



## NOTICIAS DOMESTICAS.

ie era entonces nuestra única esperanza, encontramos la situación de esta provincia miserible mas allá de toda ponderación; la mitad de los habitantes de Cumarebo y sus cercanías habían muerto de hambre, y que quedaban, estaban tan desgarrados que apenas se les podía reconocer por seres humanos. Su único alimento es una rara venenosa llamada *Cesiva*, de que forman un nero de casabe; las mujeres cuando la aná buscar al monte, frecuentemente mueren en el camino. Una espantosa esterilidad ha affligido mucho tiempo aquella provincia, donde no ha caído una gota de agua en 4 años.

El 16.—Salimos del Cumarebo: la 2. columna, que se componía del batallón Bolívar y Orinoco y 20 de caballería, marchó 2 leguas, y se acamparon con el designio de sorprender la Vela al amanecer; en este objeto se desviaron del camino principal y tomaron por la montaña; alas 6 de mañana encontraron 2 espías enemigas que inmediatamente se escaparon al monte, 20 minutos después nuestra avanzada compuesta de un piquete de Boyacá, y un de Orinoco, encontraron al enemigo en número de 450 hombres poco mas o menos mandados por el Coronel Tello, que marchaba a Cumarebo a sorprendernos. El reno estaba tan escabroso que ni una sola parte podía retirarse cumplidamente, un horrible fuego se comenzó entonces lento como una media hora, a solos 30 pasos de distancia, sin que ninguno de los partidos abandonase el campo. En fin una carga á la bayoneta obligó al enemigo a retirada batiéndose durante 2 leguas. Puedo asegurar a V. que si yo no hubiese presenciado la acción, y si personalmente no hubiera mandado la avanzada, no podría creer que los cuellos se batiesen con tal obstinación y por tan largo tiempo; yo atribuyo la grande resistencia del enemigo, al pezado fuogo que recibiamos de dos compañías del batallón de Castilla, situadas en el flanco izquierdo y mandadas por un Teniente Coronel Escoses nombrado Albuthnot pero nosotros cargamos tanto á la bayoneta que el y toda su gente fue cortada y Tello con 50 hombres solamente

capar de la acción: tomamos su armamento, que dejaban en la retirada, sus bagajes, municiones, y cerca de 150 prisioneros: los restos dispersos en los campos, de donde continuamente se presentan. El mismo dia entramos en la Vela de Coro, sin que el enemigo nos hubiese hecho mas que 2 tiros de un cañón de á 24 y se embarcaron. El 18 entramos en Coro sin ninguna resistencia; pero ni una alma nos recibió: el mas espantoso silencio reinaba en toda la ciudad; algunos cuerpos muertos que habían perecido por el hambre fué todo lo que vimos en las calles: aun el agua es malísima y tiene que irse a buscar á una legua de distancia.

Estamos aquí al presente sin poder avanzar acusa de que no tenemos bestias ni bagajes con que hacer una jornada. Tenemos ya abundancia de provisiones, tanto por nros buques que han llegado, como tambien por que nos han remitido 70 reses de Barquisimeto, pero tan flacas y hambrientas que apenas pueden tenerse en pie. Moriles con cerca de 1500 hombres incluyendo todo género de vagamundos están en los Puertos de Altavista; suponiendo que quiera marchar sobre nosotros, no tiene artírios, pues toda su gente se está muriendo de disentería por la mala agua y escases de víveres—3 de sus soldados se le desertaron noche y se les presentaron: yo no sé lo que puede hacer sino formar guerrillas entre los montes, pero aun allí deben morir de hambre. Nuestra sola desgracia es que nuestros soldados están con las piernas hinchadas. Todos los oficiales ingleses están buenos. El general Soublette está en Barquisimeto: otra división ha marchado para aquí mandada por el padre Terrellas, compuesta de 600 infantes, 100 caballos y una pieza de artillería: Reyes Vargas con 400 hombres se moverá sobre Pedregal.

QUITO. El cuartel general del Presidente estaba situado en Pequayan el 18 de Febrero. Un teniente coronel que mandaba la avanzada española con dos oficiales, un sargento y cinco soldados se desertaron el 7 en la noche en que se conchó el amistoso y se nos presentaron. Los oficiales y sargentos han sido premiados á sus respectivas escenas. El presidente proclamó á los habitantes de las diferentes provincias del sur, prometiéndoles libertad y protección.

CARACAS. El dia 8 el Sr. alcalde Juárez de Madrid procedió, conforme á la ley sobre la libertad de la imprenta, á sortear siete Jueces de hecho para decidir, en primera instancia, si había ó no lugar ala formación de causa, contra la protesta publicada por la municipalidad de esta ciudad, que había sido denunciada por el Vice-presidente de la República como *sediciosa*.

Parece necesario informar á algunos de nuestros lectores que ignoran las circunstancias de esta protesta, que el 29 de Diciembre último previo el juramento de la Constitución, la municipalidad tuvo una sección en que se resolvio jurar obedecer y observar la Constitución; pero con esta protesta, que ora su animo ligar por el juramento á los futuros representantes de Caracas para que tomen todas las medidas que crean necesarias para promover las reformas ó alteraciones de una Constitución que ellos no hallaron satisfecha por sus representantes, conforme al artículo 7 de la misma constitución. Fue llevada a publicar esta protesta en la gaceta de Caracas.

