American, AND Commercial Daily Advertiser.

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY W. PECHIN,
51, South Gay-Street.
[Printer of the Laws of the Union.]

Daily Paper $7 and Country Paper $5 per ann.
☞ All advertisements appear in both Papers.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1807.

NEW-YORK, February 25.

The news of the death of Col. Rutgers proves untrue. The report was Current, and noticed on authority next to official. We hope the Colonel will live many years, and continue to bestow a part of his overgrown fortune on the needy.

NEWARK, Feb. 24.

It is our painful duty to record another distressing and alarming fire, which happened in this town early in the morning of Saturday last. The fire commenced (whether by design or accident cannot at present be ascertained) in the back part of the dwelling of Mr. Israel Beach, and quickly communicated to the front of the building, occupied by Messrs. Beach and Vandeppol as a store of oils, paints and groceries, which, with nearly all its contents, fell a prey to the devouring element. A small building adjoining, occupied by Mr. Benjamin Baldwin, was also burnt; and the house of Mr. Samuel Nutman was frequently on fire, but was rescued, by the persevering activity of the citizens assembled. Providentially the wind was calm, and from north west; had it blown fresh from the north, in all probability the whole block would have been reduced to a heap of ruins. Unhappily however a girl of about ten years of age who lived in Mr. Beach's family, was burnt to death, and her remains collected from the ruins the same morning after day light. The rest of the family narrowly escaped—some being singed with the flames and others escaping with only their night apparel on.

By this calamitous event, Messrs. Beach and Vanderpool have become great sufferers; their loss is estimated at more than 8000 dollars. Mr. Baldwin, we understand, also lost the most part of his furniture and his stock in leather. Mr. Thaddeus Bruen owned the house he occupied.

PHILADELPHIA, February 27.

Yesterday arrived in town from Washington Dr Bollman, one of the persons sent from N. Orleans, by Gen. Wilkinson.

Robert Wharton, Esq. Mayor of this city, has issued his Proclamation, offering a reward of $500 for apprehending and prosecuting to conviction, the authors of the late incendiary attempts in various parts of the city.

A proposition, to erect the district Maine into a separate State, has again been introduced into the legislature of Massachusetts. The resolution proposing it passed the house of representatives the 14th inst. and sent to the senate for their concurrence.

A Proclamation has been issued at Dantzic ordering the inhabitants to lay in a large stock of provisions, as the commandant was determined to defend the town against the French, to the last extremity.

From Lancaster, February 23.

"The Judiciary Bill was agreed to this morning, in a committee of the whole.——By this bill, the offices of the associate judges of the common pleas are abolished. The county of Delaware is annexed to the first district; and another judge, at a salary of $2000, is to be appointed in Philadelphia; so that the common pleas of Philadelphia county, will be composed of three law judges—two residing in the city, and the third in Delaware county."

A letter from Cadiz, dated December 23, says —"Our political relations with this country still continue on the most unfriendly footing, and our vessels are daily carried into Algesiras and condemned on the most frivolous pretext. We wait with anxiety to hear of the meeting of congress, to know whether any thing will be done by our government, for things cannot be worse than they are. We are insulted daily, and there is no possibility of obtaining redress; our charge d'affairs in Madrid, Mr. Ewing, can do nothing—hardly, indeed, receive an answer to the letters he addresses to the government here."

NEW-ORLEANS, January 29.

Communication.—The executive of the Mississippi Territory, in order to ascertain the views of Col. Burr, on the 15th instant, deputed Messrs. Shields and Poindexter, to visit the quarters of that gentleman, near the mouth of Bayou Pierre, and to hold a conversation with him on the subject. On the 16th an amicable agreement was entered into between the parties in the following words, to wit.

The Hon. Cowles Mead, acting Governor of the Mississippi Territory, with a view to restore public tranquility, proposes to Aaron Burr as follows:

That an interview shall take place between them at the house of Thomas Calvit, on Cole's creek, at two o'clock to-morrow.

