

any measure that tended to a violation of the neutrality of the United States, and the inhumanity of calling in the aid of the Indians—a circumstance hinted at in the conversation that had taken place on the subject.

I conceived it to be my duty, however, to mention the business in my correspondence with my superiors: And I lately received an answer, that his majesty's ministers did not think proper to give any countenance to the project. The two objections above alluded to (which I had of course insisted on in my report) are stated as sufficient reasons for its rejection.

You must allow me, Sir, to decline entering into any farther particulars—on the one hand, because, although I have all along suspected that the persons who proposed the plan to me, might not improbably be employed by enemies of Great-Britain to endeavour with sinister views to insinuate themselves into my confidence; yet as these my surmises may be false, I should not be justified in betraying the secrets of men who may have meant well! and, on the other hand, because however loose the principles of these speculations may have been on the subject of the law of nations (as it regards the duties of neutrality) none of them in their intercourse with me ever expressed sentiments that were in any degree hostile to the interests of the United States.

Philadelphia, 2d July, 1797.

Mr. Brown,

By inserting the following you will do justice to truth, the public, and yourself.

In the *Gazette Extra.* of this morning, you state that the British minister when applied to by Mr. Blount, "declined giving any decisive answer, but in the mean-time laid the matter before his court—their answer must have countenanced the procedure."

Now the fact is, that the minister, as appears from the statement given under his own hand, expressly declined the business when first applied to, and stated two reasons for doing so. The first, that it would violate the neutrality of the United States; the second, that it would be an act of inhumanity to excite the Indians against the peaceable inhabitants of Florida. He, however, thought it best to lay the matter, with his objections, before his own government, which expressly approved his conduct in declining it, declared his objections solid, and ordered him to have nothing to do with the business.

This is the minister's own statement, and it is corroborated by the letter of Mr. Blount, who does not hint that the plan was encouraged by the minister, but merely says that it was mentioned to him last winter. He then states that it was doubtful whether the enterprise would be attempted, and that a person of consequence was gone to England on the business. If the British government had countenanced the plan, Mr. Blount would have spoken of it with more certainty, and if the minister or the government had countenanced it, there would have been no need of sending a person of importance to England. The reason of sending this important agent probably was, that it was thought he might succeed better with the government than he had done with the minister.

All the papers relative to this affair will soon appear in print, and then the public will judge for itself; but in the mean-time errors so important cannot be too soon corrected.

A member of the House of Representatives.

Extract of a letter from general S—, dated Baltimore, 4th of July, 1797, to a member of congress.

"Captain Sanger 12 days from Port de-Paix, arrived last night, says, that Sonthonax has ordered all captures and condemnation of American property to cease, in consequence as was reported of orders from France.—He adds that two or three American vessels lately taken were liberated in conformity. Captain Sanger is a very respectable man, and says I may rely on the truth of his account."

The subject of the last confidential message, upon which Mr. Sitgreaves reported, was declared to be of a nature proper to be made public. It is of very serious import; the whole of the particulars we have not yet been able to learn, but we shall state such as have come to our knowledge, and such as will shew to our readers, that a very extraordinary correspondence has lately been carried on between William Blount, a senator from the new state of Tennessee, and the British minister resident here.—The following is the copy of a letter from William Blount, to a person of the name of Carey, an Indian interpreter, which, together with other particulars, were on Monday laid before both houses of congress by the president of the United States:

Colonel King's Iron Works, April 21st, 1797.

Dear Carey,

I wished to have seen you before I returned to Philadelphia, but I am obliged to return to the session of congress, which commences on the 15th of May.

Among other things that I wished to have seen you about, was the business captain Chisholm mentioned to the British minister last winter at Philadelphia.

I believe, but am not quite sure, that the plan then talked of will be attempted this fall; and if it is attempted, it will be in a much larger way than then talked of, and if the Indians act their part, I have no doubt but it will succeed. A man of consequence has gone to England about the business, and if he makes arrangements as he expects, I shall myself have a hand in the business, and probably shall be at the head of the business on the part of the British; you are, however, to understand that it is not yet quite certain that the plan will be attempted, yet you will do well to

keep things in a proper train of action in case it should be attempted, and to do so will require all your management.