El 3 de Enero la municipalidad juró la Constitución con esta protesta; pero el director de la gaceta de gobierno rehusó insertarla en ella: por esta causa fué preso y encarcelado por la razón de que como deben ser hombres de sano juicio y buena educación, semejantes personas no querían perder su tiempo y talentos, sin una equívocante recompensa. Tal vez el único medio de remediar estos inconvenientes (que parece durarán mucho tiempo) sería el que aquellos de entre los caraqueños, que fueron aficionados á las representaciones dramáticas, procurasen divertir á sus compatriotas, dedicándose al teatro: esto, que se ha mirado largo tiempo como oficio vil y bajo, es ahora admirado por las naciones civilizadas de Europa, y contado en el número de las bellas artes. Si los músicos por afición no se degradan con divertir al público con los conciertos de Mozart y Haydn, tampoco el cómico por afición debiera avergonzarse en pintar las paciones de la naturaleza humana en los versos de Cervantes ó de Lope de Vega. En uno y otro caso el objeto es agradar por el esquisito medio del gusto y de la imaginación.

Los siete jueces de hecho sacados por suerte fueron: 1. Sebastian Bolívar 2. Pablo García 3. Teniente Goronl B Young 4. Juan Bautista Moncerrate 5. José Salustino Plaza 6. Juan José Michelena 7. Agustín Ybarra—Haciéndose reunido prestaron juramento prescrito por la ley, examinaron la protesta y denuncia del Vice-Presidente y pronunciaron *unanimemente* que no halgar á la formación de causa.

Si Caracas tiene razón para estar orgullosa por que sus hijos han sido los primeros que se han presentado en el campo del honor á pelear por la independencia de Colombia ella apenas tiene el menor motivo para quejarse: tomamos su armamento, que dejaban en la retirada, sus bagajes, municiones, y cerca de 150 prisioneros: los restos dispersos en los campos, de donde continuamente se presentan. El mismo dia entramos en la Vela de Coro, sin que el enemigo nos hubiese hecho mas que 2 tiros de un cañón de á 24 y se embarcaron. El 18 entramos en Coro sin ninguna resistencia; pero ni una alma nos recibió: el mas espantoso silencio reinaba en toda la ciudad; algunos cuerpos muertos que habían perecido por el hambre fué todo lo que vimos en las calles: aun el agua es malísima y tiene que irse a buscar á una legua de distancia.

El Sergento Ingles Mc. Keon fué sentenciado á muerte por el Consejo de guerra por haber asesinado á su mujer; pero la Corte de justicia ha conmutado esta sentencia en 8 años de presidio, cuatro de ellos en grillos.

Algunos defectos en las formas legales y la evidencia, se ha dicho, que han influido en los jueces para mitigar el castigo. Se ha creido generalmente que los extranjeros al servicio de la República estaban sujetos á ser juzgados por sus propias leyes militares; sin embargo esto provino solamente de un arreglo temporal, que las circunstancias hizo indispensable en su primer llegada á este país. Ellos están ahora por todos respetos bajo el mismo pie que los colombianos nativos.

## DIVERCIENCIAS DE CARACAS

(Continuacion del N.º 2.)

Si los nacimientos, pues, no son un pecado contra la piedad, si lo son y muy grande contra el buen gusto y merecen las mas severas anatemas de la corte de Apolo: no pretendemos por tanto que, el brazo secular destruya estas herejías contra el buen gusto: el único medio de quitar la afición por las malas representaciones, es ofrecer al público algunas buenas en su lugar; y esto nos induce á considerar el presente estado de los dramas regulares en nuestra Atenas Venezolana. Dos de los cuatro teatres de Caracas representan medios dramas; esto es, dramas regularmente escritas como tragedias, comedias y operas, todas las que son á causa de sus nefios representantes, convertidas en farsas astidijosas. Para criticar los muy remarcables defectos ó incompatibilidad de las escenas, vestidos y decoraciones, será preciso bien criticar la poliza, que el mal gusto de los amos de teatro, aunque no podemos dejar de sonreírnos al mirar al Moro

Otholo figurar con un viejo casco de dragón; y al digno griego Temistocles vestido como un canastero de Caracas: sin embargo de las palabras de Shakespeare: "Que esto pueda yo sufrir: ésta bien."

Pero oír la estupida y monotonía acción con que nuestros Recios Colombianos hacen sus tradiciones en un pesimo lenguaje español, sin el aire, porte ó actitud de hombres cristianos, es un ensayo de paciencia, de que solo el pueblo caraqueño, por sus largos sufrimientos, puede darnos pruebas. Lo que hace este sufrimiento más admirable, es la poca comodidad de sus teatros, en que el fiero sexo tira de frío á la inclemencia del Cielo, tan envuelto en la oscuridad, que no puede gozar la satisfacción de ser admirado de los jóvenes, ni criticar á sus amigas.

Mas fácil es indicar los defectos que remediarlos: mas fácil es conocer lo que necesita de reforma, que executarla. La población de Caracas es apenas suficiente para proporcionar un buen teatro: los actores no pueden formarse aquí, ni conseguirse de otros países, sin ser liberalmente pagados: y la razón es por que como deben ser hombres de sano juicio y buena educación, semejantes personas no querían perder su tiempo y talentos, sin una equívocante recompensa. Tal vez el único medio de remediar estos inconvenientes (que parece durarán mucho tiempo) sería el que aquellos de entre los caraqueños, que fueron aficionados á las representaciones dramáticas, procurasen divertir á sus compatriotas, dedicándose al teatro: esto, que se ha mirado largo tiempo como oficio vil y bajo, es ahora admirado por las naciones civilizadas de Europa, y contado en el número de las bellas artes. Si los músicos por afición no se degradan con divertir al público con los conciertos de Mozart y Haydn, tampoco el cómico por afición debiera avergonzarse en pintar las paciones de la naturaleza humana en los versos de Cervantes ó de Lope de Vega. En uno y otro caso el objeto es agradar por el esquisito medio del gusto y de la imaginación.

