

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1806.

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ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, April 17, 1806.

From the ENQUIRER.

OUR readers may recollect a communication in our paper of the 14th March, in which the writer observes to the editor, "I have left a letter with Mr. Hilton, the clerk of the council, addressed to you, and to be delivered when it can do no injury to the cause in question; in which you will find the outlines of the design; the place of rendezvous, &c.—You must not blame my caution in keeping the port or place of destination from the public—for the minister of Spain would gladly know it, and by express, might possibly prevent the design." With this introductory explanation, we submit the following letter to the attention of the public.

No. 1.

To the Editor of the Enquirer.

Richmond, April 1, 1806.

SIR,

One month having elapsed since the period at which the enclosed letter was put into my hands by Stephen Sayre, Esq; I now send it to you agreeable to the request which you made to the assistance I then gave him. From the manner in which Mr. Sayre, sometime ago, communicated to the public (through the medium of your press) the fact that this letter was lodged with me, it might seem that its contents were known or might be known to the executive or myself; but that was altogether impossible. The truth is, Mr. Sayre confided the letter to me in my private character, as he might have done to any other individual, sealed up as you now receive it, and with instructions endorsed upon it, as you will perceive, to hold it up till the present time. Neither the executive nor myself had, or could have, on terms that were honourable, any kind of control over the letter, and my most sacred honour is pledged, that I am at this moment as ignorant of its contents, as any other citizen of the commonwealth can be.

I am, with great respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,

DANIEL L. HYLTON.

No. 2.

Endorsed on the back.

To the Editor of the Enquirer.

(To be delivered, when the place of Miranda's destination is made known; or within one month from this first day of March, whether known or not.)

Richmond, 1st March, 1806.

Mr. Richie,

SIR,

I have heretofore withheld this communication, lest the minister of Spain, might have had time to prevent the plan I wish to see effected.

Miranda has the permission from the British government to make Trinidad the place of rendezvous; he is gone there. The delegates of Caracas, St. Fee and Mexico, are now there or expected to meet him. Some delay may take place; therefore it would be imprudent to name the place of attack, rather the place to be surrendered,—to be made the feat of confederation.

If Miranda is not gone to that island, you may laugh at my credulity—if you hear of his being there, you may put more confidence, than heretofore, in any communications I shall make as to this subject.

Yours, &c.

STEPHEN SAYRE.

Let then experience decide upon the correctness of the foregoing communication! We know of no circumstance which contradicts it; every fact indeed, which it contains, bears the strongest marks of probability, and derives no little confirmation from the writer's volunteering his character in the cause he has espoused. It is probable that he may be himself mistaken in his opinion; but the martyrdom, which he has offered to brave, proves him at least confident of their truth. Once more, let experience decide upon their correctness!

According to Mr. Sayre's letter, the British at least permitted him to make Trinidad the place of rendezvous. But is this the only facility, which they design to give him? Is he to receive no aid of arms, of ships or troops of the British government in that island? It may be that this is the only protection which they have promised; perhaps in a case where so little were known of the resources of Miranda, and so much were to depend upon subsequent events, it was not their interest to have promised any positive reinforcements. The case however will be materially altered if Miranda's resources should exceed their expectations; if the delegates of Caracas, St. Fee,

and Mexico should meet him at Trinidad, and prove to the satisfaction of the British governor, that the people of South-America are ripe for a revolution and able to accomplish it. In such a case, may he not expect more effectual succours from them, than a "place of rendezvous?" For the protection thus rendered, the British government will scarcely be compensated by the injury which, Spain her enemy, during the present war, is likely to sustain from the loss of her colonies. She will expect some more substantial compensation; some extraordinary privileges of trade, at least to the ports of the provinces whose emancipation is to be attempted: perhaps the surrender of some of their ports into her own hands. Let Miranda even beware, that Great-Britain should not aspire to the occupation of the whole country, which he may rescue from the Spanish yoke. The lion and the other beasts agreed to hunt in partnership; and it would be wise in the colonies of South-America to recollect the result of the fable.

The island of Trinidad, where Miranda and the deputies of South-America are said to have rendezvoused, is on the N. E. coast of Terra Firma, and at the entrance of that mouth of the river Orinoko, which is most frequently denominated the gulph of Paria. It is separated on the south from Paria on the continent, by a strait about 10 miles over; and from Guayana on the N. W. by the gulph of Paria. The distance from Trinidad to the continent is of course inconsiderable, and a few hours sail and a few hours march may conduct Miranda in the very heart of Caracas, his native province.

One consequence of this arrangement is too obvious to be mistaken. The reader will recollect that Trinidad was a Spanish colony, before it passed into the hands of Great-Britain; to whom it was ceded by the third article of the treaty of Amiens. Can he then suppose, that if the fact of Miranda's rendezvousing at Trinidad should be made known to Spain before the conclusion of the peace in Europe, she will suffer it to remain in the hands of Great-Britain. Will she abandon to her, an island, which may in all future wars become an asylum to her discontented subjects, a place of rendezvous for a British expedition against her territories, and the very key of Caracas?

Caracas, which Mr. Sayre represents one of the insurgent provinces, is a district of Terra Firma, bounded on the N. by the gulf of Mexico, lat. 10, 30, N. Its capital St. Jago de Leon, stands at a considerable distance from the sea; is large, wealthy and populous; extremely difficult of access, and contains 20,000 inhabitants.—The province of Santa Fee, which Mr. Sayre alludes to, must not be confounded with the city of Santa Fee, lat. 36, 50, which is the capital of New-Mexico in N. America, nor with a town in Paraguay, situated at the confluence of the Salade with the Plata, in lat. 30, 45, S. Mr. Sayre's Santa Fee, we presume, is a province of the Vice-royalty of New-Grenada, whose capital, according to some geographers, is called Santa Fee de Bogota, in N. lat. 40.—Mexico, the other insurgent territory, is not the New-Mexico of North-America, but Mexico, or New Spain, which forms the isthmus between North and South-America.