The said Cowles Mead pledges himself to protect the said A. Burr during his stay in the territory, and that he shall be returned to his present position in a suitable manner as soon after the interview as he may please—in the mean time there shall be no restraint on his person, no violence or molestation on his boats or people, and that the military of the district shall not until the return of the said A. Burr, approach nearer to his present quarters than the mouth of Cole's creek.

A. Burr on his part engages that in the mean time no violence or injury shall be offered by any of his people to the inhabitants of the Mississippi Territory, that they shall keep the peace & not infringe any law of the U. States or either of its Territories.

The parties above named mutually pledge their honor for the performance of this agreement.

January 19, 1807.

COWLES MEAD, by
W. B. Shields, } Aids de
G. Poindexter, } Camp.

A. BURR.

Signed in presence of }
Thomas Fitzpatrick. }

In conformity with the above agreement the proposed interview took place, which resulted in a *voluntary* submission on the part of Col. Burr, to the civil authority of the Territory, and also a surrender of whatever military apparatus might be found on board the boats under his direction, a committee was immediately appointed to make the necessary examination, and report forthwith to the Governor the number and description of such military stores as they might discover on board said boats.

It is surely a source of felicity to every philanthropic mind that the laws and constitution of the United States are maintained inviolate without the catastrophe of a civil contest.

CHILLICOTHE, Feb. 12.

The following is the deposition of J. Smith, esq. relative to Burr.

(COPY.)

I do certify, that on the 4th day of September, 1805, col. A. Burr, sent to me, at my house in Cincinnati a pencil'd note in the following words, to wit:

Dear Sir,

Being in a mile of you, I send forward a young man to know if you have a room and bed for me, if not, tell me what tavern is best.

Your affectionate,
A. BURR.

4th September.

I told the young man in reply, that col. Burr should be welcome to such accommodations as my house afforded, for a few days.—In a short time after col. Burr rode to the door and I conducted him into my house where he remained some days—during which time I did not hear him utter a word about the separation of the union or the invasion of Mexico.—Nor did I hear him say any thing about his project, other than to settle a large tract of his Washita lands. Some time after his departure from Cincinnati I wrote him that it was currently reported, and by many believed, he did meditate a dismemberment of the U. S. and I frankly represented my fears, that whatever his project might be, the tranquility of the western country would be interrupted, and that he moved in such mystery, suspicion would be attached to him; and I earnestly solicited a disclosure of his object—his answer is contained in a letter herewith, under the date of the 26th of October last. The candor discovered in the above recited letter inspired my confidence——And when he made his second visit to Cincinnati, in November last, he disclosed his plan fully to my view, as I thought, which added strength to my confidence.

He being about to take his leave of me, observed, Mr. Smith my object in a few months will be disclosed; you will not find it dishonorable or inimical to this government; I feel superior to the mean artifices which are ascribed to me—Calumniators I do not notice, for as fast as you put one down another will rise up. This much I will venture to tell you: If there should be war between the United States and Spain, I shall head a corps of volunteers, and be the first to march into the Mexican provinces —If peace should be preserved, which I do not expect, I shall settle my Washita lands and make society as pleasant about me as possible. In this government I have been persecuted, shamefully persecuted, and I am sorry to say, that in it all private confidence between man and man seem to be nearly destroyed. He shewed me a deed for a large tract of land on Red river, and said if I would consent to let my sons go thither, he would provide well for them; to which I gave consent, though I never communicated it to my eldest son, till last Saturday, the day on which he returned from Marietta, and not till he expressed disinclination to co-operate with col. Burr's object till he knew whether it was hostile to the government of the United States or not.

Col. Burr told me further, that very many of his friends in different parts of the United States, would remove and settle with him and that he would be the best neighbor this country ever had, and repeated that his object was not hostile to the (here the word *government* appears to have been originally inserted but dashed out by the pen) people of the United States, or dishonorable to himself, and further, that in a few months many of his enemies would be proud to call him their friend.

