to a weathercock, replied
he thought it very likely that on the day
of the election he should show which
way the wind blew. Perhaps the best
"bon-mot" attributed to the late Lord
Derby is his definition of an independent
politician as a politician who cannot be
dependent on.

The most prominent citations from
Lord Beaconsfield's political utterances
are his well-known sarcastic refer-
ences to Mr. Herbert Hope and Pro-
fessor Goldwin Smith, and his reply to
Mr. Robert Lowe's prophetic picture of
the coming suffering of our troops from
the attacks of the Abyssinian "pink fir,"
that the right honourable gentleman
was as vituperative of the insects of
Abyssinia as if they had been British
workmen. This reminds us that the ep-
igrams from Lord Sherbrooke's speeches
which are mostly in the Cassandra vein,
do not show well in the light of subse-
quent history.

Lord Sherbrooke is probably still, in
his own estimation, a fairly good politi-
cal prophet, as political prophets go; but
his description of Earl Russell's abortive
"Seven Pound Borough Franchise Bill"
as an attempt to the surflet of our too
exuberant prosperity, with our own rail-
road and inconsiderate hands, to pluck
down on our heads the venerable Temple of
Liberty and our Gibraltars, does certainly
strike one now as a trifle ridiculous. Mr.
Bright's remark in reference to that in-
veterate nepotism which was perhaps
the plainest of all plain Whig principles,
that the motto of the Whigs seemed to
be as place for every man and every
man in his place, had the advantage of
being less familiar than the simile of the
Skye terrier, which was so covered
with hair that you could not tell which
was the head and which the tail of it.

The samples of Lord Salisbury's utter-
ances here given include some rather
singing things about Mr. Chamberlain
and Lord Hartington, but they are not of
the terse and epigrammatic complexion
which lends itself to isolated quotations.
A similar remark applies to the sections
devoted to Lord Randolph Churchill and
Mr. Balfour—the former being chiefly
represented by a humorous description
of a popular gathering in the grounds of
Hawarden, and the latter by an insolent
allusion to Mr. Gladstone as "never once
deviating into accuracy" in the course
of his long speech at Bingley Hall.

The minor politicians fare ill at Mr.
Williams's hands. Perhaps it will be only
gray-headed readers of the Jobates
who will miss the name of the late Mr.
Henry Drummond, and wonder that no
solitary jest or give of that amusingly
eccentric politician has found its way
into this little volume.

"Rot" in Sheep.

We notice a letter in the *D. A. Herald*
on the subject of the mortality of sheep
this wet winter in the Argentine Repu-
blica, this disease is probably the same
which is here treated of, in the useful
publication "Sheep and Wool." We have
much pleasure in publishing this for the
benefit of our friends in the camp.

Sheep on "Fluke disease" is sheep.
It may be here mentioned that a new
parasite was discovered in 1880 by Dr.
Stann of Pontypool, in the muscular
fibres of sheep, affected with rot; and
it was first described by Dr. Brett before
the Horticultural Society, under the name of
Distoma maculatum.

Once arrived at the liver, the evil
effects of the *Distoma* are not even then
immediately produced, and the disease
is generally of slow progress. The au-
thority quoted above recognises in it
four periods or stages, as follows:—

The first occurring in the months of
August, September, and the beginning
of the whole of October, when the worms
are very minute, and their presence in
the bile passages leading from the small
intestine into the substance of the liver
do little more than stimulate the biliary
secretion by the irritation they set up.
At this stage the animals appear to
thrive even better than ordinary, for
obvious reasons. But this stimulation
soon leads to congestion and a subse-
quent inflammation of the liver, though the ex-
istence of the disease may not be suspected
at this time.

The second period probably commences
towards the end of September or in Oc-
tober, extending into November, and
possibly December, an interval of prob-
ably six or eight weeks.

The animal now begins to show signs
of debility and prostration, and a
closer examination at this time reveals
tickling of the walls of the bile ducts,
increase in size of the worms, which are
generally collected in bundles surround-
ed by greenish mucus, and the liver it-
self is diminished in volume.

The third stage occupies probably at
least three months, or January, Febru-
ary, and March. The liver is at this pe-
riod much wasted, and a jaundiced ap-
pearance takes possession of the animal.
The bloodless condition of the system is
apparent by the condition of the visible
mucous membrane of the eye; there is
marked debility; the wool falls at the
slightest touch, and a dropsical condi-
tion reveals itself. The worm has now
reached full development, and the liver
is in the last stage of morbid altera-
tion, either shrunken, or enlarged and soft-
ened.

If the animal lives into April and May,
the mature worm leaves its habitat in
the liver, having fulfilled its state by
the extension of its numberless eggs into
the bile, which forms the medium for
the conveyance of the larvae into the in-
testine, and thence out of the body
upon the ground, and passes once more
into the intestine, where it probably dies
and is digested. Mr. Fleming states
that the eggs of the *Distoma lanceolatum*
are four times smaller than those of the
D. hepaticum, and rounder and darker
in colour; but the eggs of both appear to
contain granular matter.

Two pounds of droppings from a dis-
eased sheep have been computed to
contain from 2,000 to 3,000 eggs. In a
single drop of bile from a diseased sheep,
only moderately affected, from 50 to 60
eggs of the *D. hepaticum*, and only 20 of
the *Distoma lanceolatum* were found.

It is possible, by preventive measures
carefully conceived and carried out to
not only reduce the losses of the flock-
owner by this terrible scourge; but by
judicious combination to stamp it out
from our midst. Science answers yes! and
we will endeavour to sketch in
outline the conditions necessary to this end.

The conditions necessary for the deve-
lopment of Fluke Disease are manifestly
four:—

1. The existence of the eggs on the
pasture.

2. Wet ground, or water, during
warm weather to hatch the eggs.

3. The particular snail alluded to
above.

4. Sheep must be allowed to feed on
land fulfilling the three former requi-
sites.

(To be continued)

Expressions

—We congratulate President Tajes
and his ministers on their dignified and
manly bearing since the discovery of the
plot to assassinate them. That the plot
seriously existed, no one can doubt
in face of the existing evidence, happily
it has been discovered in time and many
innocent lives saved.

—President Tajes should at once hang
the conspirators found guilty; compas-
sion on such curs is wasted, even hang-
ing is too good for them.

—It shows how firmly President Tajes'
government is established, and the con-
fidence that all well meaning people have
in it, that the dynamite plot has had no
depressing effect on business.

—The Bolsa is the pulse of the nation
and whilst stocks and business securi-
ties remain firm the Government need
fear nothing.

—Moonlighting, stabbing in the back,
shooting and destroying innocent lives
and property is out of fashion, or only
remains so in those parts of the world
which are still plunged in darkness, and
overridden by priestly superstition.