Las dos comedias representadas por los oficiales ingleses aunque necesariamente muy defectuosas, pueden haber dado alguna idea del mejor estilo de los actores Europeos: al mismo tiempo no puede esperarse que unas representaciones ejecutadas en un idioma extranjero puedan producir mucho mayor interés que el que inspira la novedad. El público de Caracas pudiera divertirse continuamente, pues que sus habitantes tienen gusto e ingenio. Se dice algún tiempo ha, que se había proyectado el establecimiento de un teatro regular, sin embargo se duda, si en las presentes circunstancias de escasez pueda juntarse una suma suficiente para este objeto. Entretanto nadie pienza en establecer un teatro, valiéndose del recurso mas triste á la verdad, pero mas seguro, cual es de gastar 4, ó 5000, pesos; y el resultado de este pequeño ensayo proporcionaría un seguro calculo, por el cual se juzgase si era facil emprender una especulación de mayor consideración.

Con bastante repugnancia contamos las corridas de toros entre las diversiones de Caracas. Es tan brutal e insipida semejante diversión, (si se puede llamar tal el sufrimiento de un animal inocente,) que solo una costumbre inveterada, una costumbre engendrada con el mismo designio con que la残酷 española desoló al nuevo mundo, pudiera haber hecho tolerable en el siglo civilizado en que vivimos. Se nos dirá que estas diversiones, ó mas bien las crueldades de esta especie son algunas veces permitidas por que inspiran valor. Si esto fuese así los verdugos públicos serían los únicos heroes pero no querramos degradar una noble calidad buscandole tan bajo origen. Nosotros no convendremos jamás en que el matadero ó la plaza donde se ejecuta un reo sea la escuela mas propia del valor. La continua vista de espectáculos de残酷 es ciertamente capaz de embotar nuestra sensibilidad y destruir nuestra compasión hacia los sufrimientos de nuestros semejantes; y aun esto nos induce á arrostrar la muerte con intrepidez, ó á considerar la vida de menor valor que el honor. Si abrimos las páginas de la Historia, encontraremos que la vehemencia de los Romanos por los espectáculos de gladiadores llegó á su colmo, cuando su libertad y su virtud habían declinado en esclavitud y corrupción. La sangre de los Barbaros que

se derramaba en el Circo por diversiones, luego se viró en su defensa, y últimamente en su subyugación. No hemos visto en nuestros días á los toreros Españoles derrotados desde una estremidad de la Peninsula hasta la otra, por los Franceses, que detestan diversiones de esta clase? Que impida la Municipalidad en las calles de Caracas el que se presenten á los extranjeros tan desagradables y peligrosos espectáculos. Que el clero traiga á la memoria el dicho de Salomon "Un hombre sabio tiene compasión hasta de sus bestias" y aun mas todavía la enigmática declaración del Divino Maestro "Que la Providencia cuida especialmente la conservación de un Grial" y en fin que exerce su influencia en reprimir una costumbre tan indecente y tan poco cristiana. Que el gusto solo sea excitado por las diversiones que exercitan las fuerzas del cuerpo, sin viciar la sensibilidad del Alma.

Hemos extendido nuestras observaciones sobre las diversiones de Caracas, en la convicción de que puede resultar mucha utilidad, procurando su incremento y perfección. El hombre es un animal social que por su roce en la sociedad es que pierde los mas perversos y adquiere los mejores hábitos de su naturaleza. Las facultades intelectuales brillan en el comercio social, las preocupaciones se disipan y la generosidad simpática hacia la humanidad se vivifica y ennoblecete. En los teatros, en los pódicos, en los paseos públicos y en los jardines dieron los ingeniosos atenienses lecciones de buen gusto y filosofía á las edades posteriores.

Procuren, pues, los habitantes de Caracas, animados del espíritu público, unir sus esfuerzos para dar hermosura igualmente que estabilidad al templo de la libertad política. Que la mesquina solicitud de las riendas no absorba enteramente su atención. Que Colombia sea rival de las antiguas Repúblicas de Italia en su esplendor comercial y en su actividad; y que las rivalice también en el refinado luxo de las artes, ciencias y agradables diversiones.

## DECRETO SOBRE CONSIGNACIONES MERCANTILES

FRANCISCO de PAULA SANTANDER, General de división, Vice-presidente de la República, encargado del Poder Ejecutivo, &c.

ESTANDO el Supremo Poder Ejecutivo autorizado por la Constitución para expedir los reglamentos necesarios para la ejecución de las leyes, y necesitando el comercio extranjero y el nacional de algunas disposiciones que arreglen el modo con que debe hacerse, prescribiendo la policía á que han de estar sujetos, y los gravámenes que deben sufrir los individuos que vengan á establecerse en Colombia, con acuerdo del Consejo de Gobierno he venido en decretarlo lo siguiente.

ART. 1.—Ningún extranjero que venga á los puertos de Colombia ó que se interne á otros lugares con cualesquier efectos de comercio podrá vender por si mismo, ni despedchar buques, sino que deberá consignarse, segun se ha observado hasta ahora por las leyes vigentes.

ART. 2.—Solo podrán admitir consignaciones para vender por mayor los comerciantes colombianos que tengan almacén abierto; pero en cuanto á las ventas que deban hacer por menor podrán tambien admitirlas los mercaderes.

ART. 3.—Están exentos de la regla general del art. 1 los extranjeros que hayan hecho la declaración prevenida en el art. 4 de la ley sobre naturalización de que quieren ser colombianos: pero será despues de seis meses de verificada la declaración, siempre que justifiquen tener bienes raíces y dando las correspondientes fianzas, á satisfacción de los respectivos administradores de aduanas ó ministros del tesoro, para asegurar los derechos que causen; mas desde el dia en que á los extranjeros se les permita admitir consignaciones, manejar sus negocios de comercio, quedarán sujetos á todas las contribuciones que pagan los naturales del país en proporción de sus facultades.

