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Maryland Gazette.

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From the (Richmond) Enquirer.

GENERAL MIRANDA.

IN giving the following communication to the world, we do it with that caution which the subject of it is calculated to inspire. That subject is without doubt uncommonly interesting. The sailing of the Leander and her consorts from New-York, the manner in which they were equipped, and the suspicions which were attached to them while they were in port, were evidently calculated to raise every thing about them, more especially the point of destination and the end of so singular an equipment, into objects of uncommon curiosity. Party spirit too stepped in to aid the natural impulse of the occasion. The federalists did not fail to seize upon the mysterious cover in which the plan was enveloped, and to create the most extraordinary charges against the administration. The project of general Miranda, according to their representation, was either directly promoted or indirectly connived at. The federalists therefore inquired, to collect the materials for an attack; the republicans, to defend the administration. Under such circumstances, the expedition of gen. Miranda has become an object of considerable interest. Fables have been formed; conjectures have been offered; almost every one has been anxious to explain, but none has yet positively ascertained, the objects of this mysterious enterprize. The field of conjecture is yet open to the imagination, and the race of monstrous absurdities is not yet ended. We shall not therefore presume to vouch for the veracity of a single fact contained in the following communication. The author indeed professes to be confident in the truth of his theory. He is an acquaintance of Miranda; conversant with his plans, and convinced of their reality. But this is an affair between gen. Miranda and himself. Far be it from our wish to make it a subject of contention between us and the public. We give it to them as it is given to us. We are the organs but not authors of the communication. It is put to the press under the persuasion, that if it will not enlighten by its accuracy, it may amuse by the novelty of the fable; and that whether it contains fictions or facts, it may serve to invite the attention of the public to the future development of the plot.

COMMUNICATION.

That Miranda has embarked at New-York—that he has actually gone from thence, with the fixed design to emancipate his country from the yoke of Spain, is a notorious fact.

Standing alone, this might be deemed a project of a mere adventurer; but when we read the following short history of this man, the mind must expand with wonder, that it has been delayed so long.

So long since as 1767, there were five delegates from five provinces of South America, at Madrid, sent to complain of intolerable grievances; they were denied redress through haughtiness and pride, just as our agents were, before our disputes had ended by war. One of these delegates was intrusted to make certain propositions to Great-Britain. Lord Chatham, (who had formed a whole administration, under a most solemn promise from the king, that he should have his unbounded confidence during life,) embraced those propositions, gave the agent 1000l. yearly, till the design should be carried into effect: he was paid this pension no longer than the life-time of that administration, and the agent was, along with the other four, sacrificed to the resentment of Spain.

In 1783, Miranda, who was born in Caracas, a city about 12 miles south of Liguira, made his appearance in this country; he is well known by many of our most eminent citizens; possesses a strong mind, and since his travels

through all Europe, he may be supposed equal to any man, now living, as to intelligence and capacity, for the most important affairs.

His object has been nothing short, and nothing else, than to deliver his country from a most intolerable and humiliating bondage. When England fitted out a large fleet to support their claims at Neutka Sound, Miranda was engaged to do more than aid them in those claims, but the expedition was abandoned; the cause may be conjured, but time only will develop the facts.

Disappointed, till the revolution had created war between France and Spain, he went to Paris; became a general in their armies. That fatal defeat of the left wing under Dumourier, which he commanded, caused suspicions, that having come over from England, they might have been betrayed, but all the Americans in Paris, (among whom Tom Paine and Joel Barlow,) gave it as their decided opinion, that his principles were strictly pure, honourable, and truly republican; he proved also, that he protested against the mode of attack the night before the action, and that he refused Dumourier's preceding solicitations to emigrate along with him. He would have embarked with an army from France, for the directory had it in view, but no opportunity offered till peace was concluded. Intent on the same object, he once more offered his services to England; they were once more accepted, and he was once more deceived. When just upon embarking, he found, contrary to every previous and solemn compact, that Mr. Pitt meant conquest, and not the emancipation of his country. He renounced all participation in the expedition, rent his commission in pieces, reproached him with perfidy, duplicity and lies, and embarked for America.

It is unnecessary to say more than that the doors will be opened in these provinces, now organized; they know our example, and will follow it; no conditions remain with the government of England; all nations will be invited to their ports, none so much desired as our own; offers of fraternity and friendship will, if we are willing, unite this whole continent, like the solar system, by one common attraction; every part holding its due proportion in its own orbit, giving beauty and harmony to the whole.