I solemnly declare, that I never purchased, directly or indirectly, any provisions for the use of Burr and his party, though application was made to me for that purpose which I declined.

(Signed) JOHN SMITH.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 6th day of Jan. 1807.

(Signed) MATTHEW NIMMO.

One of the associate judges within and for the county of Hamilton and state of Ohio.

American, AND Commercial Daily Advertiser.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1807.

☞ The *Mails* of yesterday had not arrived at a late hour last night.

☞ LATE FROM PARIS.

By the arrival of the William Penn, from Bordeaux, (*vide Marine Intelligence*) Paris papers have been received to the date of January 3d inclusive. A gentleman of this city has politely favored us with the loan of a file of the *Paris Argus* from Dec. 4th to the above date. This file does not contain the annunciation of any important event; but there are several articles which we are sure will be interesting to our readers. These we shall lay before them with all possible speed.

Reports prevailed at Paris on the 3d of Jan. that a rupture between the United States and Great-Britain was certain.

The Poles are oganizing themselves into military squadrons under the orders of Gen. Dombrowski.

The presence of the French at Warsaw has given that place an air of great vivacity. They have Italian, French, and Polish theatres open there.

The negociations between the Porte and the Servian insurgents have been broken off; and Czerni Georges has re-commenced his operations. A slight skirmish between them and the Turks took place in the beginning of Nov. near Belgrade.

French troops are at Anclam, waiting the determination of the king of Sweden on a proposition relative to the neutrality of Swedish Pomerania.

A few days anterior to the 17th of December, 70,000 men passed through Berlin on their way to Poland.

A national gendarmerie is organizing throughout the conquered Prussian states, to protect the high roads, insure the arrival of subsistence, and cause persons and property to be respected.

The annual fair at Leipsick was to be held as usual.

It is announced that the French have commenced the bombardment of Dantzick. This town is one of the richest and most considerable of the north of Europe.

Burr's project (extracted from an American paper) is mentioned in the Paris papers.

Several ships of the line are going to be fitted out in the greatest haste at Copenhagen. The ramparts of the citadel have had cannon planted on them lately, and the guards are doubled, as are those in the harbor.

The following article evinces that the imperial decree is not intended to include private property:—

"General Clarke, Governor-General of the Prussian conquered provinces, has, in concert with the Intendant-General of Finances, given orders to the particular commandants and [illegible] to take off the seals which had been laid provisionally on the sequestered merchandize at Magdeburg, Stettin, Custrin, and Frankfort on the Oder, which *merchandise, being private property, is not comprehended in the decree of the 21st of November.*"

The preceding articles are all that we have had time to give to-day. The following Bulletins, received by the same arrival, we have translated for this day's American. We are indebted for them to a respectable friend in this city. The reader will observe that there is a coincidence between a passage in the 44th bulletin, relative to a battle with the Russians, and the report which prevailed at Bordeaux, as stated in this paper.

Forty-third Bulletin of the Grand Army.
Kutuo, Dec. 17, 1806.

The emperor arrived at Kutuo at one in the afternoon, having travelled all night in the calashes (small pleasure carriages) of the country, the thaw not allowing the usual sort of carriages to be made use of. The calash in which the marshal Duroc rode, was overturned, and he received a violent contusion on the shoulder; this officer is, however, in no danger, and will only be obliged to keep his bed for 8 or 10 days.

The *tete-de-pont* of Pragua, Zakroczyn, of the Narew and Thorn, acquire greater solidity every day.

The Emperor will be at Warsaw to-morrow.

The Vistula being extremely broad, the bridges are every where 3 or 4000 fathoms over.

Forty-fourth Bulletin of the Grand Army.
Warsaw, Dec. 21, 1806.

The Emperor has visited the works of Prague. Eight fine redoubts, staked and pallisaded, inclosing a circumference of 1500 fathoms; and three rear bastions, of 600 fathoms in extent, form the bounds of a fortified camp.