(S. continuará)

# THE ANGLO-COLOMBIAN.

## OBSERVATIONS

the Vice Presidents decree restricting foreigners from trading in this country. (*Vide decree translated in our last page.*) considerable Sensation has been excited in City by this decree. Two questions really arise on perusing it. First Of its *stitutional Legality*. Secondly of its *Ex-  
cency*.

The Constitutional right of the Vice President to issue Legislative decrees is found in the 114th Article of the Constitution, whereby the Executive is empowered to issue decrees, regulations and Instructions may be necessary to carry into effect existing Laws." We have therefore to consider whether the present decree be merely *declaratory of an existing Law*, or whether it *amends new Legal enactments*. There is little doubt but that in the vast magazine of Spanish tyrannies and prejudices, Laws may be found sufficiently destructive of commerce; but if any of these Laws were liable to the present question there was necessity on the part of the Executive to more than call the attention of the competent Tribunals to a due enforcement of it; if however, as may be suspected, these have, from change of circumstances, their causes, become insufficient, then the present Decree contains new Legal Enactments, and the Province of the Legislature is indeed and dangerously encroached upon, even, when from a contrary practice, as his case, a Law has fallen into oblivion is used, according to the practice of all free Governments, an act of the Legislature to restore it to its pristine efficiency.

Freedom of Commerce has been not only tolerated, but encouraged by the Colombian Government, during the war, in every article at its disposal; The old Laws therefore, Commercial Restriction cannot be included in the number of those authorized by the 188th Article of the Constitution, as having been *terto in force* (que hasta aquí ha sido), since so far from this the Government itself denied them a dead Letter, by holding out inducement to strangers to trade with this Country, which in great measure owes freedom to this liberal Policy. Even therefore, if the present decree were strictly *institutional*, common justice required that notice of the Intentions of the Government should have been previously given to foreigners, who had made shipments to this Country on the faith of its former regulations; notice should have been given to all foreign nations that the Colombian Republic, at length obtained its freedom, and about to restore the commercial Laws and monopolies of its former enslavers; never might be the inconsistency of such legislation, as far as regards Political principles, there would at least be no injustice, far as respects foreigners. If however, the constitutional validity of this decree be impeachable, as far as respects foreigners, it more irreconcilable with the Letter and spirit of the Constitution is Article 8, which imposes a fine of \$50 dollars, on any shopkeeper, Foreigner or Colombian, who neglects to register his shop before the civil authorities of the town in which he resides. The 26th Article of the constitution declares that the Executive "can deprive no individual of his Liberty, nor inflict on him any penalty"; yet here we have a new crime created, and new penalty affixed to it by the simple will of the Executive. If the most precious clause of the constitution be not preserved inviolate, all others are but sound, and deception.

We are willing to believe that the present decree was issued without mature consideration, and with no design to infringe upon the sacred Charter of the Constitution; the Executive cannot but bear in mind that from having the right to make a new general Law without the authority of the Congress, he cannot even propose one to that body. Article 55, of the Constitution, under the head of *ESPECIAL ATTRIBUTES OF CONGRESS*, declares that it belongs especially to Congress, "to make all kinds of Laws and ordinances, and reform, change, or abrogate such as are already established. The Executive, *can merely present any subject for its consideration, but never in the form of a Law.*" 266.

2. The expediency of this Decree is reducible to all received principles of political economy. What is the object of prohibiting foreigners from trading freely to this country? the only rational answer must be, To benefit the natives by giving them a commercial monopoly; but what is meant here by the natives? Is it the whole mass of the Colom-

bian nation which is to be benefited? If so, we grant the measure to be founded in the soundest policy; but how is this to happen? The native merchants say that the competition of Foreigners is injurious to their interests, because foreigners *undersell* them in the markets; for it is only in this way that competition can injure them. We grant this to be the case, and admit that the competition of Foreigners tends to lower the markets; The consequence of this is, that Purchasers *buy cheaper*; but the number of the purchasers is to the number of Sellers, in different branches of trade, as 1000 or 10,000 to 1. A measure therefore which tends to exclude foreigners from the market, and thus to raise the prices by diminishing competition, is a measure which benefits the native dealer, at the expense of the 1000, or 10,000 native Customers. Is this benefiting the Nation? If this policy be just, then was the Spanish system of monopolies just also; since there is no doubt that a few native merchants were benefited by it at the expense of the People. The Evil of this restrictive system has many ramifications. When the price of an Article is raised the number of consumers is proportionately diminished: some cannot buy at all, others content themselves with a less quantity: hence a reduction in the duties, and consequently in the resources of Government. Other taxes must then be substituted, but with a different moral effect: When a man exchanges his labour for the conveniences of luxuries of life he labours with cheerfulness, and increases his exertions as he acquires a taste for new enjoyments. The ease is however very different when the superfluous produce of his labour is applied, not to increase the number of his own gratifications, but to defray the expences of the Government. Although he may be convinced of the justice and necessity of such expences he naturally labours with less good good-will for others than for himself, and the great stimulus of Industry, self Interest, is effectually destroyed. The competition of Foreign Traders produces many other advantages too important to the prosperity of our young Republic, to be overlooked. The foreign merchant hires houses, stores, and servants; a considerable part of his profits is expended in the Country.

and the remainder as follows:—

not from the natives of Colombia, but from those countries in which he sells the fruits he has bought with the product of his merchandise. The agriculturist is doubly benefited by foreign competition: he not only buys cheaper as a customer, but he obtains a better price for his produce, from the increased number of Purchasers: he has thus a larger capital to expend on agricultural improvements, and the impulse given in a few Seaport Towns is thus propagated through the whole Territory of the Republic.

