

**THE PROSPECTS OF PERU: THE
END OF THE GUANO AGE AND A
DESCRIPTION THEREOF. WITH
SOME ACCOUNT OF THE GUANO
DEPOSITS AND 'NITRATE' PLAINS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649494385

The Prospects of Peru: The End of the Guano Age and a Description Thereof. With Some Account of the Guano Deposits and 'Nitrate' Plains by A. J. Duffield

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

A. J. DUFFIELD

**THE PROSPECTS OF PERU: THE
END OF THE GUANO AGE AND A
DESCRIPTION THEREOF. WITH
SOME ACCOUNT OF THE GUANO
DEPOSITS AND 'NITRATE' PLAINS**

THE
PROSPECTS OF PERU

*THE END OF THE GUANO AGE AND
A DESCRIPTION THEREOF*

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF
THE GUANO DEPOSITS AND 'NITRATE' PLAINS

BY
A. J. DUFFIELD

'Come unto these yellow sands — The Tempest

LONDON
NEWMAN & CO., 43 HART STREET, W.C.

1881

A. J. D.

F3423
D252

THE
PROSPECTS OF PERU.

THE good prospects of Peru and Peruvian Bonds depend absolutely upon the continued prosperity of Chili, her moral integrity, her commercial enterprise, and her ability to undertake and successfully conduct the management of great affairs, combined with foresight and power to hold the territory she has conquered, until, at least, she has indemnified herself for the heavy charges she has incurred in her war with Peru.

Peru, jealous of Chili, was, it is now well known, the first to bring on a war, which has ended in her capital falling into the hands of the conquering Chilians. The jealousy in question was a trade jealousy; and how it arose can be stated in simple words.

The late President Pardo, a man of excellent natural abilities, who was brought up to busi-

ness, and possessed a more than average commercial education, was elected President of Peru solely on that account, and in opposition to the will of the rich families, professional capitalists, gamblers, speculators, and the immense crowd of men and women, who for lack of a better term may be called hangers-on to whatever treacle, sugar-pot or honey, a corrupt Government can always make available to a corrupt people, and in opposition, especially, to that vast portion of the population whose delight consists in cocked hats and glitter, as well as the innumerable families who are proud of including in their circles field-marsals, generals, colonels, majors, and captains, men and other creatures whose delight for the most part is in the painted pomp of war, but whose claim to be soldiers is exactly similar to the claim of a common Peruvian priest to be a Christian ; both being rank impostors, equally ridiculous, and equally worthy of contempt. Having grown heartily sick of military presidents, military pilferers, military ministers, and the whole swarm of military impostors, some good and honest Peruvian gentlemen resolved, for once, on having a business man at the head of their affairs, and therefore it was that Don Manuel Pardo in due time

became President of Peru. Business Pardo proved that he possessed as much moral and physical courage as any man among his military opponents. His public speeches were uncommonly plain ; the common people heard them gladly, and could understand them ; and it was becoming obvious to the military impostors, pilferers, hangers-on, and general blood-suckers of the Republic that Business Pardo intended to keep accounts, and present quarterly balance sheets, that should be clear to the meanest Peruvian capacity. From the moment that this purpose of taking the common people of Peru into his confidence became known to the great families, the sugar-boilers and planters, the *hacendados*, the rich *traperos*, the rich *mercachifles*, and everybody else who was rich—or swore that he was—from that moment they sought to destroy him. How manfully he bore himself under menaces of death ; how, unarmed, he faced the cowards that were hired to kill him, how he made his white-livered enemies quail when he had the chance of meeting them face to face ; how, in a manner perfectly agreeable to the manners of Peru, in its Guano Age, he was at last shot through the back and killed, as he was entering the door of the Peruvian Senate

House to attend to his public duties—killed by a Peruvian soldier, clothed, fed, and fattened on guano—need not be set down here more particularly.

When Business Pardo, with his commercial training, and quarterly balance sheets—made plain to the meanest capacity—saw that the end of the guano trade was drawing nigh, he proposed that the Peruvian Government should go into a better and more wholesome business, and set up as a manufacturer of Nitrate of Soda. Being a man of large grasp he moved the Congress of Peru to bring in a bill to enable the President to acquire all the nitrate works of the province of Tarapaca ; and being also a man of uncommon business capacity he so arranged matters that, in an incredibly short space of time, fifty-one makers of nitrate gave in their consent to sell their works to the Government for a sum, the total of which amounted to eighteen million dollars. With the utmost promptitude each establishment was measured, inventoried, and appraised ; and Peru, to all intents and purposes, entered upon her new career as a manufacturing chemist; and the least that can be said of that change is that it was infinitely superior to her old trade of selling

dung. But it was so far like unto the dung business that it was also to be a monopoly. Peru believed that she, alone, could supply nitrate to Europe, as she alone had, for more than a generation supplied it with guano. Some of her imaginative children indulged in the fond conceit that Peru might possibly come to be a moulder of European politics. For if she alone commanded the monopoly of making gunpowder on a mighty scale, nothing more need be said to prove that she could ask her own price for the bloody, smutty grain—and be sure to get it—as well as obtain a name for herself as great as that of the Emperor of Trebizond, at least.

Now, immediately after the nitrate makers had sold their business establishments to Peru, some of them went to Chili; indeed, several experienced Englishmen and Germans of the highest business capacity—business experience and business fame—who still carry about them a strong smell of guano, had also at that time important branch establishments of business in Valparaiso, and with far-reaching sight had already made use of a knowledge common to many, and began buying up—for an old song—patches of sandy land in the desert of Atacama—not far