The Vistula is one of the finest rivers in existence. The Bug, which is comparatively much smaller, is, notwithstanding, much more rapid than the Seine. The bridge over this last large river is entirely finished. Gen. Gauthier, with the 25th and 85th regiments of the infantry, occupies the head of the bridge, which Gen. Chasseloupe caused to be fortified with great judgment; from the manner of this *tete-de-pont*, which is not more than 400 fathoms in extent, being supported by a morass and the river, adjacent to a fortified camp on the right bank, a whole army can be protected from the whole force of the enemy. A brigade of light cavalry of the reserve were skirmishing throughout the day with the Russian cavalry.

On the 18th, marshal Davoust perceived the necessity, in order to render his camp on the right bank more secure, of taking possession of a small island situated at the mouth of the Wkra. The enemy were aware of the importance of this position. A lively fire of musketry commenced with the advanced guard; but the victory and the island were gained by the French. Our loss has been a few men wounded. Clouet, an officer of talents, and a young man of great hopes, received a ball in his breast.

On the 25th, a regiment of Cossacks, supported by the Russian hussars, attempted to cut off the great guard of the brigade of light cavalry, placed in advance of the *tete de pont* of Bug, but the great guard had been placed in such a manner as to prevent surprize. The first of the hussars sounded to horse; the colonel charged at the head of a squadron, and the 13th advanced to support it. The enemy were overthrown. We have had, in this little affair, 3 or 4 men wounded; but the Colonel of the Cossacks has been killed.

In all 30 men and 25 horses have fallen into our power. Nothing can be so miserable and base as these Cossacks; they are a scandal to human nature. They pass the Bug, (& every day violate the neutrality of Austria,) to pillage a house in Gallicia, or to treat themselves to a glass of Brandy, whereof they are very greedy. But our light cavalry are accustomed, since the last campaign, to the mode in which these wretches fight; who endeavor to intimidate, by their numbers & the thundering noise which they make in charging, those troops who have not been accustomed to see them; but when they are known, two thousand of these unhappy creatures are not capable of charging a single squadron which stands firm, and preserves its ranks.

The marshal Augereau has crossed the Vistula at Utrata. Gen. Lapisse has entered Plousk, and is in pursuit of the enemy.

Marshal Soult has passed the Vistula at Vizogrod.

Marshal Bessieres arrived on the 18th at Kikol, with the second corps of reserved cavalry. The advance has arrived at Liepz z. Different rencontres of cavalry have taken place with the Prussian hussars, of whom a number have been made prisoners. The right bank of the Vistula was found entirely clear.

Marshal Ney, with his corps of the army, supports marshal Bessieres. He arrived on the 18th at Rypin. His own right is supported by the marshal prince of Ponte Corvo.

The whole are in motion. If the enemy continues to retain his position, there will be a battle in a few days. With the aid of God, the issue cannot be uncertain. The Russian army is commanded by the marshal Kamenskoy, an old man of 75 years. He has under him the generals Buxhowden and Benigsen.

General Michelson has determined to enter Moldavia. Reports assure us, that he arrived on the 29th at Jassy. We are also assured, that one of the generals has taken Bender by assault, and put all the inhabitants to the sword! Behold, then, a war declared against the Porte without pretence or reason; but they had concluded at St. Petersburg, that the moment when France and Prussia, (the two powers most interested in preventing the independence of Turkey,) were at war, was the favorable moment to subdue that power. The events of a month have disconcerted these calculations, and to them the Porte is indebted for its preservation.

The grand duke of Berg is sick of a fever. He gets better.

The weather is as mild as at Paris in the month of October, and moist; insomuch, that the roads are rendered difficult. A great quantity of wine, to nourish the spirits of the soldiery, is about to arrive.

The palace of the king of Poland, is fine and well furnished. They have at Warsaw, a great number of beautiful palaces and fine houses. Our hospitals are well regulated; which is not a trifling advantage in this country. The enemy appear to have a great many sick, and a great many deserters.