It deserves serious consideration if all these sources of national Prosperity are to be cut off to gratify the cupidity or indolence of a few individuals: for what is it that renders the competition of foreigner so formidable to native merchants? It is the superior commercial intelligence of the former, which enables them to purchase with more judgment. It is their superior activity and economy, which enable them to perform in their own persons what native traders do by deputy, and thus, as their expences are less, to be content with smaller profits. The direct effects then of this decree are to do all which the sage policy of the Government requires should be left undone, and to undo all that should be done. It taxes the body of the nation for the advantage of a small number of individuals; it diminishes the resources of the Government, which require by every lawful mode, to be increased; it checks national Industry which it is the duty of Government to foster, and it encourages indolence and ignorance, which are the vices most prejudicial to a Republic.

We have written these remarks in the purest spirit of good will to our fellow-citizens and in obedience to the duties imposed on us as Editors of a Journal, whose object is, and ever will be, to enlighten the Nation as to its true interest, to oppose reason to prejudice and admonition to political error. We should regret that our intentions should be misinterpreted, but we should not continue the less firm in a career we believe to be just, honorable and patriotic.

## STATE OF THE WAR.

*Province of Cauca.* No official Intelligence has been received this week, but we have been favoured with a private Letter, from a British Field Officer in the Division of Col. Penango, to a friend in this city, which we offer to

our readers as presenting a faithful, though distressing picture of the wretched condition of that Province, together with an accurate military narrative up to the 24 ult. This date leaves no doubt in our mind that the Intelligence brought from Cuacoa of the defeat of Morales, is erroneous, though his situation is scarcely more desirable than if he had actually been defeated.

*Caro, 24th April 1822.*

"We left Barqueminto on the 1st. of April with a fine division of about 1700 men, consisting of the Battalions of Boyaca, Oriente, and Occidente, with about 100 Cavalry well mounted we had plenty of maize, about 300 head of cattle, and a good parque of Ammunition. Our rout for nine days, till our arrival at the village of Jacura, lay through an unbroken forest with a single pathway: The second day we marched 24 hours without water or forage: at Jacura we remained three days, waiting for the cattle, which had all tired but 40, and we found ourselves in the midst of an Enemies Country, with starvation staring us in the face, and awaiting us should we return. The Battalion of Oriente, a company of Boyaca, and one of Occidente, moved forward to the port of Cumarebo, which we occupied without opposition; here we fortunately met with three patriot privateers, which arrived the same day; and Colonel Penango dispatched one of them to Curacao for provisions, which was our only hope. We found the condition of this Province wretched beyond description. Half the Inhabitants of Cumarebo and the neighbourhood had died of hunger, and the remainder were emaciated to such a degree as scarcely to be recognizable for human beings. Their only food is a venomous root called Cesiva, which they prepare into a kind of Cassava bread: The women in going to seek it in the woods, often die on the road, and in the streets, here their bodies remain exposed to the birds of prey: a dreadful dearth has long afflicted this province, in which not a drop of rain has fallen for these four years.

On the 16th we left Cumarebo: The 2d. Column, consisting of the Battalions of Boyaca and Orinoco with about 20 Cavalry, marched two leagues, and encamped, with

the Vela in the morning, for which purpose we marched by a bye road in the mountain, and about six o'clock met with two of the Enemies spies who immediately took the wood, and a few minutes afterwards our advance composed of a piquet of Boyaca, and one of Orinoco, fell in with the Enemy, who to the number of about 200 men commanded by Colonel Tello, were marching to Cumarebo to surprise us: The ground was so narrow that neither party could decently retire, and a heavy firing commenced which lasted for about half an hour, at not more than 30 paces distance before either gave ground: at last a charge with the bayonet compelled the Enemy to give way a little, when they continued to retreat fighting for about two leagues. I can assure you that had I not witnessed the action, and personally led the advance, I could not have believed that eroles would fight with such obstinacy, and for such a length of time: I attribute the Enemies long resistance to the heavy fire we received from two companies of the Battalion of Castello, posted on our left flank, and commanded by a Scotsman, Lt. Col. Arbrughot, we however pushed on so well with the bayonet that he and his men were cut off and Tello with 5 men were all that escaped from the action. We took their arms, which they threw away, baggage and ammunition, and about 150 prisoners; the remainder dispersed themselves in the woods, and are daily surrendering.

The same day we took La Vela de Coro, the Enemy giving us but two twenty four pound shots, and embarking. On the 18th, we entered Coro, without opposition, but not a soul to receive us; the most awful silence prevailed the whole city: a few dead bodies of those who had perished from starvation were all that was to be seen in the streets. Even the water is disgusting and to be fetched at a leagues distance.

Here we are at present without the means of advancing, for we have no baggage animals that can stand a journey: Provisions we have in plenty, as several vessels have arrived, as also 70 of the cattle we brought from Barqueminto, but so worn out and starved as scarcely to be able to stand.

Morales with about 1500 men including all kinds of riff raff, is at Los Puertos de Alta Gracia: did he wish to march against us he has no means and his men are all dying of dysentery from bad water, and scarcity of provisions. Three of his soldiers

deserted to us last night. I know not what he can do but turn Guerrilla among the mountains yet, even there he must starve: our only evil is that our men suffer from swelled legs. All the English Officers are well. General Soublette is at Barqueminto. Another division has marched from thence commanded by Padre Torras, of 600 Infantry, 100 Cavalry and 1 Piece of Artillery. Reyes Vargas with 400 men will move on Pedregal."