I say require all your management, because you must take care, in whatever you say to Rogers, or any body else, not to let the plan be discovered by Hawkins, Dismore, Byers, or any other person in the interest of the United States or Spain.

If I attempt this plan I shall expect to have you and all my Indian country and Indian friends with me; but you are now in good business, I hope, and you are not to risk the loss of it by laying any thing that will hurt you until you again hear from me. Where captain Chisholm is I do not know, I left him in Philadelphia in March, and he frequently visited the minister, and spoke upon the subject; but I believe he will go into the Creek nation by way of South-Carolina or Georgia. He gave out he was going to England, but I did not believe him. Among things that you may safely do, will be to keep up my consequence with Watts, and the Creeks and Cherokees generally, and you must by no means say any thing in favour of Hawkins, but as often as you can with safety to yourself, you may teach the Creeks to believe he is no better than he should be. Any power or consequence he gets will be against our plan. Perhaps Rogers, who has no office to lose, is the best man to give out talks against Hawkins. Read the letter to Rogers, and if you think it best to send it to him, put a wafer in it and forward it to him by a safe hand, or perhaps you had best send for him to come to you, and speak to him, yourself respecting the state and prospect of things.

I have advised you in whatever you do to take care of yourself. I have now to tell you to take care of me too, for a discovery of the plan would prevent the success, and much injure all parties concerned. It may be that the commissioners may not run the line as the Indians expect or wish, and in that case it is probable the Indians may be taught to blame me for making the treaty.

To such complaints against me, if such there are, it may be said by my friends at proper times and places that Doublehead confirmed the treaty with the president at Philadelphia, and receives as much as 5000 dollars a year, to be paid to the nation over and above the first price; indeed it may with truth be said, that though I made the treaty, that I made it by the instructions of the president, and in fact it may with truth be said that I was by the president intrusted to purchase much more land than the Indians would agree to sell. This sort of talk will be throwing all the blame off me upon the late president, and as he is now out of office, it will be of no consequence how much the Indians blame him. And among other things that may be said for me, is, that I was not at the running of the line, and that if I had been it would have been run more to their satisfaction. In short you understand the subject, and must take care to give out the proper talks to keep up my consequence with the Creeks and Cherokees.—Can't Rogers continue to get the Creeks to desire the president to take Hawkins out of the nation, for if he stays in the Creek nation, and gets the good will of the nation, he can and will do great injury to our plans.

When you have read this letter over three times, then burn it. I shall be at Knoxville in July or August, when I will send for Watts and give him the whifkey I promised him, &c.

WILLIAM BLOUNT.

We are informed that in consequence of the above letter's coming into the hands of the president (in what way we do not at present know) application was made to the British minister for information on the subject. He at first declined giving any, professing an ignorance of the affair; but we understand he has since acknowledged that application was made to him by several persons last winter on this business; that he had laid their plan (a plan it is supposed for invading the Spanish territory from Canada, aided by men enlisted within the United States, and by the Indians) before his government, but that he had declined having any thing to do with the business. As the British minister considers the affair as a delicate one, he declines giving up the names of the persons concerned. We trust, however, a little time will discover them.

July 7.

William Blount took his seat in the senate yesterday, as usual. He read a short address, in which he said he trusted when he came to be heard upon his trial, he should be able to clear himself from the charges which he understood were to be brought against him. We understand he was allowed to be heard by council to-morrow, to shew why he ought not to be expelled from his seat in the house.

IN SENATE.

July 6.

Yesterday Mr. Blount attended in his place as usual, in consequence of an order of the senate of Wednesday, and after a motion to inform the president and house of representatives of the circumstance, he arose and read from a paper he had prepared, to avoid misrepresentation, his sentiments on the subject of the late secret communication.—He said that understanding an impeachment was to be brought against him for the part he was supposed to have taken in the contrivance of the British to invade the Spanish territory through the United States, he was determined to be silent in the present stage of the business, not doubting but in the end his character would come out pure, and defeat the malice of his enemies.