They say nothing of the Prussians; entire corps of whom desert, being disgusted with the Russians, from whom they are obliged to put up with continual affronts.

A letter received at the coffee house in this city, from a correspondent in Bordeaux, dated the 8th of January, 1807, says, "There are reports of a great battle having taken place between the French and Russians, in which the latter have experienced a signal defeat."

The Editor of the American will please to publish the following letter, with the documents subjoined, lately received from New-Orleans.—The name of the author is left with the Editor, to be disclosed to any person who has a right to be satisfied in this particular.

A CITIZEN.

Letter from New-Orleans.

NEW-ORLEANS, Jan. 9, 1807.

DEAR SIR,

YOU have doubtless seen a very pathetic appeal to the public, from the very flippant and *conceited* pen of the celebrated Ned Livingston. After it had passed review in the conclave of Mr. Burr's select friends in this place, Mr. Livingston, with habitual falsehood, profound ingenuity, and deep address, strikes forcibly at the feelings of the Freemen of America, and labours by false alarms and an utter contempt of truth and candor, to excite the people of this territory against the military—on whom (exclusively) we at this moment depend for the safety of our persons and property, and the support of the laws and the constitution of the United States, against Col. Burr and his lawless banditti, daily expected from the Ohio, aided by their confederates in this city, who are working day and night, (and Livingston's house is the scene of their machinations) by every artifice of falsehood, cunning and misrepresentations, to palsy the exertions of the General, and to damp the ardor and depress the spirits of the faithful citizen.

What was the real state of things when Livingston was denounced? A few lines will declare.—Doctor Erick Bollman, who transmitted a letter from Col. Burr of traiterable import—who had seduced a Lieut. Spence from his duty, and employed him as an express from this city to Burr, in Tennessee, to bear letters on the subject of the conspiracy against the United States, and who was here the confidential agent and correspondent of Col. Burr. Of this man and of Col. Burr, the General had offered to the District Judge to lodge such information on oath, as would enable him to proclaim the [illegible] for apprehension and to arrest the last—but the Judge believing that Col. Burr was then on his way down the river, declined the proposition respecting him, on the ground that it might be too late—and in regard to Mr Bollman, he observed, the offence being bailable, he could not hold him to strict custody, and of course the apprehending him would not impair his capacity to serve Mr. Burr and the cause of rebellion.—And, it is a fact that after some consideration, Judge Hall did give it as his opinion, that he believed it was best "for the Gen. to exercise his discretion." On which the Gen. remarked, "then you will not hang me for what I may do?" and Judge Hall and Judge Mathews, who were present, answered in the negative. Bollman was accordingly seized, by and with the privity and approbation of the Governor, and sent off. Immediately after, James Alexander, Esq. Attorney at Law, moved for the writ of Habeas Corpus to bring up the body of Bollman—in which he was most ably and most zealously supported by Mr. Livingston. General Wilkinson had proof before him that this Alexander had conversed at Philadelphia with Bollman, and had engaged himself in the [illegible] of Mr. Burr. He had [illegible] dence from his (Alexander's) own [illegible] he was engaged—and it is a literal [illegible] he had publicly (in this city) [illegible] the dismemberment of the union, and justified the enterprise of Col. Burr. Nay, that he had written an address to be offered to the people of this country in a suitable moment, in which he recommended their separation from, and independence of the government of the United States, and that he had even offered a commission in the service of Burr to a young gentleman of character. (See the depositions of Mr. J Nicholson, captain Cook, and doctor Davidson, and the letter of Lieut. Kerr.) In the moment that the General found Livingston in close concert with Alexander, and exerting every faculty in favor of Bollman, he received upon the information of Gov. Claiborne, the deposition of Doctor Rogers. He intercepted a letter from Nashville, in the state of Tennessee, addressed to Bollman, partly in cypher and partly in German, in which frequent reference is made (in a stile which bespeaks cunning and address) to some person in this city under the designation of L.—and he was assured from a confidential source that Burr had drawn on Livingston in favor of Bollman for $2,000, which Livingston had paid.