*Quito.* The Presidents Hd Quarters were at Popayan on the 18th of February. The Lieutenant Colonel who commanded the Spanish outposts, with two Officers, a Sergeant, and five soldiers deserted to us on the night of 7th, on which the armistice expired. The Officers and Sergeant had received promotion: The President had addressed proclamation to the Inhabitants of the different Provinces of the South, promising them freedom and protection: The following is dated Caly, 17th, of January:

*Colombians of the South:* the Liberating army brings you rest and freedom.

*Inhabitants of Cauca:* your reward has reached you. The heroism of your sacrifices assures your future prosperity, and the fruits of your glory will be the patrimony of your children. *People of Pasto:* you have cost the South, tears, blood, and chains; but Colombia forgets her sorrow in taking to her bosom her unfortunate children: In her eyes you are all innocent. Have no fears; she comes to protect, not to destroy.

*People of Quito.* The Colombian Guards advance towards the ancient Temple of the Father of Light. Have confidence. The rainbow of peace shall quickly shine o'er the steps of the Angel of victory.

BOLIVAR

## DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

*Caracas.* On the 8th ult. The Alcalde, Sr. Juan de Madriz proceeded agreeably to the Law of the Liberty of the Press, to select by lot seven *Judges of the fact*, to decide in the first instance if there were grounds for forming a prosecution against the Protest published by the municipality of this city, which had been denounced by the Vice President of the Republic as *scurrilous*.

It may be necessary to inform such of our readers as are ignorant of the circumstances of this Protest, that on the 29th of December last, previous to the swearing to the Constitution, the municipality of Caracas held a meeting in which it was resolved, to swear to obey and observe the Constitution, but with this Protest, that they did not intend thereby to bind the future Representatives of Caracas from taking any measures they might deem necessary for the reform or amendment of a Constitution which they had never sanctioned by their Representatives, agreeably to Article 7, of the same Constitution. This Protest they resolved should be published in the Caracas Gazette.

On the 3d. of January the municipality swore to the Constitution, with this protest, but the Printer of the Government Gazette refused to give it insertion: it was therefore published separately, and incurred the damnation above mentioned.

The seven Judges of the fact drawn by lot were 1. Sebastian Bolivar, 2. Pablo Garcia, 3. Lt. Colonel B. Young, 4. Juan Bautista Montserrat, 5. Jose Salustiano Plaza, 6. Juan Jose Michelena, 7. Agustin Ibarra. Having met in court, they took the oath prescribed by the Law, and having examined the Protest, and denunciation of the Vice President pronounced unanimously that there was no ground for forming a Prosecution.

If Caracas has reason to feel proud that her sons were the first called upon to fight the battles of Colombian Independence, she has scarcely less cause to congratulate herself that they have also been the first called upon to fulfill a duty, the conscientious discharge of which is the first protection of that domestic liberty, which alone renders Independence valuable.

The English Sergeant McKeon, who was sentenced to death by a Court Martial for the murder of his wife, has had his sentence commuted by the High Court of Justice into eight years hard labour, four of them in fetters.

Some defects in legal forms, and Evidence are said to have influenced the Judges to thus mitigate his punishment. It has been generally believed that Foreigners in the service of the Republic were liable to be tried by their own Military Laws: this however was only a temporary regulation which circumstances, on their first arrival, rendered indispensable. They are now in every respect on the same footing with the native Colombians.

# THE ANGLO-COLOMBIAN.

## AMUSEMENTS OF CARACAS.

(continued from number 2)

If however Nacimientos are no sin against piety they certainly are a very grievous one against good taste, and merit the loudest anathemas of the court of Apollo: there is however no occasion to invoke the secular arm to root out this dramatic heresy: the simple mode of destroying the taste for bad performances is by offering to the Public good ones in their place; and this leads us to consider the present state of the regular Drama in the Venezuelan Athens. Two of the four Theatre of Caracas represent regular Dramas; that is Dramas regularly written as Tragedies, Comedies and Operas; all of which are by dint of very bad acting, moulded into very dull farce. To criticise the very glaring defects and inconsistencies of Scenery, dresses and decorations is rather perhaps to criticise the poverty than the bad taste of the managers; though one cannot help smiling to see the Moor Othello figure in an old Dragoons helmet, and the Grecian worthy Themistocles dressed like a Caracanian shopkeeper. In the words, however, of Shakespear

*Yet this could I bear, well, very, well,* but to hear the flat, dull monotony with which our Colombian Rosci's do their parts into execrable Spanish, with neither the air, gait nor gesture of christian men, is a trial of patience which the long-suffering people of Caracas could alone support. What renders this endurance still more admirable is the miserable accomodation of these Theatres, in which our tender Belles sit shivering under the cold damps of heaven, so enveloped in obscurity that they can enjoy neither the satisfaction of being admired by their male, nor of criticising their female friends.

It is easier to find fault than to mend; to point out what should be altered, than how it should be altered. The population of Caracas is, perhaps, scarcely sufficient to support a respectable Theatre: actors can neither be raised at home, nor imported without liberal payment, and for this plain reason--a good actor must be a man of judgement and education; and such a one will not expend his time and talents without a suitable recompence. *Perhaps the only mode of supplying* this deficiency, which is likely to continue some time, would be for such of the inhabitants of Caracas as have a taste for Dramatic representations to take upon themselves the charge of amusing their fellow citizens. Acting, which was long vilified by superstitious prejudices, is now readily admitted by the polished nations of Europe into the number of the fine arts. If the amateur musician feels it no degradation to charm the public ear with the strains of Mozart and Hadyn, as little should the amateur performer blush to delineate the passions of human nature in the verses of Cervantes or Lope de Vega. In both cases the object is to please, through the refiner medium of taste and Imagination. The two plays represented by the English Officers, though necessarily very defective, may have afforded some idea of the better style of European acting; at the same time it cannot be expected that performances in a foreign dialect should create much interest after the first effects of the novelty have subsided. The Caracanian public must derive permanent amusement from the taste and spirit of their citizens. Reports have for some time been in circulation of the projected re-establishment of a regular Theatre: it is doubtful, however if in the present state of the money-market, a sufficient sum will be raised for this purpose. In the mean while, the more humble, but more practicable expedient of fitting up a temporary Theatre at the expence of four or five thousand dollars is totally overlooked, although the result of this minor experiment would be the safest criterion by which to judge of the expediency of engaging in a regular speculation.