The above sketch is to satisfy public curiosity; it is enough for the moment; as to the means, the place of destination, or ports to be first opened, it would be improper to say any thing farther—the plan is well digested; miracles do not come every day, and unless a miracle does come, Miranda must succeed.

A FEW STRICTURES.

The preceding communication is without doubt extremely complimentary to the design and character of gen. Miranda. But it is incumbent upon us to remark, that there are other representations of a very different nature.

With respect to the design itself, some have ventured to suggest that the object of gen. Miranda is not to liberate his country, but to commit a predatory excursion upon the coasts of South-America, to sack the wealthy city of Buenos Ayres, or to seize upon the treasury of Peru; while others have dispatched him on a commercial speculation, neither so honourable as the emancipation of his country, nor so lucrative as the seizure of its riches.

If the design of Miranda be really what it professes to be, some have gone on to doubt his qualifications for the accomplishment of his projects. They have called him an arrant adventurer; they have pointed him out, in the history of the wars of France, as a disgraced and cashiered general; they have illustrated the incapacity of his soul by the repeated miscarriage of his plans. Few like our communicator have ventured to extol his "intelligence and capacity for the most important affairs."

But let his plan be ever so noble, or his qualifications ever so great, many have doubted the probability of his succeeding in the eman-

ipation of his country. We know not, and our communicator carefully avoids to touch upon, the point of his destination; whether it be Mexico, New Grenada, Peru or Buenos Ayres. But in all those countries, difficulties would surround him. The people are the devoted slaves of the clergy in all the Spanish colonies, and the clergy are bound by their rich benefices to the present order of things. Their political prejudices are scarcely less obstinate than their ecclesiastical: they have no press among them; their oppressions may be great, but they have learned to be contented. The very monopoly of commerce which prevails among them, has the effect of shutting out another of the great means of improvement. Few strangers visit their country, and the miserable Mestee of Mexico and Peru has no opportunity to profit by the discoveries of more civilized countries.

But why may not the Spanish colonies become as independent as the British colonies formerly did? We may reply that their condition is different in two important circumstances. Not only was our people freer than the Spanish colonies are at present, (as much freer as they are proposed to be by the British government is more enlightened than the Spanish,) but the government which was established in our colonies, was much better calculated to give success to a revolution. The legislatures, which were previously established in our colonies, survived the downfall of the British sovereignty, and were admirably fitted for collecting together the force of the nation. But in the Spanish colonies, no such organization exists for the concentration of the public force. The whole business of legislation is in the hands of viceroys or other subordinate agents of the crown. Electors and elected, constituents and representatives, are names without a meaning in the Spanish vocabulary.

These circumstances are strongly calculated to produce a doubt respecting Miranda's professed enterprize, under the present state of the Spanish colonies. On this subject, however, we are bound to speak with all the humility of doubt. We know but little of the present state of the Spanish colonies, the strength of the government, the character of its present officers, or its military resources; we know still less of Miranda's means, or the resources of his adherents.

If "three provinces" are already "organized," if Miranda is assisted, if not by the treasury, at least as it is said by the admiralty of England; if three millions of dollars have been furnished by his American associates or English speculators; if success should crown his first exertions and the treasury of the king of Spain should fall into his hands; if the military force of the country be feeble, or its discipline imperfect, it is certainly probable that Miranda may become the Washington of his country. What we mean to assert is, that even if a "miracle does" not "come," still Miranda may not "succeed."

From the New-York Gazette of the 3d inst.

We have it from authority not to be doubted, that on Saturday last, Samuel G. Ogden, Esq; and colonel Smith, of the custom-house, and others, were arrested by order of government and taken before the district judge, to answer such queries respecting the destination of the ship Leander, as might be put to them on oath. At first Mr. Ogden refused to answer certain questions, but on being threatened with commitment, he proceeded; and, as astonishing and incredible as it may appear, Mr. Ogden's answers went directly to implicate the government of the United States in the fitting out of the Leander; that general Miranda not only had interviews with Mr. Madison on this subject, but also with the president of the United States. From this then it appears, that if government have not sanctioned this mysterious expedition with closed doors, yet they have permitted it with closed eyes. Here is room for a volume of comments, but we leave this to abler pens.