Mr. Tazewell was up to move the resolution of the appropriation for the diplomatic corps, on the ground that in Mr. Adams was merely removed from Lisbon to Berlin, and was to return to Lisbon after he had

executed his mission to the court of Prussia, which he said was required by extraordinary circumstances, he saw no reason for making provision for two ministers as he imagined the president had no intention of appointing a minister ad interim to the court of Lisbon. At this moment the president pro tem. (Mr. Jefferson) obtained leave of absence yesterday for the remainder of the session) put into Mr. Tazewell's hands a communication just received from the president, in order to shew him his mistake. We heard it from the gallery, and it was to obtain the advice and consent of the senate to his nomination of William Smith of Charleston (S. C.) to be minister plenipotentiary to the court of Lisbon. This circumstance, Mr. Tazewell said would induce him to press the subject, for he was certain that all our difficulties arose from our foreign intercourse, and it was the sense of the senate, that our diplomatic corps ought to be reduced instead of increased. The senate, however, retained the appropriation.

The following report was then read by Mr. Ross:

The committee to whom was referred that part of the president's message which relates to a letter purporting to have been written by William Blount, Esq. one of the senators from the state of Tennessee, together with the papers accompanying the same, having had the same under their consideration beg leave to make a farther report.

That Mr. Blount having declined an acknowledgment or denial of the letter imputed to him; and having failed to appear or give any satisfactory explanation respecting it, your committee sent for the original letter which accompanies this report and is in the following words.

(Here the chairman of the committee read Mr. Blount's letter.)

Two senators now present in the senate, have declared to the committee that they are well acquainted with the hand writing of Mr. Blount and have no doubt that this letter was written by him, your committee have examined many letters from Mr. Blount to the secretary of war, a number of which are here with submitted as well as the letter addressed by Mr. Blount to Mr. Cocke his colleague in the senate, and to this committee respecting the business now under consideration; and find them all to be of the same hand writing with the letter in question. Mr. Blount has never denied this letter, but on the other hand when the copy transmitted to the senate was read in his presence on the 3d instant, he acknowledged in this place that he had written a letter to Carey of which he had preserved a copy, but could not then decide whether the copy read was a true one. Your committee are therefore fully persuaded that the original letter now produced was written and sent to Carey by Mr. Blount.

They also find that this man, Carey, to whom it was addressed, is, to the knowledge of Mr. Blount, in the pay and employment of the United States, as their interpreter to the Cherokee nation of Indians, and an assistant in the public factory at Tellico Black-house. That Hawkins, who is so often mentioned in this letter as a person who must be brought into suspicion among the Creeks, and, if possible, driven from his station, is the Superintendent of Indian affairs for the United States among the southern Indians; Dismore is agent for the United States in the Cherokee nation; and Byers one of the agents in the public factory at Tellico Black-house.

The plan hinted at in this extraordinary letter to be executed under the auspices of the British, is capable of different constructions and conjectures, that your committee at present forbear giving any decided opinion respecting it; except that to Mr. Blount's own mind it appeared to be inconsistent with the interests of the United States and of Spain, and he was therefore anxious to conceal it from both. But when they consider his attempts to seduce Carey from his duty as a faithful interpreter, and to employ him as an engine to alienate the affections and confidence of the Indians from the public officers of the United States residing among them; the measures he has proposed to excite a temper which might produce the recall or expulsion of our superintendent from the Creek nation; his insidious advice, tending to the advancement of his own popularity, and consequence, at the expense and hazard of the good opinion which the Indians entertain of this government, and of the treaties subsisting between us and them; your committee have no doubt that Mr. Blount's conduct has been inconsistent with his public duty, renders him unworthy of a farther continuance of his present public trust in this body, and amounts to a high misdemeanor.

They therefore unanimously recommend to the senate an adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That William Blount, Esq. one of the senators of the United States; having been guilty of a high misdemeanor, entirely inconsistent with his public trust and duty as a senator, be, and he hereby is expelled from the senate of the United States.

It was then proposed to take up the resolution—and on the other side to postpone the further consideration thereof till to-morrow, which after some discussion, was agreed to.

Mr. Blount, in his place, demanded a copy of the report, and again read the written speech before mentioned—the copy of the report and other papers were ordered.

Mr. Blount then desired to have counsel, which caused a long debate, but it was at length agreed, 19 to 5, that he should be allowed two counsels; that were proposed by Mr. Blount, but rejected unanimously.

The trial was fixed to come on at 11 o'clock this day, in the senate chamber. After which the galleries were closed.