It is with reluctance we consent to enumerate Bull-baiting among the amusements of Caracas. There is something so brutal and tasteless in this diversion, if the sufferings of an unoffending animal can be called a *diversion*, that nothing but long custom, a custom engendered in the same spirit of spanish cruelty which desolated the new world, could have made it tolerable in a civilized era. We are aware that amusements, or cruelties of this description are sometimes justified on the ground of inspiring Courage. If this were the case public executioners would be the only heroes, but there is no need to degrade so noble a quality by ascribing to it so base an

origin: we will not admit that the shambles and the Scaffold are the fittest schools for valour. The constant view of spectacles of cruelty is capable indeed of blunting our sensibility and destroying our pity for the sufferings of our fellow creatures, but it furnishes us with no additional motive to face death with intrepidity, or to make life less valuable than honor. If we look to Historical facts we shall perceive that the rage for Gladiator Spectacles among the Romans was at its height when their freedom and virtue were declining fast into slavery and corruption. The blood of Barbarians which was first shed on the Theatrical arena for their amusement, was soon shed for their defence, and speedily afterwards for their subjugation. In our own days have we not seen the bull fighting Spaniards driven from one extremity of the Peninsula to the other by the French, who hold such amusements in abhorrence?

Let the Municipality interfere to prevent the streets of Caracas from exhibiting to the eyes of strangers these dangerous and disgusting spectacles. Let the Clergy call to mind the saying of "Solomon," a wise man is merciful to his beast, and the still more emphatic declaration of their divine master "there is a special Providence even in the falling of a sparrow," and let them exert their influence to repress a custom so indecent and unchristian. Let a taste for manly sports be encouraged, but let them be such as strengthen the body without vitiating the feelings.

We have thus far obtruded on the Public our observations on the amusements of Caracas from a conviction that much utility could result from paying a due attention to their increase and refinement. Man is a social animal, and it is in the collision of society he loses some of the worst, and acquires some of the best habits of his nature. It is by social intercourse his faculties are brightened, his prejudices dispelled, and the generous sympathies of humanity refined, and strengthened. It was in her Theatres, her porticoes, her public walks, and gardens that the Genius of Athens gave lessons of taste and philosophy to all succeeding ages. Let the public-spirited Inhabitants of Caracas unite their efforts to give beauty as well as strength to the Temple of Political freedom. Let not the grovelling pursuit of wealth absorb their entire attention. Let Colombia rival the Republics of ancient Italy in commercial splendor and activity, but let her rival them also in the refined luxury of arts, sciences, and tasteful enjoyments.

## DECREE RELATIVE TO MERCANTILE CONSIGNMENTS.

FRANCIS DE PAULA SANTANDER, General of Division, Vice President of the Republic, in charge of the Executive Power, &c.

The Supreme Executive Power being authorized by the Constitution to issue the regulations necessary for the execution of the Laws, and foreign and national commerce requiring some regulations as to the mode of carrying it on, prescribing the policy to which it should be subjected, and the burthens to which strangers who come to establish themselves in Colombia, ought to suffer, with the consent of the Council of Government decrees as follows.

ART. 1. No stranger who comes to the Ports of Colombia, or other places, with merchandise can sell on his own account, or make shipments, without a consignment, as has been hitherto observed according to the existing Laws.

ART. 2. Colombian merchants who keep open warehouses can alone receive consignments to sell by wholesale; but shopkeepers can receive them to sell by retail.

ART. 3. Foreigners are exempt from Art. 1. who have made the declaration required by Art. 4. of the Law of Naturalization, of their desire to become Citizens: but 6 months must have elapsed since their making this declaration, and the other terms of property &c. must have been complied with, and certified to the Administrators of Customs: but from the time of their acquiring the rights, they become subject to all the imposts, paid by Colombian Citizens.

ART. 4. Foreigners unnaturalized may keep retail shops, or exercise any art or profession, but always subject to the same imposts as Colombian Citizens.

ART. 5. Foreigners sojourning in the territory of the Republic, for commercial or other purposes, pay only the regular duties on their merchandise, together with the corporation dues of Police, and cleaning the town; but after a years residence they pay the

same taxes with the natives.

ART. 6. In each Canton, or district, of the Republic the Political Judges will register the foreigners who come to reside in it, and every six months the provincial Governors will send to the Executive a List of such foreigners with their intention relative to naturalization, and their occupations.

ART. All Foreigners who settle in Colombia may be assured that while they observe the Laws and Constitution of Colombia they will enjoy in their persons and properties the most complete security, according to the 183d. Article of the Constitution.

ART. 8. To comply with Articles 1 to 5. the Political Judges of the Ports, and other places, will form within a month, a List of all the wholesale and retail Traders. *For the future, no one whether Colombian or not, shall open a shop without giving notice to the Political Judge, and having his name enrolled in the List, under a penalty of 50 dollars applicable to the expence of the war.*

ART. 9. The present decree shall be presented to the ensuing Congress for its approbation or reform.