The meditated project of Miranda does not seem, therefore, to embrace the whole of the Spanish provinces in South-America. Several provinces in the Vice-royalty of New-Grenada will be unrepresented at Trinidad; besides every province in the Vice-royalty of Buenos Ayres, and the Vice-royalty of Peru, in which includes Chili. Perhaps these colonies contained too great a number of native Spaniards or official slaves, to be comprehended in the conspiracy: Perhaps Miranda and his friends have not dared to disseminate their project too widely, from the fear of multiplying too much the chances of detection.

Should success, however, crown their efforts, the revolution of Miranda will take a wider sweep. Spain might then tremble for her possessions in South-America. Peru and Buenos Ayres would in all likelihood "pursue the triumph and partake the gale." A new confederation of states might start into existence; tumultuous and chaotic at first, but through the aid of the press, and the extending information of the people, settling down by degrees into some fixed and harmonious system. The people would become freer, as they became more enlightened. And the United States of South-America like the United States of North, will present to admiring Europe, another republic, independent, confederated and happy.

Success then to the man who recollects the country that gave him birth and to whom he would give freedom!!!

Extract of a letter from a gentleman on board the *Leander*, dated *Jaemel*, March 1, 1806, received at New-York.

"General Miranda has explained to us his plan; and we were told before we left New-York, when it was explained to us, we were at liberty to proceed or

return; we have pretty generally agreed to return. We are landed, and in good quarters; have received what was promised, and money to return, with passage free. The general will get as many men here as he wants; Gen. Petion at Port-au Prince, who has the command of 8000 mulattoes, speaking the language of the people of the opposite coast, are all eager to accompany him, and the emperor of Hayti gives every facility; and for myself I believe Miranda will succeed—perhaps we may yet go."

From Jamaica papers received at Baltimore.

MONTEGO-BAY, (Jam.) March 8.

The following interesting particulars we have received from a military officer of great respectability, who arrived at Savannah-la-Mar, last Wednesday, in his majesty's schooner *Redbridge*, lieutenant Burt, which left Port Royal on Monday morning:—

"That on Sunday the *Acasta* frigate returned express from Sir John T. Duckworth, with information to the commanding officer at Port Royal, of having a few days previous fallen in with six French line of battle ships and some frigates, conjectured to be those of the Brest fleet which had separated from the five recently accounted for. It was further understood, the enemy's Squadron had been seen going into a Spanish port on the Main, said to be Porto Cavallo, where one or two of our frigates were watching their motions."

The above gentleman states also, "that in getting under weigh on Monday from Port Royal, the *Superb*, with Sir John T. Duckworth's flag, was coming down, to expedite the sailing of what ships could be got in readiness; and it was supposed every line of battle ship in port would be prepared to sail in quest of the enemy on Wednesday morning."

The ship *Brothers*, *Hepburn*, from St. John's, N. B. and Bermuda, arrived at Falmouth yesterday forenoon. On Saturday night the 22d ult. off *Ahavela*, the *Brothers* descried six sail of ships lying to, one of them bearing a top-light. In all probability these vessels may have been the other detachment of the Brest Squadron, which Sir J. T. Duckworth, it is presumed, is now in pursuit of.

RICHMOND, April 9.

MURDER!

And the most Inhuman consequent Conduct.

On Tuesday, (1st April instant,) in the afternoon, the widow *Morrisset* visited two negro women and a girl ploughing on the bank of James River, in Chesterfield county, opposite Tuckahoe Island. The mistress was knocked in the head with an axe, by one of the women, whilst she was speaking to the other—the first blow staggered her so much as to afford an opportunity for another, which, by the united efforts of the two women, caused instant death. Some pine bushes were thrown over the body to secrete it till night, when a negro fellow, a boatman, named *Jem Strode*, husband to the woman giving the first blow, coming to their assistance, the corpse was carried some distance up the bank, to a place where the water in the river is uncommonly deep, and the current not rapid—and here! yes, here! was a scene too horrible almost for repetition! The corpse was cut up with an axe into more pieces than have yet been ascertained. The neighbours have been able, after two days searching with nets, to find but eight pieces of this most unfortunate woman! Among which was found two legs cut off at the knees—part of an arm—part of a thigh—and four other pieces scarcely to be known—some of them decency forbids to be named! The other parts as yet have not, and perhaps never can be found! but are numerous, and no doubt sunk thereabouts! The tracks of the inhuman wretch are plainly to be seen where he waded into the river and distributed the hunchions of his butchery! So much of this most atrocious deed was brought to light on Thursday and Friday last, as well from circumstances as from the confession of the two women. The girl, too, confirms their confession, while the husband, with a countenance of guilt, still denies the fact! but fortunately for the cause of justice, the three females, and husband, have been committed, together with another boatman, who it seems will throw some light on the affair, and yet be himself innocent, although he is husband to the other woman. The writer of this distressing article was an eye-witness on Thursday and Friday, when his mind was somewhat returned by the proceedings of those whose duty both law and humanity had stimulated to action. It is deemed unnecessary to detail more particulars of this painful case—the more painful since the presence of several of the unfortunate woman's children at the inquest.—It may, however, be well to say, that the affair is unconnected and unattended with any circumstances, to excite apprehensions of alarm—it is truly a singular case!