Let the soundest casuist and the most candid Judge connect all these circumstances, and carefully weigh their bearings and relations to each other, and I think he would decide that they would justify the strongest suspicion against any person, much less a man of Mr. Livingston's impure and adventurous character—a man who from being a rogue by choice, became an exile from necessity—who, after having abused the most solemn and honorable trust, fled in the night from the justice of his country, and sought in this place an asylum among strangers—where he soon betrayed the greedy, graceless, speculating swindler, and is now universally known (to use the phrase of one of his particular associates, an eminent brother at the bar) to be "rotten to the very bone."

Mr. Livingston speaks of feelings and looks. His feelings have been long since seared against the compunctions of honor and conscience—against the claims of justice and humanity, and every thing dear in friendship or precious in domestic sympathies. What has he felt? Nought but the ambition to corrupt, and a capacity for the means of licentious indulgence. Mr. Livingston should have indulged a momentary reflection before he spoke of looks. Looks!—Does he recollect how Satan looked when called up to Heaven? or is he insensible that if it were lawful to hang men for their looks, he would long since have been elevated to the station which certainly must terminate his career? Who has General Wilkinson affected or offended by his violence? Four of Aaron Burr's known conspirators, planted here for the purposes of co-operation, and the notorious Ned Livingston; and wherefore has the General perpetrated these high crimes? To destroy those very machinations which Mr. Livingston labours to support—to arrest the course of a deep, dark and horrible conspiracy, pointed at the vitals of our constitution and aiming a death blow at the most precious interests of United America. Mr. Livingston should have stated that the General offered his person, *and has not refused it*, to meet every penalty of the law. If he loved truth and candor he would have stated that the General declared, he had opposed his life to the nefarious project—that he therefore did not regard the consequences of his conduct, as it was directed to defeat a traitorous attempt, which he was determined to oppose with his last breath." If Mr. Livingston was susceptible of an emotion of patriotism, he would have taken the distinction between the infraction of a law and the destruction of the constitution, on which all law depends—between the censure attached to the partial, personal, temporary violation of the constitution, which may be produced by an ardent, honest, profitable zeal, and the [illegible] attach to that timid circumspection [illegible] which by strengthening the hands of the enemy loses a whole country.

Mr. Livingston alleges a continued intimacy with the General after he had mentioned [illegible] the negociation of Burr's bill [illegible] Mr. L. never even hinted [illegible] stance to the General although he had mentioned it to his sympathetic friend James Brown, Esq. District Attorney—and the intimacy consists in the General's having barely returned Mr. Livingston's visit, and at his request having partook of an oyster—though it is acknowledged, Mr. L. did visit the General frequently, and until he was forbid his quarters, in consequence of a most exceptionable letter, written with disguise by him to Alexander, after the latter had been apprehended.

Mr. Livingston endeavors to purge his offences by an oath, without reflecting that it is well understood, those who will steal will lie, and that those who lie will swear. It was unnecessary for Mr. L. to swear that Burr had not trusted him with his ultimate intention, for Burr well knows he is at once incontinent and a poltroon; but if Mr. L. had sworn that he was not a member of a combination formed in this city, in society with Judge Workman, his very dear friend and coadjutor, to levy an army and raise funds for the purpose of carrying an expedition against the territories of Spain, it is probable he would have been convicted of perjury, and marked for the benefit of mankind.