To be circulated for publication, and fulfilment. *Palace of the Government. Bogota, 27 of February-xii-1822. FRANCIS de PAULA SANTANDER. Vice President.. JOSEPH MANUEL RESTREPO. Secretary for the home department.*

To be published, observed, and executed; and printed in the Gazette of this Capital. Caracas April 20. 1822, NARVARETE.

## LAWS AND DECREES OF CONGRESS

### 2 LAW RELATIVE TO THE DUTY OF TONNAGE:

1. The Colombian Ton consists of 20 Quintals.

2. Foreign Vessels pay half a dollar, and National vessels a real per Ton,

3. 4. National vessels below 20 Tons burthen pay no duty; and when above this burthen they pay half a real per Ton for the overplus, if trading from one port of the Republic to another.

5. The duty on Tonnage is levied as soon as a vessel has discharge her cargo, or 10 days after her arrival in a regular port; except in cases of accident or stress of weather.

6. The Administrators of the Customs will receive the Ships papers on her arrival, and not return them till this duty has been paid.

7. The business of Collection belongs to the Captain of the Port or his deputies.

Cucuta. Sept. 29 1821.

3. Law relative to the repayment of duties of importation on foreign articles reexported from the Ports of the Republic.

1. Wine, Spirits, Porter, Provisions and necessaries of life, reexported, have the duties returned which they paid or should have paid on their first importation.

2. But the importer must give his word of honor at the Customs, that such articles were imported with the intention of reexporting them, entire or in part, to the port of some neutral or friendly nation.

3. Six months are allowed for the purpose of effecting this reexportation.

4. This limitation is no impediment to the collection of the duties of Importation as usual if the reexportation has not been previously affected.

5. Within this period the Owner, on making a manifest of the Articles he wishes to reexport is allowed to reship them in the same state of Package &c. as when imported, provided their value exceeds 500 dollars.

6. These Duties are returned on the day of the sailing of the vessels, 8 days notice being given, and 2½ per cent reserved for the Chests of the Government.

9. Articles imported on these conditions cannot be sold in the country without permission of the subdelegates of Finance, with the knowledge of the Administrators of the Customs.

10. Purchasers of Articles so imported are equally entitled to the repayment of the Duties, although they should reexport them in a different vessel;

Cucuta 27th September. 1821.

### NOTICE.

THE Subscriber, begs leave to inform his friends and the public; that he intends continuing in his line of business, as heretofore carried on at La Guyra; that is Watch and Optician maker; at No. 40. Carabobo Street, and solicits the patronage of the Inhabitants of this City, Caracas, May 11th, 1822.

## METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL. Diario del Tiempo.

May.	1 73.°	7½ A.M.	74.°	2 P.M.	Clo (n)
2 71.°	do.	do.	do.	do.	
3 72.°	8	do.	do.	do.	Heavy
4 do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
5 do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
6 do.	do.	70.°	do.	do.	
7 do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	(des
8 do.	7	74.°	do.	do.	
9 do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
10 do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	
11 do.	do.	75.°	do.	do.	

\* Segun Termometro de Farenheit.

## WITH THE APPROBATION OF GOVERNMENT.

### EDUCATION.

Radix doctrinæ amara. fructus dulcis.  
To Parents and Guardians.

Mr. Clarke, Professor of the English language, Mathematics, and Geography, respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he will open an Academy of regular system, for the tuition of youth the 1st. of May next in the house in Carabobo Street; in which the principles of useful knowledge, and polite literature adapted to all the common purposes will be explicitly taught, and the strictest rules observed. viz.

The English Language, in its pure State of Reading, with just orthoepy. Writing.

Arithmetic, in all its branches.

Book-keeping, by Double Entry, and commercial arithmetic, to fit boys for the entering-house and business.

Geography: with the Use of the Globes and Charts; &c.

In his vacant hours, he will attend young ladies or gentlemen at their respective houses, in giving lessons in English, Geography, &c.

Being a man of family, he will take boys as boarders, to whom the greatest attention will be paid:

At present he is to be seen at Doct. doza's,

## LATEST INTELLIGENCE OF THE WAR.

Dispatches were received yesterday (1) from General Soublette, with the information that on the 24th Inst. two Divisions of the army, which had crossed from Puerto in boats procured from Indians, advanced upon Maracaybo: these Divisions amounting to about 300 men commanded by Col. Ballasteros was in the Division of Col. Heras, and completely destroyed, not a man escaping. This attack was however purchased with the loss of the brave and meritorious Col. Heras; Ballasteros was also killed. The Second division would be forced to surrender.

Morales, after the ill success of this division, on the 28th. commenced his retreat from Los Puertos, and on the 2d. was joined by Leagues from Pedregal, where were assembled the divisions of Col. Penango, Reyes Valencia and Padre Torralles, ready to give him battle. General Soublette marched on the 7th Coro.

## ULTIMAS NOTICIAS DE LA GUERRA.

Ayer (15) se recibieron pliegos del General Soublette con la noticia de que dos divisiones del ejercito de Morales habían pasado de los puertos de Altamira al otro lado de la Laguna de Maracaibo en piraguas de los indios, se avanzaron para atacar a la ciudad. Una de ellas de 300 hombres bajo el mando del Coronel Ballasteros encontró en el tránsito a la división del Coronel Heras, quien los batieron completamente. Sin embargo esta ventaja no costó la vida del bravo y benemerito Coronel Heras que murió en el campo, lo mismo que el comandante español Ballestero. La otra división se verá reducida a escasez.

Morales después de esta desgracia emprendió a retirarse de los Puertos el 21.º dia estando 10 leguas distante de Pedregal, donde se habían reunido las divisiones del Coronel Piñango, de Rivas y de Torrelles para darle cuenta. El 7-marb/ el General Soublette