

**THE PARAGUAYAN QUESTION. THE
ALLIANCE BETWEEN BRAZIL, THE ARGENTINE
CONFEDERATION AND URUGUAY,
VERSUS THE DICTATOR OF PARAGUAY.
CLAIMS OF THE REPUBLICS OF PERU AND
BOLIVIA IN REGARD TO THIS ALLIANCE**

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The Paraguayan question. The alliance between Brazil, the Argentine Confederation and Uruguay, versus the dictator of Paraguay. Claims of the Republics of Peru and Bolivia in regard to this alliance by Anonymous

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THE ALLIANCE

BETWEEN

BRAZIL, THE ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION AND URUGUAY,

VERSUS

THE DICTATOR OF PARAGUAY.

CLAIMS OF THE REPUBLICS OF PERU AND BOLIVIA
IN REGARD TO THIS ALLIANCE.

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1866.

BRAZIL, THE STATES OF LA PLATA AND PARAGUAY.

ORIGIN AND CAUSES OF THE WAR BETWEEN THOSE SOUTH
AMERICAN STATES AND PARAGUAY.

The questions of a country, in relation to its international rights, are seldom well understood, if they do not affect the general interests, and are but of a secondary importance to the great Powers in the working of the foreign policy which most immediately concerns them.

It is not, then, strange that certain organs of the Press in the United States should not rightly understand the war carried on by Brazil, the Argentine Republic, and Uruguay against the present Dictator of Paraguay; the motives which led those three American States to combine and unite in an alliance, offensive and defensive, to repel a common enemy; and the end which they proposed to reach by means of this alliance.

It is necessary to go back to the origin of the struggle, and examine the course of events, to explain the present state of affairs, and the new developments which, with the help of Divine Providence, and for the good of mankind, are now taking place in that section of South America.

Brazil and the Argentine and Uruguay Republics formed an Alliance, on the 27th of August, 1828, to remove all and any causes of difficulty in their international relations.

The articles of this agreement were confirmed and ratified

in the treaties entered into between Brazil and the aforesaid republics on the 12th of October, 1851; and in the treaty of friendly relations, commerce, and navigation of 7th of March, 1856, between the Empire and the Argentine Confederation.

The violation of the first-named treaty by the iron dictatorship of General Don Juan Manuel Rosas, gave occasion for the other treaties and the principles subsequently adopted in 1859, to secure the entire and absolute independence and sovereignty of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay in her foreign relations.

Said treaties establish the equilibrium of the La Plata countries, which, according to the declaration of General Lopez, present Dictator of Paraguay, was endangered on the 30th August, 1864, by the mere fact that the Government of Brazil, with the assent of its other ally, demanded just satisfaction from the Government illegally in power at that time in Uruguay, for the atrocious offences committed against Brazilian subjects there residing, in disregard and in open violation of the existing treaties.

The incident to which we have just alluded, and which interrupted for a while the intimate and friendly relations between the Empire and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, ended, however, very satisfactorily, by the agreement signed in Montevideo on the 20th February, 1865, by which the alliance between Brazil and the States of La Plata became still more firmly established.

This question solely affected the States already mentioned, and did not affect the security or the interests of the Republic of Paraguay, which was, in fact, so remote from the theatre of events, and with which the Empire was in perfect peace.

In the meantime, without the least provocation and without any previous declaration of war, and in truth, caring nought for the equilibrium of those States, General Lopez took this difficulty as a pretext for ordering the treacherous detention, at Assumption, of a Brazilian steamer, on board

of which was the President entrusted by the Imperial Government with the administration of the remote and important Brazilian Province of Matto-Grosso; and, also, used it to disguise his real intentions of surprising that Province by invasion.

The manifesto addressed on the 26th of January of last year by the Brazilian Government, through its Minister in Buenos Ayres, to the Foreign Powers, made evident how unjust and unheard of was this audacious proceeding on the part of the Government of Paraguay.