It is a fact, that Mr. Livingston, in combination with Judge Workman and other public functionaries, have for several weeks past exerted their every faculties, to induce the Governor to array the militia to support a compulsory process, which Workman carried in his pocket, against General Wilkinson. For this purpose, Workman, who is a man of the quill, has written several essays addressed to Governor Claiborne. And why this? [illegible] From a tenacious regard for our civil institutions—a sacred respect to the constitution, or an inviolable attachment to personal rights? No! no! But by conflicting the civil and military, and by incarcerating the General every obstacle would be removed to Burr's possession of this city, and these gentlemen would be rewarded for their services. Workman indeed was moved by other motives—a galling consciousness of guilt, for he had not only projected the conquest of West Florida and the subversion of the Mexican government, to give the Mexicans new masters, of which he was to be one, but he had endeavored to corrupt the officers of the army—had proposed the seizing on the banks and shipping of this city, together with the revolt of the territory from the United States.* Trembling with alarm, and daily expecting detection, he labors night and day to destroy the General—little knowing that he is in possession of unquestionable testimony to [illegible] the above facts. The General has made these communications to the Governor, and the Territorial Attorney, Mr. Gurly,—yet Workman is at large, menacing his opponents.

We leave Mr. Livingston and his brethren of the bar, with cherished sympathies, to the [illegible] of such a [illegible], and feel no hesitation to say that [illegible] to the General, a few days will see Workman in close confinement.

It may with propriety be subjoined, that one of Burr's emissaries informed the General, Livingston was *connected in the conspiracy*, [illegible] together told him Livingston was ready, but had not been let into the secret.

I am, &c.

* Vide the report of Col. Freeman, and the affidavit of Lieut. Wm. A. Murray.

Col. FREEMAN'S REPORT,

[illegible]

Yesterday, [illegible] the Honorable James Workman, Judge of the county of Orleans, made a visit at my quarters, for the purpose of [illegible] for [illegible] Ensign Small of the 2d regiment [illegible] and to offer in his behalf the services in his power.

He told me the reason he did not make his application to the commanding general. He heard he was angry [illegible] he had issued a writ of Habeas Corpus, but if he were assured that he should be received politely, he would make a visit to head quarters, in order to satisfy the mind of the General, that Ensign Small was as far as he knew, innocent of any offence against the laws and government of the United States.

In the course of conversation Judge Workman informed me that he had been one of the persons who had long contemplated a plan to emancipate Mexico from the Spanish government; that this plan was to raise an army at the expense of the adventurers, under the auspices of the United States; that the first object would be to take Baton Rouge and Mobile, and then to march into the Spanish provinces west of the Mississippi—if they should succeed there, to erect an independent government under the protection of the United States; that Col. Burr had nothing whatever, as far as he knew, to do in this project; he was mentioned as a proper person to command, and General Wilkinson was also named as a fit person to be put at the head of the enterprize; that secrecy was enjoined to the associates, lest the scheme should become known to the Spaniards; but not for any purposes whatever injurious to the interests of the United States: That this plan was contemplated at the time it was supposed the United States would inevitably be involved in a war with Spain, when De Miranda's expedition was believed to have been sanctioned by the general government; but so soon as this was discovered all conversation whatever in relation to the proposed conquest of Mexico ceased.

The Judge then took leave—He consented that I should communicate to General Wilkinson, the substance of the aforegoing statement.—Captain Fergus of the regiment of artillerists was present during the whole time of this conversation.

In the evening the Judge made me another visit—I was then alone. I repeated to him what I had related to General Wilkinson in the morning. He assented to the correctness of my statement.

We then conversed freely upon the subject of erecting an independent government in Mexico. The Judge premised that the whole plan and its execution was to have depended on the approbation and concurrence of the United States, without these nothing was to have been undertaken.

He observed that the emancipation of the Spanish provinces had been for many years his favorite object; that he had, when he was a British subject, proposed it to that government; that he had applied himself particularly to acquire knowledge of the population, of the commerce and resources, of the laws, of the language, temper and disposition of the inhabitants; of the roads, mountains, lakes and generally such geographical information, as would be required and be useful in case his plan should be adopted—That he had succeeded, that he possessed the best map, and he was as well acquainted with the country as any person could possibly be, who had not visited it. He declared upon his honor, a separation of the union was