To Brazil it is that Paraguay was indebted for the recognition of her independence by several European and American Governments, at a time when her political existence was seriously threatened by the dictatorship of General Rosas, governor of the Argentine Provinces.

Many a time since the independence of Paraguay was established, has Brazil had cause to demand reparation for the continued offences committed against her in despite of the most solemn treaties; she has, nevertheless, always acted with the greatest moderation, ever willing to enter into new agreements; to settle by friendly means the question of boundaries, and also the free navigation of the entire river from the La Plata to the upper Paraguay.

The last treaty upon these questions is dated February 28th, 1858.

From that date to the year 1864, there was a cessation of difficulties between the two countries, and just as Brazil was flattered with the idea that the two countries were becoming more united, and their mutual relations more firm, Paraguay, during that term of tranquility, was lying in wait for the opportunity of invading and perpetrating all manner of atrocities against the neighboring Province of Matto-Grosso, to decide in this summary manner the question of boundaries about which it had never been possible to come to an agreement, on account of the exaggerated demands of its government, as is proved by all the negotiations since the year 1853.

The world is still horrified by the acts of barbarity perpetrated in that Province by order of the Dictator of Paraguay, without any consideration to age, sex, or helplessness ; entire populations being shot down like wild beasts in the rivers and forests as they fled from the fury of the enemy.

Are not these more than sufficient causes to justify Brazil in a war which she neither sought nor provoked but accepted only to recover her rights, to drive the enemy from her country, and to avenge the innocent blood of her children sacrificed to the whim of the most ambitious of tyrants.

Exercising her legitimate rights, Brazil then commenced hostilities by blockading the ports and the communications of Paraguay. These hostilities could not be extended through the territory on the left bank of the river Parana, without permission from the Argentine Republic, and this permission was refused.

This permission was likewise refused when asked by Paraguay, upon which the government of that State, disregarding all international rights, invaded the territory in question, capturing, also, two Argentine steamers, and occupying, on the 13th April of last year, the capital of the Province of Corrientes and its surroundings, which then became the theatre of the same outrages that had before been committed in the Brazilian territory.

These acts of unexpected hostility compelled the Argentine Government, in its turn, to accept the war thus commenced against her without warning, and without the least provocation on her part, and thus the interests of Brazil and of the Argentine Republic became identified ; both countries had to avenge the wrongs and offences committed against their sovereignty and independence ; and by a chain of unforeseen circumstances both were united in that glorious campaign whose object is the triumph of civilization against barbarism, and whose standard is the great cause of humanity.

The concurrence of General Don Venancio Flores is explained by his former alliance with the Governments of Bra-

zil and the Argentine Republic, and by the unwarranted interference of the Dictator of Paraguay in the internal affairs of the Oriental Republic.

TREATY OF ALLIANCE OF MAY 1ST, 1865.

The three Governments, having the same causes of complaint and the same interests to defend, could not do otherwise than unite in their own defense; and to that end, on the 1st of May, 1865, they entered into a treaty of alliance, which was already in existence *de facto*, owing to the acts of Dictator Lopez.

Annexed to the treaty is a protocol of the same date, which serves as its complement.

The public has not yet been put in possession of certain secret notes, which, without doubt, will explain fully, the views and intentions of the high contracting parties at the time of signing the said treaty.

We believe that the most fastidious person will be entirely satisfied with the context of the said treaty.

As the treaty to which we allude has already been published, either through oversight or intentionally—it now matters little which—we here transcribe literally the main conditions, as they are known to the public, to the end that they be better understood :

“ART. 6.—The allies solemnly bind themselves not to lay down their arms unless by common consent, nor until they have overturned the actual government of Paraguay [*i. e.* Lopez]; neither shall they separately treat of nor sign any treaty of peace, truce, armistice or agreement, whatever, to end or suspend the war, except it be mutually agreed to.

ART. 7.—As the war is not waged against the people of Paraguay, but against its government, the allies may admit into a Paraguayan legion all the citizens of that nation who may wish to aid in the overthrow of said government, and will furnish them with whatever they may need, in the form and under the conditions that shall be agreed upon.